

01/02/2003

Enter the white knight

THERE is hope yet. The restructuring of Kuala Lumpur Industries Holdings (KLIH) is on track and the dark cloud looming over it has been lifted.

'I hope to be able to give them (shareholders) hope,' says the man behind white knight the Equine Group, Datuk Patrick Lim, in an exclusive interview with writer Joanna Sze. Indeed, KLIH shareholders have something to look forward to. But, this is not the first time the company has gone under and has to be rescued.

What lies ahead for KLIH after the completion of the on-going reverse takeover of the company? Read about this and more about the Equine Group in our cover story.

Next, we look at the Democratic Action Party's chances in the coming general election. After faring badly in the last two, the one-time flag-bearer of national opposition politics is now at a crucial crossroad. Has this dampened the spirits of its supporters?

We also feature Kumpulan Guthrie Bhd, which has gone abroad in a big way, following its acquisition of oil palm plantations in Indonesia. Find out whether Guthrie is making the right move by banking on the republic for its future growth on page 22.

Besides KLIH, we take a look at the proposed restructuring of Geahin Engineering Bhd, another PN4 company, which has been stalled.

Our other stories are on the winners of the inaugural 'Malaysian Business Corporate Governance Award 2002', launched on Jan 14, 2003. Read about the corporate governance practices of these award-winning companies and what sets them apart from the rest.

The 'Stockwatch' column focuses on Unisem (M) Bhd and the prospects for the technology sector, while our 'Buybacks' column looks at Hirotako Holdings Bhd that supplies seatbelts and damping sheets to national car manufacturers Proton and Perodua.

Our 'Investment' column features the favoured stocks and sectors for 2003, while in 'Probe', we look at the traditional and complementary medicine industry's growing popularity and the risks which come with it, calling for more stringent measures to curb any abuses.

A Kadir Jasin, in his column 'On A Personal Note', meanwhile, writes about continuing the Mahathir legacy.

In our 'Personality' column, we interview Datin Rosemary Chong, a former politician and renowned social worker. In her 70s now, Chong is still beaming with life, juggling her time between being a homemaker and a Chinese opera singer - her lifelong passion.

Our Housing & Property pullout highlights SPPK and how it is changing the face of Cheras, while the lead story for mb-e is on Tablet PCs and whether they can lead the way in hand-held computing.

Happy reading.