



GUINNESS ANCHOR BERHAD (GAB) DOUBLES INTERIM DIVIDEND TO 20 SEN PER SHARE

PETALING JAYA, 21 February 2013 – Guinness Anchor Berhad (GAB) announced a profit after tax of RM123 million for the first six months ended 31 December 2012. This is an increase of about RM2 million when compared with the previous corresponding period and this is despite a significant shift of volume from December to January, hence from H1 to H2, as a result of the later timing this year of Chinese New Year. GAB's profit before tax (PBT) for the first six months was also up by 1.6% at RM164 million.

Revenue for the second quarter ended 31 December 2012 was down by 8.3%, to RM429.4 million as compared to the same quarter last year. The drop is attributed to the timing of this year's Chinese New Year which is about three weeks later than last year's. A significant portion of the sales achieved for this Chinese New Year will be recognised in the third quarter of the financial year (FY) 2013.

Earnings per share for the quarter under review grew to 21.90 sen compared to 21.79 sen compared to a year ago, while net assets per share attributable to shareholders stood at RM1.11.

In light of the above performance, and consistent with the group's revised informal dividend policy, the group has declared an interim dividend of 20 sen per share, double last year's interim dividend of 10 sen per share.

Managing Director, Charles Ireland said GAB's second quarter performance was in line with expectations. "We are on track for our full year ambitions of achieving our 12th consecutive year of growth. GAB's underlying performance is further ahead than reported due to the later timing of the Chinese New Year. Hence, much of this year's Chinese New Year performance will be recognised in the next half of the financial year."

During the financial results announcement, Charles also reflected on his term at GAB as this will be his last month with the Company. "Looking back, I am very pleased that GAB was able to record its 11th consecutive year of growth during my term. During the past 6 years, the Company has grown significantly. To give some perspective, our half year PBT announced today is almost on par with the full financial year in FY2008."



Charles added, “Our brand volumes have grown phenomenally too. I am delighted that Tiger, Guinness, Heineken, Anchor and Kilkenny have all grown, in every year, whilst I have been with GAB.”

“We are able to achieve such results, so consistently, because we believe in focusing on our core brands and through focusing it allows us to invest in world class brand experiences such as Tiger Asian Music Festival, Guinness St Patrick’s Day and Heineken Thirst. By focusing, we are also able to constantly enhance the quality standards of our products which led us to win the Guinness League of Excellence award five times in a row. Finally, by focusing, we are also able to create trade initiatives that are of value and benefit to our trade partners, like the training programmes conducted by GAB Professional Solutions,” Charles explained.

At the briefing, Charles also highlighted that Project Quantum, the Company’s first major IT infrastructure upgrade in over ten years when embedded will bring about strategic competitive advantage.

Charles also took the opportunity to introduce his successor, Mr Hans Essaadi at the financial results announcement. Hans will take over the helm from Charles on 1 March 2013. Hans has been with Heineken Group for over 20 years and has served in various capacities across several different business units and regions around the world. He was most recently the General Manager of Sirocco, Heineken Region Africa & Middle East – a joint venture between Heineken and Emirates in the Gulf Region.

When asked about his plans for GAB, Hans pointed out that the Company already is tremendously successful and that he certainly has very big shoes to fill. “I will certainly strive to continue with GAB’s value strategy, by providing value to our consumers and trade partners and providing value through quality and efficiency. Through that approach, it is my hope that GAB will continue to achieve sustained growth.”

Outlook

GAB expects to increase its market share again during FY2013. The domestic market is expected to remain resilient albeit in a period of relatively low growth.



Moving forward, GAB remains committed to maintaining its competitiveness and leadership position in the industry through continued investments in its people, brands and performance.

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About Guinness Anchor Berhad (GAB)

GAB with its portfolio of iconic, international brands, is the leading brewer in Malaysia. GAB brews, markets and distributes:

- Asia's fastest growing beer TIGER;
- The world's No 1 stout GUINNESS;
- The world's No 1 international premium beer HEINEKEN;
- The all-time local favourite 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's brand portfolio also includes the UK's bestselling cider STRONGBOW and the no.1 German wheat beer PAULANER.

Listed on the Main Market of Bursa Malaysia, GAB's principal shareholder is GAPL Pte Ltd based in Singapore. GAPL Pte Ltd is a joint venture company whose ultimate owners are Diageo PLC, a company incorporated in England and Wales, and Asia Pacific Breweries Ltd, a company incorporated in Singapore, which in turn is also a subsidiary of Heineken NV. Guinness Anchor Marketing Sdn Bhd is a 100% owned subsidiary of GAB.