

2QFY24 Results Review (Within) | Monday, 26 August 2024

Unchanged Target Price: RM1.82

Maintain SELL

(5185 | ABANK MK) Financial Services | Finance

Affin Bank Berhad

20FY24 Results: NIM Issues to Persist

KEY INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 6MFY24's Core NP of RM229m was Within/Within our/street forecasts: 46%/47% of full-year forecasts
- Management's tone: Neutral
- Core themes: (a) Further NIM compression, (b) Downward revision of FY24 targets expected, (c) Asset quality fears push Affin to reprioritise consumer loan segment
- Forecasts unchanged
- Maintain SELL | Unchanged TP of RM1.82 | based on an unchanged FY25F P/BV of 0.35x

RETURN STATISTICS	
Price @ 23 August 2024 (RM)	3.27
Expected share price return (%)	-44.4
Expected dividend yield (%)	+2.0
Expected total return (%)	-42.4

Verdict: Affin's current share price remains overpriced for its

	tundan	nen	tal outlook – even factoring in the Sarawak factor.			
1. More moderate loan growth as of late is better liquidity profile.						
			Lots of opportunities from the deal with potential new shareholder. NOII gradually coming online.			
	Nays		Possibility of further dividend disappointments. OPEX and CIR are still seemingly uncontrollable. NIM compression is likely to persist.			

- 4. Questionable asset quality, though NCC outlook is more positive.

1. CASA flows are picking up – but its high rates would barely

bring any benefit to COF.

2. Affin's share price could go either way.

Results in a nutshell:

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▼ 6MFY24's Core net profit (NP) of RM229m down by -13%yoy. Largely dragged by a sharp increase in OPEX and weaker NII and Associate results. There were notable improvements in NOII and provisions.

- ▲ 2QFY24's Core NP of RM119m up by +8%qoq. Driven by better NOII, NII and OPEX.
- ▲ Gross loans grew by +1.4%gog, coming up to +3.5%YTD.
- **▼** Deposits grew by -0.7%gog, coming up to +0.6%YTD.
- ▲ GIL moved by -6bps to 1.89%, LLC currently at 97%.

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SHARE PRICE CHART

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Price performance (%)	Absolute	Relative
1 month	16.8	16.6
3 months	31.3	28.0
12 months	67.7	48.0

INVESTMENT STATISTICS							
FYE Dec	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F				
Core NP (RM m)	495	518	579				
CNP growth (%)	8	10	10				
Div yield (%)	1.9	2.0	2.2				
Gross DPS (sen)	6.3	6.5	7.2				
P/BV (x)	0.7	0.6	0.6				
BVPS (RM)	5.0	5.2	5.4				
ROE (%)	4.4	4.4	4.7				
MIDF/Street CNP (%)	101	92	95				

KEY STATISTICS	
FBM KLCI	1,635.74
Issue shares (m)	2,346.5
Estimated free float (%)	20.3
Market Capitalisation (RM'm)	7,849.6
52-wk price range	RM1.9 - RM3.32
3-mth avg daily volume (m)	3.9
3-mth avg daily value (RM'm)	11.2
Top Shareholders (%)	
LTAT	28.9
Bank of East Asia Ltd	23.9
Boustead Holdings Bhd	20.1



Have a look at:

▼ **Affin's NIM is not in a good position.** Affin's NIM fell by -4bps qoq and is expected to narrow further (in contrast to the rest of the industry).

Currently, we believe the only thing that offers a meaningful jumpstart to Affin's NIM is if there is a huge CASA inflow upon completion of a new shareholder. More specifically, we think Affin may likely see a huge influx of deposits from the new shareholder – though management remains uncertain about the potential scale of inflows. Affin's weak deposit franchise coupled with high loan growth requirements has led to persistent liquidity issues in the past.

- ▼ Its average retail CASA interest rate of ~3% is above-industry high implying that its recent CASA surge is not as beneficial to COF as once thought. Competitors have much lower rates (we estimate closer to the ~1% mark). Affin's corporate CASA rate is even lower at 2.5-3%. This implies that excitement surrounding recent sharp CASA inflows brought about by the release of its new app may be overblown as the CASA drawn in is extremely expensive and not helpful to NIM profile.
- ▼ Loan yields will continue to remain weak, as management is reprioritising consumer loans once more (and moving away from the SME segment). Management expresses uncertainty about the quality of potential SME customers, believing their debt servicing ability may not be adequate. Hence, they will slow down growth in their SME segment and ramp up growth in the lower-yielding consumer segment instead.
- ▶ **Share price could go either way.** Although we conservatively base our target price on the Gordon-Growth Model P/BV (where P/BV multiple is dependent on ROE expectations), the share price is currently so sentiment-driven that it no longer seems to adhere to this valuation type. Multiple scenarios things to consider:
 - 1. Share price may revert to something more representative of Affin's weak fundamentals upon completion of the deal with the Sarawak Government as a new shareholder.
 - 2. At the same time, its fundamentals could be supported via the potential for a large deposit influx which could resolve Affin's weak dividend yield issue by providing a sizeable capital buffer as well as helping with its liquidity situation.
 - 3. Affin could now function as a "Sarawak economy proxy", whose share price movement may be linked to any positive or negative Sarawak economy news flow.
- **▼ Downward FY24 target revision is almost a certainty.** As with previous years, we expect ROE, CIR and NIM targets to be lowered. These targets could be plausible if the new shareholder deal had been finalised earlier this year. We believe there is a high chance that Affin will disappoint on its 40-60% dividend payout target as well (as with FY23), due to its low CET1 ratio and desperate need for capital accretion.
 - ▲ We are slightly more positive about its NCC target. Affin's 1HFY24 NCC figure of 2bps was still well below its FY24 target of 10-15bps. Management guides for potential forward-looking provision writebacks (considering improved macroeconomic conditions).

Forecasts unchanged. We make no changes to our forecasts.

Key downside risks. (1) Persistent asset quality issues, (2) Steep NIM compression, (3) Weak NOII performance.

Maintain SELL call: Unchanged GGM-TP of RM 1.82. The TP is based on an unchanged FY25F P/BV of 0.35x.

(GGM assumptions: FY25F ROE of 4.4%, LTG of 3.0% & COE of 7.0%)



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

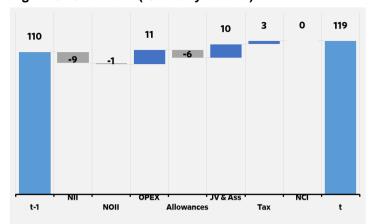
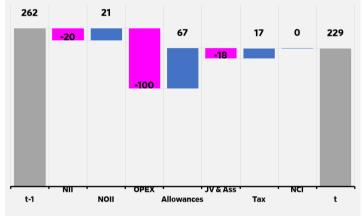


Fig 3: YoY P/L walk (Cumulative results)



Source: Affin Bank, MIDFR

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

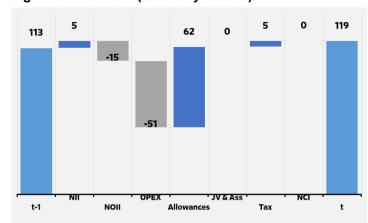




Fig 4: Quarterly results

FYE Dec (RM m)	2Q FY24	1Q FY24	2Q FY23	Yoy (%)	Qoq (%)	1H FY24	1H FY23	Yoy (%)
Net interest inc.	192	194	203	-5	-1	386	436	-11
Islamic banking inc.	161	168	145	11	-4	329	299	10
Non-interest inc.	142	143	157	-10	-1	284	264	8
Net income	495	505	505	-2	-2	999	999	0
OPEX	(368)	(379)	(316)	16	-3	(747)	(646)	16
PPOP	127	126	188	-33	1	253	353	-28
Loan provisions	(22)	16	(20)	12	-244	(7)	(14)	-52
Other provisions	35	3	(30)	-217	>500	38	(22)	-270
JV & Associates	11	1	11	n.m.	n.m.	12	30	n.m.
PBT	151	145	150	1	4	296	346	-15
Tax	(32)	(35)	(37)	-12	-7	(67)	(84)	-20
NCI	-	-	-	n.m. #	n.m. #	-	-	n.m. #
Reported NP	119	110	113	5	8	229	262	-13
Core NP	119	110	113	5	8	229	262	-13
Total NII	353	362	348	2	-2	715	736	-3
Total NOII	142	143	157	-10	-1	284	264	8
Gross DPS (sen)	_			n.m.	n.m.	-	_	n.m.
Core EPS (sen)	5.0	4.7	5.0	1	7	9.7	11.5	-16
Gross loans	69,016	68,037	62,468	10.5	1.4			
Gross impaired loans	1,306	1,330	1,112	17.4	-1.8			
Customer deposits	71,226	71,758	71,511	-0.4	-0.7			
CASA	18,439	17,852	16,599	11.1	3.3			
Ratios (%)	2Q FY24	1Q FY24	2Q FY23	Yoy (ppts)	Qoq (ppts)	1H FY24	1H FY23	Yoy (ppts)
ROE (Ann.)	4.2	3.9	4.1	0.1	0.3	4.0	4.8	-0.7
NIM (Reported)	1.40	1.44	1.33	0.07	-0.04	1.42	1.57	-0.15
NOII/Net income	28.6	28.3	31.1	-2.5	0.4	28.4	26.4	2.0
Cost/Income	74.3	75.1	62.7	11.7	-0.8	74.7	64.7	10.0
NCC (Ann.) (bps)	14	(10)	14	0	23	2	5	-3
GIL ratio	1.89	1.96	1.78	0.11	-0.06			
Loan loss coverage	97	100	128	-31	-2			
CASA ratio	25.9	24.9	23.2	2.7	1.0			
L/D ratio	95.1	93.0	85.4	9.8	2.1			
CET-1	12.8	13.4	14.7	-1.9	-0.6			



Fig 5: Retrospective performance (Income Statement)

Metric	Surprise? Qoq/Yoy		Metric	Surprise? Qoq/Yoy		
	RM mil	119		Qtr value	4.2%	
Qtrly Core	24% of F	Y CNP	Qtrly			
NP	Qoq	8%	ROE	t-1	3.9%	
	Yoy	5%		t-4	4.1%	
	RM mil	229		Cum value	4.0%	
Com	Within our	forecast				
Cum Core	46% of F	Y CNP	Cum			
NP	Within con		ROE			
	47% of F					
	Yoy	-13%		t-1	4.8%	
	As expe	ected		As expe		
				Qtr value	1.40	
NII	Otr. (Oc.s.)	-2%	NIM	Cum value	1.42	
	Qtr (Qoq) Qtr (Yoy)	-2% 2%		Qtr (Qoq) Qtr (Yoy)	-4bps +7bps	
	Cum (Yoy)	-3%		Cum (Yoy)	-15bps	
Cum (Yoy) -3% Cum (Yoy) -15bps						
	As expe	ected		% NII	71%	
	Qtr (Qoq)	-1%	Qtr	% NOII	29%	
NOII	Qtr (Yoy)	-10%		% NII	72 %	
	Cum (Yoy)	8%	Cum	% NOII	28%	
	-ve sur	orise		-ve sur	orise	
				Qtr value	74.3%	
ODEV			Cost/	Cum value	74.7%	
OPEX	Qtr (Qoq)	-3%	Inc.	Qtr (Qoq)	-0.8%	
	Qtr (Yoy)	16%		Qtr (Yoy)	+11.7%	
	Cum (Yoy)	16%		Cum (Yoy)	+10.0%	

Notes (Cum = Cumulative, Qtr = Quarterly)



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

Metric	Surprise? Qoq/Yoy		Metric	Surprise? Qoq/Yoy		Notes (Cum = Cumulative, Qtr = Quarterly,
	As expected					
Loans	Qoq	1.4%				
Loans	Yoy	10.5%				
	YTD (FY)	3.5%				
	-ve surprise			As expe	ected	
Depo.	Qoq	-0.7%	CASA	Qoq	3.3%	
grwth	Yoy	-0.4%	grwth	Yoy	11.1%	
	YTD (FY)	0.6%		YTD (FY)	-2.5%	
	As expected			As expe	ected	
CASA	Value now	25.9%	L/D ratio	Value now	95.1%	
ratio	Qoq	+1.0%		Qoq	+2.1%	
	Yoy	+2.7%		Yoy	+9.8%	
	+ve sur	prise		As expe	ected	
GIL	Value now	1.89%	LLC	Value now	97%	
ratio	Qoq	-6bps	ratio	Qoq	-2%	
	Yoy	+11bps		Yoy	-31%	
	As expe	ected		+ve sur	prise	
Qtrly	Decent pr	ovision	Cum	Small pro	vision	
Net	Value now	14bps	Net	Value now	2bps	
CC	t-1	-10bps	CC			
	t-4	14bps		t-4	5bps	
	Could be	better		No div	/vy	
CET 1	As expe	ected	Div	Div As expe		
-CL1 1	Value now	12.8%	payout	Payout	-	
	Qoq	-0.6%				



Fig 7: Targets, Achievements, and Outlook

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Targets	FY24F	1H FY24	Notes (Red: New guidance, Strikethrough: Guidance is no longer pertinent)
ROE	7 (PBT: RM1.0b)	4.0	Unlikely to be achieved.
CIR	64	74.7	Unlikely to be achieved. OPEX growth targeted at 9-10%.
NIM	1.60 (from 1.42)	1.42	Unlikely to be achieved. NIM compression is expected to persist.
NOII		8% (yoy)	
Loans	8	3.5 (YTD)	Affin to resume ~12% target in FY25.
Deposits		0.6 (YTD)	
% CASA	>30.0	25.9	Overly ambitious – mobile app balances are not sufficient.
Loan/Depo		95.1	
GIL ratio	1.90	1.89	
NCC (bps)	10-15 GCC: 13	2	On a promising note, more writebacks expected in future.
LLC	100-120	97	
CET 1		12.8	
Div payout	40-60	-	High chance of management disappointing on this front – given its low CET1 ratio and maintained capital accretion. Expect high DRP.



FY26F

1.59 2.09 1.11 0.98

4.7 0.5 32.2 22.8 67.0

92.0 25.0

13.3 14.6 16.8

7.2 9.1 7.8 6.3 11.8

10.0 10.1 10.1

25.1 7.2 30 5.4

13.0 2.2

0.6

0.6

0.7

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

OME STATEMENT						FIN/	ANCIAL RATIOS	ANCIAL RATIOS	ANCIAL RATIOS	ANCIAL RATIOS
YE Dec (RM m)	FY22	FY23F	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F	FYE Dec (F	RM m)	RM m) FY22	RM m) FY22 FY23F	RM m) FY22 FY23F FY24F
et interest income	1,023	783	927	963	1,032	Interest (%)				
lamic banking inc.	688	596	618	642	688	NIM		2.16	2.16 1.50	2.16 1.50 1.57
ner operating inc.	344	607	710	749	818	Return on IEAs		2.59	2.59 2.89	2.59 2.89 2.20
income	2,055	1,986	2,256	2,354	2,538	Cost of funds		1.45	1.45 2.21	1.45 2.21 1.30
EX	(1,317)	(1,421)	(1,534)	(1,601)	(1,701)	Net interest spread	d	d 1.15	d 1.15 0.68	d 1.15 0.68 0.90
)P	738	565	722	753	838	·				
n allowances	(462)	(50)	(90)	(98)	(108)	Profitability (%)				
er allowances	(45)	(28)	(27)	(22)	(21)	ROE		0.8	0.8 3.7	0.8 3.7 4.4
Associates	9	36	43	45	50	ROA		0.1	0.1 0.4	0.1 0.4 0.5
	239	523	648	678	758	NOII/Net income		16.7	16.7 30.6	16.7 30.6 31.5
& zakat	(161)	(121)	(153)	(160)	(179)	Effective tax rate		65.7	65.7 22.2	65.7 22.2 22.8
continued ops	1,125	-	-	-	-	Cost/Income		64.1	64.1 71.6	64.1 71.6 68.0
·	(25)				_					
rted NP	1,179	402	495	518	579	Liquidity (%)				
NP	78	402	495	518	579	Loan/Deposit		89.1	89.1 92.1	89.1 92.1 92.2
				0.0	0.0	CASA ratio		23.5		
NII	1,711	1,379	1,546	1,605	1,721	or to read		20.0	20.0 20.1	20.0 20.1 21.0
I NOII	344	607	710	749	818	Asset Quality (%)				
	011	001	7.10	7 10	010	GIL ratio		1.97	1.97 1.90	1.97 1.90 1.96
ANCE CHEET						LLC ratio		120		
ANCE SHEET Dec (RM m)	FY22	FY23F	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F	LLC (w. reserves)		161		
sh & ST funds	5,205	6,483	6,399	6,962	7,030	Net CC (bps)		83		
estment securities	21,180	27,239	20,979	19,273	20,126	Net CC (bps)		0.5	03 0	05 0 15
t loans	57,932		70,585	77,643	85,408	Capital (%)				
ner IEAs		65,225		0	05,408	CET 1		15.0	15.0 12.0	15.0 12.0 14.0
	0	0	12.963					15.0		
n-IEAs	5,804	6,300	13,863	16,570	17,366	Tier 1 capital		16.3		
l assets	90,121	105,248	111,827	120,449	129,929	Total capital		18.7	18.7 18.0	18.7 18.0 17.8
tomer deposits	64.005	70,834	76,572	84,305	92,820	Growth (%)				
r IBLs	64,995 11,818	21,289	21,670	22,066	22,475	Total NII		18.5	18.5 -19.4	18.5 -19.4 12.1
-IBLs						Total NOII		-14.3		
	2,679	2,016	2,049	2,084	2,120					
l liabilities	79,492	94,139	100,291	108,455	117,416	Netincome		11.4		
	5.045	E 074	5.074	5.074	F 074	OPEX		15.6		
re capital	5,245	5,371	5,371	5,371	5,371	Core NP		-82.0	-82.0 415.4	-82.0 415.4 23.2
serves	5,383	5,738	6,164	6,623	7,142	0 1				
eholders' funds	10,629	11,109	11,535	11,994	12,513	Gross loans		15.4		
1	0	0	0	0	0	Customer deposits	3			
al equity	10,629	11,109	11,535	11,994	12,513	CASA		12.6	12.6 24.0	12.6 24.0 -0.8
I L&E	90,121	105,248	111,827	120,449	129,929					
						Valuation metrics				
l IEAs	84,317	98,947	97,963	103,879	112,564	Core EPS (sen)		3.4		
al IBLs	76,813	92,123	98,242	106,371	115,296	Gross DPS (sen)		22.6	22.6 5.8	22.6 5.8 6.3
oss loans	59,343	66,663	71,996	79,195	87,115	Div payout (%)		42	42 33	42 33 30
NSA	15,250	18,914	18,760	21,076	23,205	BVPS (RM)		4.6	4.6 4.8	4.6 4.8 5.0
						Core P/E (x)		96.7	96.7 18.8	96.7 18.8 15.2
						Div yield (%)		6.9	6.9 1.8	6.9 1.8 1.9
						5/5///				

P/BV (x)

0.7

0.7



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



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MIDF AMANAH INVESTMENT BANK: GUIDE TO RECOMMENDATIONS						
STOCK RECOMMENDATIONS						
BUY	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 <i>fall</i> 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* - source Bursa Malaysia and FTSE Russell						
☆☆☆☆	Top 25% by ESG Ratings amongst PLCs in FBM EMAS that have been assessed by FTSE Russell					
፟ ቋቋቋ	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					

^{*} ESG Ratings of PLCs in FBM EMAS that have been assessed by FTSE Russell in accordance with FTSE Russell ESG Ratings Methodology