

22 JUN 1999

KLSE-CI

CI TOUCHES 800 PTS BRIEFLY, BUT ENDS OFF ITS HIGHS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 22 (Bernama) -- The Composite Index (CI) of the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE) tested the 800 points barrier today for some five minutes on bargain-hunting of blue chip stocks.

A dealer said that the benchmark index touched an intra-day high of 800.36 points at 11.07 am, helped by the bourse's bullish streak which was triggered by speculative play on penny stocks.

However, the lack of strong follow through buying and profit-taking, though well absorbed, saw the CI ending at 793.43, which was 7.41 points higher than yesterday's close of 786.02, the dealer said.

The last time the CI was seen above the 800 points was on Oct 16, 1997 when the index ended at 802.02 points.

The dealer said that the bourse went on the uptrend today on talk of an early general election, and some small capitalisation counters.

Malaysia has until the middle of next year to hold its general election, but many investors are predicting an early one.

The first quarter gross domestic product (GDP) figures to be released tomorrow, also spurred the KLSE which saw 718.072 million shares valued at RM1.345 billion changing hands.

Bank Negara and the Department of Statistics are scheduled to hold a joint press conference on the first quarter GDP tomorrow.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said that Malaysia's GDP in the first three months of this year, was estimated to contract by 1.5 percent.

In the same period last year, the GDP contracted 2.8 percent. --

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