

BULLETIN TODAY

Monday | 24 March 2025

BURSA MALAYSIA

Index	Closing	Pts Chg	% Chg
FBM-KLCI	1,505.45	1.29	0.09
Volume: Total (mil):	3,437.41	167.62	5.13
Total Value (RM' mil):	4,282.16	1639.39	62.03
Gainers	371		
Losers	513		
Unchanged	431		

TRADE STATISTICS

Participation	Bought	Sold	Net
24.06 Institution	1,198	863	336
9.27 Retail	392	401	(9)
66.67 Foreign	2,692	3,018	(326)
100.00	4,282	4,282	0

FTSE-BURSA MALAYSIA

Index	Closing	Pts Chg	% Chg
FBM 70	16,288.07	14.55	0.09
FBM 100	11,061.38	9.55	0.09
FBM Palm Oil - NC	12,260.21	7.77	0.06
FBM Smallcap	15,526.34	(68.94)	(0.44)
FBM Emas	11,305.79	4.42	0.04
FBM Fledgling	17,879.68	72.34	0.41

WORLD

Index	Closing	Pts Chg	% Chg
Dow Jones	41,985	32	0.08
Nasdaq	17,784	92	0.52
FTSE 100	8,647	(55)	(0.63)
Nikkei 225	37,677	(75)	(0.20)
Hang Seng	23,690	(530)	(2.19)
Korea Kospi	2,643	6	0.23
Singapore STI	3,926	(4)	(0.10)
Thailand SET	1,187	5	0.41
Jakarta	6,258	(123)	(1.94)
Shanghai	3,365	(44)	(1.29)
Shenzhen	2,064	(38)	(1.81)

KLCI FUTURES

Index	Closing	Pts Chg	% Chg	Volume
FBM-KLCI	1,505.45	1.29	0.09	261m
FKLI - Mar 25	1,500.00	6.00	0.40	13,662
FKLI - Apr 25	1,502.50	6.50	0.43	1,567
FKLI - Jun 25	1,505.00	5.50	0.37	154
FKLI - Sep 25	1,492.00	6.00	0.40	54

FOREX & COMMODITIES

	Closing	Pts Chg	% Chg
CPO Futures (Jun)	4,375.00	(38.00)	(0.86)
Brent (USD/b)	72.16	0.16	0.22
Gold (USD/Ounce)	3,022.15	(22.75)	(0.75)
USD/RM	4.4205	(0.0048)	(0.11)
SGD/RM	3.3096	(0.0053)	(0.16)
JPY/RM	2.9601	(0.0135)	(0.45)

HIGHLIGHTS

- The **Dow inched up 32.03 points** or 0.1% to **41,985.35**, while the **Nasdaq ended the day up 92.43 points** or 0.5% at **17,784.05**
- **V.S. INDUSTRY BHD – 2QFY25: NEUTRAL, TP: RM1.05**
- DOSM: Malaysia's February inflation slows as housing, utilities costs moderate
- Eurozone consumer confidence unexpectedly weakens to 3-month low in March
- Japan's February inflation data strengthens call for rate hike
- **Alliance Bank** proposes renounceable rights issue of shares to raise RM600.0m
- **DRB-Hicom** spared RM246.3m tax bill after IRB rules in favour of appeal
- **Genting** agrees to RM46.0m fine as part of settlement for complaint against Las Vegas resort
- **Crest Builder** plans private placement to raise RM24.3m for debt repayment, working capital
- **Bonia** to raise stakes in property investment subsidiary, restaurant associate for combined RM13.2m
- **Lianson Fleet** to form JV with Precious Shipping and Emstraits Navigation for ship owning and operations
- **FSBM** partners with **Dataprep** to enhance cybersecurity, e-money and software services
- **SCIB** terminates engineering contract over outstanding payment

THE SLANT

- The FBM KLCI mounted a rebound to end the week on a mildly positively note. However, its gains, along with the continuing upsides of the FBM Small Cap and FBM ACE indices, belies the prevailing cautious undertone and the extended selldown by foreign funds on Malaysian equities that kept conditions subdued. The cautiousness is manifested in the negative market breadth for the day as most market players were still on a wait-and-see mode due to the lingering market headwinds.
- Market conditions are likely to stay unsettled at the start of the week due to the prevailing wariness over its direction. As it is, concerns over the U.S. tariffs are likely to keep market players guarded, while the availability of few domestic leads could also leave market sentiments on a low ebb for longer. The most pressing concern is the sustained selldown of Malaysian equities by foreign funds that has yet to show any signs of abating. Their selling is likely to keep overall sentiments on a low gear as local institutions are just providing support to keep the key index afloat for the time being. Under the prevailing environment, the key index is likely to sustain its sideways trend for now with the key index attempting to stay above the psychological 1,500 level. A breach of the level would see it retrace back to the supports at 1,495 points and the 1,488 level. The resistances, meanwhile, are at 1,512 points and 1,517 points respectively.
- Despite the negative market breadth, the key lower liner indices are holding steady and should continue to build up a base around their present levels. However, with fewer impetuses, near-term gains could also be limited, in our view.

RESULTS UPDATE
▪ V.S. INDUSTRY BHD – 2QFY25: NEUTRAL, TP: RM1.05

FYE July (RM m)	2QFY25	2QFY24	YoY	1QFY25	QoQ	1HFY25	1HFY24	YoY
			%		%			%
Revenue	908.8	884.1	2.8	1,110.8	(18.2)	2,019.6	2,024.3	(0.2)
PBT	26.3	22.8	15.3	43.7	(39.9)	70.0	89.1	(21.4)
PATAMI	15.4	16.0	(3.9)	30.6	(49.7)	46.0	65.0	(29.2)
EPS (sen)	0.4	0.4	(4.8)	0.8	(49.4)	1.2	1.7	(29.6)

Y-o-Y. Revenue increased marginally by 2.8% to RM908.8m in 2QFY25, from RM884.1m in 2QFY24, mainly driven by a 23.8% rise in sales orders from key customers in the Malaysia segment, which helped mitigate revenue contractions of 52.1% and 7.5% in the Singapore and Indonesia segments respectively. Despite an improved gross profit margin of 8.3% (from 5.7%), PATAMI dropped slightly by 3.9% to RM15.4m, from RM16.0m, largely due to higher operating expenses, particularly labour costs, coupled with increased losses in the Indonesia segment resulting from lower sales orders. Profitability was further dragged down by a sharp decline in net foreign exchange gains to RM0.9m (from RM12.8m) as well as a higher effective tax rate of 43.4% (from 33.2%).

Q-o-Q. Revenue fell 18.2% from the preceding quarter, impacted by lower orders from key customers across all segments. PATAMI nearly halved due to weaker revenue, higher operating expenses, higher effective tax rate and a swing to losses in the Indonesia segment from a profit in the previous quarter.

Dividend. VS declared a second interim dividend of 0.4 sen per share, bringing the total dividend for 1HFY25 to 0.8 sen, which is higher than the 0.6 sen declared in 1HFY24.

Core earnings missed expectations. VS' 1HFY25 revenue was broadly in line with our expectations, accounting for 46.2% of our FY25 forecast, but core earnings fell short, making up only 22.9% of our previous full-year forecast. As a result, we have revised down our FY24F/25F earnings by 33.8%/14.0%, to factor in higher operating costs and effective tax rates while maintaining our revenue assumptions. Given the ongoing global economic uncertainties, the management noted that customer order placements are becoming more cautious with this trend expected to persist in the coming months. Hence, we maintain our **NEUTRAL** recommendation on VS with a lower **TP** of **RM1.05 (-RM0.17)**, by pegging an unchanged PER target of 20.0x to our revised FY26F EPS.

GLOBAL AND ECONOMIC UPDATE

- After moving sharply lower early in the session, U.S. stocks showed a significant recovery over the course of the trading day on Friday. The Dow inched up 32.03 points or 0.1% to 41,985.35, while the Nasdaq saw a notable advance going into the close, ending the day up 92.43 points or 0.5% at 17,784.05. [RTT News](#)
- **DOSM: Malaysia's February inflation slows as housing, utilities costs moderate**
 Malaysia's headline inflation slowed in February as food prices stabilised while housing and utilities costs moderated. The consumer price index rose 1.5% Y-o-Y in February, matching the median estimate of 1.5% Y-o-Y in a Bloomberg survey and was lower than January's 1.7% Y-o-Y rise. On a M-o-M basis, the index was up 0.4%. Meanwhile, core inflation edged up to 1.9% Y-o-Y in February, from 1.8% Y-o-Y in January amid sustained price pressures in essential goods and services. [The Edge Markets](#)

- **Eurozone consumer confidence unexpectedly weakens to 3-month low in March**
Pessimism among Euro area households increased in March as the consumer sentiment measure unexpectedly sunk to its lowest level in three months. The flash consumer confidence indicator for Eurozone fell to -14.5 in March, from -13.6 in February, while economists were looking for an improvement to -13.0. The latest reading was the weakest since December 2024. [RTT News](#)
- **Japan's February inflation data strengthens call for rate hike**
Japan overall consumer price inflation softened in February, largely due to government subsidies for energy but the increase in core inflation, together with higher wage growth and services inflation, put pressure on the Bank of Japan to lift key interest rates. Consumer price inflation grew 3.7% Y-o-Y in February, down from 4.0% Y-o-Y in January. However, excluding fresh food and energy, core inflation rose to 2.6% Y-o-Y in February, from 2.5% Y-o-Y in January. On a monthly basis, the consumer price index edged down 0.1% in February, which was the first fall in five months. [RTT News](#)

CORPORATE NEWS

- **Alliance Bank proposes renounceable rights issue of shares to raise RM600.0m**
Alliance Bank Malaysia Bhd is raising as much as RM600.0m in fresh capital via a rights issue of new shares primarily to fund its general banking, financing and investing activities. The entitlement basis and issue price of the new ordinary shares will be announced at a later date. Under the exercise, shareholders will have the option to either fully or partially subscribe to their entitlements or renounce them. Based on its issued share capital of 1.55b shares, a hypothetical calculation shows that the rights issue will be at 38.7 sen per share on the basis of 1 rights share-for-every existing share. The majority of the proceeds (RM595.2m) will be used as working capital, including investments in government securities, money market instruments and financing activities in the ordinary course of its banking operations, while the remaining RM4.8m will be allocated to defray estimated expenses related to the rights issue. The rights issue is expected to be completed by 3Q2025. [The Edge Markets](#)
- **DRB-Hicom spared RM246.3m tax bill after IRB rules in favour of appeal**
DRB-Hicom Bhd has been spared from a potential RM246.3m tax bill after the Inland Revenue Board (IRB) ruled in favour of the group's appeal, reversing its decision to classify the gain from the disposal of its long-held stake in Alam Flora Sdn Bhd as income. This came after the group appealed against the notice of additional assessment, received on 30 August, 2024, with additional supporting documents. [The Edge Markets](#)
- **Genting agrees to RM46.0m fine as part of settlement for complaint against Las Vegas resort**
Genting Bhd has agreed to pay a fine of US\$10.5m (RM46.4m) to the Nevada Gaming Commission as part of a settlement for a complaint against its Las Vegas resort. The settlement agreement signed between Resorts World Las Vegas LLC (RWLV LLC) and the Nevada Gaming Control Board (NGCB) is subject to the acceptance of the Nevada Gaming Commission, at a hearing scheduled on 27 March, 2025. The complaint saw RWLV LLC being accused of failing to prevent individuals with suspected ties to illegal gambling from engaging in gaming activities on its premises. RWLV LLC did not admit or deny the allegations in the complaint filed by the NGCB in 2024 but agreed to greater scrutiny of its anti-money laundering programme and practices. [The Edge Markets](#)

- **Crest Builder plans private placement to raise RM24.3m for debt repayment, working capital**
Crest Builder Holdings Bhd has proposed a private placement of up to 30% of its share base to raise RM24.3m to pay for borrowings and purchase building materials, based on an indicative issue price of 50.0 sen per share. Of the proceeds, RM19.4m is earmarked for partial repayment of a revolving credit facility, followed by RM3.9m to purchase building materials for the construction of the Kiaramas project and Desa ParkCity project. At the end of December 2024, the group's total borrowings amounted to RM573.3m against cash balances of RM81.0m. The placement of up to 48.6m shares to third-party independent investors is expected to be completed by 2Q2025. *The Edge Markets*
- **Bonia to raise stakes in property investment subsidiary, restaurant associate for combined RM13.2m**
Bonia Corporation Bhd is raising its stakes in a property investment subsidiary and an associate operating seafood restaurant for a combined RM13.2m. The group will acquire an additional 25% stake in Casa Bologna Sdn Bhd for RM5.7m, bringing its ownership to 90% in the subsidiary that owns two plots of prime land in Bukit Bintang area. The group also plans to pay RM7.5m for 60% share in One Seafood F&B Sdn Bhd that operates a restaurant in Bukit Bintang. If the deal goes through, the group will control 90% of One Seafood. An existing shareholder, Marcus Lee Andrew, will continue to hold the remaining 10%. One Seafood also currently holds a 10% stake in Casa Bologna. Both acquisitions, to be funded by internally generated funds, are expected to be completed by 3Q2025. *The Edge Markets*
- **Lianson Fleet to form JV with Precious Shipping and Emstraits Navigation for ship owning and operations**
Lianson Fleet Group Bhd (LFG) has entered into a joint venture agreement (JVA) with Precious Shipping (Singapore) Pte Ltd (PSSP) and Emstraits Navigation Sdn Bhd (ENSB). The joint venture company will focus on ship owning, ship operations, leasing and maritime services. The company will be incorporated in Malaysia under the name Nusantara Maritime Sdn Bhd, or another name as mutually agreed by the parties. The initial issued and paid-up capital of the joint venture company will be RM50k, to be contributed by the parties according to their respective shareholding proportions on the completion date of the JVA. LFG and PSSP will each hold a 45% stake in the joint venture company with 22.5k shares respectively, while ENSB will hold the remaining 10%. The group will fund its investment in the joint venture through internally-generated funds. The proposed joint venture is expected to be finalised in 2Q2025. *The Edge Markets*
- **FSBM partners with Dataprep to enhance cybersecurity, e-money and software services**
FSBM Holdings Bhd has signed its sixth partnership for 2025, entering into two memorandums of collaboration (MOCs) with **Dataprep Holdings Bhd** to enhance cybersecurity, e-money and software services. The first MOC, between FSBM Solutions Sdn Bhd and Dataprep, will focus on the development and enhancement of cybersecurity and e-money solutions. FSBM Solutions will provide consulting services in cybersecurity, e-money, and related technologies, while Dataprep will contribute its expertise in cybersecurity software, e-wallet solutions, and associated technologies. This agreement takes effect immediately and will remain in place for five years. The second MOC, signed between UNOS Sdn Bhd and Dataprep, focuses on software development and related areas, with UNOS providing consulting services and Dataprep offering its expertise. This agreement will last for two years. *The Edge Markets*

- SCIB terminates engineering contract over outstanding payment**
Sarawak Consolidated Industries Bhd (SCIB) has terminated a RM30.8m engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning contract with Ennova Sdn Bhd due to non-payment for completed works. The notice was issued after Ennova failed to settle an outstanding amount of RM195,617 despite repeated reminders. The group had commenced legal proceedings against Ennova. The contract termination will not have any material impact to the group as the amount owed by Ennova had already been impaired in the previous financial year. [The Edge Markets](#)

Table 1: Entitlements (24/03/2025 – 31/03/2025)

Stock Code	Stock Name	Entitlements	Description	Ex-Date	Lodgement Date	Payment/Cessation Date
5878	KPJ HEALTHCARE BHD	Special Cash	0.001	24/03/2025	25/03/2025	18/04/2025
5878	KPJ HEALTHCARE BHD	Interim	0.0105	24/03/2025	25/03/2025	18/04/2025
5032	BINTULU PORT HOLDINGS BHD	4th Interim	0.05	24/03/2025	25/03/2025	16/04/2025
0151	KELINGTON GROUP BHD	4th Interim	0.02	25/03/2025	26/03/2025	11/04/2025
5080	POH KONG HOLDINGS BHD	Final	0.03	25/03/2025	26/03/2025	11/04/2025
0128	FRONTKEN CORPORATION BHD	2nd Interim	0.02	26/03/2025	27/03/2025	21/04/2025
5303	SWIFT HAULAGE BHD	Interim	0.008	26/03/2025	27/03/2025	10/04/2025
5347	TENAGA NASIONAL BHD	Final	0.26	27/03/2025	28/03/2025	16/04/2025
5225	IHH HEALTHCARE BHD	Final	0.055	27/03/2025	28/03/2025	28/04/2025
5288	SIME DARBY PROPERTY BHD	2nd Interim	0.015	27/03/2025	28/03/2025	23/04/2025
1562	SPORTS TOTO BHD	2nd Interim	0.02	27/03/2025	28/03/2025	18/04/2025
7210	FM GLOBAL LOGISTICS HOLDINGS BHD	1st Interim	0.015	27/03/2025	28/03/2025	11/04/2025
7225	PA RESOURCES BHD	Interim	0.005	27/03/2025	28/03/2025	11/04/2025
0039	GFM SERVICES BHD	Interim	0.0046	27/03/2025	28/03/2025	28/04/2025
0278	EDELTEQ HOLDINGS BHD	Interim	0.002	27/03/2025	28/03/2025	15/04/2025

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