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KLSE-WEEKLY
KL STOCKS TO TRADE IN TIGHT RANGE NEXT WEEK

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 11 (Bernama) -- Share prices on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange are expected to trade in a narrow range next week, while last Friday's profit-taking by retailers could continue in the early part of the week.

Retailers, who had accumulated positions on Thursday and early Friday locked-in their profits on Friday right after the cabinet line-up announcement was made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at 4.00 pm.

However, dealers said the follow-through retail selling would likely be offsetted by selective institutional buying since the minor changes in the cabinet would accord a continuity in economic recovery policies.

"The capital control that has helped lift the economy, the financial sector consolidation and the economic recovery plan would remain intact," said a dealer.

Market of late have been weighed down by the persistent concern over the new cabinet line-up, especially on whether Tun Daim Zainuddin would remain as Finance Minister.

Daim, who had been instrumental in turning around the economy with his pro-growth policy had retained his post.

"With the cabinet line-up out of the way, investors would turn to fresh incentives but the 2000 Budget is not expected to offer new leads," said a dealer.

This, he said, was because Daim had always quipped that he would "play back the same tape", in reference to his recent Budget presentation speech.

Dr Mahathir has also said that next year's budget would be presented in Dewan Rakyat on Monday, Dec 20.

Among the proposals of the 2000 Budget presented earlier were the one percentage point reduction in individual income tax and extending the exemption period of import duty and sales tax on spares and consumables on a selective basis to the manufacturing sector to Dec 31, 2000.

In the Oct 29 presentation, Daim also announced a 4.3 percent Gross Domestic Product growth for the country as opposed to a 1.0 percent growth projection earlier in the year. Last year, the Malaysian economy shrank by 7.5 percent.

Over the week, the Composite Index had jumped 18.97 points to 743.60, the Emas Index had strengthened 4.51 points to 189.48 while the Industrial Index had gained 7.02 points to 1,269.97.

Total turnover in the normal market improved to 734.188 million shares valued at RM2.250 billion from 549.216 million stocks worth RM1.633 billion the previous week.

The Main Board normal market volume increased to 666.372 million stocks valued at RM2.063 billion from 520.121 million shares worth RM1.567 billion.

The second board turnover rose to 67.815 million shares valued at RM186.798 million from 29.095 million stocks worth RM66.025 million.

Direct business deals increased to 85.372 million shares valued at RM279.779 million compared with 61.938 million stocks worth RM191.956 million previously.

Of the top 10 active counters, Berjaya Group-Warrants (BGR-W) shed one sen to 27 sen, Malaysia Airports Holdings (Airports) shed six sen to RM3.02, Pan Malaysian Industries (PMI) dipped five sen to 81 sen, Malayan

United Industries (MUI) was off one sen to 95 sen and Time Engineering perked 16 sen to RM1.14.

Resorts World jumped RM1.05 to RM10.10, UDA Holdings inched up six sen to RM1.75, Renong was four sen lower at RM2.01, Malaysian Resources Corporation (MRCB) was one sen lower at RM2.43 and Phileo Allied Bhd-ICULS (Phil-C1) surged RM1.32 to R1.32.

BGR-W accounted for 29.099 million shares traded, Airports 22.112 million, PMI 19.965 million, MUJB 19.768 million, Time 19.300 million, Resorts 18.122 million, UDA 17.755 million, Renong 16.103 million, MRCB 13.732 million and Phil-C1 13.514 million.

Of bluechips, Telekom gained 70 sen to RM12.50, Tenaga Nasional advanced 25 sen to RM8.95 and Maybank added 40 sen to RM13.20.

On a sectoral basis, consumer products accounted for 13.911 million shares traded on the Main Board normal market, industrial products 65.209 million, construction 38.645 million, trading/services 243.748 million, infrastructure 16.879 million, finance 68.824 million, hotels 1.462 million, properties 63.800 million, plantation 8.080 million, mining 3.853 million, trusts 199,000, closed/fund 256,000, loans 48.710 million, TSR/warrants 90.049 million and trading of rights 2.746 million.

On the Malaysian Exchange of Securities Dealing and Automated Quotation (Mesdaq), the Mesdaq Composite Index (MCI) dipped 0.63 of a point to 71.25.

Its single component stock, Supercomal Technologies Bhd, remained unchanged at RM2.30. -- BERNAMA

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