RHB Small Cap Asean Research

21 May 2021

Sunway Construction (SCGB MK)

Resilient Despite Lingering Challenges; Keep BUY

- BUY, new MYR2.03 TP from MYR2.18, 21% upside with c.4% FY21F yield. 1Q21 earnings missed expectations at 13%/14% of our/Street's full-year estimates. Despite this, we believe the incremental pick-up in billings is encouraging. Revenue has improved YOY on higher output levels and productivity. Activities are expected to continue as usual, throughout MCO 3.0, as the sector is recognised as an essential service. Valuations remain attractive with the stock trading at a 17% discount from its 5-year mean.
- Incremental growth expected, albeit gradually. After excluding exceptional items, ie the disposal of an asset and one-off accretion of financial assets, Sunway Construction reported 1Q21 core earnings of MYR20.3m (+24% YoY, -30% QoQ,). At the operating level, we noticed a significant improvement in the margins of the precast business.
- Construction wing saw higher revenue of MYR421m (+28% YoY, -28% QoQ) in 1Q21, supported by higher progress billings from the TNB campus project in Bangsar and Petronas National Leadership Centre in Bangi. Progress billings will likely stay robust as it catches up with the completion schedule. In the precast division, SunCon has started recognising better margins, owing to higher-yield projects in Singapore. Management expects earnings from the segment to stay healthy in the coming quarters.
- Short-term catalysts could surface in 2H21, from the rollout of MRT3 packages. Management is confident in competing for the elevated portion, given its prior experience in MRT1 and MRT2, and capability to implement building information modelling and industrialised building system models into the construction process. A further boost to income looks supported by lumpy new orders bagged last year, which should sustain earnings into FY23F. SunCon's orderbook stands at MYR5.0bn.
- Our TP is lowered after rolling over valuations to FY22F. While we kept our revenue expectations, assumptions on operating cost levels were revised. In particular, we factored in the downside risk of steel price increases, which – according to management – could drive its overall costs up. Consequently, our net profits were reduced by 10%/8%/8% for FY21F-23F. At this juncture, we reduce our P/E from 18x to 16.5x (5-year mean). We stay conservative at this juncture as COVID-19 risks remain.
- Downside risks: Failure to secure new contracts, a prolonged downturn in the retail and property markets, and a longer-than-expected delay in the rollout of mega infrastructure projects. Increased restrictions on activities – possibly due to tighter lockdown measures, if implemented – may present further downside risks.

Forecasts and Valuation	Dec-19	Dec-20	Dec-21F	Dec-22F	Dec-23F
Total turnover (MYRm)	1,769	1,553	2,065	2,404	2,370
Recurring net profit (MYRm)	124	92	140	159	160
Recurring net profit growth (%)	(15.5)	(25.9)	51.8	13.6	0.8
Recurring P/E (x)	17.50	23.61	15.55	13.69	13.57
P/B (x)	3.5	3.4	3.1	2.8	2.5
P/CF (x)	8.82	na	22.60	12.07	9.64
Dividend Yield (%)	3.7	2.4	3.2	3.7	3.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	9.43	12.81	8.79	7.47	6.95
Return on average equity (%)	21.3	11.6	20.8	21.3	19.4
Net debt to equity (%)	net cash				

Source: Company data, RHB

Malaysia Results Review 👒

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Buy (Maintained)

Target Price (Return):	MYR2.03 (20.8%)
Price:	MYR1.68
Market Cap:	USD522m
Avg Daily Turnover (MYR/USD)	1.29m/0.31m

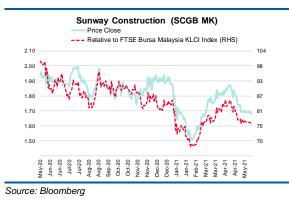
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Share Performance (%)

	YTD	1m	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	(10.6)	(8.7)	5.0	(9.7)	(13.4)
Relative	(7.4)	(6.7)	5.6	(8.5)	(23.2)
52-wk Price lo	w/high (MYF	R)		1.51	- 2.00



Overall ESG Score: 3.0 (out of 4) E: Good

Efforts are being made to reduce its environmental footprint. This includes improving energy efficiency, using resources responsibly, and reducing waste. Through the recycling and reuse of hydraulic oil, SunCon recycled a total of 12,787 litres of hydraulic oil in 2019. A plan is being made to increase the usage of green energy, through the installation of solar panels at its new workshop to generate electricity for its own consumption.

S: Good

The group ensures the safety and health of all its employees and at public areas surrounding the construction sites, via various training and safety programmes. Apart from up-to-standard health & safety policies, we see active community engagement and efforts in uplifting employee relations.

G: Excellent

57% of SunCon's board members are independent, with full disclosure on director remuneration including salaries and bonuses. It has an in-house investor relations team. Accessibility to investor relations is excellent, and the team mostly helps to deal with investors' queries.

Note:

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



Asia

Malaysia

SCGB MK Buy

Key risks

Downside risks include: i. Possible cost overruns;

Company Profile

more specialised:

republic.

ii. Higher material costs.

Valuation basis

Financial Exhibits

Construction & Engineering

gear up for more jobs ahead.

Sunway Construction

Recurrent EPS growth (%)	(15.5)	(25.9
Gross margin (%)	21.4	4.
Operating EBITDA margin (%)	10.4	9.

Source: Company data, RHB

See important disclosures at the end of this report Market Dateline / PP 19489/05/2019 (035080)

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Small Cap **Asean Research**

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Financial summary (MYR)	Dec-19	Dec-20	Dec-21F	Dec-22F	Dec-23F
Recurring EPS	0.10	0.07	0.11	0.12	0.12
DPS	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.06
BVPS	0.48	0.49	0.55	0.61	0.67
Return on average equity (%)	21.3	11.6	20.8	21.3	19.4
Valuation metrics	Dec-19	Dec-20	Dec-21F	Dec-22F	Dec-23F
Recurring P/E (x)	17.50	23.61	15.55	13.69	13.57
P/B (x)	3.5	3.4	3.1	2.8	2.5
FCF Yield (%)	11.0	(1.0)	0.5	5.8	7.8
Dividend Yield (%)	3.7	2.4	3.2	3.7	3.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	9.43	12.81	8.79	7.47	6.95
EV/EBIT (x)	12.25	19.72	11.36	9.65	9.19
Income statement (MYRm)	Dec-19	Dec-20	Dec-21F	Dec-22F	Dec-23F
Total turnover	1,769	1,553	2,065	2,404	2,370
Gross profit	378	68	393	448	439
EBITDA	183	139	210	241	246
Depreciation and amortisation	(42)	(49)	(47)	(54)	(60)
Operating profit	141	91	162	186	186
Net interest	12	10	5	5	7
Pre-tax profit	157	101	176	200	201
Taxation	(27)	(28)	(36)	(41)	(41)
Reported net profit	129	73	140	159	160
Recurring net profit	124	92	140	159	160
Cash flow (MYRm)	Dec-19	Dec-20	Dec-21F	Dec-22F	Dec-23F
Change in working capital	86	(140)	(101)	(33)	5
Cash flow from operations	246	(18)	96	180	225
Capex	(8)	(3)	(85)	(55)	(55)
Cash flow from investing activities	(51)	181	(75)	(55)	(55)
Dividends paid	(91)	(61)	(70)	(79)	(80)
Cash flow from financing activities	72	(147)	(70)	(79)	(80)
Cash at beginning of period	485	693	640	591	637
Net change in cash	267	16	(49)	46	90
Ending balance cash	751	708	591	637	727
Balance sheet (MYRm)	Dec-19	Dec-20	Dec-21F	Dec-22F	Dec-23F
Total cash and equivalents	693	640	591	637	727
Tangible fixed assets	139	107	145	145	140
Total investments	49	49	39	39	39
Total assets	1,905	1,906	1,828	2,044	2,112
Short-term debt	233	234	234	234	234
Total long-term debt	62	67	67	67	67
Total liabilities	1,280	1,267	1,119	1,256	1,245
Total equity	625	639	708	788	868
Total liabilities & equity	1,905	1,906	1,828	2,044	2,112
Key metrics	Dec-19	Dec-20	Dec-21F	Dec-22F	Dec-23F
•	(21.6)	(12.2)	33.0	16.4	(1.4)
Revenue growth (%)		. /		13.6	0.8
Revenue growth (%) Recurrent EPS growth (%)	(15.5)	(25.9)	0.10		
Recurrent EPS growth (%)	(15.5)	(25.9)	51.8 19.0		
Recurrent EPS growth (%) Gross margin (%)	21.4	4.4	19.0	18.7	18.5
Recurrent EPS growth (%) Gross margin (%) Operating EBITDA margin (%)	21.4 10.4	4.4 9.0	19.0 10.2	18.7 10.0	18.5 10.4
Recurrent EPS growth (%) Gross margin (%) Operating EBITDA margin (%) Net profit margin (%)	21.4 10.4 7.3	4.4 9.0 4.7	19.0 10.2 6.8	18.7 10.0 6.6	18.5 10.4 6.8
Recurrent EPS growth (%) Gross margin (%) Operating EBITDA margin (%)	21.4 10.4	4.4 9.0	19.0 10.2	18.7 10.0	18.5 10.4



Key drivers Sunway Construction's earnings are backed by: i. An outstanding order backlog of MYR5.0bn, of

which >90% is from construction, which may keep the firm busy for the next three years; ii. Recurring orders from its parent company.

Sunway Construction is one of the largest construction

companies in Malaysia. Apart from civil & infrastructure

construction services, the company also provides the

i. Foundation & geotechnical engineering services;

ii. Mechanical, electrical & plumbing (MEP) services.

In addition, it runs a precast concrete product

manufacturing operation in Malaysia and Singapore.

Aside from fulfilling local requirements, it also largely supplies hose concrete products for Housing & Development Board (HDB) projects in the island

We value the company based on FY21F P/E of 16.5x.

Sunway Construction's net cash position allows it to

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Results At a Glance

Figure 1: SunCon's results review

FYE Dec (MYRm)	1Q20	4Q20	1Q21	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)	Comments
Revenue	365.8	627.2	455.2	(27.4)	24.4	Driver of growth is the construction segment.
EBIT	18.7	37.6	26.2	(30.3)	40.3	
EBIT margin (%)	5.1	6.0	5.8			
Interest expense	(2.7)	(0.3)	(1.6)	373.1	(41.4)	
Interest income	5.2	3.0	0.8	(75.2)	(85.6)	
JV/Associates	0.0	0.0	2.0	4,195.7	nm	
EI/Others	0.0	1.2	(0.1)	(108.6)	nm	
Pretax profit	21.2	41.6	27.2	(34.5)	28.4	
Pretax margin (%)	5.8	6.6	6.0			
Tax	(4.3)	(11.5)	(6.9)	(39.8)	60.8	
Effective tax rate (%)	(20.3)	(27.7)	(27.4)			
Minority Interest	(0.6)	0.1	(0.1)	(151.4)	(87.0)	
Net profit	16.4	30.2	20.2	(33.0)	23.8	
Core profit	16.4	29.0	20.3	(29.8)	24.4	Below estimates
Core net margin (%)	4.5	4.6	4.5			

Source: Company data, RHB

Figure 2: SunCon's segmental results

FYE Dec (MYRm)	1Q20	4Q20	1Q21	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)	Comments
Revenue:						
Construction	329.6	585.0	421.3	(28.0)	27.8	Higher turnover was mainly due to higher progress billings from TNB campus project in Bangsar and Petronas National Leadership Centre in Bangi
Precast Concrete	36.2	42.2	33.9	(19.7)	(6.4)	
EBIT:						
Construction	17.3	34.8	22.3	(35.8)	29.3	
Precast Concrete	1.4	4.0	3.8	(5.9)	167.3	
EBIT Margin %:						
Construction	5.2%	6.0%	5.3%			Margin was low due to slower-than-expected construction activities
Precast Concrete	3.9%	9.5%	11.1%			

Source: Company data, RHB

Recommendation Chart



Date	Recommendation	Target Price	Price
2021-02-24	Buy	2.18	1.66
2020-08-20	Buy	2.09	1.80
2020-08-13	Buy	2.14	1.81
2020-07-23	Neutral	2.14	1.99
2020-05-22	Neutral	1.86	1.92
2020-04-23	Neutral	1.72	1.76
2020-04-09	Neutral	1.51	1.67
2020-02-18	Neutral	1.95	1.97

Source: RHB, Bloomberg



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Trading Buy:	Share price may exceed 15% over the next 3 months, however longer-
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Neutral:	Share price may fall within the range of +/- 10% over the next
	12 months
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