

## MSM slips into the red in FY17

**PETALING JAYA:** It was no sweet ending for refined sugar producer MSM Malaysia Holdings Bhd, which swung into the red in the financial year ended Dec 31, 2017 (FY17) with a net loss of RM32.57mil as compared to a net profit of RM120.72mil in the previous year.

In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, MSM said the losses in FY17 were due to higher raw material costs and a weakened ringgit.

Revenue for FY17 came in almost unchanged – up by just 0.3% to RM2.66bil compared with RM2.65bil a year ago – due to the improved average selling price for the year.

However, for the fourth quarter of FY17, it reported a net profit of RM13.08mil, down 9.1% from the RM14.39mil made in the same period a year ago mainly due to higher finance cost and taxation.

Revenue for the quarter fell 21.7% to RM656.12mil from RM838.30mil previously due to the 12% reduction in the overall tonnage sold for the local market.

Earnings per share stood at 1.86 sen as compared with 2.05 sen previously.

Despite the weaker performance for FY17, MSM said it was optimistic about its outlook for 2018 as it expected to gain from improved operations, low raw sugar prices and the strengthening of the ringgit in the near term.

Shares of MSM, which is 51%-owned by Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd, ended the day unchanged at RM3.90.