

02 AUG 2003  
KLSE-WEEKLY  
KLSE TO MOVE RANGEBOUND NEXT WEEK

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 2 (Bernama) -- The Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE) is expected to move rangebound next week with follow through buyings based on the positive outlook of the Malaysian economy, an analyst said.

"There are lots of positive news for the market next week. The composite index may test the 730-level again," he said.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that the economic growth for the second quarter should be better than expected, thus enabling Malaysia to achieve its targeted gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 4.5 percent in 2003.

He said that the second quarter GDP should be better than the 4.0 percent achieved in the first quarter.

Besides local fundamentals, the dealer said, the positive US second quarter GDP growth would also help boost the market further.

The United States, Malaysia's largest trading partner, registered a GDP growth of 2.4 percent for its second quarter, increased from 1.4 percent the previous two quarters and exceeding the consensus forecast of 1.5 percent.

"We may see some strong institutional participation next week compared with the week just ended which saw retailers participation," he said.

The market's current strong support level was at 710 level and if it could move forward to break the 730-level, the next target would be 740, he said.

For the week just ended, the market was firmer despite lack of fresh leads due to the continued participation of retail investors and local funds.

Bluechips, second board as well as Mesdaq market counters also saw many movements during the week with equal buying and selling.

There were five new listings during the week, out of which three were in the Mesdaq market while the other two were new comers on the Second Board.

Newly-listed Infortech Alliance, LNG Resources, IFCA MSC, Caely Holdings and Premium Nutrients ended the week at 67 sen, 70 sen, 33.5 sen, 91 sen and 62 sen, respectively. All the counters ended the week higher than their offer price.

On a week-to-week basis, the Composite Index (CI) rose 12.5 points to 723.03 from 710.53 last Friday.

The Emas Index gained 3.47 points to 179.87 from 176.40, and the Second Board Index increased 2.81 points to 120.14 from 117.33 previously.

The Industrial Index was 18.7 points higher at 1,532.66 versus 1,513.96, while Finance Index increased 173.87 points to 5,971.77 from 5,797.90 previously.

The weekly main board volume declined to 1.534 billion shares valued at RM2.533 billion from 1.869 billion shares worth RM2.808 billion, previously.

The second board turnover shrank to 549.537 million shares worth RM746.743 million from 568.476 million worth RM835.415 million.

The MESDAQ market's volume increased to 393.350 million shares valued at RM221.380 million from 269.110 million shares worth RM155.781 million.

Off market deals went down to 222.797 million worth RM430.378 million from 400.684 million shares worth RM795.906 million.

Top 10 active counters, Premium Nutrients added 12 sen to 62 sen,

IFCA-MSK inched up 2.5 sen to 33.5 sen, Iris Corporation was flat at 33 sen, Poly Fibre Glass inched down half a sen to 47 sen, Three A edged up half a sen to 32 sen and Land & General was unchanged at 47 sen.

Kai Peng declined four sen to RM1.76, MCM Technologies added one sen to 24.5 sen, Suremax shed 16 sen to RM1.18 and Infortech Alliance rose 10 sen to 67 sen.

In terms of volume, Premium Nutrients transacted 91.044 million shares, IFCA-MSK 90.618 million shares, Iris 46.027 million shares, Poly 40.133 million shares, Three A 39.691 million shares and Land & General 39.018 million shares.

Kai Peng 37.128 million shares, MCM Technologies 36.853 million shares, Suremax 34.950 million shares and Infortech 31.110 million shares.

On a sectoral basis, consumer products accounted for 69.459 million shares traded on the main board, industrial products 260.702 million, construction 135.297 million, trading/services 299.779 million, technology 13.562 million, infrastructure 21.997 million, finance 186.127 million, hotel 20.212 million, property 279.652 million, plantation 40.143 million, mining 1.309 million, trusts 798,300, closed/fund 790,500, PN4 condition 15.774 million, loans 14.413 million, TSR/Warrants 174.896 million, TSR/Warrants (PN4) 36,000. -- BERNAMA

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