

RCE Capital (RCE MK)

**New Dividend Player In Town** 

24 May 2023

# Malaysia Results Review

Financial Services | Banks

# Neutral (Maintained)

Target Price (Return): MYR1.95 (+2%) Price (Market Cap): MYR1.92 (USD308m) ESG score: 3.03 (out of 4) 0.36m/0.08m Avg Daily Turnover (MYR/USD)

#### **Analysts**

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#### **Share Performance (%)**

# RCE Capital Ordinary (RCE MK) 1.90 115 May-22 Jun-22 Jul-22 Jul-22 Jul-22 Sep-22 Oct-22 Vov-22 Jan-23 Jan-23 Apr-23 Mar-23 May-23

Source: Bloomberg



	YTD	1m	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	13.6	1.6	7.9	3.2	9.1
Relative	19.2	2.4	11.1	5.4	17.6
52-wk Price low	/high (MYR)	)		1.51	- 1.96

### • New dividend policy. Management announced a formal dividend payout policy of 60-80% of net earnings, against the 30-40% historical trend.

Maintain NEUTRAL and MYR1.95 TP, 2% upside with c.7% FY24F (Mar)

yield. RCE Capital's FY23 net profit of MYR138.8m is in line, and its higher

non-profit income and new dividend policy are the key highlights. While valuations appear lofty at present, the company's stable earnings prospects

and our new forecasted yield of 7% (from 4-5%) could offer investors a

• Results in line. RCE's 4QFY23 net earnings of MYR34.8m (+10% YoY,

flat QoQ) brought the full-year number to MYR138.8m (+4% YoY), meeting

our/consensus estimates. Net profit income contracted 2% YoY on the back

of a higher drawdown of new borrowings (+16% YoY), albeit mitigated by a 57% growth in non-profit income. Prudent cost controls also bore fruit as

the group recorded a 4% reduction in opex. A second interim DPS of 7 sen was declared, bringing total core DPS for FY23 to 12 sen (63% payout). Profit income to flow through in FY24F. RCE's gross receivables rose by 8% YoY in FY23, even though it priced new assets higher from 2HFY23 onwards. This has not been reflected in FY23 profit income (+2% YoY), but management assured us the repricing should begin to flow through in

FY24F - the profit recognition lag tends to take around 1-2 quarters. Elsewhere, the group is aiming for receivables growth to track the growth of

 Asset quality still stable. Feedback from management suggests that its asset quality is stable - non-performing financing, using the ECL stage 3 balance as a proxy, has been hovering at 3.8-4% of gross receivables for the past four quarters. Looking ahead, credit costs should stabilise at 100-

the banking system (c.5% YoY in CY23 as per our forecasts).

200bps (annualised) per quarter.

defensive dividend play in the current market environment.

- Forecasts and TP. We adjust our FY24-25 estimates slightly to account for higher asset yields, and introduce FY26F numbers in this report. Our unchanged TP of MYR1.95 includes a 0% ESG premium/discount. In light of RCE's new dividend policy, its yield of c.7% appears attractive for investors looking for a defensive option in the current challenging market environment. However, the counter is currently trading at a forward P/BV of 1.5x – near +2SD from its 5-year mean, ie the highest among the non-bank lenders under our coverage – which we deem to be lofty at present.
- ESG framework update. As there is now greater focus on the E pillar due to critical climate change issues, we have tweaked our ESG weightage. Henceforth, we assign a weightage of 50% to the E pillar, followed by 25% each to the S and G pillars. Further details are in our 2 May thematic research note titled Envisioning a Better Future.

Forecasts and Valuation	Mar-22	Mar-23	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Reported net profit (MYRm)	133	139	141	149	156
Net profit growth (%)	6.9	4.2	1.6	5.4	5.1
Recurring net profit (MYRm)	133	139	141	149	156
Recurring EPS (MYR)	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.20	0.21
BVPS (MYR)	1.19	1.10	1.16	1.24	1.32
DPS (MYR)	0.07	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.14
Recurring P/E (x)	10.55	10.14	9.98	9.47	9.01
P/B (x)	1.61	1.75	1.65	1.55	1.45
Dividend Yield (%)	3.9	6.2	6.5	6.9	7.2
Return on average equity (%)	16.2	16.5	17.0	16.9	16.6

Source: Company data, RHB

### Overall ESG Score: 3.03 (out of 4)

### E: GOOD

The group maintains transparent and detailed disclosures of its Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, which has recorded a decent reduction of 3% between FY22 (Mar) and FY20. It fosters a culture of green volunteerism through its Green Warriorz Team, and has designated e-waste containers on office floors to encourage proper disposal of e-waste such as unused gadgets and batteries.

#### S: GOOD

RCE outsources the auditing of its IT systems to ensure competency standards are met. The group, in collaboration with Yayasan Azman Hashim, also provides study grants and scholarships to deserving underprivileged students to pursue chartered accountancy certifications. To date, MYR524,000 has been distributed under the programme. G: EXCELLENT

Board comprises nine non-executive directors, five of whom are independent directors. Board members have a maximum allowed tenure of nine years, to facilitate the refreshment of its composition. However, in FY22, there was a one-off incidence of non-compliance in relation to a late payment of service tax due to an administrative delay, but this has since been resolved.

Small cap stocks are defined as companies with a market capitalization of less than USD0.5bn.



## **Financial Exhibits**

Asia Malaysia Financial Services **RCE Capital** RCE MK Neutral

#### Valuation basis

Our GGM assumptions are:

- i. CoE of 11.5%; ii. ROE of 16.8%;
- iii. 3.5% long-term growth rate.

#### Key drivers

Our FY23 forecasts are most sensitive to changes in:

- i. Growth in receivables;
- ii. Impairment allowances;
- iii. Financing margins.

#### Key risks

The downside risks include:

- i. Higher-than-expected credit cost;
- Weaker-than-expected financing growth;
- iii. Weaker-than-expect net financing margin.

The converse represents upside risks.

#### **Company Profile**

RCE Capital provides general financing services to civil servants - repayments are done via direct salary deductions. Its wholly-owned EXP Payment unit offers payroll collection management services for government departments under the purview of the Accountant General's Department.

Financial summary (MYR)	Mar-22	Mar-23	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
EPS	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.20	0.21
Recurring EPS	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.20	0.21
DPS	0.07	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.14
BVPS	1.19	1.10	1.16	1.24	1.32

Valuation metrics	Mar-22	Mar-23	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Recurring P/E (x)	10.55	10.14	9.98	9.47	9.01
P/B (x)	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.5
Dividend Yield (%)	3.9	6.2	6.5	6.9	7.2

Income statement (MYRm)	Mar-22	Mar-23	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Interest income	275	281	302	317	331
Interest expense	(80)	(90)	(103)	(107)	(111)
Net interest income	194	190	200	210	220
Non interest income	45	71	69	73	76
Total operating income	239	261	269	282	297
Overheads	(51)	(49)	(51)	(54)	(57)
Pre-provision operating profit	189	213	218	228	240
Loan impairment allowances	(12)	(29)	(30)	(30)	(32)
Pre-tax profit	177	184	188	198	208
Taxation	(44)	(45)	(47)	(50)	(52)
Reported net profit	133	139	141	149	156
Recurring net profit	133	139	141	149	156

Profitability ratios	Mar-22	Mar-23	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Return on average assets (%)	5.1	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.8
Return on average equity (%)	16.2	16.5	17.0	16.9	16.6
Return on IEAs (%)	10.9	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.4
Cost of funds (%)	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.9
Net interest spread (%)	6.2	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.5
Net interest margin (%)	7.7	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.9
Non-interest income / total income (%)	18.9	27.1	25.8	25.8	25.8
Cost to income ratio (%)	21.1	18.7	19.0	19.1	19.1
Credit cost (bps)	62.0	147.1	145.0	140.0	140.0

Balance sheet (MYRm)	Mar-22	Mar-23	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Total gross loans	1,879	2,021	2,122	2,228	2,317
Other interest earning assets	702	854	878	903	928
Total gross IEAs	2,581	2,875	3,000	3,131	3,245
Total provisions	(115)	(122)	(134)	(146)	(160)
Net loans to customers	1,764	1,899	1,988	2,082	2,157
Total net IEAs	2,466	2,753	2,866	2,985	3,085
Total non-IEAs	260	194	233	217	221
Total assets	2,725	2,947	3,100	3,201	3,306
Other interest-bearing liabilities	1,804	2,092	2,196	2,240	2,285
Total IBLs	1,804	2,092	2,196	2,240	2,285
Total non-IBLs	49	50	51	52	52
Total liabilities	1,853	2,141	2,247	2,292	2,337
Share capital	201	202	203	204	206
Shareholders' equity	872	806	853	910	969

Asset quality and capital	Mar-22	Mar-23	Mar-24F	Mar-25F	Mar-26F
Reported NPLs / gross cust loans (%)	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
Total provisions / reported NPLs (%)	162.8	158.2	165.6	172.5	181.5

Source: Company data, RHB



# **Results At a Glance**

Figure 1: Summary of 4QFY23 and FY23 results

FYE Mar (MYRm)	4Q FY22	3Q FY23	4Q FY23	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)	FY22	FY23	YoY (%)	Comments – FY23 vs FY22
Net profit income	50.3	47.2	45.1	(4.6)	(10.3)	194.1	190.4	(1.9)	
Profit income	70.4	70.1	70.5	0.6	0.2	274.6	280.7	2.2	Driven by robust receivables growth (+8% YoY), with the bulk of profits expected to flow through in FY24.
Profit expense	(20.1)	(22.8)	(25.4)	11.2	26.4	(80.5)	(90.3)	12.2	In line with increased <i>sukuk</i> funding (+16% YoY).
Non-profit Income	10.1	18.8	20.9	11.2	>100	45.2	71.0	56.9	Higher fee income from successful sales campaigns.
Non-II/Total income (%)	16.7	28.5	31.7			18.9	27.1		
Operating Income	60.3	66.0	66.0	(0.1)	9.4	239.4	261.4	9.2	
Overhead expenses	(13.1)	(14.5)	(11.4)	(21.4)	(12.6)	(50.6)	(48.8)	(3.6)	
CIR (%)	21.6	22.0	17.3			21.1	18.7		
PIOP	47.3	51.5	54.6	5.9	15.4	188.8	212.6	12.6	
Impairment on financing	(5.9)	(5.5)	(8.2)	49.0	39.2	(11.5)	(28.7)	>100	Hefty pre-emptive provisions made in 1QFY23 for civil servants that retired early or have left the service. Higher credit costs in 4QFY23 were due to changes in model assumptions.
Ann. credit costs (bps)	125	111	163			66	157		
PBT	41.4	46.1	46.4	0.8	12.1	177.2	183.9	3.8	
Taxation	(9.9)	(10.9)	(11.6)			(44.1)	(45.2)		
ETR (%)	23.9	23.6	25.0			24.9	24.6		
Net Earnings	31.5	35.2	34.8	(1.0)	10.5	133.2	138.8	4.2	At 103% and 102% of our and Street forecasts.
Other key data and ratios									
Gross financing	1,879.2	1,978.5	2,020.9	2.1	7.5				Management guides for financing growth to track the growth of the banking industry (RHB forecast: c.5% YoY in CY23).
Total borrowings	1,804.0	2,086.1	2,091.5	0.3	15.9				
Total assets	2,725.3	2,908.7	2,946.8	1.3	8.1				
Shareholders' funds	872.1	771.8	805.7	4.4	(7.6)				
ROAA (%)	4.7%	4.9%	4.8%			5.1%	4.9%		
ROAE (%)	14.7%	16.7%	17.7%			16.2%	16.5%		

Source: Company data, RHB



Figure 2: Revisions to our full-year earnings forecasts

	<u>Net</u>	Net profit (MYRm) EPS (MYR) DPS (M					DPS (MYR)		
FYE Mar	Previous	Revised	% Chg	Previous	Revised	% Chg	Previous	Revised	% Chg
2024F	139.3	141.0	1.2%	0.19	0.19	1.1%	0.08	0.13	56.3%
2025F	147.5	148.5	0.7%	0.20	0.20	0.6%	0.09	0.13	55.0%
2026F	na	156.2	na	na	0.21	na	na	0.14	na

Note: \*Comprises 8 sen core DPS and 18 sen special DPS

Source: Company data, RHB

### **Valuation and TP**

Our unchanged TP of MYR1.95 is based on a GGM-derived fair value P/BV of 1.67x on RCE's 12-month blended forward BVPS. This compares against the other non-bank lenders' P/BVs of around 1-1.1x. We believe the stock is fairly valued, as it is trading near +2SD from its 5-year mean, with RCE's defensive attributes (resilient salary deduction scheme and prudent asset quality controls) already priced in. We also pare down our ESG score for the company to 3.0 from 3.1, after updating our ESG scoring methodology – although this change had no impact on the TP. We maintain our NEUTRAL call on the counter.

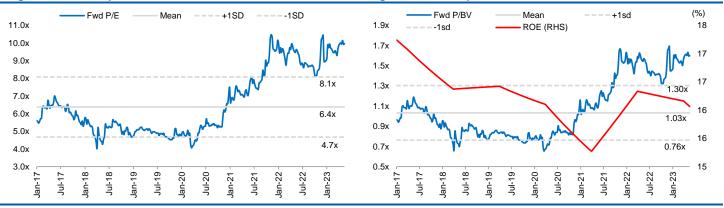
Figure 3: GGM valuation

Cost of equity (COE) computation:		Sustainable ROE (%)	16.8
Risk free rate (%)	4.0	COE (%)	11.5
Equity premium (%)	6.5	Long-term growth (g)	3.5
Beta (x)	1.2	Implied P/BV (x)	1.67
Cost of equity - CAPM (%)	11.5	BVPS - 12-month forward	MYR1.18
		Intrinsic value	MYR1.96
ESG premium/(discount) (%)	0.0	ESG premium/(discount)	MYR0.00
		TP (rounded)	MYR1.95

Source: Company data, RHB

Figure 4: RCE Capital's 12-month forward P/E

Figure 5: RCE Capital's 12-month forward P/BV vs ROE



Source: Bloomberg, RHB

Source: Bloomberg, RHB

# **Recommendation Chart**

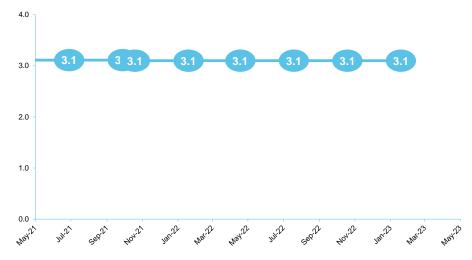


Source: RHB, Bloomberg

Date	Recommendation	Target Price	Price
2023-02-15	Neutral	1.95	1.85
2022-11-22	Neutral	1.95	1.87
2022-08-12	Buy	1.92	1.64
2022-05-31	Buy	2.00	1.76
2022-02-25	Buy	1.90	1.69
2021-11-10	Neutral	3.90	2.02
2021-08-12	Buy	3.20	1.43
2021-05-26	Buy	3.20	1.43
2021-02-09	Buy	3.00	1.32
2020-12-08	Buy	2.80	1.29
2020-08-18	Buy	2.50	1.02
2020-07-06	Buy	2.50	1.01
2020-06-16	Buy	2.20	0.95
2020-03-15	Buy	2.10	0.79
2020-02-19	Buy	2.20	0.93

Source: RHB, Bloomberg

# **ESG** Rating History



Source: RHB

#### **RHB Guide to Investment Ratings**

Share price may exceed 10% over the next 12 months

**Trading Buy:** Share price may exceed 15% over the next 3 months, however longer-

term outlook remains uncertain
Share price may fall within the range of +/- 10% over the next Neutral:

12 months

Take Profit: Target price has been attained. Look to accumulate at lower levels Share price may fall by more than 10% over the next 12 months Sell:

Stock is not within regular research coverage Not Rated:

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