

24 JUN 2002
KLSE OPENING
KLSE OPENS LOWER AS ANTICIPATED

KUALA LUMPUR, June 24 (Bernama) -- As widely anticipated, the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange opened lower this morning.

The Composite Index opened 3.66 points lower at 739.69 points while the Emas Index opened 0.69 of a power lower at 180.86.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's shock announcement to retire on Saturday and his subsequent retraction after being persuaded to stay on had been expected to affect the local stock market initially.

An analyst from a local brokerage said Dr Mahathir's shock resignation announcement had raised concerns about the future direction of the government.

But on balance, he said much of the KLSE's weakness of late has been due to lack of fresh leads since the last two months rather than the latest political developments, which remained, by and large, still favourable.

He said investors should note that the market was grossly oversold and many stocks were still undervalued.

At 9.15 am, the 100-counter Composite Index (CI) was 11.79 points lower at 731.56 while the all share Emas Index fell 2.60 points to 178.95. The Second Board Index slipped 0.95 of a point to 123.92.

The Industrial Index dropped 10.77 points to 1,434.73 while the Mesdaq Index was flat at 122.57.

Losers thumped gainers by 329 to 18 while 47 counters were unchanged, 676 untraded and 75 suspended.

Total volume stood at 16.022 million shares valued at RM32.285 million.

Meanwhile, dealers said that politically, the country was still very stable.

Actives, Arab Malaysian Corporation slipped four sen to RM1.43, Technology Resources Industries was down four sen to RM2.49 and AMMB fell 10 sen to RM5.35.

Heavyweight Telekom declined 15 sen to RM8.45, Tenaga slipped five sen to RM9.95 and Commerce Asset dipped 10 sen to RM7.95. -- BERNAMA

MAS SHY