





4QFY23 Results Review (Below) | Thursday, 29 February 2024

# **Downgrade to NEUTRAL**

(Previously BUY)

Revised Target Price: RM4.48

(Previously RM4.69)

# **Public Bank Berhad**

(1295 | PBK MK) Financial Services | Finance

4QFY23 Results: Lower FY24 ROE Target

#### **KEY INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- FY23's Core NP of RM6,649m was *Below/Within* our/street forecasts: 93%/98% of full-year forecasts
- Management's tone: Neutral
- Core themes: (a) Competitive loan yields, (b) Improving dividend yields, (c) High possibility of overlay writeback
- Forecasts revised: FY24F/FY25F Core NP adjusted by -5%/-1%.
- Downgrade to NEUTRAL | Revised TP of RM4.48 | based on an unchanged FY24F P/BV of 1.50x (formerly 1.58x)

RETURN STATISTICS	
Price @ 28 February 2024 (RM)	4.43
Expected share price return (%)	+1.1
Expected dividend yield (%)	+4.2
Expected total return (%)	+5.3

## **Verdict:** Mostly priced in, but dividned yields are still attractive.

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- 1. CIR still among lowest in industry.
- 2. Steadily improving dividend payouts.
- 3. Overlay writeback likely in FY24.
- 4. Defensive pick.

## **Nays**

1. Lower NOII contribution makes PBK more vulnerable to competitive interest rates.

OKs

1. NOII may not be as good in FY24

#### Results in a nutshell:

- ▲ FY23's Core net profit (NP) of RM6,649m up by 9%yoy. Tax normalisation, lower provisions and sustained OPEX growth offset declines in NII.
- ▼ 4QFY23's Core NP of RM1,615m down by -5%qoq. We were not expecting a sudden uptick in provisions during the quarter. Otherwise, PPOP movements were relatively minor, as with other Income Statement components.
- ▲ Gross loans grew by 1.4%qoq, coming up to 5.9%YTD.
- Deposits grew by 1.0%gog, coming up to 4.6%YTD.
- ▶ GIL moved by +1bps to 0.59%, LLC currently at 182%.

### Have a look at:

- ▼ Reduced FY24 ROE target of 12%. PBK's main gripe is with more competitive NIM situation:
  - Loan yields in both SME and residential mortgages, two of PBK's intended loan drivers, are especially competitive. PBK's low NOII exposure leaves it more vulnerable to adverse interest rate competition.
  - 2. Although deposit competition seems to be waning, management is cautious of potential resurgence in 2HFY24 given that most banks seem to be guiding for strong loan growth targets.
  - 3. It maintains an elevated FY24 CIR target of 35% -- while OPEX growth is expected to only increase by a standard 5-6%yoy, the Group highlight revenue volatility as an issue.

# SHARE PRICE CHART DOVE THE WAY, S. THE WAY OF A SHALL AND A SHALL

Price performance (%)	Absolute	Relative
1 month	2.5	-0.6
3 months	4.4	-1.3
12 months	8.5	17

INVESTMENT STATISTICS						
FYE Dec	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F			
Core NP (RM m)	6,774	7,153	7,403			
CNP growth (%)	2	6	3			
Div yield (%)	4.2	4.4	4.6			
Gross DPS (sen)	18.5	19.5	20.2			
P/BV (x)	1.5	1.4	1.3			
BVPS (RM)	3.0	3.2	3.4			
ROE (%)	12.0	12.0	11.7			
MIDF/Street CNP (%)	94	96				

KEY STATISTICS	
FBM KLCI	1,545.59
Issue shares (m)	19,410.7
Estimated free float (%)	55.1
Market Capitalisation (RM'm)	86,959.9
52-wk price range	RM3.78 -
	RM4.52
3-mth avg daily volume (m)	17.6
3-mth avg daily value (RM'm)	76.0
Top Shareholders (%)	
Consolidated Teh Holdings Sdn Bhd	21.6
EPF Board	15.0
Kumpulan Wang Persaraan Diperbadan	4.1



## ▲ At the same time, there are a couple of plus sides and buffers to the adverse situation:

- 1. Hire-purchase loans are still generating strong loan yields. PBK has a high market share and large exposure to the segment, and the pipeline still looks healthy these few years.
- 2. LCR remains elevated, management states there is room for improvement.
- 3. Property disposal for a recovery in a large Hong Kong real estate exposure sometime in FY24.
- 4. Overlay writebacks very likely in 2HFY24.

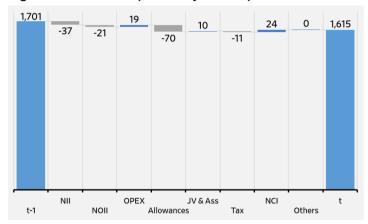
**Forecasts revised: FY24F/FY25F Core NP adjusted by -5%/-1%.** To reflect refreshed targets and guidance, as well as a more competitive scenario in FY24.

Key downside risks. (1) Further compression of NIM, (2) Lacklustre loan growth, (3) Writebacks delayed again.

**Downgrade to NEUTRAL call: Revised GGM-TP of RM 4.48** (*from RM4.69*). The TP is based on a revised FY24F P/BV of 1.50x (*formerly 1.58x*), to reflect altered earnings prospects and ROE-based valuations.

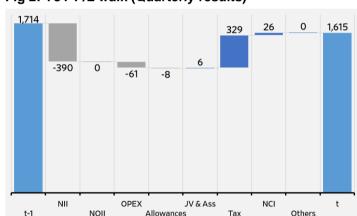
(**GGM assumptions:** FY24F ROE of 12.0%, LTG of 3.5% & COE of 9.2%)

Fig 1: QoQ P/L walk (Quarterly results)



Source: Public Bank, MIDFR

Fig 2: YoY P/L walk (Quarterly results)



Source: Public Bank, MIDFR

Fig 3: YoY P/L walk (Cumulative results)

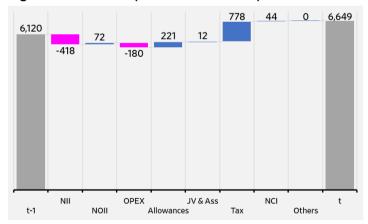




Fig 4: Quarterly results

FYE Dec (RM m)	4Q FY23	3Q FY23	4Q FY22	Yoy (%)	Qoq (%)	FY23	FY22	Yoy (%)
Net interest inc.	2,300	2,285	2,458	-6	1	9,055	9,167	-1
Islamic banking inc.	358	411	592	-39	-13	1,562	1,857	-16
Non-interest inc.	602	622	601	0	-3	2,476	2,414	3
Net income	3,260	3,318	3,650	-11	-2	13,093	13,438	-3
OPEX	(1,102)	(1,121)	(1,040)	6	-2	(4,415)	(4,235)	4
PPOP	2,158	2,197	2,610	-17	-2	8,678	9,203	-6
Loan provisions	(97)	(34)	(90)	8	186	(157)	(366)	-57
Other provisions	(7)	1	(6)	n.m.	n.m.	(1)	(13)	n.m.
JV & Associates	13	3	7	n.m.	n.m.	19	7	n.m.
PBT	2,068	2,167	2,521	-18	-5	8,539	8,832	-3
Tax	(471)	(460)	(800)	-41	2	(1,884)	(2,661)	-29
NCI	18	(6)	(7)	-351	-417	(6)	(50)	-89
Reported NP	1,615	1,701	1,714	-6	-5	6,649	6,120	9
Core NP	1,615	1,701	1,714	-6	-5	6,649	6,120	9
Total NII	2,638	2,675	3,028	-13	-1	10,531	10,949	-4
Total NOII	622	643	622	-0	-3	2,562	2,489	3
Gross DPS (sen)	10.0	_	5.0	n.m.	n.m.	19.0	17.0	n.m.
Core EPS (sen)	8.3	8.8	8.8	-6	-5	34.3	31.5	9
Gross loans	398,997	393,580	376,892	5.9	1.4	00	0	
Gross impaired loans	2,335	2,282	1,584	47.4	2.4			
Customer deposits	412,897	408,627	394,719	4.6	1.0			
CASA	117,295	116,576	118,033	-0.6	0.6			
Ratios (%)	4Q FY23	3Q FY23	4Q FY22	Yoy (ppts)	Qoq (ppts)	FY23	FY22	Yoy (ppts)
ROE (Ann.)	11.8	12.8	13.7	-1.8	-1.0	12.2	12.2	-0.0
NIM (Reported)	2.15	2.21	2.58	-0.43	-0.06	2.20	2.39	-0.19
NOII/Net income	19.1	19.4	17.0	2.0	-0.3	19.6	18.5	1.0
Cost/Income	33.8	33.8	28.5	5.3	0.0	33.7	31.5	2.2
NCC (Ann.) (bps)	10	4	10	0	6	4	10	-6
GIL ratio	0.59	0.58	0.42	0.17	0.01			
Loan loss coverage	182	187	272	-90	-5			
CASA ratio	28.4	28.5	29.9	-1.5	-0.1			
L/D ratio	95.6	95.3	94.4	1.2	0.3			
CET-1	14.7	14.5	14.6	0.1	0.2			



Fig 5: Retrospective performance (Income Statement)

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Metric	Surprise? Qoq/Yoy		Metric	Surprise? Qoq/Yoy		Notes (Cum = Cumulative, Qtr = Quarterly)
	RM mil	1,615		Qtr value	11.8%	Earnings came under our expectations – we were not
Qtrly	23% of F	Y CNP	Qtrly			prepared for a sudden uptick in provisions.
Core NP	Qoq	-5%	ROÉ	t-1	12.8%	
	Yoy	-6%		t-4	13.7%	
	RM mil	6,649		Cum value	12.2%	
	Below our	forecast				
Cum	93% of F	Y CNP	Cum			
Core N	Within con	sensus	ROE			
	98% of F	Y CNP				
	Yoy	9%		t-1	12.2%	
	As expe	ected		As expe	ected	Decline was a bit on the steep end but manageable.
			NIM	Qtr value	2.15	
NII				Cum value	2.20	
	Qtr (Qoq)	-1%		Qtr (Qoq)	-6bps	
	Qtr (Yoy)	-13%		Qtr (Yoy)	-43bps	
	Cum (Yoy)	-4%		Cum (Yoy)	-19bps	
	As expe	ected	04=	% NII	81%	Still mediocre.
Nou	Qtr (Qoq)	-3%	Qtr	% NOII	19%	
NOII	Qtr (Yoy)	-0%	0	% NII	80%	
	Cum (Yoy)	3%	Cum	% NOII	20%	
	As expe	ected		As expe	ected	Good cost control in the quarter.
				Qtr value	33.8%	
OPEX			Cost/	Cum value	33.7%	
- OPEX	Qtr (Qoq)	-2%	Inc.	Qtr (Qoq)	+0.0%	
	Qtr (Yoy)	6%		Qtr (Yoy)	+5.3%	
	Cum (Yoy)	4%		Cum (Yoy)	+2.2%	



Fig 6: Retrospective performance (Balance Sheet, Dividends, and anything extra)

Metric	Surprise? Qoq/Yoy		Metric	Surprise? Qoq/Yoy		Notes (Cum = Cumulative, Qtr = Quarterly)
	As expe	cted				A decent showing.
	Qoq	1.4%				
Loans	Yoy	5.9%				
	YTD (FY)	5.9%				
	As expe	cted		-ve sur	orise	LackIsutre CASA growth.
Depo.	Qoq	1.0%	CASA	Qoq	0.6%	
grwth	Yoy	4.6%	grwth	Yoy	-0.6%	
	YTD (FY)	4.6%		YTD (FY)	-0.6%	
	As expe	cted		As expe	ected	
CASA	Value now	28.4%	L/D	Value now	95.6%	
ratio	Qoq	-0.1%	ratio	Qoq	+0.3%	
	Yoy	-1.5%		Yoy	+1.2%	
	As expe	cted		As expected		4QFY24 was hit by a large provision.
GIL	Value now	0.59%	LLC	Value now	182%	
ratio	Qoq	+1bps	ratio	Qoq	-5%	
	Yoy	+17bps		Yoy	-90%	
	As expe	cted		As expe	ected	
Qtrly	Heavy pro	ovision	Cum	Decent pr	ovision	
Net	Value now	10bps	Net	Value now	4bps	
CC	t-1	4bps	CC			
	t-4	10bps		t-4	10bps	
	Healthy			Div anno		Dividend payout continues to improve yoy.
CET 1	As expe		Div	As expe		
	Value now	14.7%	payout	Payout	56%	
	Qoq	0.2%				

Others:



Fig 7: Targets, Achievements, and Outlook

Targets	FY24F	FY23F	FY23	Notes (Red: New guidance, Strikethrough: Guidance is no longer pertinent)
ROE	12	12-13	12.2	
CIR	35		33.7	5-6% OPEX growth.
NIM	-0-5bps from 2.20	-10-20bps from 2.39	2.20	
NOII			3% (yoy)	
Loans	5-6	4-5	5.9 (YTD)	Mortgages, hire purchase and SME loans to see mid-single-digit level growth.
Deposits	5-6	4-5	4.6 (YTD)	
% CASA			28.4	
Loan/Depo			95.6	
GIL ratio			0.59	
NCC (bps)	5-10	<10	4	
LLC			182	
CET 1			14.7	14% is the long-term goal.
Div payout	50-60	>50	56	Management is gradually increasing payout ratio year by year.



FY25F

2.20

3.38

1.70

1.67

12.0

1.3

20.1

22.2

33.0

95.7

25.0

0.55

170

190

14.0

14.5

17.5

4.8

0.9

4.8

0.9

5.6

4.2

4.2

0.2

36.9

19.5

53

3.2

12.0

4.4

1.4

8

FY26F

2.20

3.33

1.64

1.69

11.7

1.3

20.3

22.2

33.0

95.7

25.0

0.55

170

189

13.8

14.3

17.3

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4.2

38.1

20.2

53

3.4

11.6

4.6

1.3

8

FY24F

2.18

3.42

1.77

1.65

12.0

1.3

20.7

22.2

34.0

95.7

26.0

0.57

170

190

14.2

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17.6

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11.7

1.9

6.6

1.9

4.5

4.5

-4.4

34.9

18.5

53

3.0

12.7

1.7

P/BV (x)

4.2

1.5

8

### **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

INCOME STATEMENT						FINANCIAL RATIOS		
FYE Dec (RM m)	FY22	FY23	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F	FYE Dec (RM m)	FY22	FY23
Interest income	14,932	18,040	17,238	17,678	17,993	Interest (%)		
Interest expense	(5,765)	(8,985)	(8,012)	(8,012)	(8,012)	NIM	2.36	2.18
Net interest income	9,167	9,055	9,226	9,666	9,981	Return on IEAs	3.22	3.73
Islamic banking inc.	1,857	1,562	1,953	2,046	2,112	Cost of funds	1.37	2.05
Other operating inc.	2,414	2,476	2,667	2,685	2,809	Net interest spread	1.84	1.68
Net income	13,438	13,093	13,845	14,396	14,902			
OPEX	(4,235)	(4,415)	(4,707)	(4,751)	(4,918)	Profitability (%)		
PPOP	9,203	8,678	9,138	9,646	9,985	ROE	12.4	12.7
Loan allowances	(366)	(157)	(326)	(341)	(355)	ROA	1.3	1.3
Other allowances	(13)	(1)	(11)	(11)	(11)	NOII/Net income	18.5	19.6
JV & Associates	7	19	12	12	12	Effective tax rate	30.1	22.1
PBT	8,831	8,539	8,813	9,306	9,631	Cost/Income	31.5	33.7
Tax & zakat	(2,661)	(1,884)	(1,956)	(2,066)	(2,138)			
NCI	(50)	(6)	(82)	(87)	(90)	Liquidity (%)		
Reported NP	6,119	6,649	6,774	7,153	7,403	Loan/Deposit	94.4	95.6
Core NP	6,119	6,649	6,774	7,153	7,403	CASA ratio	29.9	28.4
Total NII	10,949	10,531	10,983	11,507	11,882	Asset Quality (%)		
Total NOII	2,489	2,562	2,862	2,889	3,020	GIL ratio	0.42	0.59
						LLC ratio	272	182
BALANCE SHEET						LLC (w. reserves)	292	213
FYE Dec (RM m)	FY22	FY23	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F	Net CC (bps)	10	4
Cash & ST funds	21,767	11,127	17,780	17,780	17,780			
Investment securities	81,387	86,731	84,318	82,923	82,848	Capital (%)		
Net loans	372,583	394,750	412,911	430,401	448,478	CET 1	14.9	14.2
Other IEAs	4	1	1	1	1	Tier 1 capital	14.9	14.7
Non-IEAs	17,522	17,988	22,904	23,351	23,834	Total capital	17.9	17.6
Total assets	493,263	510,598	537,914	554,456	572,941			
						Growth (%)		
Customer deposits	394,719	412,897	431,477	449,599	468,483	Total NII	11.8	-3.8
Other IBLs	37,989	32,056	30,199	28,660	27,381	Total NOII	-9.5	2.9
Non-IBLs	9,029	9,264	16,720	13,112	10,313	Net income	10.2	-1.2
Total liabilities	441,737	454,218	478,396	491,371	506,177	OPEX	6.8	4.2
						Core NP	8.2	8.7
Share capital	9,418	9,418	9,418	9,418	9,418			
Reserves	40,762	45,257	48,592	52,068	55,654	Gross loans	5.3	5.9
Shareholders' funds	50,179	54,674	58,009	61,486	65,072	Customer deposits	3.8	4.6
NCI	1,347	1,706	1,508	1,599	1,692	CASA	0.0	-0.6
Total equity	51,526	56,380	59,517	63,084	66,764			
Total L&E	493,263	510,598	537,914	554,456	572,941	Valuation metrics		
						Core EPS (sen)	31.5	34.3
Total IEAs	475,741	492,610	515,010	531,105	549,106	Gross DPS (sen)	17.0	19.0
Total IBLs	432,708	444,953	461,676	478,259	495,864	Div payout (%)	54	55
Gross loans	376,892	398,997	416,951	434,463	452,711	BVPS (RM)	2.6	2.8
CASA	118,033	117,295	112,184	112,400	117,121			
						Core P/E (x)	14.1	12.9
						Div yield (%)	3.8	4.3



Income Statement	Balance Sheet	Valuations & Sector
Core NP – Core Net Profit	LCR – Liquidity Coverage ratio	ROE – Return on Equity
PPOP – Pre-Provisioning Operating	L/D ratio – Loan/Deposit ratio	GGM – Gordon Growth Model
Profit	CASA – Current & Savings accounts	P/BV – Price to Book Value
NII – Net Interest Income	FD – Fixed Deposits	BVPS – Book Value per Share
NIM – Net Interest Margin	GIL – Gross Impaired Loans	BNM – Bank Negara Malaysia
COF – Cost of Funds	NIL – Net Impaired Loans	OPR – Overnight Policy Rate
NOII – Non-Interest Income	LLC – Loan Loss Coverage	SRR – Statutory Reserve
MTM – Mark to Market	NCC – Net Credit Costs	Requirement
CIR – Cost to Income Ratio	GCC – Gross Credit Costs	SBR – Standardised Base Rate
OPEX – Operational Expenses	CET 1 – Common Equity Tier 1	ALR – Average Lending Rate



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MIDE AMANAH INVESTMENT RA	MIDF AMANAH INVESTMENT BANK: GUIDE TO RECOMMENDATIONS					
STOCK RECOMMENDATIONS						
BUY	Total valuum is avacated to be > 100/ ever the part 12 months					
DUT	Total return is expected to be >10% over the next 12 months.					
TRADING BUY	Stock price is expected to <i>rise</i> by >10% within 3-months after a Trading Buy rating has been assigned due to positive newsflow.					
NEUTRAL	Total return is expected to be between -10% and +10% over the next 12 months.					
SELL	Total return is expected to be <-10% over the next 12 months.					
TRADING SELL	Stock price is expected to $fall$ by >10% within 3-months after a Trading Sell rating has been assigned due to negative newsflow.					
SECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS						
POSITIVE	The sector is expected to outperform the overall market over the next 12 months.					
NEUTRAL	The sector is to perform in line with the overall market over the next 12 months.					
NEGATIVE	The sector is expected to underperform the overall market over the next 12 months.					
ESG RECOMMENDATIONS* - sou	urce Bursa Malaysia and FTSE Russell					
<b>☆☆☆</b> ☆	Top 25% by ESG Ratings amongst PLCs in FBM EMAS that have been assessed by FTSE Russell					
***	Top 26-50% by ESG Ratings amongst PLCs in FBM EMAS that have been assessed by FTSE Russell					
☆☆	Top 51%- 75% by ESG Ratings amongst PLCs in FBM EMAS that have been assessed by FTSE Russell					
☆	Bottom 25% by ESG Ratings amongst PLCs in FBM EMAS that have been assessed by FTSE Russell					

<sup>\*</sup> ESG Ratings of PLCs in FBM EMAS that have been assessed by FTSE Russell in accordance with FTSE Russell ESG Ratings Methodology