

Third Quarter Report 2016



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 2016

(The figures have not been audited)

(RM '000)	Individual Quarter 3 months ended 30 September		Cumulative Quarter 9 months ended 30 September	
	2016	2015	2016	2015
Revenue	293,671	267,219	830,985	756,827
Operating expenses	(198,267)	(167,710)	(626,642)	(512,550)
Other operating income	6,353	(16,068)	54,541	32,836
Finance costs	(6)	(6)	(18)	(21)
Interest income	6,729	8,957	20,724	22,505
Share of results of jointly controlled entity	-	(4,957)	-	(8,259)
Profit before taxation	108,480	119,571	279,590	291,338
Income tax expense	(25,193)	(31,338)	(63,886)	(71,566)
Profit after taxation	83,287	88,233	215,704	219,772
Profit for the period	83,287	88,233	215,704	219,772
Net profit attributable to:				
Equity holders of the parent	83,137	88,237	215,244	219,072
Non-controlling interests	150	(4)	460	700
	83,287	88,233	215,704	219,772
Earnings per share				
(i) Basic - based on an average 207,792,492 (2015: 207,792,492) ordinary shares (sen)	40.01	42.46	103.59	105.43
(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 2015.

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Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for the Nine Months ended 30 September 2016 (The figures have not been audited)

(RM '000)	Individual Quarter 3 months ended 30 September		Cumulative Quarter 9 months ended 30 September	
	2016	2015	2016	2015
Profit for the period	83,287	88,233	215,704	219,772
Currency translation differences arising from consolidation	3,245	3,605	1,968	3,844
Reversal of available for sale reserve	-	-	(893)	-
Total Comprehensive income	86,532	91,838	216,779	223,616
Total comprehensive income attributable to:				
Equity holders of the parent	86,050	91,842	215,675	222,916
Non-controlling interests	482	(4)	1,104	700
	86,532	91,838	216,779	223,616

The Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the Annual Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015.

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Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as at 30 September 2016 (The figures have not been audited)

(RM '000)	30 September 2016	31 December 2015
Assets		
Non-Current Assets		
Biological assets	440,910	424,747
Property, plant and equipment	943,869	936,861
Land use rights	36,155	33,890
Associated company	50	50
Available for sale financial assets	-	6,446
Derivatives	4,267	-
Total non-current assets	1,425,251	1,401,994
Current Assets		
Inventories	152,675	110,987
Trade & other receivables	178,146	206,910
Prepayments	3,371	1,616
Tax recoverable	15,110	985
Derivatives	607	1,239
Cash, bank balances	156,982	400,005
Short term funds	605,122	352,843
Total current assets	1,112,013	1,074,585
Total assets	2,537,264	2,476,579
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	26,289	25,858
Retained profits	1,897,910	1,828,121
	2,305,618	2,235,398
Non-controlling interests	4,262	3,158
Total Equity	2,309,880	2,238,556
Non-Current Liabilities		
Retirement benefit obligations	12,809	10,728
Provision for deferred taxation	125,192	107,417
Derivatives	-	2,154
Total non-current liabilities	138,001	120,299
Current Liabilities		
Trade & other payables	80,984	71,881
Tax payable	7,357	11,526
Retirement benefit obligations	1,028	1,126
Derivatives	-	33,179
Bank borrowings	14	12
Total current liabilities	89,383	117,724
Total liabilities	227,384	238,023
Total equity and liabilities	2,537,264	2,476,579
Net assets per share (RM)	11.10	10.76

The Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the Annual Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015.

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Condensed Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity for the Nine Months Ended at 30 September 2016 (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 2016	208,134	(8,635)	1,828,121	893	181,920	21,798	3,167	2,235,398	3,158	2,238,556
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	215,244	(893)	-	-	1,324	215,675	1,104	216,779
Dividends, representing total transaction with owners	-	-	(145,455)	-	-	-	-	(145,455)	-	(145,455)
Balance at										
30 September 2016	208,134	(8,635)	1,897,910	-	181,920	21,798	4,491	2,305,618	4,262	2,309,880
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 period	-	-	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

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 2015.

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Condensed Consolidated Cash Flow Statements for the Nine Months Ended 30 September 2016

(The figures have not been audited)

(RM '000)	9 months ended 30 September	
	2016	2015
Operating Activities		
-Receipts from operations	820,679	733,904
-Operating payments	(581,706)	(525,907)
Cash flow from operations	238,973	207,997
Other operating receipts	14,070	11,781
Taxes paid	(64,797)	(53,252)
Cash flow from operating activities	188,246	166,526
Investing Activities		
- Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	8,728	11,020
- Proceeds from disposal of investment	21,030	-
- Interest received	23,598	23,658
- Net Change in short term funds	(252,279)	(130,841)
- Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(55,354)	(45,252)
- Pre-cropping expenditure incurred	(30,609)	(29,842)
- Prepaid lease payments made	(912)	(192)
- Investment in jointly controlled entity	-	(2,000)
Cash flow from investing activities	(285,798)	(173,449)
Financing Activities		
- Dividends paid	(145,455)	(124,675)
- Interest paid	(18)	(21)
Cash flow from financing activities	(145,473)	(124,696)
Net Change in Cash & Cash Equivalents	(243,025)	(131,619)
Cash & Cash Equivalents at beginning of year	399,993	541,350
Cash & Cash Equivalents at end of period	156,968	409,731

The Condensed Consolidated Cash Flow Statements should be read in conjunction with the Annual Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015. Short Term Funds of RM605,122,000 (2015: RM327,077,000) are excluded from Cash Flow Statements due to reclassification of Short Term Funds from Cash & Cash Equivalents as reported in the last Annual Audited Financial Statements.

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 2016, 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 2015. 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 2015.

The significant accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2015, except for the adoption of the following new Financial Reporting Standards (FRS), Amendments to FRS and IC Interpretations with effect from 1 January 2016.

On 1 January 2016, the Group adopted the following Amendments to FRS:-

- Amendments to FRS 5: Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations (Annual Improvements to FRSs 2012-2014 Cycle)
- Amendments to FRS 7: Financial Instruments: Disclosures (Annual Improvements to FRSs 2012-2014 Cycle)
- 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)
- Amendments to FRS 11: Accounting for Acquisitions of Interests in Joint Operations
- FRS 14: Regulatory Deferral Accounts
- Amendments to FRS 101: Presentation of Financial Statements: Disclosure Initiative
- Amendments to FRS 116 and FRS 138 Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortization
- Amendments to FRS 119: Employee Benefits (Annual Improvements to FRSs 2012-2014 Cycle)
- Amendments to FRS 127: Equity Method in Separate Financial Statements
- Amendments to FRS 134: Interim Financial Reporting (Annual Improvements to FRSs 2012-2014 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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Notes to the Interim Financial Report

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
FRS 9 Financial Instruments	1 Jan 2018

A2) Audit Report

The auditor's report on the financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2015 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.

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 2016, 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.

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Notes to the Interim Financial Report

A7) Dividends Paid

The following dividends were paid on 18 May 2016 in respect of the financial year ended 31 December 2015:

Ordinary	(RM '000)
Final dividend 20.0% Paid	41,558
Special dividend 50.0% Paid	103,897
Total	145,455

A8) Segmental Information

Segmental information for the current period:

(RM '000)	Plantations	Refining	Other Segments	Elimination	Total
Segment Revenue:					
External Sales	234,203	595,669	1,113	-	830,985
Inter-segment Sales	206,606	-	-	(206,606)	-
	440,809	595,669	1,113	(206,606)	830,985
Segment Results:					
Profit before tax	223,165	49,541	6,884	-	279,590

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 2015.

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

There were no significant 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 19 November 2016.

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Notes to the Interim Financial Report

B1) Directors' Analysis of the Group's Performance for 9 Months Ended 30 September 2016

The Group's profit before tax at RM279.6 million for the current period was 4.0% lower than RM291.3 million achieved in the corresponding period. The analysis of the performance in accordance to the segments are as follows:-

Plantations

This major segment of the Group's profit before tax for the current period decreased by 12.0% to RM223.2 million from RM253.5 million from the corresponding period. The drop in profit before tax was mainly due to lower production as well as higher costs of production in the current period than the corresponding period. The higher profit recorded in the corresponding period was also due to the non-recurring gain of RM9.9 million recorded from land acquisition by the government authorities in relation to the new West Coast Expressway. The comparative weaker performance of the current period was buffered by the non-recurring gain of RM15.2 million from the disposal of the available-for-sale investment.

CPO and PK production decreased by 16.0% and 15.8% and cost of production of CPO and PK increased by 31.8% and 20.5% respectively. The higher cost of production was due to lower production as well as higher manuring cost in the period under review. The average selling prices of CPO and PK achieved for the period were as follows:-

Countries	Products	September 2016 Current Period (RM/MT)	September 2015 Corresponding Period (RM/MT)
Malaysia	CPO	2,327	2,203
Indonesia	CPO	2,197	2,020
Average	CPO	2,297	2,159
Malaysia	PK	1,924	1,528
Indonesia	PK	1,746	1,217
Average	PK	1,889	1,467

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 CPO and PK prices in the current period were higher than the corresponding period by 6.4% and 28.7% respectively.

RM1,252,000 of windfall gain tax was incurred in the current period and no incurrence of such tax in the corresponding period as the market monthly average prices of CPO were below the windfall gain tax threshold price of RM2,500/MT.

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Notes to the Interim Financial Report

Interest income for the Group was lower by 7.9% in the current period from the corresponding period mainly due to a substantial portion of the Group's deposits were placed under unit trust cash funds which paid lower rates than conventional deposits but yielded higher net returns.

Refinery

The profit before tax of the refinery surged to RM49.5 million from RM30.9 million, mainly due to the reversal of unrealized foreign exchange losses booked in its accounts as at 31 December 2015 as the result of the strengthening of the Malaysian Ringgit against USD in the current period. Favorable hedging and trading positions also contributed to this significant increase.

Notwithstanding the above, the extraordinary performance of the refinery for the period is not a realistic reflection of the expected performance for the remaining quarter of 2016.

Others

As the result of weakening of Malaysian Ringgit against Indonesian Rupiah, the holding companies' investments in Indonesia recorded a RM3.1 million unrealized foreign exchange gain from IDR loans extended to Indonesian subsidiaries in the current period as compared to unrealized gain of RM11.1 million reported in the corresponding period.

B2) Comparison of Results with Preceding Quarter

Profit before tax for the current quarter at RM108.5 million was 24.7% higher than RM87.0 million recorded in the preceding quarter.

The profit before tax of the plantation division increased by 8.5% due to higher production of CPO and PK by 16.4% and 16.0% as well as lower cost of production by 15.7% and 16.0% respectively. The higher CPO and PK prices achieved in the current quarter also contributed to the increase.

The refinery recorded a 2,809% surge in profit before tax in the current quarter mainly due to the significantly lower profit before tax reported in the previous quarter as the result of partial reversal of unrealized foreign exchange gain recognised in the first quarter due to the weakening of RM against USD.

The holding companies' investments in Indonesia in the current and previous quarters recorded a quarterly unrealized foreign exchange gain of RM7.2 million from IDR loans extended due to the strengthening of Indonesian Rupiah against Malaysian Ringgit.

B3) Prospects and Outlook

Palm oil prices have during the 3rd quarter of 2016 experienced volatile trading starting the month of July at around RM 2,200/MT while trading above RM 2,700/ MT during the month of September.

In July the prices were pressured by poor demand, however, during August and September markets firmed up supported by a combination of restocking activities in China and strong buying from India ahead of the Deepavali festival. However the underlying factor for the recent price rally was primarily due to the shortfall in production in South East Asian palm oil producing countries like Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand following the severe El Nino of 2015.

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Notes to the Interim Financial Report

As reported during the 2nd quarter, the Malaysian government in February 2016 decided to suspend the recruitment of all guest workers to Malaysia in order to assess certain gaps in the labour force. The decision imposed a fundamental risk for the Palm Oil Industry. However, fortunately the suspension of Guest workers was lifted during the month of September enabling companies to start recruiting guest workers again alleviating what was turning into a severe labour shortfall on most estates in Malaysia. This important decision by the Malaysian Government minimized the risk of serious crop losses in the fields .

With the prospects of recovering palm oil production following the adverse effects of the El Niño combined with the US and South American soybean crop looking favorable, there is a likelihood of higher vegetable oil stocks which may result in a reversal in prices during the last part of 2016 and early 2017. Furthermore, with the significant decline in mineral oil prices, it is expected that there will be a reduction in the amount of vegetable oils being converted into biodiesel. It is therefore unlikely that this year's 20% biodiesel admixture mandate in Indonesia will be fulfilled which in turn would be a dampening factor on demand for palm oil and with that prices.

Nevertheless with the excess rain experienced in many parts of Malaysia recently, causing problems with crop evacuation, combined with the weakening Malaysian Ringgit which has depreciated to RM 4.40 against the USD, CPO prices are keeping firm for the time being.

In accordance with its replanting policy, UP continued to replant large areas of its older and less productive oil palm stands in Malaysia during 2016. The necessary replanting policy combined with the company's continuous initiatives to keep costs low by raising productivity has helped to consolidate the Company's position as being one of the most efficient Malaysian palm oil producers.

Based on the above and with the assumption that prices will remain around the present price range, the Board of Directors expects that the results for 2016 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 2016 comprises:

(RM '000)	Current Quarter	Current year-to-date
Current taxation	21,145	46,502
Deferred taxation	4,048	17,384
	25,193	63,886
Profit before taxation	108,480	279,590
Tax at the statutory income tax rate of 24%	26,035	67,102
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	2,289	2,006
Others	(3,245)	(5,564)
Tax expense	25,193	63,886

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Notes to the Interim Financial Report

B6) Corporate Proposals

There were no corporate proposals which were announced but not completed as at 19 November 2016.

B7) Group Borrowings

All Group borrowings were unsecured, short term and denominated in Ringgit Malaysia only and outstanding balance as at 30 September 2016 was RM 14,000.

B8) Material Litigation

There was no material litigation as at 19 November 2016.

B9) Proposed Dividends

The Directors have on 19 November 2016 declared an interim dividend of 20% per share (2015: 20% per share) and a special dividend of 10% per share (2015: 10% per share) for the year ending 31 December 2016 on the issued ordinary share capital of the Company. The dividend is payable on 16 December 2016.

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 215,244,000 (2015: RM 219,072,000) and the weighted average number of ordinary shares of 207,792,492 (2015: 207,792,492) in issue during the period.

B11) Disclosure of Realised and Unrealised Profits/Loss

(RM' 000)	As at 30/09/2016	As at 31/12/2015
Total retained profits of the Company and its subsidiaries:		
- Realised	1,998,060	1,919,201
- Unrealised	(100,393)	(82,618)
	1,897,667	1,836,583
Total share of accumulated losses from an jointly controlled entity:		
- Realised	-	(8,576)
Associated company:		
- Realised	(51)	(51)
	1,897,616	1,827,956
Consolidation adjustments	294	165
Total Group retained profits as per consolidated financial statements	1,897,910	1,828,121

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Notes to the Interim Financial Report

12) Others

United International Enterprises Limited which is the largest shareholder of the Company listed in NASDAQ OMX Copenhagen A/S (Nasdaq CPH) had early adopted Amendments to IAS16 and IAS41 for bearer plants issued by International Accounting Standard Board (IASB) which is equivalent to Amendments to MFRS116 and MFRS141 Agriculture: Bearer Plants as issued by Malaysian Accounting Standard Board (MASB). The Group does not early adopt these standards which are mandatory effective 1 January 2018.

In compliance with Part D-Thorough Public Dissemination under Chapter 9 of Bursa's listing requirements which stipulated that disclosure should not be made on selective basis, the Group had under Note 32 of the Annual Report 2015 disclosed the financial effects of adoption of MFRS141 and would continue to make such disclosure until adoption of these standards in 2018.

Currently, the application of the amendments of MFRS141 are being discussed and hence, there appears to be at the moment, no consensus on how to measure the fruits growing on the trees. The Group is currently adopting a method of valuation that it believes best reflects the biological transformation of fruit bunches on palm trees and coconuts. The Group will, however, follow the development of an industry practice closely and it will align with the emerged consensus on how to measure the produce growing on the bearer assets upon issuance of a guidance. Under the envisaged method, the financial effects of the amendments of MFRS 141 as at 30 September 2016 are as follows:

	Increase/(Decrease)	
	30/09/2016	30/09/2015
	RM'000	RM'000
Comprehensive Income	5,474	1,955
Biological Assets	5,474	1,955
Deferred Taxation	(1,314)	(489)
Equity	4,160	1,466

By Order of the Board

A. Ganapathy

Company Secretary

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36009 Teluk Intan
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Malaysia

19 November 2016

Contact information

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