

30 May 2023

# Malaysian Resources Corp (MRC MK)

## A Temporary Blip; Keep BUY

- Keep BUY, new MYR0.40 TP (SOP) from MYR0.45, 32% upside and c.2% yield. 1Q23 core profit of MYR8.5m (-40% YoY) missed expectations

   at 14% and 16% of our and Street's full-year estimates. The negative deviation was on slower-than expected construction project billings. Looking ahead, we estimate a 5-year earnings CAGR of >20% with commendable job prospects ie three bids submitted for Mass Rapid Transit 3 (MRT3) and ongoing overseas property launches.
- Performance review. Malaysian Resources Corp's construction wing saw a 72% YoY drop in 1Q23 EBIT due to the completion of key projects in late 2022, eg Damansara-Shah Alam Elevated Expressway (DASH) Package CB2. Nevertheless, the bulk of this arm's profit was contributed by the Light Rail Transit 3 (LRT3) project, which has reached 78% financial progress as at end 1Q23. The remaining quarters should see LRT3 system works ramping up. MRC's property arm recorded a 58% YoY EBIT growth for this period, as the Sentral Suites project achieved 100% construction progress. The handover of the completed vacant possession units to purchasers is commencing in stages from April onwards.
- Outlook. MRC's outstanding construction orderbook as at end 1Q23 stood at MYR6bn excluding the Bukit Jalil Sentral project. This provides c.3 years' of earnings visibility with 42% coming from LRT3. We continue to reiterate the group's advantage in terms of MRT3 bids (MYR30bn in its tenderbook) given its status as one of the largest bumiputera contractors here. MRC has also been pre-qualified for a flood mitigation project in Selangor and is still evaluating the land offered by the Selangor Government in return for the Shah Alam Stadium's redevelopment works.
- We cut our FY23F-25F earnings by 14%, 12%, and 8% to factor in a more conservative progress billings timeline. Post the earnings adjustment and rolling forward our valuation base year to FY24 from FY23, we arrive at a new SOP-derived MYR0.40 TP, which is given a 0% ESG premium/discount on its intrinsic value based on an unchanged ESG score of 3.0. We favour MRC for diversifying its property arm into industrial properties eg the lpoh Raya Integrated Park and new overseas markets like Australia and New Zealand (total GDV: >MYR1.5bn). An upcoming catalyst for MRC, in our view, will be the potential re-instatement of omitted works for LRT3 worth c.MYR1bn. Key downside risks include a prolonged slowdown in the property market and regulatory risks impacting project timeline rollouts and costs.
- ESG framework update. As there is now greater focus on the E pillar on critical climate change issues, we tweaked our ESG weightage. Henceforth, we assign a weightage of 50% to the E pillar, followed by 25% each to the S and G pillars. Further details are in our 2 May thematic research note titled *Envisioning a Better Future*.

Forecasts and Valuation	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Total turnover (MYRm)	1,448	3,205	3,064	3,137	3,210
Recurring net profit (MYRm)	18	65	69	79	88
Recurring net profit growth (%)	-	265.7	6.4	15.0	11.2
Recurring P/E (x)	76.49	21.01	19.75	17.17	15.44
P/B (x)	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
P/CF (x)	na	na	4.73	1.68	3.29
Dividend Yield (%)	3.3	3.3	1.5	1.7	1.9
EV/EBITDA (x)	17.10	9.39	9.46	7.89	8.01
Return on average equity (%)	0.3	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.9
Net debt to equity (%)	29.8	33.6	34.1	25.8	36.6

Source: Company data, RHB

# Malaysia Results Review

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# **Buy** (Maintained)

Target Price (Return): MYR0.40 (32%)
Price (Market Cap): MYR0.31 (USD296m)
ESG score: 3.0 (out of 4)
Avg Daily Turnover (MYR/USD) 2.53m/0.57m

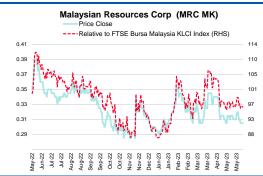
#### Analyst

Adam Bin Mohamed Rahim +603 9280 8682 adam.mohamed.rahim@rhbgroup.com



#### **Share Performance (%)**

	YTD	1m	3m	6m	12m
Absolute	3.4	0.0	(1.6)	(6.2)	(11.6)
Relative	9.5	8.0	1.8	(1.3)	(2.4)
52-wk Price low			0.29	0.39	



Source: Bloomberg

### Overall ESG Score: 3.0 (out of 4)

#### E: GOOD

MRC is rated excellent in this category, partly due to a significant improvement in energy consumption, which was down by 53% YoY. This also applies to four green building rating systems used to help it increase efficiency in energy, water and materials usage at its property projects. MRC also contributes to the reduction of CO2 by encouraging the public to use public transportation made accessible by its developments.

#### S: GOOD

Efforts include being committed to local employment, using a mechanism to facilitate employee engagement, and stakeholder engagement on human rights issues. We note that MRC has also achieved 1m man hours without lost-time injury for Kwasa C8 Plot 1 (Employees Provident Fund headquarters).

#### G: GOOD

57% of MRC's board members are independent, with full disclosure on director remuneration, which includes salaries and bonuses on a named basis. It has an in-house investor relations team and holds investor meetings regularly. The public can easily access information about the company's on-going projects.

#### Note

Small cap stocks are defined as companies with a market capitalisation of less than USD0.5bn.



## **Financial Exhibits**

Asia Malaysia Construction & Engineering Malaysian Resources Corp MRC MK Buy

#### Valuation basis

65% discount to RNAV

#### Key drivers

- i. New property sales;
- ii. Asset disposals;
- iii. New construction contracts.

#### Key risks

A prolonged slowdown in the property market and regulatory risks impacting project timeline rollouts and costs

### **Company Profile**

MRC is engaged in construction (niche strength in environmental projects), property development and investment and toll road operations. It is known for its transit-oriented developments, eg Kuala Lumpur Sentral, Bukit Jalil City, Kwasa Damansara, and Penang Sentral.

Financial summary (MYR)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Recurring EPS	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02
DPS	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01
BVPS	1.01	1.01	1.02	1.03	1.04
Return on average equity (%)	0.3	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.9

Valuation metrics	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Recurring P/E (x)	76.49	21.01	19.75	17.17	15.44
P/B (x)	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
FCF Yield (%)	(17.5)	(6.0)	17.4	55.7	26.7
Dividend Yield (%)	3.3	3.3	1.5	1.7	1.9
EV/EBITDA (x)	17.10	9.39	9.46	7.89	8.01
EV/EBIT (x)	25.20	11.67	11.59	9.62	9.49

Income statement (MYRm)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Total turnover	1,448	3,205	3,064	3,137	3,210
Gross profit	180	189	545	580	610
EBITDA	160	308	308	320	378
Depreciation and amortisation	(51)	(60)	(56)	(58)	(59)
Operating profit	109	248	251	263	320
Net interest	(79)	(99)	(113)	(124)	(162)
Pre-tax profit	61	154	174	181	202
Taxation	(55)	(101)	(103)	(100)	(111)
Reported net profit	16	65	69	79	88
Recurring net profit	18	65	69	79	88

Cash flow (MYRm)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Change in working capital	(123)	(318)	196	711	308
Cash flow from operations	(193)	(81)	288	809	414
Capex	(44)	0	(51)	(50)	(50)
Cash flow from investing activities	309	53	(66)	(65)	(65)
Dividends paid	(20)	(53)	(45)	(21)	(24)
Cash flow from financing activities	(67)	136	(45)	(21)	(24)
Cash at beginning of period	540	579	534	502	871
Net change in cash	49	108	177	723	325
Ending balance cash	480	687	711	1,225	1,196

Balance sheet (MYRm)	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Total cash and equivalents	579	534	502	871	356
Tangible fixed assets	2,182	2,231	2,166	2,158	2,149
Total investments	0	0	15	30	45
Total assets	9,205	9,235	9,164	9,251	8,937
Short-term debt	479	841	841	841	841
Total long-term debt	1,454	1,216	1,216	1,216	1,216
Total liabilities	4,665	4,699	4,602	4,652	4,292
Total equity	4,540	4,536	4,562	4,599	4,645
Total liabilities & equity	9,205	9,235	9,164	9,251	8,937

Key metrics	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Revenue growth (%)	20.8	121.3	(4.4)	2.4	2.3
Recurrent EPS growth (%)	0.0	264.0	6.4	15.0	11.2
Gross margin (%)	12.4	5.9	17.8	18.5	19.0
Operating EBITDA margin (%)	11.1	9.6	10.0	10.2	11.8
Net profit margin (%)	1.1	2.0	2.3	2.5	2.7
Dividend payout ratio (%)	280.8	68.9	30.0	30.0	30.0
Capex/sales (%)	3.0	0.0	1.7	1.6	1.6
Interest cover (x)	1.22	2.50	2.17	2.03	1.99

Source: Company data, RHB



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## **Results At a Glance**

Figure 1: MRC's results review

FYE Dec (MYRm)	1Q22	4Q22	1Q23	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)	Comments
Revenue	810.7	833.9	742.2	(11.0)	(8.4)	Completion of key infrastructure jobs such as DASH Package CB2 in 2022.
EBIT	52.3	63.0	47.9	(24.0)	(8.4)	•
EBIT margin (%)	6.5	7.6	6.5			
Interest expense	(23.2)	(27.1)	(27.9)	2.7	20.0	
Associates	3.6	3.4	3.1	(7.9)	(12.6)	
Pre-tax profit	31.8	37.7	20.6	(45.6)	(35.3)	
Pre-tax margin (%)	3.9	4.5	2.8	(38.8)	(29.3)	
Tax	(17.8)	(24.6)	(12.0)	(51.4)	(32.7)	
Effective tax rate (%)	56.0	65.3	58.2			
Net profit	14.0	13.0	8.5	(34.9)	(39.6)	
Core profit	14.0	13.0	8.5	(34.8)	(39.6)	Below expectations.
Net margin (%)	1.7	1.6	1.1			_

Source: Company data, RHB

Figure 2: MRCB's SOP valuation

Items	P/E/ WACC/valuation	Equity value/surplus (MYRm)
Construction (FY24F forward earnings)	P/E of 11x	357.9
Surplus RNAV for property and investments	WACC of 11%	944.8
28% Sentral REIT	TP: 0.92	235.2
Kwasa Damansara PDP for infrastructure works (DCF)	WACC of 9%	67.3
Shareholders' Funds (ex-construction & REIT)		3,535.4
Net debt		(1,185)
Total RNAV		5,140.6
Share base		4,467.5
RNAV per share		1.15
Discount (1)		65%
Intrinsic value/share (MYR)		0.40
ESG premium/discount	0%	0.00
TP		0.40

Note: We believe a 65% discount to RNAV is justified. This is slightly lower than the sector's 70-85% RNAV discount. We think this is fair, taking into account the potential reopening of country's border that may spur property purchase by foreign buyers for MRCB's projects such as St Regis

Source: Company data, RHB



## **Recommendation Chart**



Source: RHB, Bloomberg

Date	Recommendation	Target Price	Price
2023-02-21	Buy	0.45	0.32
2023-01-30	Buy	0.45	0.33
2022-12-01	Buy	0.45	0.33
2022-08-31	Buy	0.43	0.35
2022-06-01	Buy	0.44	0.37
2022-03-01	Neutral	0.38	0.36
2021-11-29	Neutral	0.38	0.35
2021-09-01	Neutral	0.43	0.40
2021-05-31	Neutral	0.43	0.43
2021-05-31	Neutral	0.49	0.43
2021-02-26	Buy	0.49	0.42
2021-02-16	Buy	0.49	0.42
2020-11-24	Buy	0.57	0.44
2020-08-31	Buy	0.59	0.51
2020-08-06	Buy	0.62	0.54

Source: RHB, Bloomberg

# **ESG** Rating History



Source: RHB

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Trading Buy: Share price may exceed 15% over the next 3 months, however longer-

term outlook remains uncertain

Neutral: Share price may fall within the

Share price may fall within the range of +/- 10% over the next

12 months

Take Profit: Target price has been attained. Look to accumulate at lower levels Sell: Share price may fall by more than 10% over the next 12 months

Not Rated: Stock is not within regular research coverage

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#### **KUALA LUMPUR**

#### **RHB Investment Bank Bhd**

Level 3A, Tower One, RHB Centre Jalan Tun Razak Kuala Lumpur 50400 Malaysia

Tel: +603 9280 8888 Fax: +603 9200 2216

#### **BANGKOK**

### **RHB Securities (Thailand) PCL**

10th Floor, Sathorn Square Office Tower 98, North Sathorn Road, Silom Bangrak, Bangkok 10500 Thailand

Tel: +66 2088 9999 Fax:+66 2088 9799

#### **JAKARTA**

#### PT RHB Sekuritas Indonesia

Revenue Tower, 11th Floor, District 8 - SCBD Jl. Jendral Sudirman Kav 52-53 Jakarta 12190 Indonesia

Tel: +6221 509 39 888 Fax: +6221 509 39 777

#### **SINGAPORE**

### RHB Bank Berhad (Singapore branch)

90 Cecil Street #04-00 RHB Bank Building Singapore 069531 Fax: +65 6509 0470