## Boustead Plantations (BPLANT MK)

# Another beat with 4sen 4<sup>th</sup> interim DPS announced

#### Blue sky scenario: 15% net dividend yield for FY22E

Strong FY21 PATMI was buoyed by record CPO ASP of MYR4,341/t (+54% YoY) which more than offset the lower FFB output (-8% YoY). For FY22E, besides high CPO ASP forecast, our revised headline PATMI of MYR526m (+118% YoY) also included MYR323m in land disposal gains. With the gain, we raise DPR assumption to 100% (from 60%) on FY22E core PATMI which translates to just 39% of headline PATMI. If BPLANT maintains its 60% DPR policy on realised PATMI, net DY could hit 15% for FY22E. We also raise RNAV-TP to MYR1.03 (+10sen) on rolling forward valuation to FY23E.

#### FY21 results were again above our expectations

4Q21 PATMI of MYR85m (+185% YoY, -11% QoQ) was boosted by higher CPO ASP achieved at MYR5,004/t (+52% YoY, +17% QoQ) while FFB output was flat YoY (-6% QoQ). This brings FY21 PATMI to MYR241m (+432% YoY), beating our FY21E by 16%. We estimate BPLANT's FY21 all-in operating cost to customer was at a higher MYR2,346/t (+9% YoY), in part due the lower FFB yields of 13.3t/ha (-11% YoY) and in part due to the higher state taxes and windfall profit levies paid. A 4<sup>th</sup> interim DPS of 4sen was announced (ex-date: 10 Mar), bringing total DPS to 8.35sen for FY21.

### Anticipating a small recovery in output in FY22E

Due to present labour shortages in Malaysia, we have imputed only a small recovery in FFB output at just 3% YoY for FY22E. Given rising cost pressure, especially fertiliser, we have raised our unit cost of production estimate by +8% YoY to MYR2,522/t.

#### FY22E's MYR526m headline PATMI to boost DY

Following our <u>industry-wide CPO ASP revisions to MYR4,100/t</u> (from MYR3,200/t) for 2022E and MYR3,200/t (from MYR3,000/t) for 2023E, we raise BPLANT FY22E/23E core EPS forecasts by 124%/28% respectively. Our FY22E headline EPS is raised by 481% as we incorporate an estimated MYR323m (14.4sen/sh) of Kulai land disposal gain (664ha sold) that was completed on 27 Jan. The sale raised MYR429m (19.2sen/sh) in cash proceeds. We also introduce FY24E EPS forecast.

FYE Dec (MYR m)	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Revenue	763	1,050	1,102	875	862
EBITDA	271	521	451	284	263
Core net profit	45	241	203	95	80
Core EPS (sen)	2.0	10.8	9.0	4.2	3.6
Core EPS growth (%)	nm	431.8	(16.1)	(53.2)	(15.9)
Net DPS (sen)	1.0	8.4	9.0	2.5	2.1
Core P/E (x)	30.1	6.0	10.5	22.3	26.5
P/BV (x)	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7
Net dividend yield (%)	1.6	12.8	9.6	2.7	2.3
ROAE (%)	1.7	9.1	18.3	3.1	2.6
ROAA (%)	1.1	5.8	4.8	2.2	1.8
EV/EBITDA (x)	9.1	4.4	5.4	8.3	8.6
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	48.8	35.7	15.0	11.2	7.9
Consensus net profit	-	-	91	74	na
MKE vs. Consensus (%)	-	-	480.7	28.0	na

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BUY

Share Price	MYR 0.95
12m Price Target	MYR 1.03 (+19%)
Previous Price Target	MYR 0.93

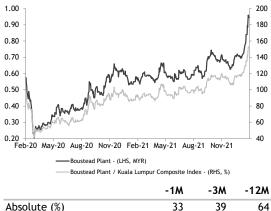
#### **Company Description**

Boustead Plantations is a pure upstream oil palm plantation company with estates located principally in Malaysia.

#### Statistics

52w high/low (MYR)	0.96/0.54
3m avg turnover (USDm)	0.5
Free float (%)	37.7
Issued shares (m)	2,240
Market capitalisation	MYR2.1B
	USD506M
Major shareholders:	
Boustead Holdings Bhd.	57.4%
Lembaga Tabung Angkatan Tentera	12.1%
BIN WOK KAMARUDDIN LODIN	0.9%

#### Price Performance



	-1M	-3M	-12M
Absolute (%)	33	39	64
Relative to index (%)	27	32	62
Source: FactSet			

#### Abbreviation

ASP = Average	selling	price
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- CPO = Crude palm oil
- DPR = Dividend payout ratio
- DPS = Dividend per share
- DY = Dividend yield
- EBIT = Earnings before interest and taxes
- EPS = Earnings per share
- FFB = Fresh fruit bunches
- MY = Malaysia
- PATMI = Profit after tax and minority interests



#### Fig 1: Boustead Plantations results summary

	-	Q	uarterly				Cumulative	
FYE Dec (MYR m)	4Q21	4Q20	% YoY	3Q21	% QoQ	12M21	12M20	% YoY
Revenue	341.5	227.6	50.0	293.8	16.2	1,050.0	763.0	37.6
EBIT	148.5	62.5	137.5	133.1	11.6	390.6	139.4	180.1
Interest income	0.4	0.2	82.5	0.3	45.1	0.9	0.7	34.3
Finance cost	(10.5)	(11.7)	(10.3)	(12.3)	(14.4)	(48.1)	(59.2)	(18.8)
Share of results of Associates	(1.2)	1.1	NM	3.2	NM	1.4	4.8	(70.9)
Impairment loss	-	(2.4)	NM	-	NM	-	(2.4)	NM
Pretax profit / (loss)	137.2	49.7	176.2	124.3	10.4	344.8	83.3	314.0
Tax & Zakat	(50.7)	(23.1)	119.3	(28.4)	78.7	(102.3)	(48.9)	109.3
Minority Interest	(1.3)	0.9	NM	(0.3)	330.4	(1.2)	8.6	(113.6)
PATMI/ (LATMI)	85.1	27.5	210.1	95.6	(10.9)	241.3	43.0	461.8
Core PATMI/ (LATMI)	85.1	29.9	185.0	95.6	(10.9)	241.3	45.4	431.9
			+/-ppt		+/-ppt			+/-ppt
EBIT margin	43.5	27.5	16.0	45.3	(1.8)	37.2	18.3	18.9
Effective Tax rate %	36.7	45.3	(8.7)	23.4	13.2	29.8	60.4	(30.6)
			% ҮоҮ		% QoQ			% YoY
FFB output (MT)	248,328	247,693	0.3	263,276	(5.7)	923,471	1,001,557	(7.8)
CPO ASP (MYR/t)	5,044	3,324	51.7	4,331	16.5	4,341	2,811	54.4

Sources: Company, Maybank IBG Research

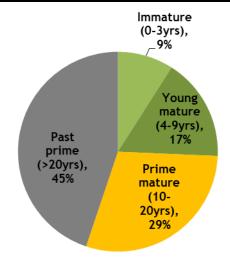
#### Fig 2: Boustead Plantations RNAV

Estates	Owner - ship	Status	Size	NBV	BV	Market value	Market Value (based on equity stake)	SOTP on 45%- disc on estates	SOP/sh
			Hectare	MYR 'm	MYR psf	MYR psf	MYR'm	MYR'm	MYR
Balau	100%	FH	247	280.0	10.52	12.00	319.4	319.4	0.14
Bukit Mertajam	100%	FH	2,165	142.1	0.61	4.00	931.7	931.7	0.42
Kuala Muda	50%	FH	**760	26.8	0.33	1.50	122.6	122.6	0.05
Malakoff	100%	FH	562	63.9	1.06	8.00	484.0	484.0	0.22
Telok Sengat	100%	FH	3,690	262.1	0.66	1.50	595.5	595.5	0.27
Batu Pekaka	100%	FH	969	45.8	0.44	1.50	156.3	156.3	0.07
Taiping Rubber	100%	FH	1,348	72.9	0.50	1.50	217.5	217.5	0.10
			**9,741	893.6	0.85		2,827.1	2,827.1	1.26
					Replacen	nent cost			
						MYR/ha			
Remaining adjusted plant	ed (ha)		65,520			35,000	<u>2,293.2</u>	<u>2,293.2</u>	1.02
Value of re-valued estates	s at replaceme	nts costs/	market value				5,120.3	5,120.3	2.29
Less: 45% discount							<u>-</u>	<u>(2,304.2)</u>	<u>(1.03)</u>
Discounted value of estate	es						5,120.3	2,816.2	1.26
JV company at book value	•						30.6	30.6	0.01
Net debt (@ 31 Dec 2022)							(441.7)	(441.7)	(0.20)
Minority Interest (@ 31 De	ec 2022)						(104.5)	(104.5)	<u>(0.05)</u>
RNAV							4,604.7	2,300.6	1.03
No of shares issued ('m)							2,240.0	2,240.0	
RNAV (MYR per share)							2.06	1.03	

\* excludes estimated EBIT of estates with property development potential; \*\* effective stake; FH = Freehold Source: Company, Maybank IBG Research







Sources: Company (Group average tree age profile estimated at ~15.7 years)

#### **Risk statement**

There are several risk factors for our earnings estimates, target price and rating for BPLANT. Key risks to the palm oil sector and BPLANT are: (i) lack of asset disposal to sustain its high dividend payout; (ii) weather anomalies resulting in poorer-than-expected output growth; (iii) lower-than-expected CPO price achieved; (iv) negative policies imposed by import countries; (v) unfriendly policies imposed by the Malaysian and Indonesian government on upstream or downstream segments; (vi) sharply lower crude oil prices, which make palm biodiesel demand not viable; and (vii) weaker competing oil prices (like soybean and rapeseed).



FYE 31 Dec	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Key Metrics					
P/E (reported) (x)	23.7	5.7	4.0	22.3	26.5
Core P/E (x)	30.1	6.0	10.5	22.3	26.5
P/BV (x)	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7
P/NTA (x)	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7
Net dividend yield (%)	1.6	12.8	9.6	2.7	2.3
FCF yield (%)	15.8	26.9	16.6	9.3	8.3
EV/EBITDA (x)	9.1	4.4	5.4	8.3	8.6
EV/EBIT (x)	17.7	5.8	7.7	14.9	16.2
INCOME STATEMENT (MYR m)					
Revenue	763.0	1,050.0	1,101.6	874.8	861.9
EBITDA	270.6	520.9	450.6	283.6	262.5
EBIT	139.4	390.6	318.2	157.8	139.0
Net interest income /(exp)	(58.5)	(47.1)	(44.8)	(33.5)	(31.0)
Associates & JV	4.8	1.4	5.0	5.1	5.2
Exceptionals	(2.4)	0.0	323.0	0.0	0.0
Other pretax income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pretax profit	83.3	344.8	601.4	129.3	113.1
Income tax	(48.9)	(102.3)	(73.8)	(33.6)	(29.2)
Minorities	8.6	(1.2)	(2.0)	(1.0)	(4.2)
Discontinued operations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reported net profit	43.0	241.3	525.5	94.8	79.8
Core net profit	45.4	241.3	202.5	94.8	79.8
BALANCE SHEET (MYR m)					
Cash & Short Term Investments	44.0	82.2	572.2	679.6	777.3
Accounts receivable	31.2	17.6	36.2	28.8	28.3
Inventory	29.2	62.4	36.5	33.4	33.7
Property, Plant & Equip (net)	3,929.1	3,784.1	3,595.8	3,530.0	3,466.4
Intangible assets	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
Investment in Associates & JVs	30.4	25.7	30.6	35.7	40.9
Other assets	62.4	150.1	84.8	85.1	85.5
Total assets	4,128.6	4,124.4	4,358.4	4,394.8	4,434.4
ST interest bearing debt	678.5	537.7	537.7	537.7	537.7
Accounts payable	26.1	59.9	42.9	39.3	39.6
LT interest bearing debt	574.4	476.2	476.2	476.2	476.2
Other liabilities	375.0	440.0	366.0	367.0	368.0
Total Liabilities	1,653.5	1,513.9	1,423.3	1,420.3	1,421.2
Shareholders Equity	2,584.1	2,716.7	3,039.7	3,077.6	3,109.5
Minority Interest	(109.0)	(107.8)	(104.5)	(103.0)	(96.3)
Total shareholder equity	2,475.1	2,608.8	2,935.1	2,974.6	3,013.2
Total liabilities and equity	4,128.6	4,122.8	4,358.4	4,394.8	4,434.4
CASH FLOW (MYR m)	02.2	244.0	104 4	400.0	
Pretax profit	83.3	344.8	601.4	129.3	113.1
Depreciation & amortisation	131.1	130.3	132.4	125.9	123.5
Adj net interest (income)/exp	58.5	47.1	44.8	33.5	31.0
Change in working capital	12.0	(11.0)	(293.6)	2.6	(2.0
Cash taxes paid	(25.4)	(70.5)	(73.8)	(33.6)	(29.2
Other operating cash flow	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash flow from operations	259.5	440.8	411.2	257.7	236.6
Capex	(43.6)	(49.1)	(60.0)	(60.0)	(60.0
Free cash flow	215.9	391.6	351.2	197.7	176.6
Dividends paid	(11.2)	(108.6)	(202.5)	(56.9)	(47.9
Equity raised / (purchased)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Change in Debt	(125.3)	(240.0)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other invest/financing cash flow	(64.1)	(5.3)	(44.8)	(33.5)	(31.0)
Effect of exch rate changes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net cash flow	23.6	38.1	490.0	107.4	97.7



FYE 31 Dec	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Key Ratios					
Growth ratios (%)					
Revenue growth	32.2	37.6	4.9	(20.6)	(1.5)
EBITDA growth	86.1	92.5	(13.5)	(37.1)	(7.4)
EBIT growth	nm	180.1	(18.5)	(50.4)	(11.9)
Pretax growth	nm	314.0	74.4	(78.5)	(12.5)
Reported net profit growth	nm	461.8	117.8	(82.0)	(15.9)
Core net profit growth	nm	431.9	(16.1)	(53.2)	(15.9)
Profitability ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	35.5	49.6	40.9	32.4	30.5
EBIT margin	18.3	37.2	28.9	18.0	16.1
Pretax profit margin	10.9	32.8	54.6	14.8	13.1
Payout ratio	52.2	77.5	38.5	60.0	60.0
DuPont analysis					
Net profit margin (%)	5.6	23.0	47.7	10.8	9.3
Revenue/Assets (x)	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Assets/Equity (x)	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4
ROAE (%)	1.7	9.1	18.3	3.1	2.6
ROAA (%)	1.1	5.8	4.8	2.2	1.8
Liquidity & Efficiency					
Cash conversion cycle	15.3	9.9	7.9	10.3	9.0
Days receivable outstanding	15.6	8.4	8.8	13.4	11.9
Days inventory outstanding	16.7	25.0	22.7	17.5	16.7
Days payables outstanding	17.0	23.5	23.6	20.6	19.6
Dividend cover (x)	1.9	1.3	2.6	1.7	1.7
Current ratio (x)	0.2	0.4	1.1	1.3	1.5
Leverage & Expense Analysis					
Asset/Liability (x)	2.5	2.7	3.1	3.1	3.1
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	48.8	35.7	15.0	11.2	7.9
Net gearing (%) (excl. perps)	48.8	35.7	15.0	11.2	7.9
Net interest cover (x)	2.4	8.3	7.1	4.7	4.5
Debt/EBITDA (x)	4.6	1.9	2.3	3.6	3.9
Capex/revenue (%)	5.7	4.7	5.4	6.9	7.0
Net debt/ (net cash)	1,208.9	931.7	441.7	334.3	236.6

Source: Company; Maybank



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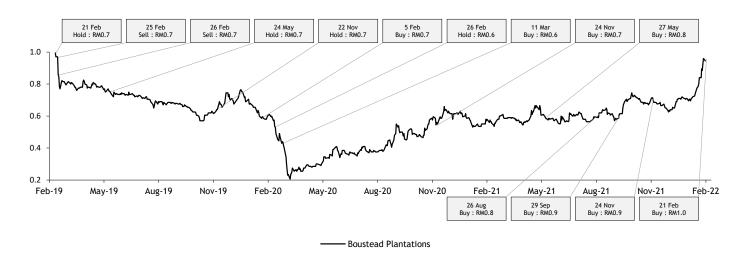
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#### Historical recommendations and target price: Boustead Plantations (BPLANT MK)



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