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KLCI surges 90.47 points

SHARE prices on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE) closed sharply higher yesterday with the KLSE Composite Index ending the week on a spectacular note with a rise of close to 100 points.

At the closing yesterday, the KLCI surged 90.47 points or 12.37 per cent to 821.59. Gainers overwhelmed losers 790 to 20 while 17 counters were left untraded.

Volume also swelled yesterday with a total of 2.972 billion shares traded by the day's close valued at RM1.38 billion compared to Thursday's 458.004 million shares valued at RM1.677 billion.

The spectacular rise, according to analysts was attributed to the announcement made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad late Thursday night of the lifting of restrictions imposed earlier on the 100 blue chip stocks which make up the KLCI.

"It is a very wise decision," said KLC Mutual Unit Trusts general manager for investment Chong Chang Choong.

"The Government is sending a lot of positive signals now," said TA Securities senior economist Anthony Dass.

Buying support yesterday came from mostly local funds while foreign buying were sporadic, which were mostly focused on banking stocks, and still minimal, according to analysts.

Yesterday, the broad Emas Index was up by 26.25 points to close at 231.18 while the 30-share New Straits Times Industrials Index added 355.68 points to 4551.45.

Maybank, which re-gained its previous losses, was the most active stock with 67.758 million shares done. It closed RM2.60 sen higher at RM18.80.

Another banking stock, Commerce Asset was the second active stock with 24.026 million shares done while blue-chip Sime Darby, which added RM1 to RM6.70, traded some 23.564 million shares.

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