

11 JAN 2002
KLSE-CLOSING
KL SHARES END LOWER ON RE-PEG CONCERNS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 11 -- KL share prices ended lower today amid concerns over the uncertainties that could arise if the ringgit-dollar pegged gets adjusted, a dealer said.

The Prime Minister Datuk Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that he would consider reviewing the ringgit's peg at RM3.80/USD if the yen falls to 140 yen/USD.

The Composite Index (CI) briefly tripped below the 700-point level at 2.59 p.m. today on losing 5.45 points to stand at 699.54.

At 3.28 pm., the CI recouped lost ground by cutting its losses to 3.29 points at 701.70.

At the close, the CI lost 1.95 points to 703.04.

The Emas Index lost 1.04 points to 169.27 and the Second Board Index dropped 2.80 points to 144.22.

The Finance Index shed 6.59 points to 5,346.00 and the Industrial Index lost 6.55 points to 1,332.40.

Losers beat gainers 674 to 130 while 113 counters were unchanged, 117 counters were untraded and 63 others suspended.

Total volume traded stood lower at 421.555 million shares worth RM787.388 million shares against 575.624 million shares valued at RM974.239 million on Thursday.

Main board volume dropped to 350.324 million shares valued at RM627.278 million from 462.905 million shares worth to RM720.763 million on Thursday.

The Second Board volume was lower at 71.231 million shares valued at RM160.110 million yesterday.

Off-market deals fell to 32.353 million shares valued at RM72.655 million from 55.489 million shares valued at RM63.348 million.

Insurance shares picked up since mid morning today as Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) has issued a new set of investment guidelines for the insurance industry.

It allows insurers to reduce their minimum investment levels in low-yielding Malaysian Government Securities (MGS).

The guidelines took effect from Jan 4, 2002.

The new guidelines would enable insurance companies to seek out higher-yielding instruments to invest in.

Insurance companies would possibly invest more in equity and corporate bonds following the new ruling.

BNM's new ruling is expected to make available more than RM4.0 billion in insurance funds for higher-risk securities.

Among insurance stocks, Malaysia Assurance Alliance rose 15 sen to RM5.55, John Hancock Life Insurance rose two sen to RM2.06, MNI Holdings was flat at RM3.86, LPI gained six sen to RM3.20 and PacificMas perked up two sen to RM3.48.

Gamuda rose 16 sen to RM4.88 on speculation that the company may secure a flood mitigation contract worth RM2.0 billion.

Gaming stocks were mixed. Resorts World fell five sen to RM7.15, Genting lost 10 sen to RM11.20, Tanjong was flat at RM8.60, Berjaya Sports Toto unchanged at RM6.60 and Magnum stayed flat at RM2.21.

Tanco shares fell four sen to 54.5 sen following the listing of its rights shares. Investors switched to rights shares from Tanco shares.

On a sectoral basis, consumer products accounted for 20.929 million shares traded on the main board, industrial products 24.287 million;

construction 33.899 million; trade/service 80.342 million; technology 6.094 million; infrastructure 1.270 million, finance 45.593 million; hotels 5.638 million; properties 44.509 million; plantation 8.289 million; mining 2.114 million; unit trusts 266,000; closed/fund 58,000 and loans 77.035 million.

On the Malaysian Exchange of Securities Dealing & Automated Quotation Bhd (Mesdaq), the Mesdaq Composite Index dropped one point to 84.68.

Supercomal Technologies fell 10 sen to RM1.50 with 1,000 shares traded valued at RM1,500.

Kotra Industries was flat at 89 sen with 7,000 shares done valued at RM6,340.

Intelligent Edge and Palette Multimedia were both untraded at RM1.25 and 68 sen respectively. -- BERNAMA

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