

20 January 2021

# Sentral REIT (SENTRAL MK)

Ending FY20 On a Strong Note; Maintain BUY

- **Maintain BUY, new DDM-derived TP of MYR1.00 from MYR0.95, 10% upside with 7.6% FY21F yield.** Sentral REIT (formerly known as MRCB-Quill REIT) closed 2020 on a good note as full-year earnings beat expectations, due to higher contributions from Menara Shell and Wisma Technip. Its average occupancy rate has been stable, and we view the likelihood of positive reversions as a positive for the REIT. However, non-renewal risk remains a concern this year, with 21% of NLA up for expiry.
- **Earnings beat, again.** 4Q20 earnings of MYR20.6m (+10.8% YoY, -4% QoQ) brought FY20 net profit to MYR81m (+12.3% YoY), at 105-106% of our and Street full-year estimates. The encouraging performance was due to higher revenue from Menara Shell, Wisma Technip and Tesco. The REIT's blended occupancy rate as at end-FY20 stood at 90%, ie a marginal dip from 90.5% in 3Q20. Considering the resilient occupancy levels, we do not rule out the possibility that rental reversions may be positive – especially in view of the step-up in rental rates at Menara Shell (which takes place every three years).
- **15% non-renewals in FY20.** Only 85% of leases up for renewal in FY20 were renewed. The 15% non-renewals were at in Quill-Building 3, Platinum Sentral, Wisma Technip, and Menara Shell. From this trend, we have reason to believe that non-renewal risk remains a concern for the REIT in the new year – since 21% of leases are up for expiry in FY21. Although Sentral REIT has not seen a significant drop in occupancy rate, in the face of COVID-19 and the ensuing work-from-home trend, we believe that FY21 may possibly see higher vacancies in the REIT's buildings. The bulk of leases up for expiry, as per management's guidance, is for space at Wisma Technip and Menara Shell.
- **Use of proceeds from Quill Building 5 (QB5) disposal.** It is yet to be decided what the MYR45m cash proceeds from the disposal of the vacant QB5 last year will be used for. Options include paring down debt, funding any asset enhancement initiatives, and making investments in other assets. Management does not discount that the proceeds may be for a combination of uses, but the possibility of acquiring Menara Celcom is still on the backburner at this point in time.
- **Maintain BUY.** We introduce our FY23 earnings forecast of MYR76m, and increase FY21-22F net profit marginally by 1-3%, as we impute positive reversions (from flat-to-negative previously). Our TP increases to MYR1.00.

| Forecasts and Valuations          | Dec-19 | Dec-20 | Dec-21F | Dec-22F | Dec-23F |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total turnover (MYRm)             | 162    | 166    | 152     | 153     | 154     |
| Net property income (MYRm)        | 123    | 128    | 117     | 118     | 119     |
| Reported net profit (MYRm)        | 29     | 73     | 74      | 75      | 76      |
| Total distributable income (MYRm) | 72     | 81     | 74      | 75      | 76      |
| DPS (MYR)                         | 0.07   | 0.07   | 0.07    | 0.07    | 0.07    |
| P/B (x)                           | 0.73   | 0.73   | 0.73    | 0.73    | 0.73    |
| Dividend Yield (%)                | 7.6    | 7.9    | 7.6     | 7.7     | 7.8     |
| Return on average equity (%)      | 2.2    | 5.5    | 5.6     | 5.7     | 5.7     |
| Return on average assets (%)      | 1.3    | 3.3    | 3.3     | 3.4     | 3.4     |
| Gross gearing (%)                 | 37.8   | 37.9   | 37.9    | 37.9    | 37.9    |

Source: Company data, RHB

## Malaysia Results Review

Property | REITS

**Buy** (Maintained)

|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Target Price (Return):       | MYR1.00 (+10%) |
| Price:                       | MYR0.91        |
| Market Cap:                  | USD241m        |
| Avg Daily Turnover (MYR/USD) | 0.36m/0.08m    |

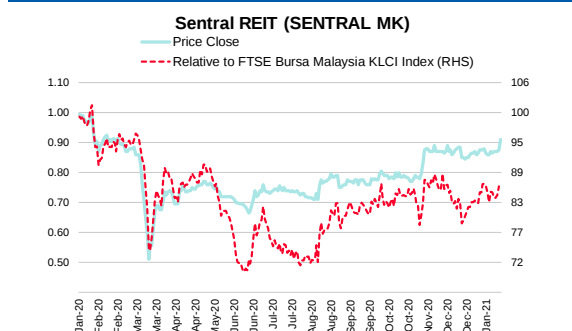
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### Share Performance (%)

|                            | YTD | 1m   | 3m   | 6m          | 12m   |
|----------------------------|-----|------|------|-------------|-------|
| Absolute                   | 4.0 | 7.7  | 16.7 | 23.0        | (9.0) |
| Relative                   | 5.1 | 10.3 | 10.7 | 22.2        | (9.9) |
| 52-wk Price low/high (MYR) |     |      |      | 0.51 – 0.99 |       |



Source: Bloomberg

### Overall ESG Score: 3.0 (out of 4)

#### E: Good

Sentral REIT has managed to reduce its overall water consumption in FY19 by 2% YoY, and is developing its own water management policy. The company also doubled the capacity of Platinum Sentral's solar power system, and subscribes to the Feed-In-Tariff (FIT) scheme for the Solar PV programme.

#### S: Good

67% of Sentral REIT's workforce are women, and they provide sufficient training to employees through MRCB Training Academy, MRCB Learning Zone, and industrial practical training. To ensure health and safety, it also conducts activities with external parties such as the Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia.

#### G: Excellent

We view positively its establishment of a policy on giving and receiving gifts and the commitment to the Corruption-Free Pledge by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission. Directors' tenure range between 4-6 years, on average.

#### Note:

Small cap stocks are defined as companies with a market capitalization of less than USD1bn.

## Financial Exhibits

|                                                                                                                                                    |                                     |               |               |                |                |                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Asia</b>                                                                                                                                        | <b>Financial summary</b>            | <b>Dec-19</b> | <b>Dec-20</b> | <b>Dec-21F</b> | <b>Dec-22F</b> | <b>Dec-23F</b> |
| Malaysia                                                                                                                                           | Recurring EPS (MYR)                 | 0.07          | 0.08          | 0.07           | 0.07           | 0.07           |
| Property                                                                                                                                           | EPS (MYR)                           | 0.07          | 0.08          | 0.07           | 0.07           | 0.07           |
| <b>Sentral REIT</b>                                                                                                                                | DPS (MYR)                           | 0.07          | 0.07          | 0.07           | 0.07           | 0.07           |
| SENTRAL MK                                                                                                                                         | BVPS (MYR)                          | 1.23          | 1.23          | 1.24           | 1.24           | 1.24           |
| Buy                                                                                                                                                | Weighted avg adjusted shares (m)    | 1,071.8       | 1,071.8       | 1,071.8        | 1,071.8        | 1,071.8        |
| <b>Valuation basis</b>                                                                                                                             | <b>Valuation metrics</b>            | <b>Dec-19</b> | <b>Dec-20</b> | <b>Dec-21F</b> | <b>Dec-22F</b> | <b>Dec-23F</b> |
| DDM                                                                                                                                                | Recurring P/E (x)                   | 13.4          | 11.9          | 13.1           | 12.9           | 12.7           |
|                                                                                                                                                    | P/E (x)                             | 13.4          | 11.9          | 13.1           | 12.9           | 12.7           |
|                                                                                                                                                    | P/B (x)                             | 0.7           | 0.7           | 0.7            | 0.7            | 0.7            |
| <b>Key drivers</b>                                                                                                                                 | FCF Yield (%)                       | 12.1          | 11.0          | 11.5           | 10.8           | 10.9           |
| i. Higher-than-expected demand for office space;                                                                                                   | Dividend yield (%)                  | 7.6           | 7.9           | 7.6            | 7.7            | 7.8            |
| ii. Inorganic growth opportunities arising from MRCB and Quill Group.                                                                              | EV/EBITDA (x)                       | 19.4          | 14.0          | 14.5           | 14.8           | 14.7           |
|                                                                                                                                                    | EV/EBIT (x)                         | 19.4          | 14.0          | 14.5           | 14.8           | 14.7           |
| <b>Key risks</b>                                                                                                                                   | <b>Income statement (MYRm)</b>      | <b>Dec-19</b> | <b>Dec-20</b> | <b>Dec-21F</b> | <b>Dec-22F</b> | <b>Dec-23F</b> |
| A downside risk is the oversupply of office properties, which may affect its portfolio's office property occupancy and rental rates.               | Total turnover                      | 162           | 166           | 152            | 153            | 154            |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Gross profit                        | 123           | 128           | 117            | 118            | 119            |
|                                                                                                                                                    | EBITDA                              | 89            | 124           | 120            | 121            | 122            |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Depreciation and amortisation       | -             | -             | -              | -              | -              |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Operating profit                    | 89            | 124           | 120            | 121            | 122            |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Net interest                        | (40)          | (35)          | (35)           | (35)           | (35)           |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Income from associates & JVs        | -             | -             | -              | -              | -              |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Exceptional income - net            | (37)          | (7)           | -              | -              | -              |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Pre-tax profit                      | 35            | 74            | 74             | 75             | 76             |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Taxation                            | (6)           | (1)           | -              | -              | -              |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Minority interests                  | -             | -             | -              | -              | -              |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Recurring net profit(adj)           | 72            | 81            | 74             | 75             | 76             |
| <b>Company Profile</b>                                                                                                                             | <b>Cash flow (MYRm)</b>             | <b>Dec-19</b> | <b>Dec-20</b> | <b>Dec-21F</b> | <b>Dec-22F</b> | <b>Dec-23F</b> |
| Sentral REIT is a mid-cap MREIT that focuses on office/commercial assets. Assets are largely concentrated in the Klang Valley and Cyberjaya areas. | Change in working capital           | (4)           | (4)           | (4)            | (5)            | (5)            |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Cash flow from operations           | 106           | 111           | 104            | 105            | 106            |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Capex                               | (2)           | (2)           | (2)            | (2)            | (2)            |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Cash flow from investing activities | 1             | 1             | 1              | 1              | 1              |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Dividends paid                      | (80)          | (77)          | (77)           | (74)           | (75)           |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Cash flow from financing activities | (120)         | (112)         | (112)          | (109)          | (110)          |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Cash at beginning of period         | 43            | 31            | 31             | 24             | 20             |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Net change in cash                  | (12)          | (0)           | (8)            | (3)            | (4)            |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Ending balance cash                 | 31            | 31            | 24             | 20             | 17             |
|                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Balance sheet (MYRm)</b>         | <b>Dec-19</b> | <b>Dec-20</b> | <b>Dec-21F</b> | <b>Dec-22F</b> | <b>Dec-23F</b> |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Total cash and equivalents          | 63            | 85            | 69             | 20             | 17             |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Tangible fixed assets               | 2,144         | 2,098         | 2,058          | 2,058          | 2,058          |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Intangible assets                   | -             | -             | -              | -              | -              |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Total investments                   | -             | -             | -              | -              | -              |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Total other assets                  | 1             | 0             | 98             | 148            | 153            |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Total assets                        | 2,214         | 2,228         | 2,229          | 2,230          | 2,232          |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Short-term debt                     | 333           | 218           | 218            | 218            | 218            |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Total long-term debt                | 503           | 627           | 627            | 627            | 627            |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Other liabilities                   | 54            | 59            | 60             | 60             | 61             |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Total liabilities                   | 890           | 904           | 905            | 905            | 906            |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Shareholders' equity                | 1,323         | 1,324         | 1,324          | 1,325          | 1,326          |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Minority interests                  | -             | -             | -              | -              | -              |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Total equity                        | 1,323         | 1,324         | 1,324          | 1,325          | 1,326          |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Net debt                            | 772           | 760           | 776            | 825            | 828            |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Total liabilities & equity          | 2,214         | 2,228         | 2,229          | 2,230          | 2,232          |
|                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Key metrics</b>                  | <b>Dec-19</b> | <b>Dec-20</b> | <b>Dec-21F</b> | <b>Dec-22F</b> | <b>Dec-23F</b> |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Revenue growth (%)                  | (6.5)         | 2.2           | (8.2)          | 0.7            | 0.6            |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Recurrent EPS growth (%)            | (14.9)        | 12.2          | (8.8)          | 1.6            | 1.4            |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Gross margin (%)                    | 75.8          | 77.1          | 77.1           | 77.1           | 77.1           |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Operating EBITDA margin (%)         | 55.1          | 74.6          | 79.0           | 79.0           | 79.0           |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Net profit margin (%)               | 44.5          | 48.9          | 48.5           | 48.9           | 49.3           |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Dividend payout ratio (%)           | 101.0         | 93.8          | 99.0           | 99.0           | 99.0           |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Capex/sales (%)                     | 1.2           | 1.2           | 1.3            | 1.3            | 1.3            |
|                                                                                                                                                    | Interest cover (x)                  | 2.3           | 3.5           | 3.4            | 3.4            | 3.4            |

Source: Company data, RHB

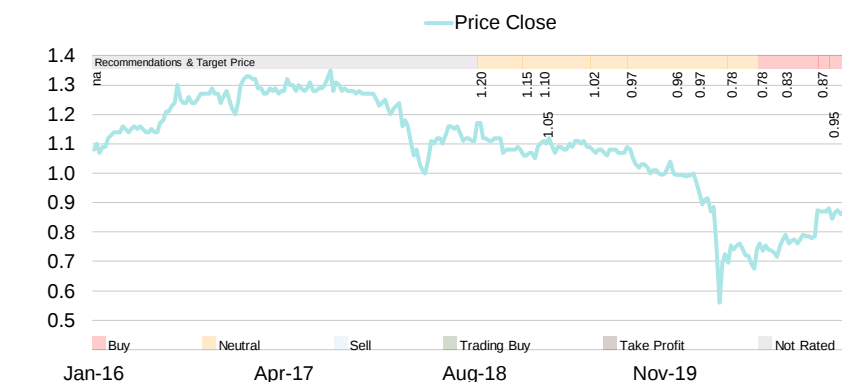
## Results at a Glance

Figure 1: Sentral REIT's 4Q20 and FY20 results summary

| FYE Dec (MYRm)                      | 4Q19          | 3Q20        | 4Q20        | QoQ (%)       | YoY (%)        | FY19         | FY20         | YoY (%)      | Comments                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>                      | <b>42.0</b>   | <b>42.1</b> | <b>41.8</b> | <b>(0.6)</b>  | <b>(0.4)</b>   | <b>162.1</b> | <b>165.7</b> | <b>2.2</b>   | Increased YoY due to higher contributions generated from Tesco, Menara Shell, and Wisma Technip. |
| <b>Net property income (NPI)</b>    | <b>31.5</b>   | <b>32.7</b> | <b>31.8</b> | <b>(2.9)</b>  | <b>0.9</b>     | <b>122.8</b> | <b>127.8</b> | <b>4.1</b>   |                                                                                                  |
| Interest expense                    | (10.3)        | (8.3)       | (8.6)       | 3.2           | (16.4)         | (39.6)       | (35.4)       | (10.7)       |                                                                                                  |
| Interest income                     | 1.1           | 0.6         | 1.2         | 83.2          | 2.8            | 3.2          | 2.9          | (9.6)        |                                                                                                  |
| Associates                          | 0.0           | 0.0         | 0.0         | nm            | nm             | 0.0          | 0.0          | nm           |                                                                                                  |
| EI                                  | (36.7)        | 0.0         | (7.2)       | nm            | (80.5)         | (36.7)       | (7.2)        | (80.5)       |                                                                                                  |
| Others                              | (3.8)         | (3.6)       | (3.8)       | 4.8           | (0.5)          | (14.4)       | (14.4)       | 0.2          |                                                                                                  |
| <b>Pretax profit</b>                | <b>(18.1)</b> | <b>21.5</b> | <b>13.4</b> | <b>(37.4)</b> | <b>(174.1)</b> | <b>35.4</b>  | <b>73.8</b>  | <b>108.7</b> |                                                                                                  |
| Tax                                 | (6.2)         | 0.0         | (1.2)       | nm            | (80.5)         | (6.2)        | (1.2)        | (80.5)       |                                                                                                  |
| Minority Interest                   | (6.2)         | 0.0         | (1.2)       | nm            | (80.5)         | (6.2)        | (1.2)        | (80.5)       |                                                                                                  |
| <b>Net Profit</b>                   | <b>(24.4)</b> | <b>21.5</b> | <b>12.2</b> | <b>(43.1)</b> | <b>(150.1)</b> | <b>29.1</b>  | <b>72.6</b>  | <b>149.2</b> |                                                                                                  |
| <b>Core Profit</b>                  | <b>18.6</b>   | <b>21.5</b> | <b>20.6</b> | <b>(4.0)</b>  | <b>10.8</b>    | <b>72.1</b>  | <b>81.0</b>  | <b>12.3</b>  | Above expectations.                                                                              |
| <b>Core earnings per unit (sen)</b> | <b>1.74</b>   | <b>2.00</b> | <b>1.92</b> | <b>(4.0)</b>  | <b>10.3</b>    | <b>6.73</b>  | <b>7.55</b>  | <b>12.2</b>  |                                                                                                  |
| <b>Dividends per unit (sen)</b>     | <b>3.37</b>   | <b>2.00</b> | <b>3.65</b> | <b>82.5</b>   | <b>8.3</b>     | <b>8.45</b>  | <b>9.08</b>  | <b>7.5</b>   |                                                                                                  |
| <i>NPI Margin (%)</i>               | <i>75.0</i>   | <i>77.9</i> | <i>76.0</i> |               |                | <i>75.8</i>  | <i>77.1</i>  |              |                                                                                                  |
| <i>Pretax Margin (%)</i>            | <i>(43.2)</i> | <i>51.1</i> | <i>32.1</i> |               |                | <i>21.8</i>  | <i>44.5</i>  |              |                                                                                                  |
| <i>Net Margin (%)</i>               | <i>44.3</i>   | <i>51.1</i> | <i>49.3</i> |               |                | <i>44.5</i>  | <i>48.9</i>  |              |                                                                                                  |

Source: Company data, RHB

## Recommendation Chart



Source: RHB, Bloomberg

| Date       | Recommendation | Target Price | Price |
|------------|----------------|--------------|-------|
| 2020-12-09 | Buy            | 0.95         | 0.87  |
| 2020-11-12 | Buy            | 0.87         | 0.83  |
| 2020-08-17 | Buy            | 0.83         | 0.78  |
| 2020-06-18 | Buy            | 0.78         | 0.71  |
| 2020-04-06 | Neutral        | 0.78         | 0.74  |
| 2020-01-20 | Neutral        | 0.97         | 1.00  |
| 2019-11-26 | Neutral        | 0.96         | 1.02  |
| 2019-08-08 | Neutral        | 0.97         | 1.07  |
| 2019-05-10 | Neutral        | 1.02         | 1.09  |
| 2019-01-18 | Neutral        | 1.05         | 1.11  |
| 2019-01-10 | Neutral        | 1.10         | 1.09  |
| 2018-11-28 | Neutral        | 1.15         | 1.07  |
| 2018-08-09 | Neutral        | 1.20         | 1.18  |

Source: RHB, Bloomberg

## RHB Guide to Investment Ratings

|                     |                                                                                                  |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Buy:</b>         | Share price may exceed 10% over the next 12 months                                               |
| <b>Trading Buy:</b> | Share price may exceed 15% over the next 3 months, however longer-term outlook remains uncertain |
| <b>Neutral:</b>     | Share price may fall within the range of +/- 10% over the next 12 months                         |
| <b>Take Profit:</b> | Target price has been attained. Look to accumulate at lower levels                               |
| <b>Sell:</b>        | Share price may fall by more than 10% over the next 12 months                                    |
| <b>Not Rated:</b>   | Stock is not within regular research coverage                                                    |

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