

## Malaysia

### ADD (no change)

Consensus ratings*:	Buy 7	Hold 1	Sell 0
Current price:		F	RM0.895
Target price:			RM1.00
Previous target:		F	RM0.989
Up/downside:			12.1%
CGS-CIMB / Consens	sus:		-6.0%
Reuters:		SENT	RAL.KL
Bloomberg:		SENT	RAL MK
Market cap:		USS	\$230.9m
		RM	1959.2m
Average daily turnove	r:	US	S\$0.12m
		R	M0.51m
Current shares o/s:			1,072m
Free float:			49.1%
*Source: Bloomberg			

#### Key changes in this note

No change.



		Source: B	ioomberg
Price performance	1M	ЗМ	12M
Absolute (%)	2.9	-0.6	14.7
Relative (%)	5.7	-2.2	18.2

Major shareholders	% held
MRCB	27.8
Employees Provident Fund	12.1
CapitalCommercial Trust	11.0

# **Sentral REIT**

## Steady earnings growth despite lockdowns

- 9MFY21 results were broadly in line; core net profit grew 1.8% yoy.
- 9MFY21 occupancy rates remained stable at 91% with higher renewal rates.
- Retain Add and with higher TP; dividend yield remains attractive at 7.6-7.7% and is intact as the group will not be hit by the one-off Makmur Tax in FY22F.

#### 9MFY21 results in line; core net profit rose 1.8% yoy

Sentral REIT's 9MFY21 core net profit made up 75-76% of our and Bloomberg consensus full-year forecasts and was broadly in line. In 3QFY21, and despite the peak of the lockdown period in Jun-Jul, revenue only fell by 2.9% yoy and grew 7.7% qoq, driven by the easing of rental rebates and transition to the National Recovery Programme (NRP) phase 2 in Sep. Also, the group's exposure to rental assistance risks on retail and SME tenants is capped at 4% of total portfolio NLA. 3Q21 core net profit grew 3% yoy on lower interest expense, and surged 21% qoq, driven also by the recovery in car park income. 9MFY21 revenue fell 4.3% yoy due to the non-renewal of a tenant at Quill Building 3 (QB3) and Wisma Technip. Overall, 9M21 core net profit of RM61m rose 1.8% yoy on lower interest expense (-13.5% yoy). Based on the YTD DPU of 3.4 sen and our unchanged FY21F DPU of 6.8 sen, we expect a final DPU of 3.4 sen in 4QFY21F.

#### Sequentially higher renewal rate of 81% in 3Q21

The group achieved an 81% renewal rate for the tenancies expiring in 3Q21 (2Q21: 73%). We gathered that since Oct, leasing activities have picked up particularly for the expiring tenancies in Dec 21 (Wisma Technip). Despite an upbeat economic recovery outlook in 4QFY21F, the group guided that rental reversion will remain flattish at best. Tenant retention strategies will continue to be the main approach, particularly in 4Q21F. We expect FY21F average portfolio occupancy rate to be stable at 9M21's 91%. We also expect rental assistance for retail and SME tenants to remain on a selective basis and to ease qoq in 4QFY21F. We assume rental reversions of 0%/+1%/+1% in FY21/22/23F.

#### To monitor changes in space reconfiguration needs of tenants

Moving into FY22F, we understand that the group would be keeping tabs on potential downside risks from space reconfiguration by tenants, who may be relooking at downsizing their tenanted space (NLA) to accommodate for a gradual, but not full, return to office. This, we gathered, could be mitigated by a centralisation of operations by other key tenants which could result in higher tenanted space. Tenancies expiring in FY22F make up 16% of total NLA.

#### Reiterate Add with higher TP; appealing dividend yields of 7.5-7.7%

We retain FY21-23F EPS/DPU. Our DDM-based TP is raised to RM1.00 (COE: 8.2%) as we roll over to end-CY22F. Retain Add on attractive dividend yields of 7.6-7.7% (highest in our REIT coverage). Sentral REIT will not be hit by the one-off Makmur Tax of 33% in FY22F as under the REIT guidelines, the group will be tax exempted as long as dividend payout is 90% or higher. Re-rating catalysts: higher occupancy and stronger rental reversion. Downside risks: Negative earnings impact from potential space reconfiguration by office tenants.

#### Analyst(s)



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Financial Summary	Dec-19A	Dec-20A	Dec-21F	Dec-22F	Dec-23F
Gross Property Revenue (RMm)	161.1	164.0	163.4	163.0	163.9
Net Property Income (RMm)	121.8	126.1	125.1	125.8	126.2
Net Profit (RMm)	29.22	72.57	78.93	79.78	80.13
Distributable Profit (RMm)	72.88	75.88	72.69	73.47	73.79
DPS (RM)	0.068	0.071	0.068	0.069	0.069
Dividend Yield	7.61%	7.91%	7.58%	7.66%	7.69%
Asset Leverage	37.8%	37.9%	37.2%	37.1%	37.1%
BVPS (RM)	1.23	1.23	1.24	1.24	1.24
P/BV (x)	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72
Recurring ROE	4.34%	5.89%	5.95%	6.00%	6.02%
% Change In DPS Estimates			0%	0%	0%
CGS-CIMB/Consensus DPS (x)			0.98	0.97	0.94

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



Figure 1: Results	Compar	ison								
FYE Dec (RM m)	3QFY21	3QFY20	yoy % chg	2QFY21	qoq % : chg	3QFY21 cum	3QFY20 cum	yoy % chg	Prev FY21F	Comments
Revenue	40.5	41.7	-2.9	37.6	7.7	119.2	124.6	-4.3	163.4	Insignificant impact of rental assistance on retail tenants
Operating costs	(10.0)	(12.5)	-19.9	(12.0)	-16.7	(35.1)	(39.3)	-10.9	(52.4)	9M21 NPI margin of 78%; in line with our forecast
EBITDA	30.5	29.2	4.5	25.6	19.1	84.1	85.2	-1.3	111.1	·
EBITDA margin (%)	75.3	70.1		68.1		70.6	68.4		68.0	
Depn & amort.	(0.0)	(0.1)	-29.0	(0.1)	-25.7	(0.1)	(0.2)	-16.5	(0.1)	
EBIT	30.5	29.2	4.5	25.6	19.2	84.0	85.0	-1.3	111.0	
Interest expense	(7.7)	(8.3)	-7.2	(7.8)	-0.3	(23.2)	(26.8)	-13.5	(35.4)	Total debt of RM806m as at end-Sep
Interest & invt inc	(0.6)	0.6	-202.1	0.5	-231.8	0.3	1.8	-81.2	3.3	Cash & equivalents of RM71m at end-Sep
Associates' contrib	0.0	0.0	nm	0.0	nm	0.0	0.0	nm	-	
Exceptionals & revaln	0.0	0.0	nm	4.3	nm	4.3	0.3	nm	-	2Q21: Includes RM3.8m net gain from disposal of QB5
Pretax profit	22.1	21.5	3.0	22.6	-2.3	65.5	60.3	8.5	78.9	
Tax	0.0	0.0	nm	0.0	nm	0.0	0.0	nm	-	
Tax rate (%)	0.0	0.0	nm	0.0	nm	0.0	0.0	nm	-	
Minority interests	0.0	0.0	nm	0.0	nm	0.0	0.0	nm	-	None as expected
Net profit	22.1	21.5	3.0	22.6	-2.3	65.5	60.3	8.5	78.9	
Core net profit	22.1	21.5	3.0	18.3	20.7	61.1	60.0	1.8	78.9	9MFY21 core net profit made up 75-76% of ours and
Distr profit	22.1	21.5	3.0	22.6	-2.3	65.5	60.3	8.5	72.7	consensus full-year forecasts
DPU (sen)	0.0	0.0	nm	3.4	nm	3.4	3.4	0.0	6.8	9MFY21 DPU made up 51% of our full-year estimate
										SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



#### ESG in a nutshell



Sentral REIT's sustainability initiatives are focused on 11 key areas: 1) sustainable business growth and financial performance, 2) quality of assets and services, 3) anti-corruption, 4) health and safety, 5) regulatory compliance, 6) employee management, 7) data privacy, 8) energy and carbon footprint, 9) water management, 10) waste management, and 11) community partnerships and activities.

#### Keep your eye on

In view of the impact of Covid-19 and greater adoption of work-from-home (WFH), data privacy has gained importance among Sentral REIT's office tenants. This is in view of the widespread adoption of technology during the pandemic period since early-2020. Some initiatives include protection of all data, information and intellectual property against cyber security breaches and safeguarding the privacy of tenant, organisational and visitor information.

#### **Implications**

Potentially supportive of tenant retention initiatives, on top of ongoing tenancy negotiation with a guided flattish rental reversion for FY21F.

#### **ESG** highlights

Some achievements in 2020 include installing Building Automated System – BAS, to allow real time monitoring of energy consumption. The group achieved a 15% reduction in electricity consumption and carbon emission and an 11% decline in water consumption. In the technology space, the group has implemented facial recognition readers and temperature scanning at Menara Shell as part of its health and safety initiatives.

#### **Implications**

No major expenditures relating to building automation and technology enhancements expected in the foreseeable future as the group maintains its cash retention strategy due to the pandemic. Asset Enhancement Initiatives (AEI) related capex would also be minimal in FY21F.

#### **Trends**

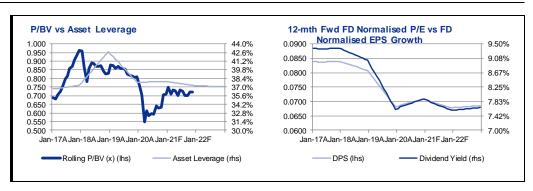
Under sustainable business growth, the group will continue to practise proactive leasing strategies to ensure stabilisation of portfolio occupancy rates and rental income, ongoing cost management, ensuring quality of all office assets (supply chain management), potentially considering new acquisitions when feasible and when market conditions are accommodative.

#### **Implications**

Leasing strategies remain more oriented towards retaining tenants. Portfolio occupancy rate of 92% at end-1H21 remains positive with minimal tenant dropout risks in the medium term.



#### BY THE NUMBERS



Profit & Loss					
(RMm)	Dec-19A	Dec-20A	Dec-21F	Dec-22F	Dec-23F
Rental Revenues	159.0	145.1	145.9	146.3	146.8
Other Revenues	2.1	19.0	17.5	16.7	17.1
Gross Property Revenue	161.1	164.0	163.4	163.0	163.9
Total Property Expenses	(39.2)	(37.9)	(38.3)	(37.2)	(37.6)
Net Property Income	121.8	126.1	125.1	125.8	126.2
General And Admin. Expenses	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.5)	(0.5)
Management Fees	(12.8)	(12.8)	(12.5)	(12.5)	(12.5)
Trustee's Fees	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.7)
Other Operating Expenses	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.5)
EBITDA	107.5	111.7	111.1	111.7	112.0
Depreciation And Amortisation	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)
EBIT	107.4	111.7	111.0	111.6	111.9
Net Interest Income	(36.4)	(32.5)	(32.1)	(31.8)	(31.8)
Associates' Profit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Income/(Expenses)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Exceptional Items	(35.6)	(5.4)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pre-tax Profit	35.5	73.8	78.9	79.8	80.1
Taxation	(6.2)	(1.2)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Minority Interests	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Preferred Dividends	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Profit	29.2	72.6	78.9	79.8	80.1
Distributable Profit	72.9	75.9	72.7	73.5	73.8

Cash Flow					
(RMm)	Dec-19A	Dec-20A	Dec-21F	Dec-22F	Dec-23F
Pre-tax Profit	35.5	73.8	78.9	79.8	80.1
Depreciation And Non-cash Adj.	36.4	32.5	32.1	31.9	31.9
Change In Working Capital	(0.2)	4.5	0.9	(0.2)	(0.7)
Tax Paid	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Others	36.7	7.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cashflow From Operations	108.4	118.0	112.0	111.4	111.3
Capex	(2.1)	(1.2)	(1.5)	(1.5)	(2.5)
Net Investments And Sale Of FA	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0
Other Investing Cashflow	3.2	2.9	3.3	0.0	0.0
Cash Flow From Investing	5.9	6.6	6.8	3.5	2.5
Debt Raised/(repaid)	(19.0)	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equity Raised/(Repaid)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Dividends Paid	(78.0)	(72.9)	(72.7)	(73.5)	(73.8)
Cash Interest And Others	(36.4)	(32.5)	(32.1)	(31.8)	(31.8)
Cash Flow From Financing	(133.4)	(99.3)	(104.7)	(105.3)	(104.6)
Total Cash Generated	(19.0)	25.3	14.1	9.7	9.2
Free Cashflow To Firm	117.6	127.5	122.1	118.5	117.4
Free Cashflow To Equity	59.0	98.1	86.8	83.1	82.0

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



## BY THE NUMBERS... cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(RMm)	Dec-19A	Dec-20A	Dec-21F	Dec-22F	Dec-23F
Total Investments	2,125	2,081	2,176	2,177	2,180
Intangible Assets	0	0	0	0	0
Other Long-term Assets	19	17	17	17	17
Total Non-current Assets	2,144	2,098	2,193	2,194	2,197
Total Cash And Equivalents	63	85	74	79	76
Inventories	0	0	0	0	0
Trade Debtors	6	5	5	5	5
Other Current Assets	1	40	0	0	0
Total Current Assets	70	130	79	84	82
Trade Creditors	16	19	20	20	19
Short-term Debt	333	218	218	218	218
Other Current Liabilities	6	11	11	11	11
Total Current Liabilities	354	248	249	249	248
Long-term Borrowings	503	627	627	627	627
Other Long-term Liabilities	33	29	29	29	29
Total Non-current Liabilities	536	656	656	656	656
Shareholders' Equity	1,323	1,324	1,330	1,330	1,332
Minority Interests	0	0	0	0	0
Preferred Shareholders Funds	0	0	36	43	43
Total Equity	1,323	1,324	1,366	1,373	1,375

Key Ratios					
	Dec-19A	Dec-20A	Dec-21F	Dec-22F	Dec-23F
Gross Property Revenue Growth	(6.64%)	1.83%	(0.36%)	(0.26%)	0.53%
NPI Growth	(8.27%)	3.53%	(0.78%)	0.53%	0.34%
Net Property Income Margin	75.6%	76.9%	76.6%	77.2%	77.0%
DPS Growth	(15.7%)	3.9%	(4.2%)	1.1%	0.4%
Gross Interest Cover	2.71	3.16	3.14	3.15	3.16
Effective Tax Rate	17.6%	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	249%	105%	92%	92%	92%
Current Ratio	0.20	0.52	0.32	0.34	0.33
Quick Ratio	0.20	0.52	0.32	0.34	0.33
Cash Ratio	0.18	0.34	0.30	0.32	0.31
Return On Average Assets	1.30%	3.27%	3.51%	3.51%	3.52%

Dec-19A	Dec-20A	Dec-21F	Dec-22F	Dec-23F
3.4%	1.0%	0.3%	1.3%	2.3%

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



#### REIT | Malaysia Sentral REIT | November 10, 2021

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#### Spitzer Chart for stock being researched (2 year data)

#### Sentral REIT (SENTRAL MK)



Corporate Governance Report of Thai Listed Companies (CGR). CG Rating by the Thai Institute of Directors Association (Thai IOD) in 2021, Anti-Corruption 2021

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Add	The stock's total return is expected to exceed 10% over the next 12 months.	
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Reduce	The stock's total return is expected to fall below 0% or more over the next 12 months.	
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Neutral	A Neutral rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a neutral absolute recommendation.	
Underweight	An Underweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a negative absolute recommendation.	
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