

RHB Bank (RHBBANK MK)

A final DPS surprise

Maintain BUY with higher DPS assumption

RHB outperformed in FY21 on the back of a credit cost writeback in 4Q21, and surprised with a final DPS of 25sen. We nevertheless maintain elevated credit costs on the grounds of prudence and project a FY22 ROE of 8.4% versus management's 8.5% guidance. Maintain BUY with a higher TP of MYR6.30 (+30sen) on rolling forward valuations to FY23 on a PBV of 0.9x (FY23E ROE: 9.6%).

Above expectations

RHB's 4Q21 core net profit of MYR658m (+44% YoY, -14% QoQ) took FY21 core net profit to MYR2.8b (+21% YoY). The results were 4%/7% above our full-year forecast/consensus. The primary variance stemmed from a credit cost writeback in 4Q21. Management surprised with a final DPS of 25sen, taking full year DPS to 40sen, which is a payout ratio of 63%. Management hopes to maintain pre-COVID payout ratios (was 50% in FY19). We raise our payout ratio assumption to 50% from 40%.

Guidance for FY22

Management's guidance for FY22 include loan growth of 4-5% (FY21: 6.7%), NIM of 2.11% (FY21: 2.11%), credit cost of 30bps (FY21: 29bps) and ROE of 8.5% including Cukai Makmur (10% excluding). Loan loss coverage on its O&G impaired loans and bonds is 104%.

Keeping credit cost assumptions elevated

Despite the out-performance in FY21, we lower FY22E earnings by 5% but raise FY23E earnings by 5%. We keep credit costs elevated at 40bps in FY22 (versus management's 30bps guidance) and project an ROE of 8.4% (including Cukai Makmur) against management's 8.5% guidance.

FYE Dec (MYR m)	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Operating income	7,186	7,789	7,985	8,456	8,872
Pre-provision profit	3,799	4,266	4,317	4,636	4,893
Core net profit	2,316	2,805	2,383	2,872	3,213
Core EPS (MYR)	0.58	0.70	0.58	0.69	0.78
Core EPS growth (%)	(8.4)	21.1	(17.7)	20.5	11.9
Net DPS (MYR)	0.18	0.40	0.29	0.35	0.39
Core P/E (x)	9.4	7.7	10.3	8.5	7.6
P/BV (x)	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Net dividend yield (%)	3.2	7.4	4.9	5.9	6.6
Book value (MYR)	6.74	6.76	7.02	7.37	7.76
ROAE (%)	8.8	10.2	8.4	9.6	10.3
ROAA (%)	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.0
Consensus net profit		-	2,604	3,180	na
MKE vs. Consensus (%)	-	-	(8.5)	(9.7)	na

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BUY

Share Price MYR 5.90
12m Price Target MYR 6.30 (+7%)
Previous Price Target MYR 6.00

Company Description

RHB Capital provides integrated financial services such as commercial banking, Islamic banking, investment banking, and stock broking, among others.

Statistics

52w high/low (MYR)	5.90/5.10
3m avg turnover (USDm)	4.3
Free float (%)	45.5
Issued shares (m)	4,143
Market capitalisation	MYR24.4B
	USD5.8B

Major shareholders: Employees Provident Fund 42.1% OSK Holdings Bhd. 10.2% Permodalan Nasional Bhd. 6.1%

Price Performance



RHB Bank - (LHS, MYR) —— RHB Bank / Kuala Lumpur Composite Index - (RHS, %)

	-1M	-3M	-12M
Absolute (%)	6	12	9
Relative to index (%)	1	6	8

Source: FactSet



Figure 1: RHB Bank: Results

		(Quarterly			С	umulative	
FYE Dec (MYR m)	4Q21	4Q20	% YoY	3Q21	% QoQ	2021	2020	% YoY
Interest income	1,567.7	1,676.5	(6.5)	1,403.5	11.7	6,083.6	6,569.4	(7.4)
Interest expense	(572.7)	(627.8)	(8.8)	(558.8)	2.5	(2,266.5)	(3,226.0)	(29.7)
Net interest income	995.1	1,048.7	(5.1)	844.7	17.8	3,817.1	3,343.4	14.2
Islamic banking income	535.2	468.3	14.3	546.3	(2.0)	2,095.1	1,665.7	25.8
Non-interest income	388.7	551.0	(29.5)	550.0	(29.3)	1,876.4	2,176.7	(13.8)
Operating income	1,918.9	2,068.0	(7.2)	1,940.9	(1.1)	7,788.7	7,185.7	8.4
Operating expenses	(910.1)	(889.4)	2.3	(862.4)	5.5	(3,522.4)	(3,386.7)	4.0
Operating Profit	1,008.9	1,178.6	(14.4)	1,078.6	(6.5)	4,266.3	3,799.0	12.3
Loan loss provisions	(86.3)	(549.4)	(84.3)	(249.8)	(65.4)	(737.2)	(1,075.4)	(31.4)
Other provisions	0.0	(55.0)	(100.0)	0.0	nm	(0.3)	(79.2)	(99.6)
Associates & JVs	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	-	-	-	#DIV/0!
Pretax Profit	922.6	574.2	60.7	828.8	11.3	3,528.8	2,644.4	33.4
Taxation	(291.3)	(134.9)	116.0	(191.0)	52.5	(905.6)	(639.9)	41.5
Discontinued operations	0.0	0.0	#DIV/0!	0.0	na	-	34.7	
Minority interest	(0.1)	(0.7)	(86.5)	(2.2)	(95.6)	(4.7)	(6.6)	(28.4)
Net profit	631.2	438.6	43.9	635.6	(0.7)	2,618.4	2,032.5	28.8
Recurring net profit	658.2	458.1	43.7	766.4	(14.1)	2,804.5	2,315.5	21.1
EPS (sen)	15.3	10.9	40.4	15.6	(1.9)	64.7	49.8	29.9
Net DPS (sen)	25.0	7.7	224.7	0.0	nm	40.0	17.7	126.6
Cost-to-income (%)	47.4	43.0	4.4	44.4	3.0	45.2	47.1	(1.9)
Tax rate (%)	31.6	23.5	8.1	23.0	8.5	25.7	24.2	1.5
Balance sheet (MYR m)	Dec 21	Dec 20	YoY chg	Sep 21	QoQ chg	Dec 21	Dec 20	YTD Chg
Gross loans & advances	198,512	186,114	6.7	194,626	2.0	198,512	186,114	6.7
Net loans & advances	194,897	182,425	6.8	190,857	2.1	194,897	182,425	6.8
Deposits from customers	219,314	203,471	7.8	214,387	2.3	219,314	203,471	7.8
			ppt chg		ppt chg			ppt chg
Gross LDR	90.5	91.5	(1.0)	90.8	(0.3)	90.5	91.5	(1.0)
Gross impaired loans	2,950.5	3,181.3	(7.3)	2,565	15.0	2,950.5	3,181.3	(7.3)
Gross impaired loans ratio	1.5	1.7	(0.2)	1.3	0.2	1.5	1.7	(0.2)
Loan loss coverage	122.5	115.9	6.6	146.9	(24.4)	122.5	115.9	6.6

Source: Bank, Maybank IBG Research



Key highlights

Repayment assistance: Loans under repayment assistance (RA) declined to 12% of total loans on 31 Jan 2022 from 31% in Nov 2021, and totalled MYR21.3b in absolute terms.

Loan growth: Group loans expanded 6.7% during the year with 5% YoY growth in retail loans, 11% for SME loans and just 1.6% for corporate loans. Overseas loans jumped 22% YoY coming mainly from Singapore (+25% YoY). Management targets loan growth of 4-5% for FY22.

Deposit growth: Total deposits rose at a faster pace of 7.5% YoY but CASA growth was a slower 4.5%. The group's CASA ratio was 30% end-Dec 2021.

Net interest margin (NIM): The group saw a higher NIM of 2.21% in 4Q21 versus 1.98% in 3Q21, taking into account a mod gain during the quarter. For FY21, NIM came in at 2.11% versus 1.96% in FY20, including mod loss/gain. Excluding the mod gain/loss, NIM was 2.14% versus 2.06% in FY20. Management guides for NIM of about 2.11% for FY22. Every 25bps rate hike improves NIM by about 3-4bps.

Non-interest income (NOII): 4Q21 NOII declined 30% YoY while FY21 NOII fell 14%. Investment gains, forex income and stockbroking income were lower YoY, offset in part by higher IB-related fees, asset management income and commercial banking income.

Operating expenses: FY21 operating expenses increased 4% YoY as personnel costs rose 4.7% YoY. The group's cost/income ratio declined to 45% in FY21 from 47% in FY20.

Asset quality. Asset quality improved with absolute impaired loans declining 7% YoY and the group's gross impaired loans ratio declined to 1.5% end-Dec 2021 from 1.7% end-Dec 2020.

Credit cost: The group reported a net write-back in 4Q21 credit cost, as management wrote back some of the management overlays, and as such, credit cost averaged just 29bps in FY21 versus 58bps in FY20. Management guides for credit cost of about 30bps for FY22. The loan loss coverage for its O&G loans and bonds currently stands at 104%.

Capital ratios: Capital ratios remain strong. The group's CET1 ratio improved markedly to 17.2% end-2021 from 16.2% end-2020.

Dividends: Management proposed a final DPS of 25sen, taking FY21 DPS to 40sen. This represents a payout ratio of 62.9%. Management maintains a dividend payout policy of at least 30% but hopes to return payout ratios to pre-COVID levels (was 50% in FY19).



Figure 2: Foreign shareholding in RHB Bank (18.15% end-Jan 2022)

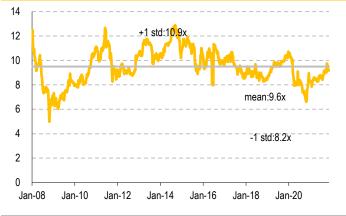


Source: Bank

Risk statement

As the fourth largest domestic financial institution in Malaysia in terms of asset size, any economic slowdown in the country would have a knock-on effect on the group's operating performance and hence potentially our estimates, rating, and target price. Volatility in the O&G sector could result in asset quality issues for both its Malaysia and Singapore loan exposures.

Figure 3: One-year forward rolling PER (x)



Source: Bloomberg, Maybank IBG Research

Figure 4: One-year forward rolling P/BV (x)



Source: Bloomberg, Maybank IBG Research



FYE 31 Dec	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Key Metrics	0.4	7.7	10.3	0 5	7.6
Core P/E (x)	9.4	7.7	10.3	8.5	7.6
Core FD P/E (x)	9.4	7.7	10.3	8.5	7.6
P/BV (x) P/NTA (x)	0.8 0.9	0.8 0.9	0.8 0.9	0.8 0.9	0.8 0.8
Net dividend yield (%)	3.2	7.4	4.9	5.9	6.6
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INCOME STATEMENT (MYR m)					
Interest income	6,569.4	6,083.6	6,277.9	6,401.0	6,509.7
Interest expense	(3,226.0)	(2,266.5)	(2,397.3)	(2,408.3)	(2,496.5)
Net interest income	3,343.4	3,817.1	3,880.6	3,992.7	4,013.2
Islamic banking income	1,665.7	2,095.1	2,346.5	2,628.1	2,943.5
Net insurance income	216.5	235.0	246.8	259.1	272.1
Net fees and commission	1,027.7	1,094.3	1,149.0	1,206.5	1,266.8
Other income	932.5	547.1	361.6	369.1	376.8
Total non-interest income Operating income	2,176.7 7,185.7	1,876.4 7,788.7	1,757.4 7,984.5	1,834.7 8,455.5	1,915.7 8,872.4
Staff costs	(2,041.6)	(2,137.7)	(2,244.6)	(2,356.8)	(2,474.6)
Other operating expenses	(1,345.1)	(1,384.7)	(1,423.0)	(1,463.0)	(1,504.6)
Operating expenses	(3,386.7)	(3,522.4)	(3,667.6)	(3,819.7)	(3,979.2)
Pre-provision profit	3,799.0	4,266.3	4,316.9	4,635.8	4,893.2
Loan impairment allowances	(1,075.4)	(737.2)	(813.1)	(849.7)	(656.5)
Other allowances	(79.2)	(0.3)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Associates & JV income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pretax profit	2,644.4	3,528.8	3,503.8	3,786.0	4,236.6
Income tax	(639.9)	(905.6)	(1,115.7)	(908.6)	(1,016.8)
Minorities	(6.6)	(4.7)	(4.8)	(5.8)	(6.4)
Discontinued operations	34.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reported net profit	2,032.5	2,618.4	2,383.3	2,871.6	3,213.4
Core net profit	2,315.5	2,804.5	2,383.3	2,871.6	3,213.4
BALANCE SHEET (MYR m)					
Cash & deposits with banks	14,973.7	23,318.1	24,484.0	25,708.2	26,993.6
Sec. under resale agreements	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Derivatives financial assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dealing securities	4,462.1	2,778.2	2,917.2	3,063.0	3,216.2
Available-for-sale securities	58,908.5	59,102.4	63,830.6	68,937.0	74,452.0
Investment securities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Loans & advances	182,424.9	194,896.6	203,003.1	211,123.2	219,568.1
Central bank deposits	612.7	635.0	5,910.9	6,140.9	6,379.9
Investment in associates/JVs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Insurance assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fixed assets	1,163.2	1,191.3	1,215.1	1,239.4	1,264.2
Intangible assets	3,290.4	3,348.9	3,348.9	3,348.9	3,348.9
Other assets	5,314.5	4,270.9	4,362.5	4,457.4	4,555.7
Total assets	271,150.0	289,541.5	309,072.2	324,018.1	339,778.6
Deposits from customers Deposits from banks & FIs	203,470.8 21,035.2	219,313.9 23,406.8	227,481.9 24,343.1	236,581.2 25,316.8	246,044.4 26,329.5
Derivatives financial instruments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Subordinated debt	2,718.7	3,221.9	3,221.9	3,221.9	3,221.9
Other securities in issue	3,545.2	3,646.4	4,246.4	4,246.4	4,246.4
Other borrowings	4,785.5	4,636.0	4,852.2	5,079.4	5,317.8
Insurance liabilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other liabilities	8,538.0	7,286.0	15,804.4	19,008.6	22,441.6
Total liabilities	244,093.4	261,510.9	279,949.9	293,454.2	307,601.6
Share capital	6,994.1	7,612.6	7,612.6	7,612.6	7,612.6
Reserves	20,029.7	20,385.7	21,472.7	22,908.5	24,515.3
Shareholders' funds	27,023.8	27,998.3	29,085.3	30,521.2	32,127.9
Preference shares	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Minority interest	32.7	32.2	37.0	42.7	49.2
Total equity	27,056.6	28,030.5	29,122.3	30,563.9	32,177.0
Total liabilities & equity		289,541.5	309,072.2	324,018.1	339,778.6



FYE 31 Dec	FY20A	FY21A	FY22E	FY23E	FY24E
Key Ratios					
Growth (%)					
Net interest income	(7.2)	14.2	1.7	2.9	0.5
Non-interest income	18.3	(13.8)	(6.3)	4.4	4.4
Operating expenses	(0.0)	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.2
Pre-provision profit	3.5	12.3	1.2	7.4	5.6
Core net profit	(8.4)	21.1	(15.0)	20.5	11.9
Gross loans	5.6	6.7	4.4	4.0	4.0
Customer deposits	6.8	7.8	3.7	4.0	4.0
Total assets	5.3	6.8	6.7	4.8	4.9
Profitability (%)					
Non-int. income/Total income	30.3	24.1	22.0	21.7	21.6
Average lending yields	3.26	3.02	3.00	2.99	2.99
Average cost of funds	1.73	1.17	1.18	1.17	1.16
Net interest margin	1.98	2.19	2.17	2.20	2.20
Cost/income	47.1	45.2	45.9	45.2	44.8
Liquidity (%)					
Loans/customer deposits	89.7	88.9	89.2	89.2	89.2
Asset quality (%)					
Net NPL	0.9	0.8	1.3	1.3	1.3
Gross NPL	1.7	1.5	2.3	2.3	2.3
(SP+GP)/average gross loans	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
Loan loss coverage	115.9	122.5	89.0	89.0	89.0
Capital adequacy (%)					
CET1	16.2	17.2	15.4	15.4	15.6
Tier 1 capital	16.2	17.2	15.6	15.6	15.7
Risk-weighted capital	18.4	19.8	17.8	17.7	17.8
Returns (%)					
ROAE	8.8	10.2	8.4	9.6	10.3
ROAA	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.0
Shareholders equity/assets	10.0	9.7	9.4	9.4	9.5

Source: Company; Maybank



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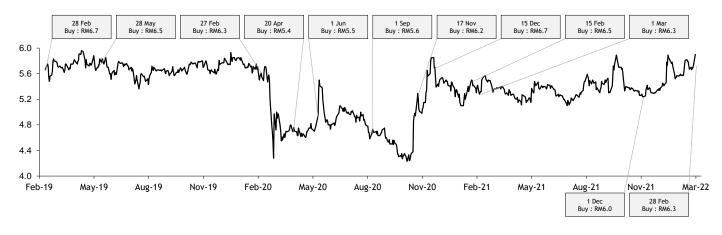
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