Headline	**S&P's top 25 stock picks for the year**		
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Frequency	**Daily**	ADValue	**21,204**
Circ / Read	**293,375 / 1,026,812**	PRValue	**63,611**

S&P's top 25 stock picks for the year

1. Genting Bhd

We like Genting for its wide experience in the casino business, expanding footprint and financial strength.

It offers exposure to the integrated resort in Singapore, which will be a significant contributor to earnings over the medium term, while domestic casino operation will provide relatively stable earnings.

The management continues to seek casino opportunities elsewhere to expand its footprint further.

Valuations are not demanding at current level with the stock trading at a discount of about 20% to its sum-of-parts value.

2. HELP International Bhd

HELP's track record is evident in its double-digit growth both in revenue and net profit over the past three years, while enjoying the highest net profit margin among its listed peers.

We expect the double-digit trend to continue, underpinned by a steady increase in local and international student intake as well as overseas expansions via franchising and licensing arrangements.

3. QSR Brands Bhd

QSR Brands is well positioned to benefit from improving consumer sentiment.

It provides exposure to two leading franchises in Malaysia and Singapore – market leader KFC as well as Pizza Hut's higher value concept that normally outperforms in a better economy.

QSR is a cheaper alternative at a 2010 price-to-earnings ratio (PER) of 8.4 times versus KFC's 10.4 times.

In the longer term, we believe profit growth will emanate from the opening of 30 KFC stores and 16 to 18 new Pizza Hut outlets in Malaysia, while operations in Indochina and India will provide an additional kick to profits.

4. Carlsberg Brewery (M) Bhd

We are positive on Carlsberg in 2010 with its acquisition of Carlsberg Singapore, which is expected to add RM35mil per annum from profit contribution and cost/synergy savings.

The acquisition also provides Carlsberg a new growth engine outside the anemic Malaysian malt liquor market.

Carlsberg is currently traded at an undemanding 2010 PER of 12 times, below its 5-year historical traded average of 17 times and its key rival Guinness Anchor Bhd, which is traded at 14 times.

5. KL Kepong Bhd

We note much of the good news for the palm oil markets has probably been reflected but we believe that investor interest in the plantation industry should remain strong, underpinned by a favourable outlook and the potential for higher CPO prices over the mid-term.

While the stock is no longer cheap at 19.6 times annualised 2010 earnings, a positive management track record, decent earnings per share (EPS) growth of 32%, and relatively high proportion of young and prime plantation acreages makes KLK the preferred blue-chip plantation pick.

Its recent 60:40 Indonesia joint venture for the replanting of 207,000 hectares of oil palm will provide further growth potential.

6. United Plantations Bhd

Although relatively small in size with planted area of only 46,100 hectares, United Plantantations is still one of the most efficiently managed plantation groups in the country with superior yield and cost-competitive operations.

This is due to its continued efforts in upgrading its facilities and infrastructure.

Its Indonesian operations will be the main growth driver from 2011 when new acreage begins its maiden contributions.

Valuations are not demanding with 2010 PER of 9.4 times versus the sector-weighted PER of 16.5 times.

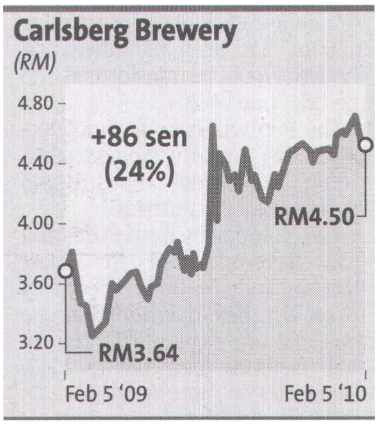
7. Alam Maritim Resources Bhd

With one of the youngest fleets of service vessels in the industry (average age below six years), all of which are Malaysian-registered, Alam Maritim is a beneficiary of continued upstream oil and gas activities in the country.

We expect a continued expansion in underwater and diving revenue, as Alam Maritim leverages on its venture with Singapore's Swiber Ltd to own and operate a pipelay vessel.

Upstream support activities are likely to pick up this year, judging from the recent flurry of contract

> TURN TO B9



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