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ENDING WITH A BANG

BURSA Malaysia closes out 2017 with a yearly growth of more than nine per cent, the highest since 2013. It also surged 17.71 points to end at a two-year high of 1,796.81 yesterday, a good indicator for a strong start to 2018.

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STOCK MARKET

BURSA CLOSES 2017 ON HIGH NOTE

Annual increase of more than 9pc, highest since 2013, boosts optimism for next year

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BURSA Malaysia ended the year on a high note yesterday as its key benchmark index saw yearly growth of more than nine per cent, the highest since 2013, marking the beginning of a new upswing.

The local bourse also hit a two-year high yesterday, advancing 17.71 points, or one per cent, to close at 1,796.81 from Thursday's close of 1,779.10. This year's low of 1,635.53 was recorded on January 3 and since then, it had risen to end the year in positive territory.

Analysts are growing more optimistic about the FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI), now that the catalysts for growth are clearer than ever.

Global oil prices had begun to show a more concrete sign of surging and with the FBM KLCI still considered cheap from a regional standpoint, things could get even better for the local stock market, said analysts.

The run-up to the 14th General



Election could also provide a near-term trading-oriented lift, added one of them.

Stock market expert Nazary Rosli, the director of the Malaysian Association of Technical Analysts, expects the oil price to hover above US\$60 (RM244) per barrel, closer to US\$70.

Press Metal Aluminium Holdings Bhd was the overall top gainer for the year, with its share price surging 237.11 per cent, followed by CIMB Group Holdings Bhd (45.01 per cent) and Nestle Malaysia Bhd (30.56 per cent).

The banking sector had turned more positive this year than last year and helped lift the bench-

LIST OF IPOs IN 2017

Issuer Name	IPO (Shares Offered)	Offer Price (RM)	Amount Raised
Lotte Chemical Titan Holding	580,000,000	6.5	RM3.77 billion
Eco World International Bhd	2,153,460,000	1.2	RM2.58 billion
Serba Dinamik Holdings Bhd	389,400,000	1.5	RM584.10 million
KIP REIT	234,150,000	1	RM234.15 million
Advancecon Holdings Bhd	123,000,000	0.63	RM77.49 million
Inta Bina Group Bhd	133,815,000	0.25	RM33.45 million
Kejuruteraan Asastera Bhd	112,000,000	0.25	RM28.00 million
Eversafe Rubber Bhd	78,000,000	0.36	RM28.08 million
Cabnet Holdings Bhd	21,000,000	0.56	RM11.76 million
Matang Bhd	130,000,000	0.13	RM16.90 million
HLT Global Bhd	73,900,000	0.45	RM33.26 million
Total			RM7.4 billion

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mark index. Banks that recorded double-digit growth in total return year-to-date include CIMB Group, Hong Leong Bank Bhd, Hong Leong Financial Group Bhd and Malayan Banking Bhd.

Only four of the FBM KLCI's 30 members ended 2017 worse than at the start of the year.

Bursa Malaysia saw a slight drop in initial public offerings (IPOs) this year — 11 versus 12 last year — but the 11 new listings

raised a total of RM7.4 billion from the market, compared with RM996.43 million previously.

Of the 11 IPOs, two companies set new records as the largest IPOs since the listings of Felda Global Ventures Bhd and Maxis Bhd in 2012.

Lotte Chemical Titan Holding Bhd raised RM3.77 billion from its IPO in July, while Eco World International Bhd raised RM2.58 billion in April.

TOP 10 GAINERS AND LOSERS IN 2017

Top 10 Gainers

Company	Return (%)
Press Metal Aluminium Holding Bhd	238.99
Cimb Group Holdings Bhd	45.01
Nestle (Malaysia) Bhd	31.97
Hong Leong Bank Bhd	25.93
Hong Leong Financial Group Bhd	25.74
Genting Malaysia Bhd	22.93
Sime Darby Plantation Bhd	19.76
Malayan Banking Bhd	19.51
Axiata Group Bhd	16.31
Genting Bhd	15.00

Top 10 Losers

Company	Return (%)
IOI Corp Bhd	3.18
AMMB Holdings Bhd	2.32
Petronas Dagangan Bhd	1.93
Astro Malaysia Holdings Bhd	1.92
MISC Bhd	0.95
Maxis Bhd	0.50
IHH Healthcare Bhd	-7.72
YTL Corp Bhd	-11.61
Petronas Gas Bhd	-17.93
Sime Darby Bhd	-72.72

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