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NAJIB-INVESTORS

NAJIB'S APPOINTMENT FURTHER ENHANCES INVESTORS' CONFIDENCE

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 7 (Bernama) -- The appointment of Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak as the new Deputy Prime Minister today, has removed months of speculation on who will be picked as the country's number two post.

What was equally important following the news was the performance of the Malaysia Securities Exchange Bhd and looking at the overall higher share prices on the bourse today, the news certainly reflected the greater investors' confidence in the new leadership.

The benchmark Composite Index (CI) surged 18.47 points to close at 805.76 today, surpassing the psychological 800-point barrier and marked a new year high for 2004.

For 2003, the Index had touched its year high of 817.12 on Oct 31.

On the same date, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi became the fifth Prime Minister after the retirement of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

As for the business and corporate communities an analyst said, "It's time for them to concentrate more on their businesses."

"While the current policies remained intact, the main geopolitical issue (the appointment) has been well resolved, thus, giving more positive investment climate for businesses," he added.

"The next much awaiting news will be the date of the general election,"

he said. -- BERNAMA

MAS KTC