

## Q2 FINANCIAL RESULTS

# SIME PLANTATION LOGS RM812M NET PROFIT

But it may lose 1.2m tonnes of oil palm fruits yearly due to labour shortage

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**S**IME Darby Plantation Bhd (Sime Plantation) is expected to lose about 1.2 million tonnes of unpicked oil palm fruit annually due to the labour shortage.

Group managing director Mohamad Helmy Othman Basha said the company lacked 4,000 labourers, with an estimated productivity of harvesting one tonne of oil palm fruits a day for a single worker.

He said this came up to about 1.2 million tonnes of fresh fruit bunches unharvested per year.

"This is only an estimation. We have different numbers of shortages (workers) in different months as sometimes, our workers can harvest more than a tonne of fruits each on a daily basis," he said at the company's results briefing for the second quarter ended June 30 yesterday.

"Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the company expects its financial year 2022 performance to be satisfactory."

Sime Plantation's second quar-

ter net profit jumped 31.6 per cent to RM812 million from RM617 million a year ago.

During the period, the average realised CPO and palm kernel prices increased 44 and 40 per cent year-on-year, respectively, to RM5,213 and RM3,339 per tonne.

Its downstream segment, Sime Darby Oils, posted a gross profit of RM243 million.

For the six-month period, Sime Plantation's net profit increased 29.8 per cent to RM1.53 billion from RM1.18 billion a year ago, while revenue rose 23.3 per cent to RM9.97 billion from RM8.08 billion previously.

It has declared an interim dividend of 10 sen per share for the financial year 2022.

## AS OF AUG 1

## Development nod for 215,930 homes under Rumah Selangorku

**SHAH ALAM:** A total of 215,930 housing units under the Rumah Selangorku scheme have received development approval as of Aug 1.

State executive councillor for housing, urban wellbeing and entrepreneurs development Rodziah Ismail said of the total, 29,822 units had been completed.

She said the state government and developers were always in discussions to prevent projects from being abandoned.

"So far, there has been none. Some had faced delays but this was because some developers had issues during the Covid-19 pandemic," she said at the Rumah Selangorku Seri Kenari key handover ceremony.

Glomac Bhd said it had completed 180 townhouses under the Seri Kenari project despite having to operate under challenging circumstances during the Move-

ment Control Order period.

Group managing director and chief executive officer Datuk Seri Fateh Iskandar Mohamed Mansor said the company was committed to supporting the state government's public housing initiatives.

"Regardless of the challenges we faced, we believe that a partnership between the government and the private sector is important in providing basic amenities for the people.

"Glomac has completed 495 affordable houses under the Rumah Selangorku programme, including Seri Kenari. We will continue to support this project."

The Seri Kenari project comprises 180 townhouses priced at RM180,000 each.

Each unit, with a built-up area of 1,000 sq ft, has three bedrooms, one bathroom and a parking bay.

# Drone technology: Taking off from Greater KL

## KUALA LUMPUR

**C**HALLENGES that arose from the Covid-19 pandemic have pushed businesses to innovate and accelerate digital transformation. The Movement Control Order shed light on the importance of the logistics industry and its growing demands for last-mile delivery services.

DHL Express, the world's leading logistics company, will continue to invest in Malaysia by expanding and modernising its ground and air infrastructure to meet these demands.

The concept of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as drones, has matured within the logistics sector.

According to DHL Express Malaysia and Brunei managing director Justin Neo, the company has been working towards using UAVs for maritime deliveries (shore to ship to shore). This initiative is a collaboration with Pen Aviation, a provider of unmanned automated solutions (UAS).

Currently, a proof of commercialisation (POC) is ongoing to demonstrate the commercial viability of this new service, which involves

first-, mid- and last-mile maritime logistics missions jointly conducted by DHL Express and Pen Aviation with Raya Airways as the appointed cargo drone operator.

"The medium-sized cargo UAV will pick up and drop off shipments weighing up to 12kg from shore to ship and vice versa, day and night. The long-term goal is to set up a mixed fleet with Pen Aviation's heavier-duty drones capable of carrying 770kg payload over 675km," said Neo.

DHL's innovative project is part of the Greater Kuala Lumpur (GKL) Live Lab — an initiative introduced by InvestKL, an investment agency under the International Trade and Industry Ministry to use Greater KL as a testbed to conduct knowledge-intensive and innovative activities while collaborating with local industry players and academia.

"As a multinational company with a strong global presence across 220 countries and a firm commitment to grow our footprint in Malaysia, we were drawn to the initiative's value proposition. Drone technology allows leaner operations and improved service quality, and we are delighted to int-



roduce such innovations to Greater KL with InvestKL's support."

InvestKL chief executive officer Muhammad Azmi Zulkifli said: "The choice by DHL and other global companies to use Greater KL as their platform to conduct cutting-edge activities is a testament to our vibrant ecosystem to serve as the region's centre of innovation. Prioritising innovation and digitalisation will accelerate Malaysia towards a high-income knowledge-based nation."

Globally, DHL Express has deployed UAVs to carry documents, parcels and medical products over limited distances in Germany, Tanzania and China. This pursuit of advancing

drone operations at scale has also taken shape in Malaysia.

In 2020, the company partnered with Aerodyne Group towards the development of smart logistics solutions for the life sciences industry, targeting in particular underserved communities in remote areas of Malaysia.

The same year, DHL Express Malaysia supported the establishment of the Drone and Robotics Zone in Iskandar, Johor.

Together with Iskandar Investment Bhd, it aimed to build an ecosystem for training and certifying talents, hosting drone events, as well as gathering various industry players from start-ups to multinationals to network, test, and come up with go-to-market strategies for their creations.

"The timing of this POC could not be any more relevant. It comes in the wake of the 12th Malaysian Plan where the government highlighted the importance of seamless connectivity and reliability in transport and logistics.

"The deployment of UAVs would represent major steps forward in making drone deliveries a reality within our portfolio of offerings," Neo added.



Justin Neo



Muhammad Azmi Zulkifli