

7-Eleven Malaysia posts 70% jump in Q4 net profit

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sunbiz@thesundaily.com



PETALING JAYA: 7-Eleven Malaysia Holdings Bhd saw a 70 % jump in fourth quarter net profit on sales growth, gross profit margin expansion and growth in other operating income which was partially offset by the increase in selling, distribution, administrative and other operating expenses in line with store expansion.

Total stores currently is 1,774, an increase of about 200 from last year-end.

The group made a net profit of RM17.9 million for the quarter ended Dec 31, 2014, compared to RM10.5 million for the same quarter the year before.

Revenue was also 14 % higher at RM481.1 million compared to RM 422.2 million for the same quarter in 2013.

The group said in a press release on Friday that it remains positive in its outlook for 2015 despite some softness in consumer sentiment and in the overall retail market.

" The continuing roll-out of new stores to increase the existing network as well as the on-going store refurbishment programme will have a positive impact. In addition to this, increased promotional and merchandising activities along with the expansion of in-store services and a further expansion of the Group's food and beverage offerings at store level will help drive revenue and profit growth," it said.

Net profit for the financial year ended Dec 31, 2014 was 44% higher at RM63.7 million compared to RM44.1 milion on sales growth, gross profit margin expansion and growth in other operating income which was partially offset by the increase in selling, distribution, administrative and other operating expenses in line with store expansion.

Revenue was also up by 12% to RM1.9 billion, compared to RM1.7 billion for the year.

Its results are largely in line with analysts' expectations for the group and as per the management plans disclosed during the initial public offering exercise.

The group's board of director have declared an interim single-tier dividend of 2.5 sen per ordinary share (previous year corresponding quarter ended Dec 31, 2013 : nil) and a special single-tier dividend of 2.6 sen per ordinary share (previous year corresponding quarter ended Dec 31, 2013 : nil) in respect of the financial year ended Dec 31, 2014, which will be paid on March 31, 2015. The entitlement date is on March 17, 2015

Total dividend declared in respect of the financial year ended Dec 31, 2014 was 5.1 sen per ordinary share, including the above-mentioned dividend declarations which are payable subsequent to the current financial year end. The total dividend declared for the financial year ended Dec 31, 2014 is about RM62.9 million, representing about 100% of the attributable profit of the group for the financial year ended Dec 31, 2014.