MALAYSIA eBiz
WEEKLY BUSINESS ROUNDUP 8 - 12 SEPTEMBER, 2014

SEPTEMBER 12, 2014

## This Week's Highlight : GST To Make Economy Strong, Competitive – Najib

STRONGER ECONOMY…Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak delivering the opening speech at the briefing session held at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), Wednesday. -- fotoBERNAMA

KUALA LUMPUR -- The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) will not only help make the economy strong and competitive, it will also reform the tax system to make it more transparent and efficient, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak. He said the GST was also fair as those who tried to evade paying it would be easy to track down. "Although there are 12 million workers in Malaysia, only 1.2 million pay taxes. Thus 28 million Malaysians depend on the 1.2 million tax payers. This ratio only exists in Malaysia," he said at a briefing session on the GST here Wednesday.

## This Week's Top Stories

Monday

### Proton Compact Car Set For Launch On Sept 25

SHAH ALAM -- The much-awaited Proton Compact Car (PCC), developed at the cost of RM500 million over the past four years, is set for launch on Sept 25 in Tanjung Malim. Powered by a new engine, the 23th Proton model was built on a new platform at the Tanjung Malim plant, Proton Holdings Bhd Chief Executive Officer Datuk Abdul Harith Abdullah said. The car is open for booking by end of this week and the delivery will start from November, he said at the PCC's special media preview here Monday.



Tuesday

### Govt Committed To Develop Private Equity Investment – Wahid Omar

KUALA LUMPUR -- The government is committed to continue developing the fast growing private equity investment industry and is keen to attract global and regional private equity firms to make Malaysia their regional operations hub. Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Senator Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar said Malaysia offered much in terms of attractive cost of operations, offshore capital markets in Labuan and equally efficient transport connections to all regional cities, he said at the launch of the Malaysian Private Equity Forum here Tuesday.

Wednesday

### Najib Assures M'sians GST Will Not Be A Burden

KUALA LUMPUR -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak Wednesday assured Malaysians that the Goods and Services Tax (GST), a progressive tax system to be implemented on April 1, 2015, would not burden them. He said the new tax structure, which is adopted by 90 per cent of the countries in the world, must be implemented in Malaysia to ensure sustained and continued growth for the country. The government was not rushing into implementing the GST as it had studied its implications for the past 30 years and was convinced that it would benefit the people and country, he said when closing a briefing session on GST at the Putra World Trade Centre here Wednesday.

Thursday

### Economic Growth Fades As Inequality Sets In

KUALA LUMPUR -- While stability and growth has been restored in many parts of the world, economic growth will begin to fade when inequality sets in as income disparities widen, said Bank Negara Malaysia Governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz. Speaking at the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) 2014 Global Policy Forum in Trinidad and Tobago on Sept 9-11 themed "Global Partnerships, National Goals, Empowering People," she said experience has shown that financial crisis and economic recession entrench the cycle of poverty and poor households are estimated to lose 10 times more of their income compared with the average household.

Friday

### PTP To Up Annual Capacity By 25 Pct With Expansion

By Nor Baizura Basri

JOHOR BAHARU -- Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP), which completed phase two of its masterplan through a recent expansion, is looking to raise its annual handling capacity by 25 per cent to 10.5 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). "Our stated annualised capacity is 10.5 million TEUs but we are now embarking on various initiatives to enable the port to increase its capacity to up to 12.5 million TEUs in the next three to five years," its Chief Executive Officer Glen Hilton told Bernama.

# SMEbrief

## Seed Urges Indian Entrepreneurs To Explore Halal Industry

KUALA LUMPUR -- Special Secretariat for Empowerment of Indian Entrepreneurs (Seed) has urged Indian entrepreneurs to venture into the halal market, particularly in five segments, namely food and beverages, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, logistics and services. Its Executive Director, Dr A T Kumararajah told Bernama here Monday, as Malaysia has the potential of becoming a major halal player, Indian entrepreneurs should strive to take a significant share of the market along with Malay and Chinese entrepreneurs in support of the government's agenda.

## Bank Rakyat Allocates RM200 Mln To Help MARA Entrepreneurs

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bank Rakyat will collaborate with Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA) to disburse RM200 million to help the MARA community via the Mara Entrepreneur Guarantee Scheme (MEGS). Bank Rakyat and MARA Monday signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for Bumiputera empowerment, which would enable the entrepreneurs to remain competitive in domestic and international markets. Bank President/Managing Director, Datuk Mustafha Abd Razak, said the financial fund was expected to be channelled to 200 entrepreneurs within the MARA community and the bank would conduct a credit assessment on the applicants and submit the evaluation to MARA for approval.

## RM3 Mln Scheme To Help Automotive Entrepreneurs

BUTTERWORTH -- The federal government has allocated RM3 million to help automotive entrepreneurs via a Revolving Capital Scheme, which will be set up next month. "We expect 60 entrepreneurs in the state to benefit from the scheme and to boost the automotive business (cars and motorcycles)," Chairman of Penang Bumiputera Development Council, Muhamad Farid Saad said to reporters after presenting Penang Regional Development Authority assistance to the entrepreneurs here Tuesday.

## 1,645 Women Entrepreneurs Produced Via Ministry's Programme

BEAUFORT -- The Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development has produced 1,645 women entrepreneurs throughout the country between January 2013 and June this year. Speaking at the launching of the "Pink Market Carnival Programme" at the Beaufort level here Tuesday, its Deputy Minister Datuk Azizah Mohd Dun said the women entrepreneurs programme conducted with Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (AIM) had also produced 4,300 businesswomen from 2009 to 2012.

## Sage Allocates RM5 Mln To Assist SMEs Prepare For GST

KUALA LUMPUR -- Sage Software Sdn Bhd, the leading supplier of business management software for Small and Medium Industries (SMEs), has allocated RM5 million to help local SMEs prepare for the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). The allocation, in the form of rebates, would encourage Malaysian business-owners to speed-up their GST registration and purchase accounting software to ensure that they meet the Dec 31 deadline in good time, it said in a statement here Wednesday.

# PropUP Property update

## Ideal Sun To Fund 2 Properties Via Private Placement

KUALA LUMPUR -- Ideal Sun City Holdings Bhd, which will undertake a private placement of up to 30 per cent of its shares, expects to raise gross proceeds of RM21.23 million. The company said the proceeds would be utilised to fund the acquisition of two properties from Ideal Concept Intelligence Sdn Bhd in Penang, namely 46 units of commercial space known as Ideal CEO executive suites and 12 units of stratified commercial space, for a total sum of RM26 million. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Tuesday, Ideal Sun said the placement shares would be placed out to independent third party investor(s) to be identified at a later date.

## Perda Plans Housing Concept In Balik Pulau

BUTTERWORTH -- The Penang Regional Development Authority (Perda) hopes the state government will cooperate in efforts to provide affordable and low-cost housing to the people in the states. Speaking to reporters here Tuesday, Perda Chairman Datuk Shabudin Yahaya said the state government should allow Perda to develop the affordable and low-cost housing concept to enable the people to own homes.

## Sedco Subsidiary To Develop Land Near Semporna

TAWAU -- Sabah Urban Development Corporation (SUDC), a subsidiary of Sabah Economic Development Corporation (Sedco), will develop 16.8 hectares of land near Semporna. Sedco Chairman Datuk Seri Nasir Tun Sakaran said the land has been slated for mixed development comprising commercial premises, hotel and resort. "A lot of planning is being done to develop the land, including obtaining the necessary approvals from relevant authorities," he said after visiting the Bandar Baru Titingan site here Wednesday.

## Cooling Measures Slowed Down Sales In 1st Half - REHDA

KUALA LUMPUR -- Sales of properties in Malaysia slightly declined in the first half of 2014 despite the high demand due to the cooling measures announced by the government in Budget 2014, says the Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association (REHDA). Speaking at a media briefing on the findings of the REHDA Property Industry Survey 1H2014 here Thursday, its President Datuk Seri Fateh Iskandar Mohamed Mansor said among the key measures affecting the sales were the 70 per cent loan-to-value ratio, the impending implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the higher real property gains tax as well as responsible lending guidelines introduced by Bank Negara.

## PR1MA Plans "Rumah Ibu" Project For Low-Income Groups

KUALA LUMPUR -- The 1Malaysia Housing Programme (PR1MA) plans to build "rumah ibu" (mother homes) next year to help low-income earners and young people to own their own homes. PR1MA Chairman Tan Sri Dr. Jamaludin Jarjis told reporters the 650-square foot studio-style units were based on traditional dwellings, and with better household income the owners could add more rooms and expand the house to up to 1,000 square feet but stressed that the project would only go ahead on sufficient demand from the public and after receiving feedback from applicants for PR1MA housing.

# MARKET

BURSA MALAYSIA

## Scoreboard

Gainers - 389

Losers - 435

Not Traded - 447

Unchanged - 341

Value - 2234792488

Volume - 24889960

## Exchange Rate
(Ringgit : Foreign Currency)

| | Buying | Selling |
|---|---|---|
| USD | 3.1960 | 3. 1990 |
| EUR | 4.1305 | 4. 1347 |
| GBP | 5.1893 | 5. 1952 |
| 100 YEN | 2.9800 | 3.9836 |
| SGD | 2.5293 | 2. 5337 |

Source: Bank Negara Malaysia

## BURSA: KL Shares End 0.56 Pct Lower On Profit-Taking

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bursa Malaysia ended lower Friday with the benchmark FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) closing 10.47 points or 0.56 per cent easier at 1,855.64, as profit taking activity emerged among heavyweight stocks.

A dealer said investors took profit and were squaring positions for the weekend as renewed geopolitical fears may again pressure stocks next week.

On the broader market, losers outpaced gainers by 435 to 389, with 341 counters unchanged, 447 counters untraded and 19 others suspended.

Total volume expanded to 2.49 billion shares worth RM2.23 billion from 2.04 billion shares worth RM1.92 billion Thursday.

The Main Market volume rose to 1.79 billion units worth RM2.09 billion from Thursday's 1.58 billion units worth RM1.82 billion.

Turnover on the ACE Market surged to 629.92 million shares valued at RM128.29 million from 421.76 million shares valued at RM95.04 million previously.

Warrants expanded to 58.96 million units worth RM8.81 million from 33.38 million units worth RM3.72 million on Thursday.

## FOREX: Ringgit Closes Lower Against US Dollar

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit closed lower against the US dollar Friday as investors were on the sidelines ahead of two central banks' meetings next week.

At 5 pm, the ringgit was quoted at 3.1960/1990 against the greenback from 3.1920/1940 on Thursday. A dealer said the market participants were waiting for the outcome of Bank Negara Malaysia's Monetary Policy Committee meeting on Sept 18 and the US Federal Reserve's policy review on Sept 16-17.

Against the Japanese yen, the local unit went up to 2.9800/9836 from 2.9835/9859 Thursday but depreciated against the euro to 4.1305/1347 from 4.1266/1298.

The ringgit also declined against the Singapore dollar to 2.5293/5337 from Thursday's 2.5249/5277 and was lower against the British pound at 5.1893/1952 from 5.1803/1851 Thursday.

## Money Market: Short-Term Rates Close Steady On BNM's Intervention

KUALA LUMPUR -- Short-term interbank rates closed steady Friday following Bank Negara Malaysia's intervention to absorb surplus liquidity from the financial system.

The liquidity surplus in the conventional system fell to RM12.692 billion from RM18.994 billion estimated in the morning while in the Islamic system, it eased to RM5.761 billion from RM7.772 billion earlier in the day.

In the morning, the central bank called for six tenders – three conventional money market, two Al-Wadiah and a Commodity Murabahah Programme.

Bank Negara also conducted a RM12.7 billion conventional money market tender and a RM4.4 billion Al-Wadiah money market tender, both for three-day money.

The overnight rate stood at 3.21 per cent while the one-, two- and three-week rates stood at 3.26 per cent, 3.30 per cent and 3.33 per cent respectively.

## KLIBOR Futures Close Unchanged

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contracts ended unchanged Friday.

September 2014, October 2014, November 2014 and December 2014 were pegged at 96.28, 96.25, 96.23 and 96.24 respectively. Open interest amounted to 3,310 contracts. At the 11 am fixing, the underlying three-month KLIBOR stood at 3.73 per cent.

## KLCI Futures End Lower On Renewed Geopolitical Fears

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives closed lower Friday on renewed geopolitical fears.

Spot month September 2014 and October 2014 lost 11.50 points each to close at 1,847.00 and 1,849 respectively while December 2014 slipped 10.5 points to 1,852.50.

March 2015, however, was untraded and stood at 1,847.50. Turnover surged to 6,475 lots from 3,948 lots Thursday while open interest expanded to 31,899 contracts from 29,867 contracts previously.

A trader said the sentiment was in tandem with easier closing of the cash market. "Fresh short positions were seen built up as renewed geopolitical fears - the probable US air strikes in Iraq and Syria - might pressure cash market next week."

At the cash market, the FBM KLCI Friday ended 10.47 points lower to settle at 1,855.64.

## HwangIM Launches ASEAN Flexi Fund

KUALA LUMPUR -- Hwang Investment Management Bhd (HwangIM) has launched the latest addition to its in-house managed funds, the Hwang ASEAN Flexi Fund (AFF). "Targeted at the mass retail segment, the fund is attractive due to its flexible asset allocation strategy and its ability to provide investors with potential capital appreciation and regular income over the medium to long-term period," it said in a statement here Monday.

## M'sia Must Prepare To Cope With Ageing Population - EPF

KUALA LUMPUR -- The country must start planning 10 to 20 years in advance to cope with the social security issues impacted by demographic changes, said Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Chief Executive Officer Datuk Shahril Ridza Ridzuan. Speaking at media roundtable on 'Demographic Changes: Recognising the Challenges and Opportunities' here Monday, Shahril said the country required major policy changes to create effective income-support programmes. "A comprehensive study regarding this issue could plot and predict the social cost of an ageing population to the country 20 years from now," he said.

## Maybank2u App To Boost Online Platform Transaction Value

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malayan Banking Bhd (Maybank) expects its newly launched Maybank2u App to boost online platform transaction value by 30 per cent within two years from RM13 billion per month currently. Group President and Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Abdul Farid Alias said at present Maybank has about 45 per cent market share of Internet banking customers in Malaysia and some 53 per cent share of total Internet banking transaction value. Speaking at the launch of the App here Monday, he said the App was part of the broader strategy to leverage on digital banking to strengthen the bank's reach and connect better with its customers.

## BNM Int'l Reserves Total RM424.2 Bln As At Aug 29

KUALA LUMPUR -- The international reserves of Bank Negara Malaysia amounted to RM424.2 billion (equivalent to US$132 billion) as at Aug 29, 2014. The reserves position is sufficient to finance nine months of retained imports and is 1.2 times the short-term external debt, it said in a statement here Monday.

## Kenanga Investment Eyes 2,000 Financial Planners In KenWRAP Platform

KUALA LUMPUR -- Kenanga Investment Bank Bhd, which Monday launched its digital wealth management product "KenWRAP", aims to attract up to 2,000 financial planners into the platform within 3 to 5 years. Head of WRAP Wealth Management William Lee said the platform, a first of its kind digital portal in Malaysia, would provide clients a singular view of all their investments in one single portal. "Currently we have about a couple of hundred financial planners with us," he told a press conference after the launch of "KenWRAP" here Monday.

## PNB Has Disbursed RM117.79 Bln Since 1981

PUTRAJAYA -- Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB) has disbursed a total of RM117.79 billion to unit holders from 1981 to August 2014 on the back of investments including in strategic companies. PNB Chairman Tun Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid said this achievement is proof of the prudence and good accounting practices of the investment institution's board of directors and management. "PNB now manages 187.8 billion units by 12.07 million unit holders as of Aug 31, 2014," he said in his speech at the prize giving ceremony of the PNB 1Malaysia investment quiz for uniformed bodies here Tuesday.

## Ekuinas On Track To Achieve RM500-RM600 Mln Investment Target

KUALA LUMPUR -- Ekuiti Nasional Bhd (Ekuinas) is on track to achieve this year's investment target of between RM500 million and RM600 million after recently adding two more investments into its portfolio. Its Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Abdul Rahman Ahmad said the government-linked private equity fund management company recently concluded the takeover of Orkim Sdn Bhd and CoolBlog Sdn Bhd with a total investment of RM400 million and is looking for more private equities to be included into its portfolio, he told reporters after the launch of the Malaysian Private Equity Forum here Tuesday.

## M'sia Has Training Capability In Islamic Banking – Report

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia has the capability to help train many countries in Islamic banking products due to the country's position as one of the key players in Islamic finance, according to a report. In the report entitled 'Malaysia, Gateway to Asean', published by UK-based PMC Ltd on Tuesday, Tabung Haji Chairman Datuk Seri Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim was quoted as saying the sector is expected to create more job opportunities in the future, further boosting the industry globally. "Many people are not familiar with Shariah-compliant funds. Therefore, many countries send their people to Malaysia to get trained in Islamic banking products," he was quoted as saying in the report.

## AFI Picks M'sia As Permanent HQ

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) has picked Malaysia as its permanent headquarters. In a statement here Wednesday, AFI said the selection was disclosed during its annual general meeting on the first day of the 2014 Global Policy Forum from Sept 9-11, 2014 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. AFI Executive Director, Alfred Hannig, said Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) led the bid from Malaysia, which was ultimately chosen from a group of shortlisted candidates that also included strong proposals from Brazil, Mexico and Turkey.

## BNM Conducts Auction Of M'sian Bank Notes

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bank Negara Malaysia will conduct an inaugural public auction of Malaysian bank notes with special serial numbers on Sept 27 at Auditorium Sasana Kijang, Bank Negara Malaysia. The auction will be conducted by the central bank's appointed auctioneer, MNP Auctioneers (Central) Sdn Bhd. "The purpose of the auction is to provide equal opportunity to all members of the public to obtain these coveted banknotes with special serial numbers such as CC8888888 or AY1234567," said Bank Negara in a statement here Wednesday.

## M'sia, Xiamen Bilateral Trade Hits US$1.59 Bln In 1st Half

From Niam Seet Wei

XIAMEN (China) -- The bilateral trade volume between Malaysia and Xiamen, a coastal city in China's southern province, rose 4.5 per cent year-on-year to US$1.59 billion in first half of this year. Xiamen has been one of Malaysia's top ten largest trading partners among Chinese cities, said Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) Deputy Chief Executive Officer Datuk Dzulkifli Mahmud. Last year, the two-way trade between Malaysia and Xiamen hit US$3.17 billon with the growth rate soared 22 per cent from a year earlier, accounting for 2.9 per cent of Malaysia-China's total trade, he told Malaysian journalists on the sidelines of the 18th China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT) here Monday.

## Maybank Aims To Grow Bigger In Asean

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malayan Banking Bhd (Maybank) aims to grow bigger in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) but has no plans for merger and acquisition (M&A) at the moment. Its Group President/Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Abdul Farid Alias, said the group would grow organically as right now there were no real M&A opportunities that made sense to the bank, he told reporters after the launch of Maybank2u App here Monday.

## Another Double-Digit Growth For Construction

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) Malaysia expects the construction sector to record double-digit growth again this year, driven by the ongoing mega government projects under the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP). CIDB's Chairman, Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali, said the industry achieved 10.6 per cent growth last year. "Currently, we have mega projects, particularly the light rail transit and mass rapid transit, which involve local and foreign companies and they provide jobs to the people, directly or indirectly," he said this at a media briefing on the International Construction Week 2014 (ICW 2014) here Monday.

## Oversea Enterprise Eyes 15 Pct Revenue From Concept Café

KUALA LUMPUR -- Oversea Enterprise Bhd, owner and operator of established restaurant brand specialising in Chinese cuisine, is targeting 15 per cent revenue contribution from its concept cafe chain in three years. Speaking to reporters after the company's annual general meeting Monday, its Executive Director, Yu Tack Tein said the group would extend the concept cafe under 'Tsim Tung' brand and expected to open a new outlet in the Klang Valley in the current financial year ending March 31, 2015 (FY15) in addition to the two existing outlets in Ampang and Puchong.

## Bioeconomy Transformation To Contribute RM48 Bln In GNI By 2020

MELAKA -- Malaysia Biotechnology Corporation (BiotechCorp) aims to contribute RM48 billion to Malaysia's Gross National Income by 2020 and draw investments worth RM50 billion through its Bioeconomy Transformation Programme (BTP). BiotechCorp Chief Executive Officer Datuk Dr Mohd Nazlee Kamal said by then 170,000 new high-quality job opportunities would have been created by the biotechnology industry. "To date, more than 100 short listed trigger projects have been identified with almost 50 per cent or 50 projects launched through five BTP workshops," he told reporters after the launch of the BTP Central Region Workshop by Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Idris Haron here Monday.

## Berjaya Auto Pre-Tax Profit Increases To RM76.468 Mln In Q1

KUALA LUMPUR -- Berjaya Auto Bhd's pre-tax profit more than doubled to RM76.468 million for the first quarter ended July 31, 2014 from RM36.152 million recorded in the same quarter last year. Revenue rose to RM507.951 million, during the quarter under review, from RM428.415 million recorded previously, the company said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Monday.

## M'sian O&G Firms Secure RM528.3 Mln Sales In Norway

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysian companies have secured sales worth RM528.30 million during a specialised mission for the Oil and Gas (O&G) sector to Stavanger, Norway. "Sales were generated for waste heat recovery unit, accommodation barge, gaskets, metal expansion joints and special valves as well as engineering, procurement, construction, installation and commissioning business," said Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) in a statement here Tuesday.

## Altair Eyes 25 Pct Growth In Simulation Software Business

KUALA LUMPUR -- Altair Engineering Sdn Bhd expects its simulation software and consultancy services business in Malaysia to grow by 25 per cent year-on-year driven by plan to boost the local motor vehicle sector. Managing Director for Asean, Australia and New Zealand, Srirangam Srirangarajan, said the company has a team of domain experts who could work hand-in-hand with local companies to help them engage and embed advanced technologies and innovative activities in their operations. He said this to reporters at the Altair's Annual Technology Conference 2014 here Wednesday.

## Celcom Axiata's EBITDA Slips To RM846 Mln In Q2

KUALA LUMPUR -- Celcom Axiata Bhd's earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) slipped to RM846 million in the second quarter (Q2) ended June 30, 2014 from RM896 million in the same quarter last year. However, on quarterly basis, the mobile telecommunications company (telco) has a stable EBITDA margin of 43.4 per cent and profit after tax, amortisation and minority interest (PATAMI) edged up 0.6 per cent to RM518 million. Revenue eased to RM1.949 billion from RM2.014 billion last year, Celcom said in a statement here Wednesday.

**Westports To Handle 11 Mln TEUs With New Container Terminal**

PORT KLANG -- Westports Holdings Bhd expects its overall handling capacity to increase to 11 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) with the launch of its new Container Terminal 7 (CT7) Wednesday. "The quay cranes along with all the other parts of CT7, like the Yards and RTGs (rubber-tyred gantry cranes), will bring our capacity up to 11 million TEUs along the busiest sea trade route in the world which is the Straits of Melaka," Westports Holdings Bhd Chief Executive Officer Ruben Emir Gnanalingam said in his speech at the launch of the CT7 by the Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, at Westports here Wednesday.

**Stronger Trade In Palm Oil, Rubber & Timber Products With China**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia aims to strengthen its bilateral trade with China in palm oil, rubber and timber products during its six-day palm oil, rubber and timber promotion mission to China this month, said the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities. To be held beginning Sept 12, the mission, led by Minister Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, will also discuss with private sector representatives on possible areas to further strengthen business linkages between the two countries, the ministry said in a statement Wednesday.

**Sales In Manufacturing Sector Up 1.4 Pct In July**

KUALA LUMPUR -- The sales value of the manufacturing sector in July 2014 rose 1.4 per cent (RM800 million) to RM54.8 billion as compared to RM54.0 billion reported a year ago, said the Statistics Department. In a statement here Thursday, it said on a month-on-month basis, the sales value increased by 2.7 per cent or RM1.5 billion compared with the preceding month. The total number of employees engaged in the sector in July 2014 however slipped by 0.2 per cent to 1.03 million from the preceding month, while on a year-on-year basis, it increased by 1.3 per cent or 13,332 persons from 1.02 million persons in July 2013, the department said.

**Communication & Multimedia Industry Records 4.5 Pct Revenue Growth**

KUALA LUMPUR -- The communication and multimedia industry's revenue grew 4.5 per cent to RM53.4 billion last year compared with RM51.1 billion in the previous year. Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) Chairman Datuk Mohamed Sharil Tarmizi said telecommunication was the main contributor, accounting for nearly 85 per cent of the revenue, followed by broadcasting (11 per cent), and postal sector and others (four per cent), he said when presenting the Industry Performance Report 2013, here Thursday.

**Alliance DBS, RHB Predict GDP Growth At 5.8 Pct**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Both Alliance DBS Research and RHB Research Institute are predicting that Malaysia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth will increase to 5.8 per cent this year despite a weaker second half. Alliance maintained full-year GDP forecast at 5.8 per cent, saying the poor Industrial Production Index (IPI) and trade data in July strongly suggested a weak start to the second half of the year. It expected GDP growth for the second half to taper to around 5.5 per cent, down from 6.3 per cent registered in the first half, it said in a statement here Thursday.

**TA Global Eyes C$5.843 Mln Gross Profit From Trump Hotel**

KUALA LUMPUR -- TA Global Bhd, which Thursday received shareholders' nod to acquire Trump International Hotel in Vancouver, Canada, expects C$5.843 million (C$1=RM2.96) in gross operating profit in 2017. The figure, projected by a property valuer, is before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation. Executive Director Kimmy Khoo Poh Kim said the hotel would contribute positively to the group's earnings given the brand's good reputation and bright prospects of the Canadian hospitality industry. "This is the first Trump brand in our portfolio and if another opportunity arises at the right price, we will definitely consider to acquire," she told reporters after the group's extraordinary general meeting here Thursday.

**Full-Year Traffic Growth To Be Slightly Softer - MAHB**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) remains cautiously optimistic that full-year traffic growth will remain just a little softer than the 7.9 per cent growth to date. "The current global geopolitical events, especially in the Middle East, may have an impact on traffic growth," the airport operator said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Thursday. Latest international and domestic seat capacity data shows a lower increase of 2.8 per cent and 0.2 per cent, respectively, for the next four months, lower than previous indications of 5.2 per cent and 1.8 per cent, respectively.

**Industrial Production Index Up 6.0 Pct In May**

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Industrial Production Index (IPI) grew by 6.0 per cent in May 2014 compared with the same month last year, contributed by positive growth in the manufacturing, mining and electricity indices. A statement by Department of Statistics here Thursday said of the three indices, manufacturing rose by 7.8 per cent, while mining went up 1.4 per cent and electricity increased 4.6 per cent. It said the expansion of the manufacturing sector was due to growth in April 2014 of 5.0 per cent while the growth in the mining sector was driven by the rise in the crude oil index of 3.1 per cent.

**Chinese Firms Urged To Invest In M'sia**
From Niam Seet Wei

XIAMEN (China) -- Malaysia has urged Chinese companies to take advantage of the good relationship between both countries to tap into a wider market base within Asean countries. Malaysia, which has served as China's gateway to Asean and the Middle East, would also unify the markets, especially when it assumes the chairmanship of Asean and hosts the Asean Summit in 2015, said the Prime Minister's special envoy to China Tan Sri Ong Ka Ting. Next year would be an exciting year for Asean countries, and the public could expect the emergence of the Asean Economic Community (AEC), he said during his speech at the International Investment Forum 2014 here on Monday.

**Johor Confident Of Attracting More FDI From Japan**
PASIR GUDANG -- Johor is confident it can attract more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from Japan in the future, said Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin. He attributed this to the political stability, right infrastructure, conducive and secure business environment, coupled with abundant raw materials and talent pool that the state has at the moment. He was speaking at the opening ceremony of Adeka Foods (Asia) Sdn Bhd at the Tanjung Langsat Industrial Estate here Monday.

**EPF's Right To Vote Critical**
KUALA LUMPUR -- The Employees Provident Fund (EPF) said that its right to vote in the proposed merger between RHB Capital, CIMB Group Holdings Bhd and Malaysia Building Society Bhd is critical. Its Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Shahril Ridza Ridzuan, said the fund was still looking for the companies to announce the merger plan. "The fund's right to vote is critical for it is to be able to protect the financial interest of its members. All parties involved should be mindful that EPF represent 14 million members," he said this after a media roundtable on 'Demographic Changes: Recognising the Challenges and Opportunities' here Monday.

**MRCB To Acquire 30 Pct Interest In PJ Sentral For RM85.3 Mln**
KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysian Resources Corp Bhd (MRCB) has proposed to acquire 30 per cent interest in PJ Sentral Development Sdn Bhd from the Selangor State Development Corp (PKNS) for RM85.3 million. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Monday, MRCB said the acquisition was not expected to have any material impact on the earnings of MRCB for the financial year ending Dec 31, 2014 as it was only expected to be completed by the third quarter of 2014.

**M'sia Still Crucial For American Business Ops In Asean - Amcham**
KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia continues to be crucial for American businesses operations in Asean region, driven by the quality of infrastructure and reasonable office lease costs, said American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (Amcham). Amcham, in its Asean Business Outlook Survey 2015, said 77 per cent of the respondents in Malaysia expected a profit increase in 2015, up from 53 per cent last year, 70 per cent planned to expand and 52 per cent expected an increase in the workforce. The survey was unveiled by President, Sanjeev Nanavati, here Monday.

**UK To Deepen Business Ties With M'sia In Retail And F&B**
KUALA LUMPUR -- Britain aims to deepen business ties with Malaysian companies in areas such as retail, as well as, food and beverages (F&B), says British Minister without Portfolio Grant Shapps. "The economic transformation success which Malaysia has had up until now is sufficient evidence in anybody's language of the potential value of this market to UK companies," he said. The UK retail sector generates five per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product and employs three million people," Shapps said when opening the GREAT Week seminar here Monday.

**PMB Sells 50 Pct Stake In PDZ To Megalink**
KUALA LUMPUR -- PDZ Holdings Bhd, whose shares have been among the most active stocks on Bursa Malaysia since the first quarter of this year, Monday announced its major shareholder Pelaburan Mara Bhd (PMB) has disposed of a 14.73 per cent stake, or half of its stake in the company, to Megalink Industries Sdn Bhd (Megalink). In a filing to Bursa here Monday, PDZ said PMB had signed a share sale agreement with Megalink for the sale of 128.02 million PDZ ordinary shares. "Post-completion of the agreement, the major shareholder's stake in the company will be reduced to 128.02 million ordinary shares representing approximately 14.73 per cent and the company will see the emergence of Megalink as a substantial shareholder of the company with a 14.73 per cent stake," said PDZ in the statement.

**M'sia Looking To Minimise Fiscal Risks – Ali Hamsa**
KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia is looking to minimise the fiscal risks to the government without jeopardising incentives to the private sector in Public-Private Partnership (PPP). Speaking at a public lecture on 'Public-Private Partnership in Transforming Malaysia's Economic Development' in University of Malaya (UM) here Monday, Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa, said the interest and demand in PPPs worldwide had been growing in recent years and the need for fiscal restraint in some countries was expected to further increase their use.

**Regulatory Reform Posts New Challenges To Corporations - CCM**
By Sharifah Pirdaus Syed Ali

KUALA LUMPUR -- Regulatory changes will pose new challenges to corporations, says Companies

Commission of Malaysia (CCM) Chief Executive Officer Datuk Mohd Naim Daruwish. He said the corporate community has a great responsibility to ensure high standards of professionalism and ethical conduct are observed in tandem with the legal reform and policies. "As the global corporate world evolves and becomes more complex, Malaysia's corporate regulations are also undergoing reform, including a review of the Companies Act 1965, he told Bernama here Tuesday.

**M'sian Companies Sign MoUs Worth RM1.67 Bln With Chinese Firms**
From Niam Seet Wei

XIAMEN (China) -- Malaysian companies have inked Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth RM1.668 billion (US$521 million) with Chinese firms. The MoUs were signed between eight Malaysian companies and eight Chinese firms here on Tuesday, according to the Malaysia-China Chamber of Commerce (MCCC). The MoUs were signed in conjunction with the 18th China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT) being held from Sept 8 to 11.

**Spain Interested In Developing Halal Industry**
By Noor Soraya Mohd Jamal

KUALA LUMPUR -- Spain is interested in engaging more Muslim countries in business and trade especially in the Halal food sector, bolstered by its strong agriculture industry and Andalusia Islamic past. Director General for Fundacion Agropolis de Cordoba, Antonio Fernandez Rancha told Bernama the Halal market in Spain alone serves about two million people, and the country is the strategic gateway to the growing Muslim population throughout Europe.

**GST: M'sia Equally Competitive With Other Countries**
KUALA LUMPUR -- The implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) will put Malaysia on an equal footing with other countries in terms of export competitiveness, said Royal Malaysian Customs Department Director-General Datuk Seri Khazali Ahmad. He said although the sales tax regime did not tax exports, the exported goods themselves were not completely free of taxes since some of the hidden taxes, which cannot be relieved, would have been built into the final export pricing, he said in his special address at the second National Conference on GST implementation here, Tuesday.

**InvestSmart Fest Enhances Public Awareness On Capital Market**
PETALING JAYA -- The five-day InvestSmart Fest held at 1Utama Shopping Complex starting Tuesday enhances public awareness on the capital market. Organised by the Securities Commission Malaysia (SC) in collaboration with financial industry players, it is aimed at educating investors and raising the level of financial and investment literacy among Malaysians. "InvestSmart Fest provides information on products and services in the capital market to make Malaysians more aware of the products and how to access them," SC Chairman Datuk Ranjit Ajit Singh told reporters after the launch of the fest here, Tuesday.

**M'sia Will Become Major Beneficiary Of AEC – Wahid Omar**
KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia will become a major beneficiary of the Asean Economic Community (AEC) when it takes over the chairmanship of Asean next year, says Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar. "We may not be able to achieve full economic integration at once, but we are collectively solid and Malaysia will become a major beneficiary of the AEC," he was quoted as saying in a report titled "Malaysia-The Gateway to Asean" published by London-based PMC Ltd here Tuesday.

**Bursa Malaysia Acts To Become A Developed Marketplace**
KUALA LUMPUR -- Securities market operator, Bursa Malaysia Bhd, is taking deliberate steps towards achieving a developed marketplace by encouraging the issuance and trading of exchange traded funds (ETF) and the use of securities borrowing and lending (SBL). Speaking to reporters after launching the ETF and SBL Conference 2014 here Wednesday, Chief Executive Officer Datuk Tajuddin Atan said ETF and SBL enhanced the equity market ecosystem and provided investors a diverse range of efficient and cost effective products and instruments.

**MAS Restructuring Will Resolve Cross-Over Issue – Tony Fernandes**
By Harizah Hanim Mohamed

KUALA LUMPUR -- The restructuring of Malaysia Airlines (MAS) will help resolve cross-over issues between AirAsia, AirAsia X and Malaysia Airlines. It will enable both airlines to compete to operate in their respective segments -- AirAsia and AirAsia X in the low-cost segment and MAS in the premium-cost segment. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a customer loyalty programme signing ceremony between AirAsia and Petronas Dagangan Bhd Wednesday, AirAsia Bhd Group Chief Executive Officer Tan Sri Tony Fernandes said this would benefit the country's aviation industry as there would be two strong airlines.

**Car Prices To Drop 1-3 Pct After - MAI**
KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian Automotive Institute (MAI) expects car prices on average to reduce by between one to three per cent with the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) by April 2015. Its Chief Executive Officer M. Madani Sahari said based on MAI's simulations, there should be a slight reduction in car prices with the GST, likely of between one to two per cent for most models including imported cars. "Our target for the total industry volume (TIV) next year is 700,000 units as car prices will be more competitive. As for this year, we are forecasting a TIV of 670,000 units," he said after the Altair Annual Technology Conference 2014 here Wednesday.

## SME M'sia CEO Receives APEC Business Award

KUALA LUMPUR -- SME Corporation Malaysia Chief Executive Officer Datuk Hafsah Hashim received the inaugural "APEC Business Ethics Lighthouse Award" on Sept 2. She received the award at the APEC Business Ethics Forum: Building the Ethics Capacity of SMEs" held in Nanjing, China, from Lynn Costa of the US Department of Trade, who is also the Project Overseer for the Business Ethics for APEC SMEs initiative. The award was introduced by the United States as a recognition of an individual or organisation that has brought a more ethical business environment in the APEC region, said a statement from SME Corp Malaysia here Monday.

## WIEF Foundation To Hold Investment Roundtable In Cordoba

By Noor Soraya Mohd Jamal

KUALA LUMPUR -- The World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) Foundation, in collaboration with the Fundacion Agropolis de Cordoba, is organising an investment event focusing on Halal agriculture, food products and tourism in Cordoba, Spain next year. WIEF Foundation Executive Director Fazil Irwan Som said the event, tentatively named "WIEF-Cordoba Investment Roundtable", is basically a lead-up event to the 10th WIEF Forum in Dubai." Speaking to Bernama in an interview here, Fazil said the event is scheduled to be held sometime in March or April 2015.

## GST Expo & Conference Receives Overwhelming Response

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Expo and Conference 2014 to be held on Oct 1-3, 2014 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre has received overwhelming response. Spokesperson for Business Connection PLT Lau Hwei Choong said in a statement here Monday, with a lot of misconception regarding to the GST registration number, businesses can take the opportunity to meet Royal Malaysian Customs (RMC) officers to apply for their GST registration number.

## MATRADE To Promote Medical, Healthcare Sector At MEDICA Asia

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia's capabilities in the medical and healthcare sector will be promoted at the Medical Fair (MEDICA) Asia 2014, the industry's largest trade fair in the region. The event, to be held at the Singapore Exhibition and Convention Centre on Sept 9-11, will be coordinated by the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE). In a statement here Monday, MATRADE said products and services highlighted at the event include electromedical, laboratory and rehabilitation equipment, pharmaceuticals, pathology and radiotherapy equipment, construction technology, information systems and emergency medicine.

## Six More Franchise Brands Enter The Market

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysian franchise products have made inroad in another country to bring the total to 53 countries with six more brands joining the fray. Speaking at a media reception hosted by Perbadanan Nasional Bhd in conjunction with the independence day celebration here Monday, Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister Datuk Hasan Malek said the six new brands succeeded in making foray in several countries, including Japan, Sweden, the Maldives and Mongolia.

## MBAM To Hold M'sian Construction Summit On Sept 19

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Master Builders Association Malaysia (MBAM) is organising the 6th Malaysian Construction Summit (MSC) 2014, themed "Malaysian Construction in 2020 - The Road Ahead" on September 19 here. The summit provides an interactive platform for key representatives from the government, industry stakeholders, investors and regulators to discuss and brainstorm issues to generate practical solutions to the challenges faced by the industry.



## KWAP Appoints Nik Amlizan As New CIO

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia's second biggest pension fund, Retirement Fund Incorporated (KWAP) has appointed Nik Amlizan Mohamed as its new Chief Investment Officer (CIO) effective immediately. She is also a board member of Prima Ekuiti (United Kingdom) Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of KWAP, and an investment committee member of Valuecap Sdn Bhd, i-VCAP Management Sdn Bhd and Metropolitan Uxbridge Ltd in the United Kingdom.

## Zeti Gets 'Grade A' Rating For 11th Consecutive Time

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bank Negara Malaysia Governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz has been accorded "Grade A" among the heads of central banks for the 11th consecutive time by the Global Finance magazine. The magazine, headquartered in New York and with offices in London, Rio de Janeiro and Milan, named the heads of the central banks of India, Israel, Malaysia, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and Taiwan as the World's Best Central Bankers over the past year.

## Khazanah Nominates Mohd Izani As Rep In MAS

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysian Airlines System Bhd (MAS) has received a letter from Khazanah Nasional Bhd, nominating the appointment of Mohd Izani Ashari to the board as a non-independent non-executive director. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Tuesday, the national carrier said Mohd Izani was nominated to be Khazanah's representative in MAS, as a result of its selective capital reduction and repayment exercise.

## MATRADE To Lead 20 Firms To Fine Food Australia 2014

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) is spearheading the participation of 20 Malaysian exhibitors to the Fine Food Australia 2014 expo from September 15-18 in Melbourne. MATRADE said in a statement Wednesday, the companies are involved in confectionery, health supplements, food ingredients, ready-to-eat meals, frozen food, packaging and machinery for the food industry.

# Call For Refinements To The Whistleblower Protection Act

By Mohd Azhar Ibrahim

Forum panelists (from left) Anthony Kevin Morais , Deputy Head of Appellate & Trial Division in the Attorney General's Chambers, IDEAS Chief Executive Officer Wan Saiful Wan Jan, and Malaysia Bar Council President, Christopher Leong, taking questions from the floor.

The Whistleblower Protection Act 2010 (WPA) protects individuals who divulge corrupt acts or abuse of power to the enforcement agencies from criminal or civil charges, including any detrimental action in retaliation for the disclosure.

This protection is revoked if:

1. The informant himself is involved in the wrongdoing.
2. The informant made the disclosure knowing it to be false.
3. The disclosure is frivolous or vexatious.
4. The disclosure involves questioning the merits of government or public body policy.
5. The disclosure is made to avoid dismissal or disciplinary action.
6. The disclosure contravenes any existing law.

The MACC recently hosted a forum on 'Whistleblowing in Malaysia: Its Nature, the Law, Protection and Challenges' at the Malaysia Anti-Corruption Academy (MACA).

Forum panelists include the Deputy Head of Appellate & Trial Division in the Attorney General Chamber, Anthony Kevin Morais; Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS) Chief Executive Officer, Wan Saiful Wan Jan; and Malaysia Bar Council President, Christopher Leong.

Asian societies do not wash dirty linen in public. Their cultural norm binds people who share a business or family ties to an unspoken code of loyalty and silence, Leong said.

A person will only become a whistleblower if he truly believes the enforcement agency will act on the complaint and at the same time protect him from harm. He will make it public if he thinks the information will be suppressed, he added.

According to Morais, the success of the WPA lies on the premise that there is a high level of public trust on the enforcement agencies.

In the GTP Annual Report 2010, some of the enforcement agencies had the lowest perceived integrity scores among businesses and the public.

This reflects that the level of public trust in the enforcement agencies is rather shallow.

"The integrity of these enforcement agencies is being questioned and this needs to be properly addressed," Saiful said.

Leong suggested that a whistleblower be allowed to disclose information to other parties and not lose the protection if:

1. The information revealed is substantially the same.
2. The identity of the whistleblower has not yet been made public.
3. The enforcement agency decides not to investigate, or did not complete its investigation within six months or such other reasonable time.

He also proposed that:

1. Section 4 of the Act, which empowers the minister to give directions on the investigation, be abolished.
2. Section 11 be amended to provide protection to the informant as long as he is not the mastermind or the person most guilty.
3. Section 6(1) stating that the disclosure not be prohibited by any written law, be removed.

Meanwhile, Centre to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4) founder Cynthia Gabriel advocates that the WPA be given a relook with inputs from the Bar Council and civil society groups to ensure that public interest disclosure is protected at all times.

Panel members agreed that a whistleblowing policy would not work in a society that does not encourage or tolerate alternative viewpoints. We need to foster a culture and value system that makes it socially acceptable and rewarding for people to expose corruption, they concluded.

## LIST OF MARKET REPORTS :



# BURSA MALAYSIA

### BURSA- Correction For KL Shares Expected On Spiking Geopolitical Risk, Global Softness

By Azizul Ahmad

Share prices on Bursa Malaysia are likely to correct
Share prices on Bursa Malaysia are likely to correct
further next week as a sense of spiking geopolitical risk and an uncertain economic climate may contribute to a lack of conviction.

Affin Investment Bank Vice President and Head of Retail Research Dr Nazri Khan Adam Khan said the local market is likely to correct further driven by airstrikes on Syria, the Scotland-England potential secession, the Ukraine tension, China growth worries and monetary policy divergence by the world's most significant central banks.

"There appears to be a shift in sentiment regarding the Federal Reserve, with ideas that the latest cycle of improving US economic data could inspire a more hawkish tone and perhaps a sooner than expected hike in US interest rates," he told Bernama.

"If we stack the various local themes, resilient quarter three corporate earnings against ample local liquidity, high dividend yield, low interest rate and defensive stock market, the local stocks should be attractive on temporary weakness during a sideways consolidation," he said.

"Given the soft fundamentals and technicals, we advise traders to trade cautiously, while longer-term conservative investors might want to raise some cash by selling on strength as opportunity to accumulate at a lower level might prevail in the last three months of the year," he added.

For the week just ended, the FBM KLCI dipped 12.82 points to 1,855.64 from 1,868.46 last Friday.

The Finance Index lost 141.55 points to 17,390.33, the Industrial Index shed 38.02 points to 3,212.43 and the Plantation Index declined 76.84 points to 8,490.78.

The FBM Emas Index was 64.09 points lower at 13,055.6, the FBMT100 Index dropped 69.09 points to 12,566.58, the FBM 70 trimmed 11.74 points to 14,363.08 and the FBM Emas Shariah Index was 34.87 points easier at 13,234.58.

The FBM Ace, however, bucked the trend, gaining 238.40 points to end the week at 7,778.11.

Weekly turnover rose to 11.85 billion shares valued at RM10.11 billion, from 11.03.18 billion shares valued at RM8.65 billion recorded last week.
Main market volume went up to 8.43 billion units worth RM9.42 billion from last week's 7.92 billion units worth RM8.10 billion.

Warrants turnover increased to 187.29 million units valued at RM24.95 million, from 144.56 million units valued at RM17.99 million registered last week.

The ACE market volume also soared to 3.20 billion shares worth RM658.68 million, from 2.93 billion shares worth RM496.87 million previously.

There is no trading on Bursa Malaysia on Tuesday (Sept 16) as the market will be closed for the Malaysia Day holiday.

## FOREX: Ringgit Likely To Trade Slightly Weaker Next Week

By Siti Radziah Hamzah

The ringgit is likely to trade slightly weaker next week at between 3.18 and 3.22 against the US dollar, as market participants await the policy meeting outcomes of Bank Negara Malaysia and the US Federal Reserve.

Hong Leong Bank Senior Manager for Bond and Economic Research Choong Yin Pheng said the market movement next week would depend on the tone of the two meetings.

Bank Negara Malaysia will hold its Monetary Policy Meeting on Sept 18 while the US Federal Reserve's policy review is on Sept 16-17.

"There is a likehood of Bank Negara raising the interest rate. As for the US Federal Reserve, we think that they would signal a detailed exit plan for its current policy," Choong told Bernama.

The local unit appreciated against the Singapore dollar to 2.5293/5337 from 2.5345/5387 last week and was slightly higher against the British pound at 5.1893/1952 from 5.1895/1957.

The ringgit weakened against the euro to 4.1305/1347 from 4.1194/1239 last Friday but advanced against the yen to 2.9800/9836 from 3.0220/0255 previously.

## Short- Term Rates Likely To Remain Steady Next Week

Short-term rates are expected to be steady next week as BNM is expected to intervene in the money market.

This week, the central bank intervened on a daily basis to mop up excess funds from the system by conducting conventional, Al-Wadiah, repo and Commodity Murabahah Programme tenders.

For the week just ended, the overnight rate was at 3.21 per cent while the one-week, two-week and three-week rates were pegged at 3.26 per cent, 3.30 per cent and 3.33 per cent respectively.

The underlying three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate was fixed at 3.73 per cent.

On Friday, the total liquidity surplus in the conventional system was reduced to RM12.692 billion from an earlier estimate of RM18.994 billion while in the Islamic system, the liquidity surplus was reduced to RM5.761 billion from an earlier forecast of RM7.772 billion.

Following this, the central bank issued a late conventional tender for RM12.7 billion and a late Al-Wadiah tender for RM4.4 billion, both for three-day money.

## KLCI Futures Likely To Retreat Further Next Week

By Azizul Ahmad

The FTSE Bursa Malaysia (FBM) KLCI futures contracts (FKLI) on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are likely to retreat further next week on possible rising geopolitical risk and further consolidation of the cash market.

A trader said the sentiment next week would be in tandem with the cash market.

"Fresh short positions are seen building up as renewed geopolitical fears over probable US air strikes in Iraq and Syria may pressure the cash market next week," he told Bernama.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, September 2014 declined 18.5 points to 1,847, October 2014 fell 18 points to 1,849 and December 2014 lost 16 points to 1,852.5, while March 2015 edged down 17.5 points to 1,847.50.

Turnover for the week rose to 23,278 lots from 18,071 lots last week while open interest surged to 149,911 contracts from 27,884 contracts previously.

For the week just ended, the FBM KLCI declined 12.82 points to 1,855.64 from 1,868.46 last Friday.

There is no trading on Bursa Malaysia on Tuesday (Sept 16) as the market will be closed for the Malaysia Day holiday.

## CPO Futures Likely To Trade Higher Next Week

By Sharifah Pirdaus Syed Ali

Crude palm oil (CPO) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives will likely trade higher next week on the back of strong export performance reported recently, Phillip Futures Sdn Bhd said.

Its Derivative Specialist David Ng said the positive export data coupled with the expectation that India would increase imports have helped boost market sentiment and will continue to keep the market on the uptrend next week.

He said he expected CPO prices to trade at between the RM2,000 and RM2,150 a tonne level next week.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, spot month September 2013 surged RM84 to RM2,125, October 2013 increased RM58 to RM2,097, November 2013 added RM59 to RM2,084 and December 2013 gained RM43 to RM2,100 per tonne.

Weekly turnover fell to 237,650 lots from 283,968 lots last Friday, while open interest declined to 326,397 contracts from 348,491 contracts previously. On the physical market, September South added RM70 to RM2,130 per tonne from RM2,060 per tonne last week.

## Rubber Market Likely To Trade Mixed Next Week

By Sharifah Pirdaus Syed Ali

The Malaysian rubber market is likely to trade mixed next week, tracking the movement on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange, a dealer said.

She said news about the rise of Chinese new loans totalling 702.5 billion yuan might spark demand for the soft commodity, giving a positive push to the prices.

"The Thai farmers' protest planned for next week had also brought about uncertainties to the market and could affect the global rubber market where demand is already slow-moving," she told Bernama.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis the Malaysian Rubber Board's sellers' official physical price for tyre-grade SMR 20 fell 29 sen to 479.5 sen per kg while latex-in-bulk decreased 18 sen to 389.5 sen per kg.

The unofficial sellers' closing price for tyre-grade SMR 20 declined 27.5 sen to 481.0 sen per kg while latex-in-bulk dropped 16.5 sen to 389.0 sen per kg.

**KLIBOR Futures Likely To See Little Change Next Week**

The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are expected to see little change next week amid stable interest rates, said a dealer.

The dealer said investors would wait for the outcomes of Bank Negara Malaysia's Monetary Policy Meeting on Sept 18 and the US Federal Reserve's policy review on Sept 16-17.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, September 2014, October 2014, November 2014 and December 2014 trimmed one tick each to 96.28, 96.25, 96.23 and 96.24 respectively.

Turnover declined to 150 lots from 400 lots last Friday while open interest increased to 3,310 contracts from last week's 3,110 contracts.

**Tin Prices To Move Between US$21,100 AND US$21,200 A Tonne Next Week**

By Sharifah Pirdaus Syed Ali

The tin price on the Kuala Lumpur Tin Market (KLTM) is expected to trade between US$21,100 and US$21,200 a tonne next week on renewed consumer demand, said a dealer.

The local tin market could see some buying picking up from the Europeans and Japanese next week after the price fell to a 13-month low of US$21,000 a tone this week, he told Bernama.

The downside might be capped as sellers were not keen to sell at the low level, he added.

For the week just ended, the metal's price finished US$450 lower at US$21,100 a tonne from US$21,550 a tonne last Friday, with trading dominated by European, Japanese and local buyers.

Weekly turnover rose to 258 lots from 143 lots last week.

The premium between the KLTM and the London Metal Exchange narrowed to US$410 a tonne from US$430 a tonne last Friday.

**Gold Futures Likely To Remain Weak Next Week**

By Zarul Effendi Razali

Trading in gold futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives will likely continue its bearish trend next week as investors remain cautious over the global economic sentiment.

Speaking to Bernama, Phillip Futures Sdn Bhd dealer Lim Eng Wee said gold prices are expected to remain under pressure amid worries over an earlier than expected rate hike and a stronger US dollar.

A stronger greenback would make the dollar-denominated precious metal more expensive for investors in other currencies.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, September 2014 fell 27 ticks to RM127.35 a gramme, October 2014 and November 2014 declined 51 ticks each to RM127.45 a gramme and RM127.65 a gramme respectively, while December 2014 lost 59 ticks to RM127.80 a gramme.

Volume rose to 2,089 lots worth RM27.66 million from 794 lots worth RM10.3 million transacted last week.

Open interest on Friday fell to 3,271 contracts from 4,325 contracts previously.