

UK fund manager eyes iCapital.biz

Friday, March 31st, 2017 at [Business](#) | [Corporate Malaysia](#)

Closed-end fund iCapital.biz Bhd, which fended off a takeover bid by European hedge fund Laxey Partners Ltd recently, is still an interest to City of London Investment Management Co Ltd.

The UK-based fund manager, which is seen to be aligned to Laxey, has quietly accumulated iCapital.biz shares since last year and is now estimated to own 7.5% of the Malaysian company.

Last November, the fund manager had 6.45% of iCapital.biz, but has gradually increased that portion through a number of purchases, including the latest yesterday for about 10.5 million shares.

According to a Bursa filing, the RMI shares were purchased between Jan 8 and Jan 11 this year.

The UK fund manager specialises in investing in closed-end funds which offer exposure to emerging markets and iCapital.biz shares seem to fit the profile.

iCapital.biz shareholders and senior management say the company was the target of a takeover by Laxey in December.

Laxey had accumulated close to 10 million shares in iCapital.biz, representing 6.9% of the company.

The shareholders smelled a takeover bid by Laxey, which has a track record of targeting listed funds that trade below net asset value.

As substantial shareholder, Laxey moved to nominate its directors to the iCapital.biz board during the annual shareholders meeting on Oct 30, which prompted senior fund manager Tan Teng Boo to threaten to resign.

In a counter move, iCapital.biz shareholders put up two individuals to be elected to the board, namely Datuk Tan Ang Meng, the former chief executive officer of Fraser & Neave Holdings Bhd and Dr Yin Thing Pee, a medical specialist.

After its failed attempt, Laxey trimmed its holdings and was no longer a substantial shareholder of iCapital.biz.