



GUINNESS ANCHOR BERHAD (GAB) IN SOLID POSITION TO DELIVER ANOTHER YEAR OF GROWTH
Profit for the 1st half grows by 17%

PETALING JAYA, 23 February 2012 - Guinness Anchor Berhad (GAB) today announced that it has recorded an increase of 17% in its profit after tax, from RM103 million to a total of RM121 million for the six months ended 31 December 2011, as compared to the previous corresponding period. As for revenue, it increased by 16% to a total of RM913 million for the period under review.

As for the second quarter ended 31 December 2011, the company achieved RM468 million in revenue, up by 11% from RM421 million a year earlier, on the back of strong sales generated during large scale commercial events and due to the timing of an earlier Chinese New Year compared to last year.

Still on the second quarter; whilst reported profit grew by 2%, there was a one-off reversal of costs over-accrued in the previous financial year. With the exclusion of this reversal, the like-for-like profit before tax for the quarter ended 31 December 2011 grew by 18%.

Earnings per share for the 1st half grew to 40.06 sen against 34.20 sen for the same period last year, while net assets per share attributable to shareholders stood at RM1.67 as at 31 December 2011. GAB also declared a single tier interim dividend of 10 sen per 50 sen stock unit for the financial year ending 30 June 2012. The total dividend for the period ended 31 December 2011, including the single tier special interim dividend of 60 sen per stock unit which was declared on 12 December 2011, was 70 sen per 50 sen stock unit.

GAB's Managing Director, Mr Charles Ireland, said "Our performance is in line with expectations. Our domestic business is performing well, however we do see a significant reduction in our duty free and export volume as a result of our strategy to focus on the local market."

On brand performances, Charles highlights that "Guinness is definitely the star of the first half, while Heineken again grew by double-digits and Tiger continues to consolidate its leadership position in the malt liquor market."

He attributes the brands' performances to GAB's investments in world-class brand experiences such as Arthur's Day, Heineken Thirst and Tiger Street Football which are all very well received by drinkers and have all become icons on Malaysia's events calendar.

Charles also pointed out that the company is progressing well on other fronts. The company's major capex projects such as "Project Quantum", a RM40 million IT infrastructure upgrade initiative, is expected to be completed in December 2012, on budget, on time and in full.

According to Charles, moving ahead, GAB will continue its winning formula of investing in people, brands and performance.

“Over the past few months, we were able to fill 2 key roles in the Management Team. Anand Panchalingam, an IT specialist who has 18 years of experience under his belt working for companies such as BAT and Accenture is now our Chief Information Officer. While Cornelius Koh, a HR veteran with around 20 years of experience with Tan Chong Group and Motorola joined us on 1st January this year to be our HR Director. With them on board, the Management Team is now in full force.

“Our people have always been our key asset. With a good performance in the 1st half, I am confident that GAB will deliver a satisfactory performance across the full year,” Charles said.

As for brands, GAB will continue to further enhance the world-class experiences that have been created for consumers. Over the next couple of months, consumers can look forward to an even larger St Patrick’s Day celebration in March and a more exciting Tiger Asian Music Festival in April. In May, there will be the Heineken UEFA Champions League Finals and the Borneo Jazz Festival hosted by Strongbow.

In the company’s drive to become the employer of choice in Malaysia, GAB is also currently undergoing an employee benefits review to ensure that the company’s offering is in line with best practices in the industry and country.

On a final note, Charles said, “We are certainly ramping up our various initiatives to ensure that our position remains solid and that we are able to deliver the performance our shareholders have come to expect.”

- Ends -

About Guinness Anchor Berhad

GAB with its portfolio of iconic, international brands, is the beer and stout market leader in Malaysia. GAB brews, markets and distributes:

- Asia’s fastest growing beer TIGER;
- The world’s No 1 stout GUINNESS Foreign Extra Stout and its variant Guinness Draught;
- The world’s No 1 international premium beer HEINEKEN;
- The all-time favourite quality local brew ANCHOR SMOOTH and its strong beer variant ANCHOR STRONG;
- The premium Irish ale KILKENNY;
- The real Shandy ANGLIA;

GAB also produces the wholesome, premium quality non-alcoholic MALTA. GAB brand portfolio also include the world’s best selling cider STRONGBOW, the no.1 German wheat beer PAULANER and the original Mexican beer SOL.

Listed on the Main Market of Bursa Malaysia, GAB evolved from the merger between Guinness Malaysia Bhd and Malayan Breweries (Malaya) Sdn Bhd. The company’s principal shareholder is GAPL Pte Ltd based in Singapore. GAPL Pte Ltd is a joint venture between Diageo PLC and Asia Pacific Breweries Ltd. Guinness Anchor Marketing Sdn Bhd is a 100% owned subsidiary of GAB.