

Malaysia

ADD (no change)

Consensus ratings*:	Buy 7	Hold 1	Sell 0
Current price:		R	M0.905
Target price:		R	M0.989
Previous target:		R	MO.989
Up/downside:			9.3%
CGS-CIMB / Consens	us:		-3.9%
Reuters:		SENT	RAL.KL
Bloomberg:		SENTI	RAL MK
Market cap:		US\$	3230.0m
		RM	1970.0m
Average daily turnove	r:	US	\$0.09m
		R	M0.36m
Current shares o/s:			1,072m
Free float:			49.1%
*Source: Bloomberg			

Key changes in this note

➤ N/A.



		Source: B	loomberg
Price performance	1M	ЗМ	12M
Absolute (%)	2.3	1.7	26.6
Relative (%)	4.7	6.8	31.2

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

Sentral REIT

Bumped up cash supports 7.5% yield

- 1H21 results were in line despite higher rental rebates in 2Q21.
- 92% occupancy rate should buffer potential disruptions from FMCO and EMCO. Higher cash from asset sale supportive of DPU forecasts.
- Reiterate Add and RM0.99 TP; attractive 7.5-7.6% FY21-23F dividend yields.

1H21 results in line; core net profit rose 1.2% yoy

Sentral REIT's 1H21 core net profit made up 49% of our and consensus full-year forecasts and was broadly in line. Revenue fell 7.4% yoy (-8.3% qoq) in 2Q21 mainly due to a higher degree of rental assistance for retail and SME tenants (less than 4% of total portfolio NLA) due to the Movement Control Order (MCO) 3.0 that started in May 21. The 19% yoy surge in 2Q21's reported net profit was boosted by the RM3.8m net gain from the sale of Quill Building 5 (QB5); core net profit fell -4% yoy (-11.5% qoq). 1H21's 5.1% yoy decline in revenue was also weighed by weaker car park income, and non-renewal of a tenant at Quill Building 3 (QB3) and Wisma Technip. Overall, 1H21 core net profit of RM39m rose 1.2% yoy, driven by lower property operating cost and lower interest expense (-16.4% yoy). In line with the group's semi-annual payout, it declared a 3.4 sen DPU in 2Q21 (2Q20: 3.4 sen) which made up 51% of FY21F DPU of 6.8 sen.

Renewal rate of 73% in 1H21 – tenant retention strategies intact

The group achieved a 73% renewal rate for the tenancies expiring in 1H21: 56k sq ft of NLA was due for renewal in 1H21 vs. FY21F's total 440k sq ft due for renewal. We gathered negotiations for the remaining expiring tenancies are ongoing, with the bulk of renewals slated for 3Q21 (Menara Shell) and Dec 21 (Wisma Technip). Tenant retention strategies will continue to be the main approach, particularly in 3Q21F, given the imposition of the Full MCO in June and Enhanced MCO in July. We foresee gradual easing of rental rebates in 4Q21F should the National Recovery Programme (NRP) move into phase four. Portfolio occupancy rate inched up from 89% in 1Q21 to 91.7% in 1H21 and should remain stable in 2H21F. We expect rental reversion to remain flattish in FY21F. We assume rental reversions of 0%/+1%/+1% in FY21/22/23F.

Manageable FMCO and EMCO risks in 3Q21; rebates could creep up

We gather that so far, the group has not rolled out rental rebates/assistance since Jun 21 but it does not rule out that potential rebates for retail/SME tenants could creep up given the impact of FMCO and EMCO. That said, we take comfort that at this juncture, there are no signs of major/immediate space reconfiguration plans by existing office tenants, ahead of an expected recovery phase in 4Q21.

Reiterate Add and TP; appealing dividend yield of 7.5-7.6%

We retain our FY21-23F EPS and FY21F/22F/23F DPU of 6.8/6.9/6.9 sen. Our DPU assumptions are intact, supported by end-June cash and equivalents of RM128m (bumped up 106% from end-Mar thanks to QB5 sale proceeds). Our DDM-based TP stays at RM0.99 (COE: 8.7%). We keep our Add call due to attractive dividend yields of 7.5-7.6% (highest in our REIT coverage). Re-rating catalysts: higher occupancy and stronger rental reversion. Downside risks: greater disruptions from FMCO and EMCO.

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	7.52%	7.82%	7.49%	7.57%	7.61%
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)	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73
Recurring ROE	4.34%	5.89%	5.95%	6.00%	6.02%
CGS-CIMB/Consensus DPS (x)			0.97	0.97	0.94

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



Figure 1: Results of	omparis	son								
FYE Dec (RM m)	2QFY21	2QFY20	yoy % chg	1QFY21	qoq % chg	2QFY21 cum	2QFY20 cum	yoy % chg	Prev FY21F	Comments
Revenue	37.6	40.6	-7.4	41.0	-8.3	78.6	82.8	-5.1	163.4	Minimal impact from MCO 2.0
Operating costs	(12.0)	(13.1)	-8.6	(13.1)	-8.3	(25.1)	(26.9)	-6.6	(52.4)	1H21 NPI margin of 77% vs our full-year forecast of
EBITDA	25.6	27.5	-6.8	27.9	-8.3	53.6	56.0	-4.3	111.1	77%
EBITDA margin (%)	68.1	67.7		68.1		68.1	67.6		68.0	
Depn & amort.	(0.1)	(0.1)	-4.9	(0.0)	12.9	(0.1)	(0.1)	-10.4	(0.1)	
EBIT	25.6	27.5	-6.8	27.9	-8.3	53.5	55.9	-4.3	111.0	
Interest expense	(7.8)	(8.9)	-13.0	(7.7)	0.8	(15.4)	(18.5)	-16.4	(35.4)	Total debt of RM844m as at end-Jun
Interest & invt inc	0.5	0.5	-9.9	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.1	-13.2	3.3	Cash & equivalents rose 106% to RM128m at end-Jun
Associates' contrib	0.0	0.0	nm	0.0	nm	0.0	0.0	nm	-	bumped up by proceeds from asset sale
Exceptionals & revaln	4.3	0.0	nm	0.0	nm	4.3	0.3	nm	-	2Q21: Includes RM3.8m net gain from disposal of QB5
Pretax profit	22.6	19.1	18.7	20.7	9.4	43.3	38.9	11.5	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	22.6	19.1	18.7	20.7	9.4	43.3	38.9	11.5	78.9	
Core net profit	18.3	19.1	-4.0	20.7	-11.5	39.0	38.5	1.2	78.9	1H21 core net profit made up 49% of ours
Distr profit	22.6	19.1	18.7	20.7	9.4	43.3	38.9	11.5	72.7	and consensus full-year estimates
DPU (sen)	3.4	3.4	0.0	0.0	nm	3.4	3.4	0.0	6.8	1H21 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

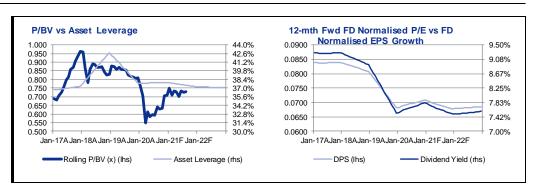
Under sustainable business growth, the group will continue to practice proactive leasing strategies to ensure stabilisation of portfolio occupancy rates and rental income, ongoing cost management, ensuring quality of all office assets (supply chain management), potentially considering new acquisitions 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%

Key Drivers					
	Dec-19A	Dec-20A	Dec-21F	Dec-22F	Dec-23F
Averate rental reversion (%)	3.4%	1.0%	0.3%	1.3%	2.3%

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



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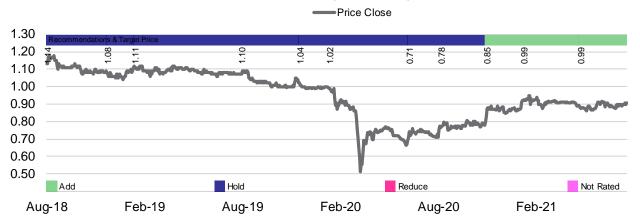
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Add	72.1%	1.1%
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Spitzer Chart for stock being researched (2 year data)

Sentral REIT (SENTRAL MK)



Corporate Governance Report of Thai Listed Companies (CGR). CG Rating by the Thai Institute of Directors Association (Thai IOD) in 2020, Anti-Corruption 2020

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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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Neutral	A Neutral rating means investors should be positioned with a neutral weight in this country relative to benchmark.	
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