

21 MAY 2003
KLSE-CLOSING
KL SHARES END MIXED ON PROFIT TAKING

KUALA LUMPUR, May 21 (Bernama) -- Share prices on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE) ended mixed today due to profit taking as investors have yet to absorb the economic package announced by Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

Dealers said the market saw strong gains in finance stocks following the reduction of Bank Negara Malaysia's intervention rate to 50 basis points and mild interest shown on key bluechips and lower liners.

In rangebound trading, the closely-watched Composite Index (CI) ended marginally higher by 3.41 points to 640.37 after opening 0.02 of a point higher at 636.98.

The Emas Index gained 0.54 of a point to 156.23, but the Second Board Index shed 0.24 of a point to 93.29 and the Industrial Index eased 0.02 of a point to 1,422.63 while the Finance Index climbed 14.71 points to 4,877.44.

Losers led gainers by 306 to 278, 230 counters were unchanged, 318 counters untraded and 101 counters suspended.

Volume amounted to 223.623 million units valued at RM382.419 million versus yesterday's 195.267 million shares worth RM348.688 million.

Dealers said the volume improved from previous day on continued support from local funds and retailers.

In general, the market sentiment remained positive following the incentives brought out by the government to promote growth for the local economy, the dealer said.

Actives, Eden Enterprise lost 1.5 sen to 78.50 sen, Celcom added one sen to RM2.73, Berjaya Group lost two sen to 15.50 sen, Magnum gained four sen to RM2.30 and Kemas rose half a sen to 39 sen.

Key bluechips, Maybank was unchanged at RM7.95 while Tenaga Nasional edged up five sen to RM7.60 and Telekom Malaysia gained 20 sen to RM8.70.

Petronas Gas rose 15 sen to RM7.05, Sime Darby increased five sen to RM5.15 and Genting added 20 sen to RM12.30.

Total turnover on the main board rose to 177.661 million units valued at RM332.439 million compared with yesterday's 154.793 million units worth RM304.077 million.

Second board's turnover increased to 40.778 million units valued at RM47.474 million versus 37.373 million units worth RM43.298 million previously.

The Mesdaq market volume rose to 4.636 million valued at RM2.415 million from 2.650 million units worth RM1.240 million.

Off-market turnover widened to 173.483 million valued at RM823.688 million from 6.316 million units worth RM6.590 million previously.

On a sectoral basis, the consumer products accounted for 5.024 million units traded on the main board, industrial products 18.593 million, construction 12.411 million, trade/service 53.451 million, technology 1.340 million, infrastructure 1.666 million, finance 30.535 million, hotels 780,000, properties 24.480 million, plantation 4.035 million, mining 491,200, trusts 73,000, closed/funds 62,000, loans 23.568 million and PN4 Condition 1.151 million. -- BERNAMA

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