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MALAYSIAN PROPERTY AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES: DIVERSIFICATION POTENTIAL, STOCK PRICE BEHAVIOUR AND ITS RESPONSE TOWARDS MACROECONOMIC SHOCKS



DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA August 2016 MALAYSIAN PROPERTY AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES: DIVERSIFICATION POTENTIAL, STOCK PRICE BEHAVIOUR AND ITS RESPONSE TOWARDS MACROECONOMIC SHOCKS



Thesis submitted to School of Economics, Finance and Banking Universiti Utara Malaysia, In Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of Philisophy

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ABSTRACT

This thesis investigates diversification benefits of investing in the property and construction stocks in Malaysia from 1995 to 2013 by using correlation analysis. Panel ARDL (autoregressive distributed lag) is used to examine the relationship between both sectors' stock prices and their fundamental variables (NAV (net asset value), EPS (earnings per share) and DPS (dividend per share)), where it involves panel cointegration and error correction mechanism (ECM). Another objective of this thesis is to discover the impact of macroeconomic shocks on both sectors' stock prices, which is investigated through the impulse response analysis and variance decomposition analysis. Annual data from twenty-eight listed property companies and sixteen listed construction companies are evaluated. Diversification benefits do exist between both sectors' stocks. EPS is a significant fundamental variable for explaining both sectors' stock price change while NAV is only significant in influencing property stock price changes. DPS is not relevant for both sectors. The ECM shows that both sectors' stock prices move back to equilibrium at a fairly similar speed. The impulse response functions results indicate that interest rate changes influence stock prices the most while trade openness shocks have slight Variance decomposition analysis found that the effects on the stock prices. percentage movement in the stock prices is highest when shocked by interest rate changes while trade openness changes do not influence the stock prices significantly. The impact on property stock prices is higher to economic shocks compared to the construction sector. The findings could aid investors in making sound decisions about their investment as it is proven that they could benefit from investing in both sectors. Investors could look into the fundamental variables which are useful in determining the stock prices movements. Policy makers should control the interest rate adjustments, determine the GDP growth rate, monitor the inflation rate and trade openness policies as shocks to these variables are proven to affect stock prices significantly. Universiti Utara Malaysia

Keywords: property sector, construction sector, diversification, fundamental variables, macroeconomic shocks

ABSTRAK

Tesis ini mengkaji manfaat kepelbagaian melabur dalam saham hartanah dan pembinaan di Malaysia dari tahun 1995-2013 dengan menggunakan analisis korelasi. Analisis panel ARDL (autoregresif lat teragih) digunakan untuk mengkaji hubungan di antara harga saham kedua-dua sektor dengan pemboleh ubah-pemboleh ubah asasnya (NAV (nilai aset bersih), EPS (perolehan per syer) dan DPS (dividen per syer)) di mana ia melibatkan kaedah kointegrasi panel dan anggaran pembetulan ralat Satu lagi objektif tesis ini adalah untuk mencari kesan kejutan (ECM). makroekonomi terhadap harga saham kedua-dua sektor yang disiasat melalui analisis tindakbalas impuls dan varians penguraian. Data tahunan daripada dua puluh lapan syarikat hartanah dan enam belas syarikat pembinaan yang tersenarai dalam Bursa Malaysia dinilai. Manfaat kepelbagaian ternyata wujud di antara saham kedua-dua EPS didapati merupakan pemboleh ubah asas yang penting bagi sektor. menerangkan perubahan harga saham kedua-dua sektor manakala NAV hanya penting dalam mempengaruhi perubahan harga saham sektor hartanah sahaja. DPS didapati tidak relevan untuk kedua-dua sektor. ECM menunjukkan bahawa harga saham kedua-dua sektor bergerak kepada keseimbangan pada kelajuan yang agak sama. Keputusan analisis tindakbalas impuls menunjukkan bahawa perubahan kadar faedah paling banyak mempengaruhi harga saham manakala kejutan keterbukaan perdagangan kurang memberi kesan pada harga saham. Analisis varians penguraian mendapati bahawa peratus perubahan dalam harga saham adalah paling tinggi apabila dikejutkan dengan perubahan kadar faedah manakala perubahan keterbukaan perdagangan tidak mempengaruhi harga saham. Kesan ke atas harga saham sektor hartanah adalah lebih tinggi apabila dikejutkan berbanding sektor pembinaan. Hasil kajian ini dapat membantu pelabur dalam membuat keputusan yang bernas kerana terbukti bahawa mereka boleh mendapat manfaat daripada pelaburan dalam keduadua sektor. Para pelabur boleh mengawasi pemboleh ubah-pemboleh ubah asas yang didapati berguna dalam menentukan pergerakan harga saham. Pihak kerajaan perlu mengawal pelarasan kadar faedah, menentukan kadar pertumbuhan KDNK (Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar), memantau kadar inflasi dan dasar keterbukaan perdagangan kerana perubahan pada pemboleh ubah-pemboleh ubah ini terbukti memberi kesan kepada harga saham secara signifikan.

Kata kunci: sektor hartanah, sektor pembinaan, kepelbagaian, nilai-nilai asas, kejutan makroekonomi

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ETP	: Economic Transformation Programme
GNI	: Gross National Income
NKEA	: National Key Economic Area
KL	: Kuala Lumpur
KV	: Klang Valley
GDP	: Gross National Product
MRT	: Mass Rapid Transit
PPP	: Public-Private Partnership
US	: United States of America
UK	: United Kingdom
NAV	: Net Asset Value
ARM	: Adjustable Rate Mortgages
ECM	: Error Correction Mechanism
DPS	: Dividend per Share
EPS	: Earnings per Share
ARDL	: Autoregressive Distributed Lag
CPI	: Consumer Price Index
SC	: Securities Commission
BNM	: Bank Negara Malaysia
CMSA	: Capital Markets and Services Act 2007
BAFIA	: Banking and Financial Institutions Act 1989
NPL	: Non Performing Loan
LTV	: Loan-To-Value
KLCI	: Kuala Lumpur Composite Index
FTSE	: Financial Times Stock Exchange
MESDAQ	: Malaysian Exchange of Securities Dealing and Automated Quotation
ACE	: Alternative Market of Bursa Malaysia Securities
REHDA	: The Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association of Malaysia
INSPEN	: The National Institute of Valuation
NAPIC	: National Property Information Centre
FIC	: Foreign Investment Committee
FDI	: Foreign Direct Investments
OPR	: Overnight Policy Rate
CIDB	: Construction Industry Development Board

PIA	: Public Amenities Maintenance Projects
PIAS	: Basic Infrastructure Projects
EPF	: Employees Provident Fund
10MP	: Tenth Malaysian Plan
MPT	: Modern Portfolio Theory
EMH	: Efficient Markets Hypothesis
MHPI	: Malaysian Housing Price Index
REIT	: Real Estate Investment Trust
BRICS	: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
NYSE	: New York Stock Exchange
OU	: Ornstein Uhlenbeck Process
DDM	: Dividend Discount Model
RIM	: Residual Income Model
ROA	: Return on Assets
ROE	: Return on Equity
BVPS	: Book Value per Share
EVA	: Economic Value Added
GAAP	: Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
R&D	: Research and Development
P/E	: Price/earnings
P/CF	: Price/Cash Flow
P/BV	: Price/Book Value
P/S	: Price/Sales
CAPM	: Capital Asset Pricing Model
APT	: Arbitrage Pricing Model
FVM	: Fundamental Valuation Model
HPM	: Hedonic Price Model
VAR	: Vector Autoregressive Regression
ASEAN	: Association of Southeast Asian Nations
RM	: Ringgit Malaysia
USD	: US Dollar
EUR	: Euro Dollar
JPY	: Japanese Yen
AMEX	: American Stock Exchange
NASDAQ	: National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations

S&P	: Standard and Poor's
DJIA	: Dow Jones Industrial Average
DR	: Debt Ratio
NPM	: Net Profit Margin
PBR	: Price-to-Book Ratio
ETR	: Effective Tax Rate
IBES	: Institutional Brokers' Estimate System
CRSP	: The Centre for Research in Security Prices
T-Bill	: Treasury Bill
ROCE	: Return on Capital Employed
PPI	: All-Property Price Index
URA	: Urban Redevelopment Authority
M1	: Measure of Physical Money Supply
M2	: Measure of Money Supply that includes Cash, Checking Deposits
	and Near Money
KLSE	: Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange
SES	: Stock Exchange of Singapore
TSE	: Toronto Stock Exchange
PMG	: Pooled Mean Group
MG	: Mean Group
LLC	: Levin-Lin-Chu
ADF	: Augmented Dickey-Fuller
SBC	: Schwartz Bayesian Criterion
VMA	: Vector Moving Average
IRF	: Impulse Response Function
PP	: Phillips-Perron
NOPAT	: Net Operating Profit after Taxes

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Property companies listed on Bursa Malaysia mainly consist of three categories: namely, the property development companies, plantation holding companies and property investment companies. Most of the property companies listed on Bursa Malaysia are property development companies carrying out building development, which means that these companies are directly related to the construction sector. This study will focus only on property development companies as it is comparable to the construction sector, where the aim is to compare the price behaviors of these two sectors.

As at 31st October 2014, the property sector in Bursa Malaysia has eighty-six counters while in comparison, the construction sector consists of forty-four counters. Both sectors are also generally vulnerable to economic conditions. Prices for both sectors soar whenever the economy booms and dip during economic downturns. This can be seen from the movement of both indices. Thus, it can be said that both sectors complement each other in terms of contributing to the country's economic growth. According to the Malaysian Economy in Figures 2013, a report which was published on 30th December 2013 by the Economic Planning Unit of the Malaysian Prime Minister's Department, the construction sector turnover in year 2013 was valued at RM10.45billion with a volume of 5.84billion units while the turnover for the property sector was valued at RM14.87billion (volume of 12.40billion units). This shows that there is some

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