

KLSE: Share prices up on positive BNM remarks
Bernama
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KUALA LUMPUR (Aug 18, 2011): Share prices on Bursa Malaysia opened firmer today, supported by gains in selected blue chips following optimism over GDP growth figures.

At 9.45am, the FBM KLCI was 2.37 points or 0.16% higher at 1,505.44 after opening at 1,506.71

Dealers said the market was lifted by positive remarks by Bank Negara governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz that the economy would be able to maintain its forecast of 5% to 6% growth for 2011, driven by strong fundamentals and the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP).

The central bank announced yesterday that Malaysia's economy grew 4.0% in the second quarter.

Bursa Malaysia's Finance Index rose 33.939 points to 14,303.13, the Plantation Index gained 26.31 points to 7,365.93 and the Industrial Index added 5.8 points to 2,768.6.

The FBM Emas Index rose 12.101 points to 10,325.15, the FBM Mid 70 Index advanced 4.67 points to 11,326 and the FBM Ace Index increased 17.36 points to 3,915.1.

Gainers outpaced losers 166 to 124 while 184 other counters were unchanged.

A total of 149.28 million shares worth RM174.04 million were traded.

Among active stocks, MAA Holdings gained seven sen to 63 sen, Hap Seng Cons-Warrants earned three sen to 53 sen and Esso Malaysia fell 75 sen to RM4.20.

For heavyweights, Maybank and CIMB added three sen each to RM8.71 and RM8.18 while Sime Darby gained eight sen to RM8.96.

Meanwhile, the price of gold today closed at RM171.07 per gramme, down 31 sen from yesterday. – Bernama

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