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Scientex 1Q net profit jumps 39%, declares 10 sen dividend

BY SURIN MURUGIAH

KUALA LUMPUR: Scientex Bhd's net profit for the first quarter ended Oct 31, 2017 (1QFY18) rose 39% to RM72.40 million from RM52.06 million a year earlier, lifted by better sales from its manufacturing and property development segments.

Revenue for the quarter rose 23% year-on-year to RM658.68 million from RM534.68 million previously, its Bursa Malaysia filing yesterday showed.

Earnings per share for the quarter improved to 14.97 sen from 11.32 sen a year earlier. Scientex declared a final dividend of 10 sen, payable on Jan 26 next year.

It also announced a dividend reinvestment programme (DRP) on the entire final dividend payout which has been approved at its annual general meeting yesterday. The issue price of new shares to be issued to the DRP was fixed at RM7.80 per share. The entitlement date for the DRP and the final dividend payout were fixed for Dec 28.

Scientex, via its subsidiaries,

makes polyvinyl chloride, polyurethane leather sheetings, packaging materials, bricks and automotive parts. It also develops properties.

On prospects in the manufacturing segment, Scientex said it will remain vigilant to external forces and risks such as resin price fluctuations, raw material supply constraints, geo-political developments, as well as fluctuations in foreign currency rates.

On its property division, Scientex said its focus on affordable housing will continue to dominate and lead the way to contribute to sales revenue for the coming financial year.

It said its 197.4-acre (80ha) Melaka Durian Tunggal land is slated to feature affordable homes and expected to be launched in the current financial year.

The group recently bought some pieces of land in Rawang as well. It is optimistic that these strategically-located tracts are able to meet pent-up demand for good, affordable housing in Rawang and the Klang Valley," Scientex said.