

31 OCT 2003
KLSE-CLOSING
KLSE ENDS ON A STEADIER NOTE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- Share prices on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE) ended on a steadier note on some late buying activities in key bluechips, buoyed by the smooth transition in leadership today.

At the close, the 100-quality share Composite Index rose 5.02 points to 817.12 after opening 0.37 of a point higher at 812.47.

The all main-board share Emas Index gained 0.46 of a point to 202.43, the Second Board Index shed 0.03 of a point to 144.65 while the Industrial Index was 27.25 points higher at 1,788.85.

Losers led gainers by 526 to 294 while 221 counters were unchanged and 139 untraded.

The volume stood at 1.297 billion shares worth RM2.245 billion.

A dealer said the market saw active participation by retailers, institutional and foreign funds today.

Much of the day's liquidity was generated by the strong retail interest amidst the firm fundamentals.

The market was upbeat and trending upwards in the morning before the swearing in ceremony of Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as the country's fifth Prime Minister succeeding Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who was conferred with the title Tun at the same ceremony.

However, profit-taking had taken its toll on prices towards the end of trading before late buying in heavyweights lifted the Index towards the positive zone, closing at its highest level this year.

Furqan led the actives list, up six sen to 62 sen, followed by Tanamas which added 34 sen to RM4.68, MRCB was flat at RM1.04 and Kai Peng was down 13 sen to RM1.24.

Debutante Johore Tin Bhd which registered a premium of RM1.17 from its offer price of RM1.35, ended at RM2.03, up 68 sen.

Among heavyweights, Telekom added five sen to RM9.20, Maybank gained 10 sen to RM10.20 while Tenaga rose 30 sen to RM9.60.

The main board expanded to 843.140 million shares worth RM1.429 billion from 692.790 million shares valued at RM1.18 billion yesterday while the second board's volume rose to 390.624 million shares worth RM755.051 million against 284.380 million shares valued at 455.055 million.

The Mesdaq market transacted 58.630 million shares worth RM55.060 million from 19.591 million shares valued at RM17.203 million.

Off-market deals ballooned to 110.574 million shares worth RM169.359 million shares compared with 68.827 million shares valued at RM157.54 million previously.

On a sectoral basis, consumer products accounted for 42.535 million shares traded on the main board, industrial products 125.364 million, construction 53.396 million, trade/services 209.805 million, technology 3.114 million, infrastructure 12.558 million, finance 90.945 million, hotels 21.118 million, properties 160.109 million, plantation 13.659 million, mining 229,800, trusts 208,000, closed/funds 226,000, loans 107.345 million and PN4 Condition 2.522 million shares. -- BERNAMA

SHO KTC