

Kurnia Asia aims up to 10% growth in its gross premium

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INSURER Kurnia Asia Bhd (KAB) is aiming to achieve a 8% to 10% growth in its gross premium, a target within the industry average growth of 8%, said its chief investment officer Pankaj Kumar after its annual general meeting yesterday.

For its financial year ended June 30, 2009, KAB had returned a gross premium of RM1.05 billion, a 6% drop from RM1.12 billion the year before.

The general insurance company has now changed its financial year to Dec 31.

It recorded a net profit of RM43.08 million for the six-months ended Dec 31, 2009, compared with a net loss of RM12 million recorded last year.

The improvement in profit was mainly driven by the strong turnaround performance in the Group's investment portfolio year-on-year, KAB said in its 2009 annual report.

Its net investment income for the 6-month period ended Dec 31, 2009, was RM58.18 million, as opposed to last corresponding year's net investment loss of RM9.49 million.

"While the comparative period was substantially weighed down by mark-to-market losses, the recovery of the equity market during the period under review had allowed the Group to write back some of the mark-to-market losses provided previously," it said in the annual report.

KAB currently has a 15% market share by net premiums of the motor insurance segment with 80% of the company's premiums contributed by this segment.

The company has some 6,500 agents across the country.