26 February 2020

MMC Corporation Bhd

FY19 Broadly Within

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FY19 Core Net Profit (CNP) of RM201m (+36% YoY) came in within our estimate at 105%, but below consensus at 90%, of forecast. Moving forward, ports and MRT Line 2 remain as main earnings contributors. Nonetheless, as outlook remains clouded by the lack of earnings stability, we reiterate our MP call and TP of RM0.970 based on 0.31x FY20E BVPS which is in-line with its 5-year historical trough levels.

Within our, but below consensus, estimate. FY19 Core Net Profit (CNP) of RM201m (+36% YoY) came in within our estimate at 105%, but below consensus at 90%, of forecast. We remain cautious of a potentially weaker 1H 2020 performance for the group's ports segment, against the backdrop of the current global uncertainties. No dividend was announced, as expected. However a decision on the final dividend has yet to be finalised.

QoQ, excluding one-off disposal gain (RM9m), 4QFY19 core CNP rose 57% to RM59m, thanks to higher volume handled at Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP) and lower operating expenses at Penang Port Sdn Bhd (PPSB).

YoY, excluding one-off disposal gain (RM36m) and negative goodwill due to fair value gain following an acquisition of a subsidiary (RM18.3m), FY19 CNP came in at RM201m (+36% YoY) largely led by stronger performance from its ports and logistics segment (PBT: +11%), thanks to: (i) higher volume from Port of Tanjung Pelepas, full consolidation of PPSB's revenue, and (ii) higher contribution from Malakoff attributed to improved contribution from its coal plants, and lower barging and demurrage cost. This is further boosted by higher contribution from its construction business (+2% PBT) thanks to higher work progress for KVMRT-SSP Line. And a much lowered overheads - corporate & others – helped lift the bottom-line growth.

Ports and MRT 2 the main earnings contributors. Going forward, MMCCORP's earnings are anticipated to be largely buoyed by its ports operation and the construction and tunneling works for MRT Line 2. However, we remain cautious of a potentially weaker 1H 2020 for the group's ports segment, against the backdrop of the current global uncertainties. Currently, its ports portfolio consists of Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP), Johor Port, Northport, Penang Port and Tanjung Bruas Port. That said, we do not discount management continuing their pursuit to acquire additional ports to boost their profile as the largest port operator in the country. Meanwhile, the construction progress for MRT Line 2 is at 58% for the elevated portion, and 65% for tunneling portion as at June 2019, with expected completion in FY20. We gathered that while its construction order-book is currently at c.RM8.6b (90% from MRT Line 2), management is currently actively bidding for new projects in order to meet its targeted order-book replenishment of c.RM500m p.a.

Maintain MARKET PERFORM with an unchanged TP of RM0.970 based on 0.31x FY20E BV/share which is in-line with its 5-year historical trough levels. Post-result, we made no changes to our earnings estimates. At this juncture, we deem our valuations to be fair as we seek for more earnings visibility and margin improvement in coming quarters.

Risks to our call include: (i) lower/higher-than-expected ports activities, and (ii) slower/faster-than-expected construction progress.



MARKET PERFORM ↔

Price : Target Price : RM0.900 RM0.970 ↔



Stock Information

Shariah Compliant	Yes
Bloomberg Ticker	MMC MK Equity
Market Cap (RM m)	2,740.6
Shares Outstanding	3,045.1
52-week range (H)	1.25
52-week range (L)	0.84
3-mth avg daily vol:	2,452,811
Free Float	12%
Beta	1.2

Major Shareholders

Seaport Terminal Johore Sdn Bhd	51.8%
Skim Amanah Saham Bumiputera	19.1%
Urusharta Jamaah Sdn Bhd	7.7%

Summary Earnings Table

FY Dec (RM m)	2019A	2020E	2021E
Revenue	4,717.3	4,478.7	4,575.4
PBT	532.8	304.8	310.6
Net Profit (NP)	255.2	188.6	192.9
Core NP (CNP)	201.4	188.6	192.9
Consensus (CNP)		250.0	309.0
Earnings Revision(%)	-	-	-
Core EPS (sen)	6.6	6.2	6.3
CNP growth (%)	31.4	-6.4	2.3
DPS (sen)	1.5	1.5	1.5
BVPS (RM)	3.04	3.09	3.14
Core PER (x)	13.6	14.5	14.2
Price/BV (x)	0.3	0.3	0.3
Net Gearing (x)	0.9	0.9	0.9
Div. Yield (%)	1.7	1.7	1.7

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FY Dec (RM m)	4Q19	3Q19	QoQ	4Q18	YoY	12M19	12M18	YoY
Revenue	1,098.1	1,245.8	-12%	1,559.2	-30%	4,717.3	4,983.8	-5%
Cost of Sales	(557.5)	(798.5)	-30%	(1,059.4	-47%	(2,814.1	(3,324.4	-15%
Gross profit	540.6	447.3	21%	499.8	8%	1,903.1	1,659.3	15%
Investment income	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	-	-	65.7	NM
Other operating income	54.7	65.5	-16%	81.0	-32%	212.4	165.7	28%
Administrative expenses	(213.0)	(224.0)	-5%	(204.0)	4%	(845.8)	(768.0)	10%
Other operating expenses	(113.4)	(86.9)	31%	(81.2)	40%	(361.7)	(381.6)	-5%
Finance costs	(163.8)	(166.0)	-1%	(146.4)	12%	(677.1)	(545.1)	24%
Associates	48.8	49.6	-1%	59.3	-18%	167.8	144.3	16%
Joint Ventures	38.2	34.7	10%	1.3	2770%	134.1	62.5	115%
Profit before tax	192.2	120.2	60%	209.8	-8%	532.8	402.9	32%
Net profit	68.1	66.3	3%	119.7	-43%	255.2	220.1	16%
Core Net Profit	59.0	37.5	57%	119.7	-43%	201.4	148.4	36%
PBT margin	17.5%	9.7%		13.5%		11.3%	7.8%	
Net margin	6.2%	5.3%		7.7%		5.4%	4.4%	
Core net margin	6.2%	5.3%		7.7%		4.5%	3.1%	
Effective tax rate	58.6%	35.2%		35.9%		43.0%	30.3%	

ource: Company, Kenanga Research

Segmental Breakdown								
FY Dec (RM m)	4Q19	3Q19	QoQ	4Q18	YoY	FY19	FY18	YoY
Revenue								
Ports & Logistics	825.0	782.0	5%	814.0	1%	3,189.0	2,997.0	6%
Energy & utilities*	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-
Engineering & construction	242.0	438.0	-45%	717.0	-66%	1,421.0	1,892.0	-25%
Corporate & Others	31.0	26.0	19%	28.0	11%	107.0	95.0	13%
Profit Before Tax								
Ports & Logistics	144.0	92.0	57%	127.0	13%	460.0	413.0	11%
Energy & utilities*	53.0	46.0	15%	53.0	0%	160.0	146.0	10%
Engineering & construction	106.0	73.0	45%	119.0	-11%	298.0	292.0	2%
Corporate & Others	(111.0)	(91.0)	22%	(89.0)	25%	(385.0)	(448.0)	-14%
PBT Margins								
Ports & Logistics	17%	12%		16%		14%	14%	
Engineering & construction	44%	17%		17%		21%	15%	
Corporate & Others	44%	NM		-318%		NM	NM	

Source: Company, Kenanga Research *Energy & utilities segmental profits mainly derived from associates, thus no revenue is recognised.



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Peer Comparison

Name	Last Price	Market Cap	Shariah	Current	Reve Gro		Core Ea Grov			R (x) - C Earnings		PB	/ (x)	ROE (%)	Net Div.Yld. (%)	Target Price	Rating
	(RM)	(RM'm)	Compliant	FYE	1-Yr. Fwd.	2-Yr. Fwd.	1-Yr. Fwd.	2-Yr. Fwd.	Hist.	1-Yr. Fwd.	2-Yr. Fwd.	Hist.	1-Yr. Fwd.	1-Yr. Fwd.	1-Yr. Fwd.	(RM)	
MMC CORP BHD	0.900	2,740.6	Y	12/2020	-5.1%	2.2%	-6.4%	2.3%	13.6	14.5	14.2	0.3	0.3	2.0%	1.7%	0.970	MP
POS MALAYSIA BERHAD	1.33	1,041.1	Y	12/2019	36.8%	6.0%	110.4%	12.7%	N.A.	12.4	11.0	0.7	0.7	5.7%	3.0%	1.95	OP
WESTPORTS HOLDINGS BHD	3.62	12,344.2	Y	12/2020	7.9%	4.1%	4.6%	4.5%	19.2	18.3	17.5	4.8	4.5	25.5%	4.1%	4.05	MP
Simple Average					13.2%	4.1%	36.2%	6.5%	16.4	15.1	14.2	1.9	1.8	11.1%	2.9%		
Source: Bloomberg, Kenanga Research																	

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Stock Ratings are defined as follows:

Stock Recommendations

OUTPERFORM	: A particular stock's Expected Total Return is MORE than 10%
	: A particular stock's Expected Total Return is WITHIN the range of -5% to 10%
UNDERPERFORM	: A particular stock's Expected Total Return is LESS than -5%

Sector Recommendations***

OVERWEIGHT	: A particular sector's Expected Total Return is MORE than 10%
NEUTRAL	: A particular sector's Expected Total Return is WITHIN the range of -5% to 10%
UNDERWEIGHT	: A particular sector's Expected Total Return is LESS than -5%

***Sector recommendations are defined based on market capitalisation weighted average expected total return for stocks under our coverage.

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