



## Festival sugar demand helps MSM Q2 net profit touch RM79m

**KUALA LUMPUR** — Festival demand for refined sugar helped MSM Malaysia Holdings Bhd's net profit rise 0.5% to RM79.13 million in the second quarter ended June 30 compared to RM78.71 million over the same period last year.

Revenue reduced to RM588.320 million in the second quarter compared to RM595.426 million recorded for the same period under review last year, and this was due to a 1% reduction in overall tonnage sold in the market, MSM said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia yesterday.

In the second quarter, its earnings per share was 11.26 sen compared to 11.20 sen last year.

"Sales of refined sugar products in Malaysia typically in-

crease slightly during the months leading up to major holidays and festivals in Malaysia, especially Hari Raya and Chinese New Year, due to increased consumer demand for cooking oil and refined sugar," it said.

The group's revenue for the first half of 2015 was RM1.096 billion against RM1.094 billion revenue in the same period last year due to a slight increase of 3% in tonnage sold.

On a quarter-to-quarter basis, it recorded a total revenue of RM588.32 million, a RM79.83 million increase or 15.7% higher compared to the preceding quarter of RM508.49 million.

The company also announced a final dividend payment of 14 sen per share amounting to RM98.4 million for the year

ended Dec 31, 2014, to be paid on July 2, 2015.

As for current year prospects, MSM said: "Notwithstanding the volatility of commodity prices, the group is expected to be able to sustain its satisfactory performance."

According to the company's website, MSM controls 64% of the domestic market share and the company plans to produce four million tonnes of sugar by 2020.

MSM, which operates Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd's sugar business, currently produces about 1.1 million tonnes annually.

FGV is also in the process of acquiring sugar assets from the Indonesia's Rajawali Group to expand its business.