

NEWS CLIPPING

EVENT	7-Eleven 'Excited' to be First Retailer to Launch Alipay
PUBLICATION	theSun
PAGE/SECTION	14/SunBiz
DATE	25 May 2017
TIME	-

TH Plantations back in the black in first quarter

PETALING JAYA: TH Plantations Bhd (THP) posted a net profit of RM6.2 million in the first quarter (Q1) ended March 31, 2017 from a net loss of RM7.15 million in the same period last year, on the back of RM66.05 million revenue.

Revenue grew 85% from the corresponding period last year on the back of a recovery in production of fresh fruit bunches (FFB) and crude palm oil (CPO) and higher commodity prices.

In a statement yesterday, THP said it posted a 7% growth in FFB production and a 42% increase in CPO production, driven by improved weather conditions as well as initiatives to increase mill utilisation via additional purchase of FFB from external suppliers.

For Q2017, the FFB and CPO produced stood at 162,885 tonnes and

41,963 tonnes respectively, it noted. The group said it also recorded improved selling prices, supported by stronger commodity prices seen in Q2017.

"We are encouraged to see that the industry has started seeing improved production, THP included, and we hope that the effects of past years' weather anomalies will completely taper off by the second half of the year," its CEO and executive director Datuk Seri Zainal Azwan Zainal Aminuddin said.

However, he said the recovery in production and replenished stock levels will inevitably cause some downward pressure in CPO and palm kernel prices. Nevertheless, he said the group is optimistic that the prices will still remain supported by increased demand for palm oil products.

CIMB banks 45% rise in Q1 net profit

> Record quarterly earnings on non-interest income and lower provisions

PETALING JAYA: CIMB Group Holdings Bhd posted a record quarterly net profit in the first quarter ended March 31, 2017 (Q1), growing 45% to RM1.18 billion from RM812.80 million a year ago driven largely by growth in non-interest income in line with improved capital market activity and lower provisions.

Its revenue jumped 17% to

RM4.36 billion from RM3.73 billion in the previous year's corresponding quarter.

Group chief executive Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz said CIMB had a good start to 2017, recording its highest ever quarterly net profit in Q1 in tandem with the gradually improving regional economic conditions and capital market activity.

"Our main business units are gaining traction, with cost management initiatives continuing to show progress and asset quality showing sustained improvement.

"Better capital and balance sheet management has brought about more focused growth, improved margins, a healthier CASA (current and savings account) ratio and a strengthened capital position," he said in a statement.

CIMB's cost-to-income ratio improved to 52.6% in Q1 with operating expenses staying under

control. Loans grew 12.2% on the back of Malaysia loans expanding 12.8% year-on-year in the quarter.

On a year-on-year basis, CIMB's Q1 operating income expanded 17.2%, translating to a 30% improvement in pre-provisioning operating profit. The Q1 net earnings per share stood at 13.5 sen, while the annualised Q1 net return on average equity was 10.3%.

Zafrul said the strong Q1 results are testament to the stronger foundations CIMB has built since embarking on its T18 Strategy. The strong start to the year also provides the impetus for the bank to continue embedding the 5Cs - capital, cost, culture, customer experience and compliance - across all its T18 programmes.

CIMB is cautiously optimistic for the rest of 2017, with more stable economic conditions, increased regional activity, improved capital markets and declining provisions across key geographies.

NK/PI/00202 (June 2016 - June 2021)

"Be ahead of your peers in Islamic Finance"

REGISTER NOW

www.inceif.org/pcfif

Closing date for applications:

June 2017 Semester
International & Malaysia
31 May 2017

September 2017 Semester
International & Malaysia
21 August 2017

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN ISLAMIC FINANCE (PCIF)

DESIGNED FOR THE BUSY PROFESSIONALS, THIS PROGRAMME IS OFFERED ONLINE.

STUDY ANYWHERE, ANYTIME

The Professional Certificate in Islamic Finance (PCIF) programme is developed to cater for industry professionals who wish to gain knowledge in certain areas and enhance critical professional skills, needed to succeed in today's demanding industry.

You can choose from one of the four specialisations offered by the PCIF programme, which are:

- Islamic Capital Market;
- Shariah for Islamic Finance;
- Islamic Banking; and
- Islamic Wealth Management.

Stand out and succeed at work.

Scholarship and tuition waiver available for those who qualify. Terms and conditions apply.

Open for enquiries: Monday to Friday (9am - 5pm)
INCEIF, International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (Company No. 718736-K)
Lorong Universiti A, 59100 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA
Call us at +603 7651 4000 or email at marketing@inceif.org

Facebook | LinkedIn | Twitter | YouTube | Instagram | Weibo | WeChat | Email | Phone

KPT/JPS/DFT/US/W 13

7-Eleven 'excited' to be first retailer to launch Alipay

PETALING JAYA: 7-Eleven Malaysia Holdings Bhd, which became the first retailer to accept Alipay, registered a pre-tax profit of RM10.9 million for the first quarter ended March 31, 2017 from RM2.29 million a year ago due to lower revenue and gross profit.

In a filing with Bursa Malaysia yesterday, the group said its pre-tax profit was also affected by the increase in selling and distribution cost due to new store expansion as well as the minimum wage increase which took effect on July 1, 2016. Sales were impacted by operational issues faced by third party logistics provider in delivering products to stores. These issues have since been resolved.

Revenue for the quarter fell marginally to RM522.53 million from RM526.25 million a year ago due to the ongoing softness in the retail market. However gross profit margin expanded 0.2% points compared with a year ago.

"In the first quarter of 2017, we have continued to hold our dominant position in the market. We remain confident that continuous store

expansion, refurbishment, promotional activity, improved merchandise mix and expanded in-store services will continue to deliver positive results despite the challenging headwinds," said its CEO Gary Brown.

The group opened 37 new stores in the first quarter, resulting in a total store network of 2,154 stores as at end March 2017.

"We are excited to be the first retailer in Malaysia to launch Alipay. Last year there were approximately 2.1 million tourists from China and this is expected to grow to about 3.5 million in 2017, making 7-Eleven Malaysia a very attractive destination for those tourists to shop using their Alipay E-Wallet," said Brown.

The group expects bill payment services to continue growing, with Tenaga Nasional Bhd to launch soon, and be well accepted by consumers.

Moving forward, the group expects trading conditions to remain challenging due to continued weak consumer confidence/spending and current macroeconomic conditions.

Hibiscus Q3 earnings lower

PETALING JAYA: Hibiscus Petroleum Bhd saw its net profit in the third quarter (Q3) ended March 31, 2017 slump 92% to RM6.5 million, against RM80.5 million in the previous corresponding quarter.

The lower profit was due to the absence of RM25.3 million negative goodwill from the Anasuria acquisition in the previous corresponding quarter. Revenue in the quarter

however more than doubled to RM66.2 million, compared with RM31.7 million in the same period last year due to higher barrels of crude oil sold and higher average selling price.

For the nine months period, the group posted a net profit of RM69.4 million, from a net loss of RM98.9 million a year ago, while revenue soared to RM186.8 million from RM33 million previously.