

Malton: No impact from freeze

> Developer says most of its properties are priced below RM1m a unit, seeks clarity on high-end properties moratorium

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PETALING JAYA: Malton Bhd is not impacted by the government's decision to freeze approvals for luxury property projects from Nov 1, as its properties cater mainly to the mid-class segment, with prices below RM1 million a unit; and those above RM1 million have received their respective development orders (DOs).

A Malton spokesperson said the new ruling is vague, because it is not clear whether the freeze is a blanket ruling or on a case-by-case basis, and whether it is being

implemented nationwide or only for Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to halt approvals. The property developer said it hopes to obtain clearer guidance on the move.

"As far as we're concerned, this (freeze) does not affect Malton at all for our current launches as the DOs have been approved," the spokesperson told reporters after the company's AGM yesterday, adding that its ongoing project Bukit Jalil City, which has sold over 80% of Park 2 - Tower 2 (324 units) since its launch in August, will not be affected.

"Our upcoming launches for the

financial year ending June 30, 2018 (FY18), Duta Park and Rapid City Centre in Johor, even though it's above RM1 million, this (freeze) does not affect us as we've gotten the DOs and building plans. So we're not so worried about this. The new ruling won't affect our current FY18 target launches."

Malton plans to launch three properties with a gross development value (GDV) of RM1.3 billion in the current FY18 and has a remaining RM950 million worth of properties to be launched. It has a landbank of 370 acres with a potential GDV of RM9.2 billion in Johor and the Klang Valley and is on the lookout for more strategic landbank in the Klang Valley.

Seventy-five per cent of Malton's revenue comes from property development and the

remaining 25% is from construction. The spokesperson said property development will remain a key contributor to Malton's earnings.

"We hope FY18's results will be better than FY17's, driven by progressive billing of ongoing developments and upcoming launches. We have unbilled sales of RM1.2 billion, which will support our earnings for the next three years."

Malton's construction order book stands at RM1.8 billion, having secured six projects, including Pavilion Ceylon Hill, Pavilion Embassy, Pavilion Damansara Heights, Royal Pavilion Hotel and two others.

Meanwhile, Malton said it hopes the court case involving the proposed high-density mixed

development in Taman Rimba Kiara will be settled by next year.

"We adhered to all authorities' regulations and the DO has been approved and endorsed. The next judicial review is on Dec 13. We'll only move on when the court case is settled," said the spokesperson, but noted that no stop-work order was issued by the court.

It was reported that residents of Taman Tun Dr Ismail were granted leave by the Kuala Lumpur High Court on Aug 23 to pursue a judicial review against DBKL and the KL mayor.

The judicial review requests an order from the court to quash the conditional planning permission and DO granted by DBKL to property developer Memang Perkasa Sdn Bhd, which is 51% owned by Malton.

Forex gain lifts TM's third quarter earnings

PETALING JAYA: Telekom Malaysia Bhd (TM) reported a 32.5% increase in net profit to RM211.82 million for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2017 against RM159.84 million in the previous corresponding period, thanks to foreign exchange gain.

Revenue for the quarter under review edged up 0.6% to RM2.94 billion from RM2.92 billion.

TM told Bursa Malaysia it foresees a sustainable performance in the remaining quarter of the financial year despite competition and challenges in the telecommunications industry.

As at Sept 30, TM saw stronger growth in UniFi as net addition doubled quarter-on-quarter by 55,000 totalling 1.06

million customers. This is the highest quarterly UniFi net add since Q3 2012.

UniFi offers internet access, Voice over Internet Protocol and Internet Protocol TV to residential and business customers through an optical fiber core network.

TM's nine-month net profit expanded 5% from RM621.73 million to RM652.74 million, while revenue was up 0.7% from RM8.82 billion to RM8.89 billion.

Its total capital expenditure for the first nine months of 2017 as a percentage of revenue was at 18.4%, amounting to RM1.63 billion.

TM's share price fell 15 sen or 2.4% to RM6 yesterday, with 4.4 million shares traded.

MSM Malaysia Q3 net profit falls

PETALING JAYA: MSM Malaysia Holdings Bhd's net profit for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2017 fell 55.31% to RM10.42 million from RM23.31 million a year ago due to higher raw material costs and weaker ringgit.

In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, the group said the average raw sugar cost increased by 11% from a year ago due to higher market price of raw sugar. However, it was cushioned by the increase in average selling price by 8% compared with a year ago.

Revenue for the quarter rose 5.59% to RM668.52 million from

RM633.12 million a year ago on improved selling price.

For the nine months ended Sept 30, 2017, the group suffered a net loss of RM45.66 million compared with a net profit of RM106.33 million a year ago.

Revenue for the period rose 10.43% to RM2.01 billion from RM1.82 billion a year ago on improved selling price.

The group expects its results to improve in the near to medium term, as a result of lower raw sugar prices and improved operation cost.

MSM Malaysia's share price closed up two sen to RM3.98 with 100 shares traded.

Kerjaya Prospek gets RM245m job

PETALING JAYA: Kerjaya Prospek Group Bhd has bagged a RM245.35 million contract for main building works for The Sanctuary condominium project in Penang.

The contract covers three condominium towers comprising 552 units and spanning 5.36 acres.

This is the second contract awarded to Kerjaya Prospek within The Sanctuary - the first being the construction of Sanctuary Bungalows.

Meanwhile, Kerjaya Prospek reported a 35% rise in net profit to RM34.41 million for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2017 from RM25.49 million, underpinned by its order book. Revenue jumped 20.7% from RM190.47 million to RM229.94 million.

For the first nine months of the year, its net profit was up 30.4% from RM73.75 million to RM96.16 million, while revenue expanded 23.4% from RM569.88 million to RM703.36 million.

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