

CapitaMalls nets higher 1Q earnings

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KUALA LUMPUR: CapitaMalls Malaysia Trust has registered a net profit of RM38.193 million or 2.15 sen earnings per share for its first-quarter (1Q) ended March 31, inching up from RM35.848 million or 2.03 sen per share recorded in the same quarter last year.

Revenue also rose to RM78.972 million from RM74.384 million, mainly due to selling electricity to tenants at The Mines as well as contribution from Phase 1 work at East Coast Mall.

The group also benefitted from higher gross rental income from new and renewed leases, except for Sungei Wang Plaza which was affected by the ongoing Mass Rapid Transit work, it said in a filing to the exchange yesterday.

“The higher cost, however, are being partly contained by the stable performance of CapitaMalls’ underlying portfolio.”

With the strong underlying fundamentals of the economy, Malaysia continues to be a favourable investment proposition for a retail-focused real estate investment trust like CapitaMalls.

“Moreover, CapitaMalls’ malls are largely focused on necessity shopping, which have in the past proven resilient and should continue to do so,” the company added.

At present, CapitaMalls has a portfolio of four well-performing malls in Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Selangor and Kuantan.

Meanwhile, in a separate statement, CapitaMalls Malaysia REIT Management Sdn Bhd, the manager of CapitaMalls Malaysia, announced that the real estate investment trust had achieved a distribution per unit (DPU) of 2.32 sen for the 1Q ended March 31.

The DPU is 6.4% higher than the 2.18 sen dividend paid for the same quarter last year.

The annualised DPU of 9.41 sen is similarly 6.4% higher than the same period last year, and translates to an annualised distribution yield of 6.5% based on CapitaMalls’ closing price of RM1.44 per unit on Tuesday.

“As CapitaMalls’ DPU is paid out half-yearly, unit holders can expect to receive their DPU for 1Q, along with their DPU for the 2Q in August 2014,” the company said.

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