Malaysia Company Update



17 December 2020

Alliance Bank Malaysia (ABMB MK)

An In-The-Price Recovery; NEUTRAL

- Maintain NEUTRAL with new TP MYR2.90 from MYR2.60, 3% downside. Management has alluded to more pre-emptive provisions in the coming quarters, which should help to pave a cleaner recovery path in FY22F (Mar) although we are wary of its relatively riskier portfolio. While we reiterate our OVERWEIGHT call on the banking sector, we believe Alliance Bank's current valuation of 0.7x FY22F P/BV has largely priced in the recovery prospects; its share price is the best performer YTD.
- 2021 sector strategy: Revenge of the cyclicals. We stay OVERWEIGHT on the banking sector despite the strong share price performance since Nov 2020. With recovery on its way and the arrival of effective vaccines in just a matter of time, sector re-rating (ahead of actual ROE recovery) will gain more traction in 2021 as investors rotate to cyclical sectors.
- Beefing up provisions for the rainy days. Management maintained FY21F credit cost guidance of <100bps and alluded to more pre-emptive provisions in the coming quarters. Although ABMB has been able to defend the target so far, we remain cautious on its asset quality outlook, especially the Alliance One Account (AOA) borrowers.
- Valuation suggests recovery priced in. ABMB's share price is the best performer YTD. The stock is trading at c.0.7x FY22F P/BV, which suggests the recovery outlook has largely been priced in by now.
- Earnings and TP. We make no changes to our earnings forecasts. Our GGM-derived TP is raised to MYR2.90, mainly on lower risk premium assumption. Our TP values ABMB at 0.7x FY22F P/BV, below -1SD from its mean. We believe the current valuation has largely priced in the recovery and risk-reward appears balanced.

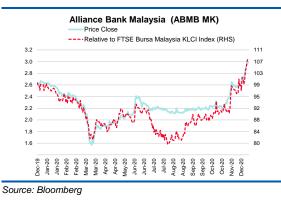
Financial Services | Banks

Neutral (Maintained)

Target Price (Return):	MYR2.90 (-3%)
Price:	MYR2.99
Market Cap:	USD1,142m
Avg Daily Turnover (MYR/USD)	4.45m/1.08m
Analysts	Cier
Liew Wai Hoong	

+603 9280 8859 liew.wai.hoong@rhbgroup.com Fiona Leong +603 9280 8886 fiona.leong@rhbgroup.com Share Performance (%)

	YTD	1m	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	13.7	16.8	37.8	31.1	15.9
Relative	8.3	12.2	28.5	20.8	9.2
52-wk Price low/	nigh (MYR	2)		1.57	- 2.99



Forecasts and Valuation	Mar-19	Mar-20	Mar-21F	Mar-22F	Mar-23F
Reported net profit (MYRm)	538	424	404	443	519
Net profit growth (%)	9.0	(21.1)	(4.9)	9.8	17.1
Recurring net profit (MYRm)	538	424	404	443	519
Recurring EPS (MYR)	0.35	0.27	0.26	0.29	0.34
BVPS (MYR)	3.70	3.87	4.07	4.30	4.54
DPS (MYR)	0.17	0.06	0.06	0.10	0.13
Recurring P/E (x)	8.61	10.91	11.47	10.44	8.92
P/B (x)	0.81	0.77	0.73	0.70	0.66
Dividend Yield (%)	5.6	2.0	1.8	3.3	4.3
Return on average equity (%)	9.6	7.2	6.6	6.8	7.6
Return on average equity (%)	9.6	7.2	6.6	6.8	

Source: Company data. RHB



Financial Exhibits

Asia	Financial summary (MYR)	Mar-19	Mar-20	Mar-21F	Mar-22F	Mar-23F
Malaysia	EPS	0.35	0.27	0.26	0.29	0.34
Financial Services	Recurring EPS	0.35	0.27	0.26	0.29	0.34
Alliance Bank Malaysia	DPS	0.17	0.06	0.06	0.10	0.13
ABMB MK	BVPS	3.70	3.87	4.07	4.30	4.54
Neutral						
Valuation basis	Valuation metrics	Mar-19	Mar-20	Mar-21F	Mar-22F	Mar-23F
Our GGM assumptions are:	Recurring P/E (x)	8.61	10.91	11.47	10.44	8.92
i. COE of 9.5%;	P/B (x)	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7
ii. ROE assumption of 7.0%;	Dividend Yield (%)	5.6	2.0	1.8	3.3	4.3
iii. 2.0% long-term growth.	Income statement (MYRm)	Mar-19	Mar-20	Mar-21F	Mar-22F	Mar-23F
Key drivers	Interest income	2,370	2,448	2,367	2,415	2,520
Our FY21F earnings are most sensitive to changes in:	Interest expense	(1,013)	(1,089)	(1,004)	(1,021)	(1,065)
i. Credit cost;	Net interest income	1,357	1,359	1,363	1,394	1,455
ii. NIM;	Non interest income	265	331	411	297	312
iii. Costs related to its new strategic initiatives;	Total operating income	1,622	1,689	1,774	1,691	1,766
iv. Non-II.	Overheads	(775)	(807)	(799)	(827)	(863)
Kaustala	Pre-provision operating profit	847	882	975	864	904
Key risks	Loan impairment allow ances	(131)	(278)	(444)	(280)	(221)
Key downside risks are:	Other impairment allow ances	(8)	(37)	-	-	-
 i. Higher-than-expected impairment allowances; ii. Lower-than-expected NIM; 	Income from associates	0	0	0	0	0
iii. Weaker-than-expected non-II.	Pre-tax profit	708	568	531	583	683
The converse represents upside risks.	Taxation	(170)	(144)	(127)	(140)	(164)
	Reported net profit	538	424	404	443	519
Company Profile	Recurring net profit	538	424	404	443	519
Alliance Bank Malaysia is an integrated banking group						
with operations in consumer banking, SME banking, wholesale banking, Islamic banking, investment	Profitability ratios	Mar-19	Mar-20	Mar-21F	Mar-22F	Mar-23F
banking and stock broking.	Return on average assets (%)	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8
	Return on average equity (%)	9.6	7.2	6.6	6.8	7.6
	Return on IEAs (%)	4.4	4.3	3.9	3.9	3.9
	Cost of funds (%)	2.1	2.2	1.9	1.9	1.9
	Net interest spread (%)	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0
	Net interest margin (%)	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2
	Non-interest income / total income (%)	16.3	19.6	23.2	17.6	17.6
	Cost to income ratio (%)	47.8	47.8	45.0	48.9	48.8
	Credit cost (bps)	31.5	64.1	100.4	61.8	47.0
	Balance sheet (MYRm)	Mar-19	Mar-20	Mar-21F	Mar-22F	Mar-23F
	Dalance Sheet (WITKII)	IVI al = 1 9	Wai-20			
	Total gross loans	42,823	43,769	44,661	46.009	47.849
	Total gross loans Other interest earning assets	42,823 11.827	43,769 15,486	44,661 16,508	46,009 17.372	47,849
	Other interest earning assets	11,827	15,486	16,508	17,372	18,266
	Other interest earning assets Total gross IEAs	11,827 54,650	15,486 59,256	16,508 61,169	17,372 63,381	18,266 66,115
	Other interest earning assets Total gross IEAs Total provisions	11,827 54,650 (503)	15,486 59,256 (659)	16,508 61,169 (970)	17,372 63,381 (1,112)	18,266 66,115 (1,182)
	Other interest earning assets Total gross IEAs Total provisions Net loans to customers	11,827 54,650 (503) 42,538	15,486 59,256 (659) 43,403	16,508 61,169 (970) 43,845	17,372 63,381 (1,112) 45,057	18,266 66,115 (1,182) 46,827
	Other interest earning assets Total gross IEAs Total provisions Net loans to customers Total net IEAs	11,827 54,650 (503) 42,538 54,147	15,486 59,256 (659) 43,403 58,596	16,508 61,169 (970) 43,845 60,198	17,372 63,381 (1,112) 45,057 62,269	18,266 66,115 (1,182) 46,827 64,932
	Other interest earning assets Total gross IEAs Total provisions Net loans to customers Total net IEAs Total non-IEAs	11,827 54,650 (503) 42,538 54,147 2,374	15,486 59,256 (659) 43,403 58,596 2,379	16,508 61,169 (970) 43,845 60,198 2,581	17,372 63,381 (1,112) 45,057 62,269 2,608	18,266 66,115 (1,182) 46,827 64,932 2,628
	Other interest earning assets Total gross IEAs Total provisions Net loans to customers Total net IEAs Total non-IEAs Total assets	11,827 54,650 (503) 42,538 54,147 2,374 56,521	15,486 59,256 (659) 43,403 58,596 2,379 60,975	16,508 61,169 (970) 43,845 60,198 2,581 62,779	17,372 63,381 (1,112) 45,057 62,269 2,608 64,877	18,266 66,115 (1,182) 46,827 64,932 2,628 67,561
	Other interest earning assets Total gross IEAs Total provisions Net loans to customers Total net IEAs Total non-IEAs Total assets Customer deposits	11,827 54,650 (503) 42,538 54,147 2,374 56,521 45,018	15,486 59,256 (659) 43,403 58,596 2,379 60,975 48,426	16,508 61,169 (970) 43,845 60,198 2,581 62,779 49,636	17,372 63,381 (1,112) 45,057 62,269 2,608 64,877 51,126	18,266 66,115 (1,182) 46,827 64,932 2,628 67,561 53,171
	Other interest earning assets Total gross IEAs Total provisions Net loans to customers Total net IEAs Total non-IEAs Total assets Customer deposits Other interest-bearing liabilities	11,827 54,650 (503) 42,538 54,147 2,374 56,521 45,018 3,248	15,486 59,256 (659) 43,403 58,596 2,379 60,975 48,426 4,606	16,508 61,169 (970) 43,845 60,198 2,581 62,779 49,636 4,742	17,372 63,381 (1,112) 45,057 62,269 2,608 64,877 51,126 4,867	18,266 66,115 (1,182) 46,827 64,932 2,628 67,561 53,171 5,008
	Other interest earning assets Total gross IEAs Total provisions Net loans to customers Total net IEAs Total non-IEAs Total assets Customer deposits Other interest-bearing liabilities Total IBLs	11,827 54,650 (503) 42,538 54,147 2,374 56,521 45,018 3,248 48,266	15,486 59,256 (659) 43,403 58,596 2,379 60,975 48,426 4,606 53,031	16,508 61,169 (970) 43,845 60,198 2,581 62,779 49,636 4,742 54,379	17,372 63,381 (1,112) 45,057 62,269 2,608 64,877 51,126 4,867 55,993	18,266 66,115 (1,182) 46,827 64,932 2,628 67,561 53,171 5,008 58,179
	Other interest earning assets Total gross IEAs Total provisions Net loans to customers Total net IEAs Total non-IEAs Total assets Customer deposits Other interest-bearing liabilities Total non-IBLs	11,827 54,650 (503) 42,538 54,147 2,374 56,521 45,018 3,248 48,266 2,522	15,486 59,256 (659) 43,403 58,596 2,379 60,975 48,426 4,606 53,031 1,955	16,508 61,169 (970) 43,845 60,198 2,581 62,779 49,636 4,742 54,379 2,101	17,372 63,381 (1,112) 45,057 62,269 2,608 64,877 51,126 4,867 55,993 2,227	18,266 66,115 (1,182) 46,827 64,932 2,628 67,561 53,171 5,008 58,179 2,360
	Other interest earning assets Total gross IEAs Total provisions Net loans to customers Total net IEAs Total non-IEAs Total assets Customer deposits Other interest-bearing liabilities Total non-IBLs Total liabilities	11,827 54,650 (503) 42,538 54,147 2,374 56,521 45,018 3,248 48,266 2,522 50,788	15,486 59,256 (659) 43,403 58,596 2,379 60,975 48,426 4,606 53,031 1,955 54,986	16,508 61,169 (970) 43,845 60,198 2,581 62,779 49,636 4,742 54,379 2,101 56,480	17,372 63,381 (1,112) 45,057 62,269 2,608 64,877 51,126 4,867 55,993 2,227 58,219	18,266 66,115 (1,182) 46,827 64,932 2,628 67,561 53,171 5,008 58,179 2,360 60,538
	Other interest earning assets Total gross IEAs Total provisions Net loans to customers Total net IEAs Total non-IEAs Total assets Customer deposits Other interest-bearing liabilities Total non-IBLs Total liabilities Share capital	11,827 54,650 (503) 42,538 54,147 2,374 56,521 45,018 3,248 48,266 2,522 50,788 1,548	15,486 59,256 (659) 43,403 58,596 2,379 60,975 48,426 4,606 53,031 1,955 54,986 1,548	16,508 61,169 (970) 43,845 60,198 2,581 62,779 49,636 4,742 54,379 2,101 56,480 1,548	17,372 63,381 (1,112) 45,057 62,269 2,608 64,877 51,126 4,867 55,993 2,227 58,219 1,548	18,266 66,115 (1,182) 46,827 64,932 2,628 67,561 53,171 5,008 58,179 2,360 60,538 1,548
	Other interest earning assets Total gross IEAs Total provisions Net loans to customers Total net IEAs Total non-IEAs Total assets Customer deposits Other interest-bearing liabilities Total non-IBLs Total liabilities	11,827 54,650 (503) 42,538 54,147 2,374 56,521 45,018 3,248 48,266 2,522 50,788	15,486 59,256 (659) 43,403 58,596 2,379 60,975 48,426 4,606 53,031 1,955 54,986	16,508 61,169 (970) 43,845 60,198 2,581 62,779 49,636 4,742 54,379 2,101 56,480	17,372 63,381 (1,112) 45,057 62,269 2,608 64,877 51,126 4,867 55,993 2,227 58,219	18,266 66,115 (1,182) 46,827 64,932 2,628 67,561 53,171 5,008 58,179 2,360 60,538
	Other interest earning assets Total gross IEAs Total provisions Net loans to customers Total net IEAs Total non-IEAs Total assets Customer deposits Other interest-bearing liabilities Total non-IBLs Total iabilities Share capital Sharet quality and capital	11,827 54,650 (503) 42,538 54,147 2,374 56,521 45,018 3,248 48,266 2,522 50,788 1,548	15,486 59,256 (659) 43,403 58,596 2,379 60,975 48,426 4,606 53,031 1,955 54,986 1,548	16,508 61,169 (970) 43,845 60,198 2,581 62,779 49,636 4,742 54,379 2,101 56,480 1,548	17,372 63,381 (1,112) 45,057 62,269 2,608 64,877 51,126 4,867 55,993 2,227 58,219 1,548	18,266 66,115 (1,182) 46,827 64,932 2,628 67,561 53,171 5,008 58,179 2,360 60,538 1,548 7,022
	Other interest earning assets Total gross IEAs Total provisions Net loans to customers Total net IEAs Total non-IEAs Total assets Customer deposits Other interest-bearing liabilities Total non-IBLs Total liabilities Share capital Shareholders' equity	11,827 54,650 (503) 42,538 54,147 2,374 56,521 45,018 3,248 48,266 2,522 50,788 1,548 5,733	15,486 59,256 (659) 43,403 58,596 2,379 60,975 48,426 4,606 53,031 1,955 54,986 1,548 5,989	16,508 61,169 (970) 43,845 60,198 2,581 62,779 49,636 4,742 54,379 2,101 56,480 1,548 6,300	17,372 63,381 (1,112) 45,057 62,269 2,608 64,877 51,126 4,867 55,993 2,227 58,219 1,548 6,658	18,266 66,115 (1,182) 46,827 64,932 2,628 67,561 53,171 5,008 58,179 2,360 60,538 1,548
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Source: Company data, RHB



Figure 1: ABMB's GGM valuation

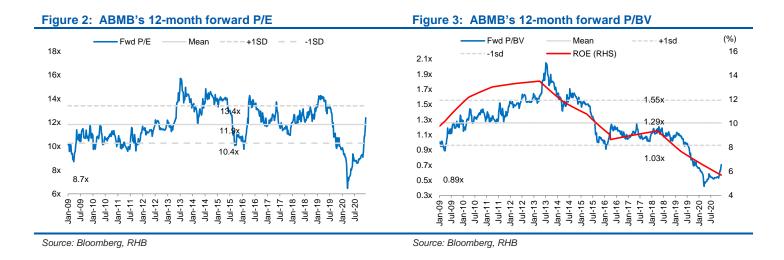
17 December 2020

Valuation

Our GGM-derived TP is raised to MYR2.90 from MYR2.60 mainly due to a lower risk premium assumption. We value ABMB at 0.7x FY22F P/BV, which is below -1SD from its mean.

Figure 1. ADIVID 5 GGIVI Valuatio			
Cost of equity (COE) computation:		Sustainable ROE (%)	7.0
Risk free rate (%)	2.9	COE (%)	9.5
Equity premium (%)	6.0	Long-term growth (g)	2.0
Beta (x)	1.1	Implied P/BV (x)	0.7
Cost of equity - CAPM (%)	9.5	BVPS – FY22F	MYR 4.30
		Target price	MYR 2.86
		TP (rounded)	MYR 2.90
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Source: Company data, RHB



Recommendation Chart



Date	Recommendation	Target Price	Price
2020-11-29	Neutral	2.60	2.58
2020-08-31	Neutral	2.20	2.19
2020-06-26	Neutral	2.40	2.20
2020-03-23	Buy	2.10	1.60
2020-03-01	Buy	2.70	2.31
2020-01-21	Buy	2.90	2.53
2019-11-28	Neutral	2.90	2.65
2019-08-28	Neutral	3.10	3.02
2019-08-13	Buy	4.20	3.30
2018-09-03	Buy	4.80	4.12

Source: RHB, Bloomberg

Source: RHB, Bloomberg



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