

Westports posts record earnings of RM512m in FY14

KUALA LUMPUR: Westports Holdings Bhd posted a record net profit of RM512.20mil in the financial year ended Dec 31, 2014 and declared a final dividend of 6.15 sen.

It said on Wednesday the earnings were 17.6% higher compared with RM435.30mil a year ago. Revenue was lower at RM1.562bil, a decline of 8.8% from the RM1.712bil in FY13.

“On a normalised basis, after excluding reversal of provision for quit rent, management fee, IPO related expenses and write off of assets, the company’s profit after tax grew by 15.5%,” it said.

The significant growth in profit after tax is due to lower effective tax rate arising from higher investments tax allowance from capitalisation of CT 7 capital expenditure,” it said.

Westports said that supported by the completion of the expansion of CT 7, it raised its performance further by posting another record level of container throughput as the company handled 8.4 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) in 12M2014, which is an increase of 12.1%,” it said.

Transshipment containers increased by 12.1% to 5.9 million TEUs while gateway containers increased by 11.8% to 2.5 million TEUs.

Profit before taxation rose 12.0% to RM578.8mil, in-line with the strong growth in operational revenue.

Westports said the Ocean Three Alliance which consists of CMA CGM, CSCL and UASC started operations on Jan 17, 2015. These three liners are using

Westports as their hub and the alliance will further reinforced Westports as their key shipping hub in this region.

In the fourth quarter ended Dec 31, 2014 its earnings rose 6.6% to RM139.80mil from RM131.17mil. Its revenue fell to RM384.48mil from RM502.63mil. Earnings per share were 4.1 sen compared with 3.85 sen.

Westports said on a normalised basis, excluding initial public offering expenses and write-off assets, the company's profit after tax would have actually increased at a higher rate by 8.0%.

The write-off assets were for two units of obsolete cranes and unutilised slag and fertiliser conveyor system for the company's dry bulk operations.