

Third Quarter Report 2015



UNITED PLANTATIONS BERHAD

(Company no. 240-A)

Jendarata Estate • 36009 Teluk Intan • Darul Ridzuan • Malaysia

United Plantations Berhad

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for the Nine Months Ended 30 September 2015 (The figures have not been audited)

(RM '000)	Individual Quarter 3 months ended 30 September		Cumulative Quarter 9 months ended 30 September	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Revenue	267,219	280,693	756,827	789,532
Operating expenses	(167,710)	(189,752)	(512,550)	(546,267)
Other operating income	16,068	(1,117)	32,836	5,928
Finance costs	(6)	(7)	(21)	(25)
Interest income	8,957	6,908	22,505	20,171
Share of results of jointly controlled entity	(4,957)	(619)	(8,259)	(569)
Profit before taxation	119,571	96,106	291,338	268,770
Income tax expense	(31,338)	(24,333)	(71,566)	(62,449)
Profit after taxation	88,233	71,773	219,772	206,321
Profit for the period	88,233	71,773	219,772	206,321
Net profit attributable to:				
Equity holders of the parent	88,237	71,690	219,072	205,277
Non-controlling interests	(4)	83	700	1,044
	88,233	71,773	219,772	206,321
Earnings per share				
(i) Basic - based on an average 207,792,492 (2014:207,792,492) ordinary shares (sen)	42.46	34.50	105.43	98.79
(ii) Fully diluted (not applicable)	-	-	-	-

The Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the Annual Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2014.

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Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for the Nine Months ended 30 September 2015 (The figures have not been audited)

(RM '000)	Individual Quarter 3 months ended 30 September		Cumulative Quarter 9 months ended 30 September	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Profit for the period	88,233	71,773	219,772	206,321
Currency translation differences arising from consolidation	3,605	1,115	3,844	846
Total Comprehensive income	91,838	72,888	223,616	207,167
Total comprehensive income attributable to:				
Equity holders of the parent	91,842	72,722	222,916	206,296
Non-controlling interests	(4)	166	700	871
	91,838	72,888	223,616	207,167

The Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the Annual Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2014.

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Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as at 30 September 2015 (The figures have not been audited)

(RM '000)	30 September 2015	31 December 2014
Assets		
Non-Current Assets		
Biological assets	419,609	398,720
Property, plant and equipment	932,836	921,362
Land Use Rights	34,345	32,042
Associated company	50	50
Joint venture entity	8,392	14,651
Available for sale financial assets	6,446	6,446
Total non-current assets	1,401,678	1,373,271
Current Assets		
Inventories	126,426	98,765
Trade & other receivables	223,549	116,517
Prepayments	881	466
Tax recoverable	95	6,352
Cash, bank balances & fixed deposits	736,816	738,381
Total current assets	1,087,767	960,481
Total assets	2,489,445	2,333,752
Equity and liabilities		
Equity attributable to equity holders of the parent		
Share capital	208,134	208,134
Share premium	181,920	181,920
Treasury shares	(8,635)	(8,635)
Other reserves	23,352	19,508
Retained profits	1,817,981	1,723,584
	2,222,752	2,124,511
Non-controlling interests	3,117	2,417
Total Equity	2,225,869	2,126,928
Non-Current Liabilities		
Retirement benefit obligations	12,672	10,728
Provision for deferred taxation	107,802	105,389
Derivatives	7,494	9,686
Total non-current liabilities	127,968	125,803
Current Liabilities		
Trade & other payables	81,252	60,693
Tax Payable	21,082	11,911
Retirement benefit obligations	723	820
Derivatives	32,543	6,802
Bank borrowings	8	795
Total current liabilities	135,608	81,021
Total liabilities	263,576	206,824
Total equity and liabilities	2,489,445	2,333,752
Net assets per share (RM)	10.70	10.22

The Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the Annual Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2014.

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Condensed Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity for the Nine Months Ended at 30 September 2015 (The figures have not been audited)

	-----Attributable to Equity Holders of the Parent-----							Total	Non-controlling interests	Total equity
	Share capital	Treasury shares	Retained profits	Available for sale reserve	Share premium	Capital reserve	Translation reserve			
(RM '000)										
Balance at 1 January 2015	208,134	(8,635)	1,723,584	893	181,920	21,798	(3,183)	2,124,511	2,417	2,126,928
Total comprehensive income for the quarter	-	-	219,072	-	-	-	3,844	222,916	700	223,616
Dividends, representing total transaction with owners	-	-	(124,675)	-	-	-	-	(124,675)	-	(124,675)
Balance at 30 September 2015	208,134	(8,635)	1,817,981	893	181,920	21,798	661	2,222,752	3,117	2,225,869
Balance at 1 January 2014	208,134	(8,635)	1,796,204	893	181,920	21,798	(7,030)	2,193,284	1,076	2,194,360
Total comprehensive income for the quarter	-	-	205,277	-	-	-	1,019	206,296	871	207,167
Dividends, representing total transaction with owners	-	-	(288,312)	-	-	-	-	(288,312)	-	(288,312)
Balance at 30 September 2014	208,134	(8,635)	1,713,169	893	181,920	21,798	(6,011)	2,111,268	1,947	2,113,215

The Condensed Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the Annual Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2014.

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Condensed Consolidated Cash Flow Statements for the Nine Months Ended 30 September 2015 (The figures have not been audited)

(RM '000)	9 months ended 30 September	
	2015	2014
Operating Activities		
-Receipts from operations	733,904	758,357
-Operating payments	(525,907)	(432,037)
Cash flow from operations	207,997	326,320
Other operating receipts	11,781	4,542
Taxes paid	(53,252)	(55,870)
Cash flow from operating activities	166,526	274,992
Investing Activities		
- Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	11,020	1,006
- Interest received	23,658	22,701
- Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(45,252)	(27,531)
- Pre-cropping expenditure incurred	(29,842)	(34,960)
- Prepaid lease payments made	(192)	(1,063)
- Investment in jointly controlled entity	(2,000)	(6,693)
Cash flow from investing activities	(42,608)	(46,540)
Financing Activities		
- Dividends paid	(124,675)	(288,312)
- Interest paid	(21)	(25)
Cash flow from financing activities	(124,696)	(288,337)
Net Change in Cash & Cash Equivalents	(778)	(59,885)
Cash & Cash Equivalents at beginning of year	737,586	778,652
Cash & Cash Equivalents at end of period	736,808	718,767

The Condensed Consolidated Cash Flow Statements should be read in conjunction with the Annual Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2014.

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Notes to the Interim Financial Report

A1) Accounting Policies and Basis of Preparation

The Group falls within the scope definition of Transitioning Entities which are allowed to defer adoption of the Malaysian Financial Reporting Standards (“MFRS”) Framework. Adoption of the MFRS Framework by Transitioning Entities will be mandatory for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018.

Accordingly, the Group will be required to prepare financial statements using the MFRS Framework in its first MFRS financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2018. For the financial year ending 31 December 2015, the Group will continue to prepare financial statements using Financial Reporting Standards (“FRS”).

The interim financial statements are unaudited and have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of FRS 134: Interim Financial Reporting and paragraph 9.22 of the Main Market Listing Requirements of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad.

The interim financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014. These explanatory notes attached to the interim financial statements provide an explanation of events and transactions that are significant to an understanding of the changes in the financial position and performance of the Group since the year ended 31 December 2014.

The significant accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014, except for the adoption of the following new Financial Reporting Standards (FRS), Amendments to FRS and IC Interpretations with effect from 1 January 2015.

On 1 January 2015, the Group adopted the following Amendments to FRS :-

- Amendments to FRS 119: Defined Benefit Plans: Employee Contributions
- Amendments to FRS 2: Share Based Payment
(Annual Improvements to FRSs 2010-2012 Cycle)
- Amendments to FRS 3: Business Combinations
(Annual Improvements to FRSs 2010-2012 Cycle)
- Amendments to FRS 3: Business Combinations
(Annual Improvements to FRSs 2011-2013 Cycle)
- Amendments to FRS 8: Operating Segments
(Annual Improvements to FRSs 2011-2013 Cycle)
- Amendments to FRS 13: Fair Value Measurement
(Annual Improvements to FRSs 2011-2013 Cycle)
- Amendments to FRS 116: Property Plant & Equipment
Amendments to FRS 138: Intangible Assets
(Annual Improvements to FRSs 2010-2012 Cycle)
- Amendments to FRS 124: Related Party Disclosures
(Annual Improvements to FRSs 2010-2012 Cycle)
- Amendments to FRS 140: Investment Property
(Annual Improvements to FRSs 2011-2013 Cycle)

Adoption of the above Amendments to FRS did not have any effect on the financial performance, position or presentation of financials of the Group.

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At the date of authorization of these interim financial statements, the following FRS, IC Interpretations and Amendments to IC Interpretations were issued but not yet effective and have not been applied by the Group:

FRS, IC Interpretations and Amendments to IC Interpretations	Effective for annual periods beginning on or after
• Amendments to FRS 5: Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations (Annual Improvements to FRSs 2012-2014 Cycle)	1 January 2016
• Amendments to FRS 7: Financial Instruments: Disclosures (Annual Improvements to FRSs 2012-2014 Cycle)	1 January 2016
• Amendments to FRS 10: Consolidated Financial Statements Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture (Amendments to FRS 10 and FRS 128)	1 January 2016
• Amendments to FRS 11: Accounting for Acquisitions of Interests in Joint Operations	1 January 2016
• FRS 14: Regulatory Deferral Accounts	1 January 2016
• Amendments to FRS 116 and FRS 138: Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortization	1 January 2016
• Amendments to FRS 119: Employee Benefits: (Annual Improvements to FRSs 2012-2014 Cycle)	1 January 2016
• Amendments to FRS 127: Equity Method in Separate Financial Statements	1 January 2016
• MFRS 9 Financial Instruments	1 January 2018

A2) Audit Report

The auditor's report on the financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2014 was not qualified.

A3) Seasonal and Cyclical Nature of Group's Products and Operations

The prices for the Group's products are not within the total control of the Group but are determined by the global supply and demand situation for edible oils and it is somewhat related to the price of mineral oil.

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Crop production is seasonal. Based on statistics, the Group's production of crude palm oil ("CPO") and palm kernel ("PK") gradually increases from March, peaking around July to September, and then declines from October to February. This pattern can be affected by severe global weather conditions such as El Nino.

The prices obtainable for the Group's products as well as the volume of production, which is cyclical in nature, will determine the profits for the Group.

A4) Exceptional and Extraordinary Items

There were no exceptional or extraordinary items for the current period.

A5) Changes in Estimates

There were no material changes to estimates made in prior quarters.

A6) Equity and Debt Securities

As at 30 September 2015, the number of treasury shares held remained at 341,774 shares of RM1.00 each as there were no share buy-back nor any cancellation, re-sale or distribution of treasury shares in the current period. There was also no issuance of new shares or debt instruments in the current period.

A7) Dividends Paid

The following dividends were paid on 15 May 2015 in respect of the financial year ended 31 December 2014:

Ordinary	(RM '000)
Final dividend 20.0% Paid	41,558
Special dividend 40.0% Paid	83,117
Total	124,675

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Notes to the Interim Financial Report

A8) Segmental Information

Segmental information for the current period:

(RM '000)	Plantations	Refining	Other Segments	Elimination	Total
Segment Revenue:					
External Sales	310,561	444,990	1,276	-	756,827
Inter-segment Sales	168,274	-	-	(168,274)	-
	478,835	444,990	1,276	(168,274)	756,827
Segment Results:					
Profit before tax	253,460	30,853	7,025	-	291,338

A9) Valuation of Property, Plant and Equipment

The valuations of land and buildings have been brought forward without amendment from the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014.

A10) Events after the Balance Sheet Date

There were no material events after the balance sheet date.

A11) Changes in the Composition of the Group

The 50/50 joint-venture which Oleon NV and United Plantations Bhd entered into in June 2012 by establishing UniOleon Sdn Bhd, with the purpose of producing, marketing, and distributing sustainable palm oil based food emulsifiers has, after mutual agreement, come to an end on 15 October 2015.

Due to the troubled Asian and global economic outlook combined with different strategic views between the joint-venture parties to manage this, it has been decided through an amicable settlement that each of the partners will focus on their core activity. United Plantations has therefore agreed to sell its 50% share to Oleon NV. The disposal is expected to result in a realized loss of RM5.7 million from the jointly controlled entity up to 30 September 2015. The parties nevertheless wish to maintain an open and constructive business relationship in the future as the respective companies share a common vision on the importance of sustainable palm oil.

Other than the above, there were no other changes in the composition of the Group for the period including business combination, acquisition or disposal of subsidiaries and long term investments, restructuring and discontinuing operations.

A12) Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

There were no contingent liabilities or contingent assets as at 21 November 2015.

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Notes to the Interim Financial Report

B1) Directors' Analysis of the Group's Performance for 9 Months Ended 30 September 2015

The Group's profit before tax in the current period increased by 8.4% to RM 291.3 million from RM 268.8 million recorded in the corresponding period. The segmental analysis of the group's performance for the period is as follows:

Plantations

The plantation segment recorded an increase in profit before tax by 3.1% to RM253.5 million in the current period from RM245.8 million in the corresponding period. This was achieved despite CPO and PK prices were 11.2% and 13.9% lower respectively in the same period. This average selling prices of CPO and PK achieved for the period were as follows:

Countries	Products	September 2015 Current Period (RM/MT)	September 2014 Corresponding Period (RM/MT)
Malaysia	CPO	2,203	2,457
Indonesia	CPO	2,020	2,343
Average	CPO	2,159	2,432
Malaysia	PK	1,528	1,766
Indonesia	PK	1,217	1,399
Average	PK	1,467	1,705

The main difference in CPO and PK prices between Malaysia and Indonesia is due to the different duty structures of CPO/PK and the refined products in the two countries.

The increase in profit before tax in the current period was mainly due to the recognition of the non-recurring gain of RM9.9 million from land acquisition by the government authorities in relation to the new West Coast Highway. The higher profit was also due to higher production as well as lower cost of production per mt in the current period as compared to the corresponding period. CPO, PK and Coconuts production increased by 11.3%, 5.5% and 15.6% respectively whereas the costs of production were lower by 8.8%, 2.4% and 3.3% respectively in the current period when compared with the corresponding period.

No windfall gain tax was incurred in the current period as compared to RM1.2 million incurred in the corresponding period as the market monthly average prices of CPO were below the windfall gain tax threshold price of RM2,500/mt in the current period.

Interest income for the Group was higher by 11.6% in the current period from the corresponding period due to higher rates obtained as well as accrued interest from plasma scheme.

Refinery

The profit before tax of the refinery increased by 30.4% in the current period from the corresponding period mainly due to higher sales in the current quarter as well as favourable commodities hedging position.

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Others

The holding companies' investments in Indonesia recorded a RM11.1 million unrealized foreign exchange gain from IDR loans extended to Indonesian subsidiaries in the current period as compared to unrealized gain of RM 1.4 million reported in the corresponding period.

B2) Comparison of Results with Preceding Quarter

Profit before tax jumped by 32.7% from RM 90.1 million in the preceding quarter to RM119.6 million for the quarter under review. The increase was mainly due to higher production of CPO and PK by 7.1% and 7.0% respectively in the current quarter.

The higher profit before tax in the quarter was also due to a very strong performance from the refinery unit as well as the weak RM.

The refinery registered a jump of 180.4% increase from the previous quarter due to 20.7% increase in sales as well as favourable commodities hedging position in the current quarter.

As the result of the weak RM, the holding companies' investments in Indonesia recorded a RM 10.5 million unrealised foreign exchange gain from IDR loans extended to Indonesian subsidiaries in the current quarter as compared to unrealised gain of RM 0.3 million reported in the preceding quarter.

B3) Prospects and Outlook

The world vegetable oil markets during the third quarter have been heavily influenced by El Nino weather uncertainties, and fluctuating currencies. In May it was officially announced that the world would experience an El Nino during the 2nd half of 2015 and maybe into the 1st half of 2016, which during the third quarter was evident in relation to the dry weather experienced especially in Indonesia where large areas experienced acute shortage of rainfall resulting in forest fires causing a terrible haze impacting millions of people in Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. With this impact of the El Nino, and although Malaysian Palm Oil stocks are at an all time high, there has been a significant upward move in global vegetable oil prices as Palm Oil production in 2016 is expected to decline specially in Sumatra and Kalimantan due to the severe drought experienced from July to October 2015.

In addition, the significant depreciation of the Malaysian Ringgit against the USD of approximately 30% over the past year has supported CPO prices in Malaysian Ringgit terms. The weakness in the Malaysian Ringgit is expected to continue during the remaining part of 2015 as the US Federal Reserve may start increasing their interest rate.

Whilst there has been a significant rebound in vegetable oil prices there are still high expectations of a favourable soya bean harvest in the USA and South America which likely will increase the supply of vegetable oils globally and with that the world stocks of the 17 oils and fats. This would likely have a negative effect on prices.

With lower mineral oil prices there has been a reduction in biodiesel production which could further pressure prices as less vegetable oils will be converted to biofuels. Nevertheless, Indonesia has announced measures to increase their usage of palm for biofuel purposes and if they achieve their targets there would be a significant reduction in excess supply thereby supporting prices.

In accordance with its replanting policy, United Plantations will continue to replant large areas of its

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older and less productive oil palm stands in Malaysia during the remaining part of 2015. All areas in its Indonesian operations are currently in production which is expected to compensate for the crop loss from the replanted areas in Malaysia.

In view of the above, and with the current prevailing prices of palm oil and palm kernel in the market, the Board of Directors is of the view that the future will be significantly more challenging. Nevertheless, with the prices contracted under our forward sales policy and with the Indonesian production compensating for the drop arising from the areas undergoing replanting in Malaysia, the Board of Directors expects that the results for 2015, will be satisfactory.

B4) Profit Forecasts

The Group has not issued any profit forecasts for the period under review.

B5) Taxation

The charge for taxation for the period ended 30 September 2015 comprises:

(RM '000)	Current Quarter	Current year-to-date
Current taxation	28,633	68,680
Deferred taxation	2,705	2,886
	31,338	71,566
Profit before taxation	119,571	291,338
Tax at the statutory income tax rate of 25%	29,893	72,835
Tax effects of expenses not deductible/(income not taxable) in determining taxable profit :		
Depreciation on non-qualifying assets	270	810
Double deductions for research and development	(156)	(468)
Underprovision of taxes in prior years	(920)	(637)
Others	2,251	(974)
Tax expense	31,338	71,566

B6) Corporate Proposals

There were no corporate proposals which were announced but not completed as at 21 November 2015.

B7) Group Borrowings

All Group borrowings were unsecured, short term and denominated in Ringgit Malaysia only and outstanding balance as at 30 September 2015 was RM 8,000.

B8) Material Litigation

There was no material litigation as at 21 November 2015.

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B9) Proposed Dividends

The Directors have on 21 November 2015 declared an interim dividend of 20% per share (2014: 20% per share) and a special dividend of 10% per share (2014: 10% per share) for the year ending 31 December 2015 on the issued ordinary share capital of the Company. The dividend is payable on 18 December 2015.

In the corresponding period, an interim extraordinary special dividend of 75% or 75 sen per share for the year ending 31 December 2014 amounting to RM155.8 million was declared and paid on 25 September 2014.

B10) Earnings Per Share (EPS)

The calculation of EPS is based on profit attributable to the ordinary equity holders of the parent company of RM 219,072,000 (2014: RM 205,277,000) and the weighted average number of ordinary shares of 207,792,492 (2014: 207,792,492) in issue during the period.

B11) Disclosure of Realised and Unrealised Profits/Loss

(RM' 000)	As at 30/09/2015	As at 31/12/2014
Total retained profits of the Company and its subsidiaries:		
- Realised	1,919,961	1,812,800
- Unrealised	(83,003)	(80,590)
	1,836,958	1,732,210
Total share of accumulated losses from an jointly controlled entity:		
- Realised	(3,088)	(1,695)
Associated company:		
- Realised	(51)	(51)
	1,833,819	1,730,464
Consolidation adjustments	(15,838)	(6,880)
Total Group retained profits as per consolidated financial statements	1,817,981	1,723,584

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12) Others

As United International Enterprises Limited which is the largest shareholder of the Company is listed in NASDAQ OMX Copenhagen A/S (Nasdaq CPH) and to comply with the directive of the Danish Business Authority, the Directors had under Note 10 (a) of the Annual Report 2014 presented the financial effect on the financial statements of the Group had biological assets been measured at fair value in accordance with IAS 41 Agriculture.

The fair valuation of the biological assets is based on the discounted cash flow method with the assumptions of prices, yield, costs etc based on long term historical averages. The Directors have as at 30 September 2015 reassessed these assumptions and are of the opinion these have not changed significantly and the fair value is therefore not materially different from the valuation made as at 31 December 2014.

By Order of the Board

A. Ganapathy

Company Secretary

Jendarata Estate
36009 Teluk Intan
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Malaysia

21 November 2015

United Plantations Berhad

Contact information

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