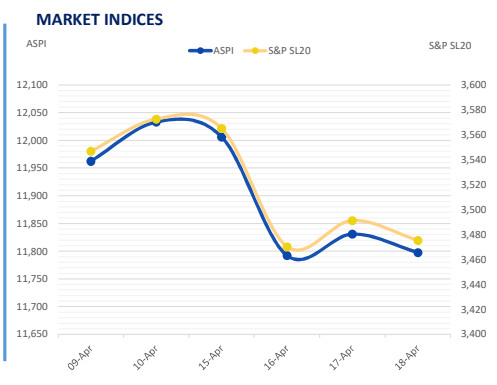
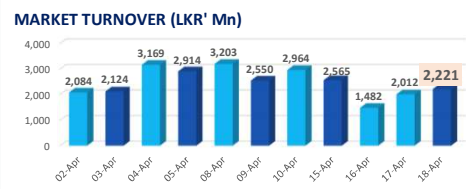
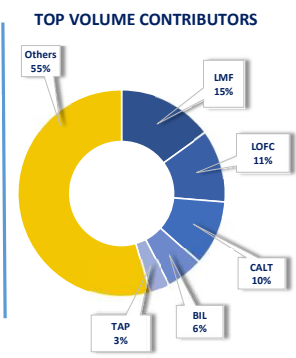
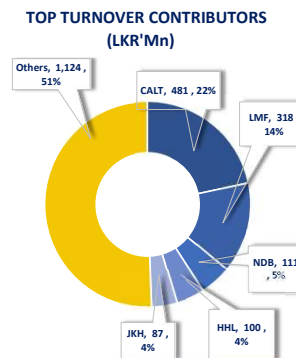


April 18, 2024

**"Profit-taking and debt restructuring concerns drive ASPI downward"**

The stock market retreated into negative territory today as profit-taking emerged among retail investors, coupled with mixed sentiment regarding debt restructuring which caused the broader ASPI to close 33 points lower at 11,798, after peaking at an intra-day high of 11,849. Blue-chip giants like JKH and MELS, alongside mid-cap firms such as CTC, CDB, and HHL, contributed positively to the ASPI, while HAYL exerted downward pressure. Trading was active, with 20,427 transactions recorded. Retail investors engaged in profit-taking, particularly in Banking sector stocks like SAMP and HNB. CALT topped daily turnover, accounting for 22%, buoyed by its second interim dividend declaration. Despite the bearish trend, daily turnover stood at LKR 2.2Bn, a marginal 3.8% decrease from the monthly average of LKR 2.3Bn. The Diversified Financials sector led turnover at 30%, surpassing the Banking sector which contributed 18%, while the Food, Beverage, and Tobacco sector contributed 18%. Foreign investors turned net sellers, with a net outflow of LKR 20.7Mn for the day.

	LKR	USD		
TURNOVER (Mn)	2,220.69	6.94	▲	10.4%
MARKET CAP. (Bn)	4,664.06	14.58	▼	0.0%
VOLUME (Mn)	71.04		▼	-17.8%
FOREIGN (LKR Mn)	100.23	120.90		-20.67
VALUATIONS	PER 10.2x	PBV 1.0x		



**ASPI** **11,797.84**

Intraday Points -33.10

▼ -0.28%

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**S&P SL20** **3,475.40**

Intraday Points -15.92

▼ -0.46%

