RCE Capital Bhd (RCE MK)

Has the right stuff for Shariah compliancy?

Maintain BUY call with higher TP of MYR2.78 (+33%)

We opine that RCE is eligible to obtain Shariah status come Nov 2021. Coupled with its relatively resilient earnings outlook, we believe that RCE will potentially attract interest from more fund managers. We raise our TP to MYR2.78 from MYR2.09 as we roll forward our valuation base year to end-CY21E from end-CY20E and raise our target P/BV multiple to 1.2x (1.0x previously). Another re-rating catalyst is RCE raising its DPR policy from 20-40% currently (FY20A: 35%).

Appears to satisfy Shariah compliancy benchmarks

Examining RCE's latest results for the 6M period ended 30 Sep 2020,:- (i) we gather that conventional loans do not contribute more than 5% to group revenue or group profit before taxation; (ii) its cash over total assets ratio of 21% is less than the 33% benchmark; and (iii) its adjusted debt (total debt less sukuk) over total assets ratio of 17% is again less than the 33% benchmark. Thus, we opine that RCE is eligible to be deemed as Shariah compliant come Nov 2021.

Obtaining Shariah status will be a major coup

There are only 3 Shariah compliant financial services companies listed on Bursa Malaysia. Even RCE's closest listed peers, AEON Credit Service (M) (ACSM MK, Not Rated) and MBSB Bank (MBS MK, Not Rated) are non-Shariah compliant. With its relatively resilient earnings outlook, we believe that RCE will attract interest from a larger group of fund managers who are allocating more and more of their assets in Shariah compliant equities should it obtain Shariah status.

Share price ought to re-rate, in our view

We tweak our EPS estimates by only 1% p.a. to account for minor housekeeping. That said, we roll forward our valuation base year to end-CY21E from end-CY20E and raise our target P/BV multiple to 1.2x from 1.0x to raise our TP to MYR2.78 from MYR2.09. We opine that the main re-rating catalyst that will drive RCE's valuations to higher levels is it obtaining Shariah status. The other re-rating catalyst is RCE raising its DPR policy from the current 20-40% (FY20A: 35%).

FYE Mar (MYR m)	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Operating income	200	221	238	246	256
Pre-provision profit	155	172	186	193	202
Core net profit	96	111	118	122	128
Core FDEPS (MYR)	0.28	0.32	0.33	0.34	0.36
Core FDEPS growth(%)	7.6	13.5	3.9	3.8	4.6
Net DPS (MYR)	0.09	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.13
Core FD P/E (x)	5.8	4.7	7.6	7.3	7.0
P/BV (x)	1.0	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.0
Net dividend yield (%)	5.5	7.4	4.6	4.8	5.0
Book value (MYR)	1.71	1.92	2.14	2.37	2.61
ROAE (%)	17.3	17.6	16.6	15.5	14.7
ROAA (%)	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6
Consensus net profit	-	-	113	120	126
MKE vs. Consensus (%)	-	-	4.1	1.8	1.8

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BUY

Share Price	MYR 2.50
12m Price Target	MYR 2.78 (+16%)
Previous Price Target	MYR 2.09

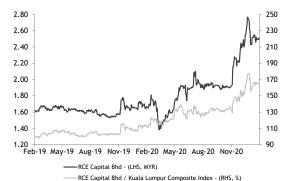
Company Description

RCE Capital is principally involved in the provision of general financing services.

Statistics

•	
52w high/low (MYR)	2.77/1.38
3m avg turnover (USDm)	0.3
Free float (%)	28.4
Issued shares (m)	358
Market capitalisation	MYR895.9M
	USD220M
Major shareholders:	
Cempaka Empayar Sdn. Bhd.	51.1%
RCE Capital Bhd.	6.0%
Rockwills International Group Bhd	4.5%

Price Performance

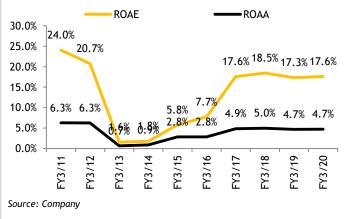


	-1M	-3M	-12M
Absolute (%)	(4)	31	50
Relative to index (%)	(2)	24	46
Source: FactSet			

Value Proposition

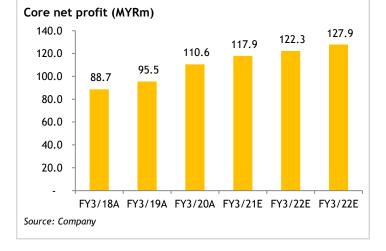
- RCE Capital provides personal financing, the ultimate customers being civil servants.
- With a gross financing balance of just MYR1.8b, we estimate that its market share is only 2%.
- Non-performing financing kept in check thanks to nondiscretionary direct salary deductions.
- Competitive advantage lies in fast financing processing turnaround time of 48 hours.
- ROE generation surpasses that of the average for the overall banking industry.

ROE and ROA



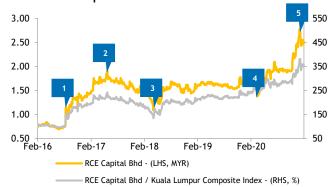
Financial Metrics

- Introduced a better credit scoring model in 2013. Forecast gross financing growth of 3% p.a. over the next three years.
- Average financing yields may be peaking at 14-15% but average cost of funds is falling.
- Asset quality better than before. New financing are smaller in size (<MYR20k) and their NPF ratios are low (<2%).
- Forecast stable three-year forward core net profit CAGR of 5% p.a.
- There is room for dividends to surprise to the upside as its DPR policy is only 20-40%.



Price Drivers

Historical share price trend



Source: Company, Maybank Kim Eng

- 1. 1QFY17 net profit surged 86% YoY as FY17 revenue grew 39% YoY.
- FY17 net profit surged 98% YoY as FY17 revenue grew 38% YoY.
- 3. Concerns arise that the government may reduce the size of the civil service.
- 4. Movement Control Order lengthened time to process new customers, resulting in less financing disbursed.
- 5. 2QFY21 net profit grew 22% YoY to a record high of MYR33m.

Swing Factors

Upside

- Easing competition competitors have been reducing their exposure to personal financing.
- Lower cost of funds we estimate that every 25bps reduction in cost of funds will accrete 3% to earnings.
- Access to CCRIS if RCE Capital gains access to CCRIS, it can better assess customers' total indebtedness.

Downside

- High household debt Household debt to GDP is elevated at >80% and may crimp customers' repayment ability.
- Need to leverage RCE Capital cannot take deposits and thus, has to assume debt to finance its financing.
- Asset-liability duration mismatch customers' repayment may not match RCE Capital's debt repayment.

Appears to satisfy Shariah compliancy benchmarks

The Shariah Advisory Council (SAC) of the Securities Commission Malaysia (SC) adopts a two-tier quantitative approach, which applies business activity benchmarks and financial ratio benchmarks, in determining the Shariah status of listed securities. Securities will be classified as Shariah compliant if their business activities and financial ratios are within these benchmarks.

Business activity benchmarks

For the below mentioned businesses/activities, the contribution of non-Shariah compliant businesses or activities to group revenue or group profit before taxation of a company must be less than 5%:-

- conventional banking and lending;
- conventional insurance;
- gambling;
- liquor and liquor-related activities;
- pork and pork-related activities;
- non-halal food and beverages;
- non-Shariah compliant entertainment;
- tobacco and tobacco-related activities;
- interest income from conventional accounts and instruments;
- dividends from non-Shariah compliant investments; and
- other activities deemed non-Shariah compliant as determined by SAC.

For the below mentioned businesses/activities, the contribution of non-Shariah compliant businesses or activities to group revenue or group profit before taxation of a company must be less than 20%:-

- share trading;
- stockbroking business;
- rental received from non-Shariah compliant activities; and
- other activities deemed non-Shariah compliant as determined by SAC.

Financial ratio benchmarks

The SAC also takes into account the following to measure riba and riba-based elements within a company's statements of financial position:-

- cash over total assets ratio must be less than 33% (cash placed in Islamic accounts and instruments is excluded from the calculation); and
- debt over total assets ratio must be less than 33% (Islamic financing or sukuk is excluded from the calculation)

In classifying whether securities are Shariah compliant or not, the SAC receives input and support from the SC. In turn, the SC obtains information on companies through, among others, annual reports and enquiries made to the companies. Yet, we deem it useful to examine RCE's latest results for the 6M period ended 30 Sep 2020 to gauge whether it satisfies the aforementioned benchmarks or not.

We first examine RCE's business activity benchmarks. It is most pertinent to ascertain if conventional lending contributes more than 5% to group revenue or group profit before taxation. RCE's latest results for the 6M period ended 30 Sep 2020 does not breakdown how much of its group revenue or group profit before taxation is contributed by Shariah compliant financing and conventional loans.

That said, they do breakdown the 'gross financing and loans receivables' figure by Shariah compliant financing and conventional loans. Conventional loans account for only 2% of 'gross financing and loans receivables' (Fig. 1). Given that the profit/interest rates on the Shariah compliant financing/conventional loans are similar, we gather that conventional loans do not contribute more than 5% to group revenue or group profit before taxation.

Figure 1: Gross financing and loans receivables breakdown as at 30 Sep 2020

MYRm	<mark>%</mark>
1,763.3	97.8%
38.9	2.2%
1,802.2	100.0%
	1,763.3 38.9

Source: Company, Maybank Kim Eng

We next examine RCE's financial ratio benchmarks. As at 30 Sep 2020, RCE's deposits with licensed financial institutions and cash and bank balances stood at MYR475.4m and its total assets stood at MYR2,293.2m. Even in the unlikely scenario that RCE placed all its cash in conventional accounts and instruments, its cash over total assets ratio of 21% is still less than the 33% benchmark (Fig. 2).

Figure 2: Cash/total assets ratio as at 30 Sep 2020

	MYRm
Deposits with licensed financial institutions (A)	422.9
Cash and bank balances (B)	52.5
Total cash (C=A+B)	475.4
Total assets (D)	2,293.2
Cash/total assets ratio (E=C/D)	20.7%

Source: Company, Maybank Kim Eng

As at 30 Sep 2020, RCE's debt stood at MYR1,540m and its total assets stood at MYR2,293.2m. That said, recall that Islamic financing or sukuk is excluded from the calculation. Thus, RCE's adjusted debt stood at only MYR399.9m. As a result, its adjusted debt over total assets ratio of 17% is again less than the 33% benchmark (Fig. 3).

Figure 3: Debt/total assets ratio as at 30 Sep 2020

MYRm
1,534.5
0.7
4.8
-1,140.1
399.9
2,293.2
17.4%

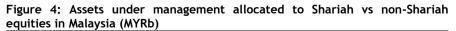
Source: Company, Maybank Kim Eng

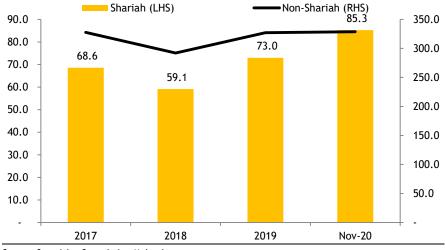
Thus, we opine that RCE is eligible to be deemed as Shariah compliant. In our view, the only obstacle that could prevent RCE from being deemed Shariah compliant is if the SAC if of the view that public perception or image of RCE's activities are contrary to Islamic teachings.

Obtaining Shariah status will be a major coup

There are currently, 715 Shariah compliant securities (<u>link</u>). That said, there are only 3 Shariah compliant financial services companies. They are BIMB Holdings (BIMB MK, BUY, CP: MYR3.98, TP: MYR4.90), Bursa Malaysia (BURSA MK, BUY, CP: MYR9.38, TP: MYR10.05) and Syarikat Takaful Malaysia Keluarga (STMB MK, Not Rated). Even RCE's closest listed peers, AEON Credit Service (M) (ACSM MK, Not Rated) and MBSB Bank (MBS MK, Not Rated) are non-Shariah compliant.

With its relatively resilient earnings outlook in the midst of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, we believe that RCE will attract interest from a larger group of fund managers who are allocating more and more of their assets in Shariah compliant equities should it obtain Shariah status (Fig. 4). Until recently, RCE's valuations have lagged behind its peers (Fig. 5 and 6). To a certain extent, they still do given that RCE's ROEs are superior to many of its peers (Fig. 7).





Source: Securities Commission Malaysia

Figure 5: Peer comparison table

	Market capitalisation	End-CY21 P/BV	End-CY22 P/BV	CY21 ROE	CY22 ROE
	MYRb	x	x	%	%
BIMB Holdings	7.4	1.1	1.0	11.0	11.0
Bursa Malaysia	7.6	9.2	8.9	35.9	32.4
Syarikat Takaful Malaysia Keluarga	3.6	2.3	2.0	23.5	22.1
AEON Credit Service (M)*	2.8	1.5	1.3	14.4	16.5
MBSB Bank	4.3	0.5	0.4	7.4	8.8
RCE Capital*	0.9	1.1	1.0	15.7	14.8

* annualised

Source: Bloomberg, Maybank Kim Eng

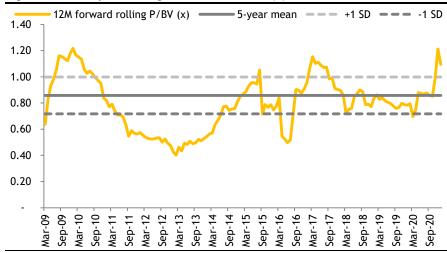
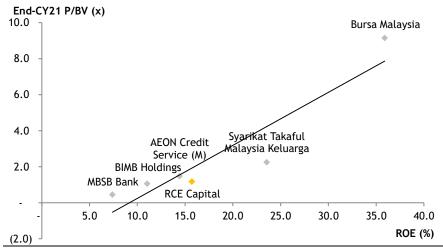


Figure 6: RCE Capital rolling 12M forward P/BV (x)

Source: Company, Maybank Kim Eng, Bloomberg

Figure 7: End-CY21 P/BV vs CY21 ROE of selected financial services companies



Source: Company, Maybank Kim Eng, Bloomberg

Valuation and recommendation

Our earnings estimates are little changed as we tweak our EPS estimates by only 1% p.a. to account for minor housekeeping. We roll forward our valuation base year to end-CY21E from end-CY20E and raise our target P/BV multiple to 1.2x from 1.0x. This raises our TP to MYR2.78 from MYR2.09. Although 1.2x end-CY21E P/BV is at the high end of its historical trading range (Fig. 6), we do not believe that it is excessive as it is still c.20% below that of AEON Credit Service (M) even though we expect the former to generate ROEs comparable to the latter (Fig. 5).

As alluded to above, we opine that the main re-rating catalyst that will drive RCE's valuations to higher levels is it obtaining Shariah status. Having said that, we caution that RCE may have to wait until Nov 2021 to obtain Shariah status as its FY21 annual report will not be published in time for the SAC and SC to review by 31 Mar 2021 to be included in the next list of Shariah compliant securities that is expected to be released in May 2021.

The other re-rating catalyst is RCE raising its DPR policy from the current 20-40%. RCE has gradually raised its DPR over the last few years. That said, we opine that it is still low as the FY20A DPR stood at only 35%. Given that cost of funds has been easing of late, we believe that there is not much need for RCE to hoard cash. We estimate that every 10ppts increase in its DPR will accrete c.3.5sen to DPS p.a. and 1.4% to dividend yield p.a.

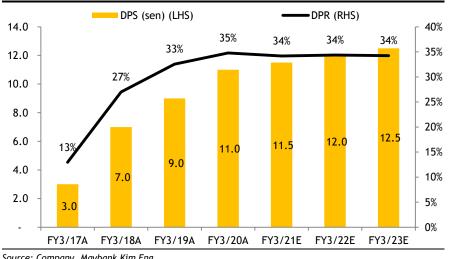


Figure 8: RCE Capital DPS and DPR

Source: Company, Maybank Kim Eng

FYE 31 Mar	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Key Metrics					
Core P/E (x)	5.8	4.7	7.4	7.2	6.8
Core FD P/E (x)	5.8	4.7	7.6	7.3	7.0
P/BV (x)	1.0	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.0
P/NTA (x)	1.0	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.0
Net dividend yield (%)	5.5	7.4	4.6	4.8	5.0
INCOME STATEMENT (MYR m)					
Islamic banking income	164.2	187.0	202.0	209.2	218.1
Other income	35.8	34.2	35.5	36.6	37.7
Total non-interest income	200.0	221.2	237.6	245.8	255.8
Operating income	200.0	221.2	237.6	245.8	255.8
Staff costs	(21.4)	(24.2)	(25.2)	(25.9)	(26.7)
Other operating expenses	(23.8)	(25.0)	(25.9)	(26.7)	(27.4)
Operating expenses	(45.2)	(49.2)	(51.1)	(52.6)	(54.1)
Pre-provision profit	154.8	172.0	186.4	193.3	201.7
Other allowances	(23.7)	(23.1)	(27.7)	(28.5)	(29.4)
Associates & JV income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pretax profit	131.1	148.9	158.7	164.7	172.3
Income tax	(35.6)	(38.3)	(40.8)	(42.4)	(44.3)
Reported net profit	95.5	110.6	117.9	122.3	127.9
Core net profit	95.5	110.6	117.9	122.3	127.9
BALANCE SHEET (MYR m)					
Cash & deposits with banks	492.4	620.2	699.4	780.2	863.3
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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Available-for-sale securities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Investment securities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Financing and advances	1,602.4	1,692.9	1,740.6	1,790.9	1,844.5
Fixed assets	4.5	7.3	8.7	10.1	11.4
Intangible assets	47.3	47.3	47.3	47.3	47.3
Other assets	79.5	63.3	63.3	63.3	63.3
Total assets	2,226.1	2,431.0	2,559.3	2,691.7	2,829.9
Derivatives financial instruments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Subordinated debt	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other securities in issue	1,005.2	1,059.1	1,060.0	1,060.0	1,060.0
Other borrowings	280.8	429.1	478.5	530.5	584.2
Other liabilities	356.6	269.5	269.8	270.0	270.3
Total liabilities	1,642.6	1,757.7	1,808.3	1,860.5	1,914.5
Share capital	154.5	172.2	172.2	172.2	172.2
Reserves	429.1	501.1	578.7	659.0	743.2
Shareholders' funds	583.5	673.4	751.0	831.3	915.4
Preference shares	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Minority interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total equity	583.5	673.4	751.0	831.3	915.4
Total liabilities & equity	2,226.1	2,431.0	2,559.3	2,691.7	2,829.9

FYE 31 Mar	FY19A	FY20A	FY21E	FY22E	FY23E
Key Ratios					
Growth (%)					
Net interest income	na	na	na	na	na
Non-interest income	6.2	10.6	7.4	3.5	4.0
Operating expenses	9.4	8.9	3.9	2.9	2.9
Pre-provision profit	5.3	11.1	8.4	3.7	4.3
Core net profit	7.7	15.8	6.6	3.8	4.6
Gross loans	5.2	5.3	3.0	3.0	3.0
Customer deposits	na	na	na	na	na
Total assets	19.8	9.2	5.3	5.2	5.1
Profitability (%)					
Non-int. income/Total income	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cost/income	22.6	22.2	21.5	21.4	21.1
Liquidity (%)					
Loans/customer deposits	na	na	na	na	na
Asset quality (%)					
Gross NPF	4.4	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.4
Capital adequacy (%)					
CET1	na	na	na	na	na
Tier 1 capital	na	na	na	na	na
Risk-weighted capital	na	na	na	na	na
Returns (%)					
ROAE	17.3	17.6	16.6	15.5	14.7
ROAA	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6
Shareholders equity/assets	26.2	27.7	29.3	30.9	32.3

Source: Company; Maybank

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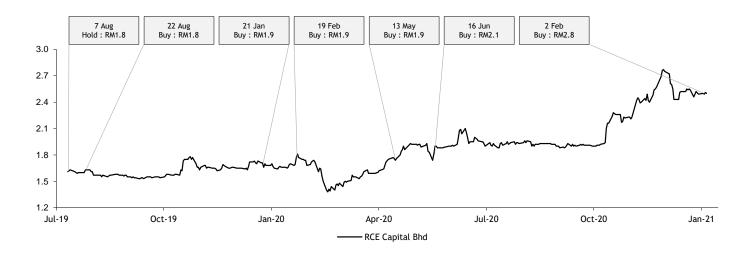
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