China / Hong Kong Company Guide MMG Ltd

Version 2 | Bloomberg: 1208 HK Equity | Reuters: 1208.HK

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

DBS Group Research . Equity

HOLD (Downgrade from BUY)

Last Traded Price (25 Jan 2019):HK\$2.71(HSI : 27,569) Price Target 12-mth:HK\$3.10 (14.4% upside) (Prev HK\$4.70)

Analyst

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What's New

- 2H18 to see a net loss on higher-than-expected expenses
- Satisfactory operating results at the new mine
- Higher costs to continuously weigh on its earnings, going forward
- Cut TP to HK\$3.1 and downgrade to HOLD

Price Relative



Forecasts and Valuation				
FY Dec (US\$m)	2017A	2018F	2019F	2020F
Turnover	4,143	3,727	3,907	4,090
EBITDA	2,210	1,755	1,834	1,956
Pre-tax Profit	744	302	279	453
Net Profit	147	68	101	187
Net Pft (Pre Ex) (core profit)	(32)	68	101	187
Net Profit Gth (Pre-ex) (%)	79.4	N/A	48.6	85.9
EPS (US\$)	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02
EPS (HK\$)	0.15	0.07	0.10	0.18
Core EPS (US\$)	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.02
Core EPS (HK\$)	(0.03)	0.07	0.10	0.18
EPS Gth (%)	N/A	(54.3)	48.6	85.9
Core EPS Gth (%)	84.0	N/A	48.6	85.9
Diluted EPS (HK\$)	0.14	0.07	0.10	0.18
DPS (HK\$)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BV Per Share (HK\$)	1.19	1.23	1.31	1.47
PE (X)	18.7	40.8	27.5	14.8
CorePE (X)	nm	40.8	27.5	14.8
P/Cash Flow (X)	1.2	1.5	1.7	1.6
P/Free CF (X)	1.6	2.0	2.3	2.1
EV/EBITDA (X)	5.8	6.7	6.1	5.4
Net Div Yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
P/Book Value (X)	2.3	2.2	2.1	1.8
Net Debt/Equity (X)	2.8	2.5	2.2	1.8
ROAE(%)	13.1	5.5	7.7	13.2
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Earnings Rev (%):		(71.5)	(71.7)	(55.9)
Consensus EPS (US\$)		0.02	0.21	0.04
Other Broker Recs:		B: 7	S: 2	H: 5

Source of all data on this page: Company, DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited ("DBS HK"), Thomson Reuters



28 Jan 2019

Higher cost a continuous burden in 2019

To record a net loss in 2H18; downgrade to HOLD. MMG's bottom line is expected to swing into negative territory in 2H18 and decline by c.54% y-o-y for the full-year 2018. In its profit warning, MMG stated lower metal prices, weaker production and several unexpected expenses as reasons for the disappointing results. We had already factored in the downward revision to its production (September 2018) and our metal prices forecasts had been conservative. Still, we cut our 2018F/2019F EPS by 72% each, to factor in the i) increased interest cost burden on rising LIBOR; ii) higher effective tax rate on fixed annual tax payment of c.US\$60-70m in Peru, and ii) h-o-h higher depreciation at Las Bambas. These factors would continue to weigh on MMG in 2019 and beyond. We lower our TP to HK\$3.1 and downgrade the stock to HOLD.

Where we differ: We are more conservative on earnings from zinc in 2019. We initially expected Dugald River mine to drive the company's earnings growth in 2019 as its zinc production increases along with the mine's ramp-up. However, treatment charges (TC) for zinc have been on the rise and we forecast annual zinc TC to be c.US\$200/ton in 2019, up from US\$147/ton in 2018. This implies a downward pressure on MMG's selling prices of zinc ores. As such, an increase in sales volume would likely lead to smaller profit growth than initially expected.

Other potential catalysts: Better-than-expected metal performance; quicker debt repayment. Given the limited upside to MMG's production volume at existing assets beyond 2019, higher prices would be essential for the company to see a substantial top-line growth. Despite short-term volatilities, we remain positive on copper's mid- to long-term outlook backed by the EV growth. On the other hand, the company currently has c.US\$6bn debt tagged to LIBOR, which exposes it to high interest rate sensitivity. As such, accelerated debt repayment would bring about cost savings as well as enhanced earnings stability.

Valuation:

Our HK\$3.1 TP is based on DCF. Our TP is derived from DCF valuation methodology which assumes 9.6% WACC and 1% terminal growth rate. This implies 32.1x PE, 2.4x P/BV and 6.7x EV/EBITDA based on 2019F earnings forecast.

Key Risks to Our View:

Volatility in metal prices; Implications of Mining Code by the Democratic Republic of Congo, FX rate fluctuations and project execution risk

At	A	G	lar	ice		

Issued Capital (m shrs)	8,052
Mkt Cap (HK\$m/US\$m)	21,821 / 2,781
Major Shareholders (%)	
China Minmetals NonFerrous Metals Co., Ltd.	72.6
Free Float (%)	27.4
3m Avg. Daily Val. (US\$m)	4.9
ICB Industry: Basic Materials / Industrial Metals & Minin	g





WHAT'S NEW

Difficult times with higher costs and finite growth on the operation side

Profit warning due to higher expenses. In its profit warning, MMG estimated its 2H18 net loss attributable to shareholders to amount to US\$55-60m, and net profit attributable to shareholders for the full-year 2018 at US\$65-70m. This implies an over 50% decline in the full-year net profit y-o-y and c.70% underperformance against our initial estimate. Impact on our top-line estimates has been minimal, given that we had already factored in the downward revision to its production (September 2018) and our metal prices forecasts had been conservative. However, several unexpected expenses affecting its bottom line have been unveiled.

Firstly, **depreciation and amortisation** increased by c.US\$100m h-o-h, due to i) first full semi-annual operation at Dugald River mine in 2H18 vs. 2-month operation in 1H18 (US\$20m), ii) higher milling and mining volume at Las Bambas mine in 2H18 (US\$60m), and iii) accelerated depreciation for some infrastructure at Las Bambas mine (US\$20m).

Second, **interest cost burden** swelled by a further c.US\$30m ho-h in 2H18. MMG's interest cost increase was higher than our estimates as c.US\$6bn debt tagged to LIBOR. Note that LIBOR increased by c.100bps in 2018.

Also, **effective tax rate** was higher than expected. In addition to corporate tax payment that varies with its profit (c.32%), MMG has to pay c.US\$60m annually as withholding tax in Peru in relation to its Las Bambas facilities. This fixed payment is expected to persist in the near future.

Decent operating result in 4Q18. MMG also announced its 4Q18 production numbers last Friday. The numbers were largely in line with its guidance as well as our earlier forecasts. The technical issues at Las Bambas, which had affected its 3Q18 production and caused the downward revision to its production guidance, have been normalised. For 2019, Dugald River should increase production along with the ramp-up

schedule and Las Bambas production is expected to remain solid as the company maintains its plan to reach 2m-ton production in the first five years (from the start of Las Bambas in 2016). Meanwhile, production at Kinsevere is expected to drop y-o-y on declining ore grades and face higher cost on adoption of DRC mining code. C1 cost at Rosebery mine is expected to increase due to smaller by-product content in ores.

Limited growth in 2019. Given MMG's existing asset portfolio, the only notable growth would stem from its zinc production from Dugald River; its zinc sales volume is forecast to rise 28% y-o-y from 188k tons in 2018 to 240k tons in 2019. However, increase in zinc TC will limit profit growth from zinc. We expect zinc TC to rise to US\$200/ton in 2019, from US\$147/ton in 2018. Also, supply growth in global zinc mine would weigh down LME zinc prices. Accordingly, we expect LME zinc price to decrease 6% to US\$2,750/ton in 2019, from US\$2,922/ton in 2018. For copper, we also forecast a y-o-y lower annual average price in 2019, at US\$6,425/ton (vs. US\$6,534/ton in 2018) although prices will likely bottom out from current levels (US\$5,901/ton for copper and US\$2,636/ton for zinc on 25 Jan). The cost burden for interest and tax will continue to weigh on MMG in 2019.

Revise down earnings estimates. We had expected high interest cost in earlier projection, however, its D&A and tax are larger than our estimates. Further, these costs will remain and continue to weigh on MMG's earnings in 2019 and beyond. Accordingly, we cut our 2018F/2019F EPS by 72% each to US\$0.008 for 2018 and US\$0.013 for 2019. Also, we lower our TP to HK\$3.1 and downgrade the stock to HOLD. Our TP is derived from DCF valuation methodology which assumes 9.6% WACC and 1% terminal growth rate. This implies 32.1 PE, 2.4x P/BV and 6.7x EV/EBITDA based on 2019F earnings forecast.



MMG's production result/guidance

	2019 Guidance	2018 Actual	2018 Guidance
Las Bambas			
Copper production (k tons)	385-405	385.3	375-395
Copper C1 cost (US\$/lb)	1.15-1.25	1.18	1.10-1.20
Dugald River			
Zinc production (k tons)	165-175	147.3	140-150
Zinc C1 cost (US\$/lb)	0.58-0.68	0.58	
Kinsevere			
Copper production (k tons)	77.5-80	79.7	80
Copper C1 cost (US\$/lb)	1.65-1.75	1.68	1.57-1.67
Rosebery			
Zinc production (k tons)	85-95	75.7	70-80
Zinc C1 cost (US\$/lb)	0.25-0.35	(0.04)	0.00-0.15



CRITICAL FACTORS TO WATCH

Critical Factors

Copper sales volume, an important revenue indicator for

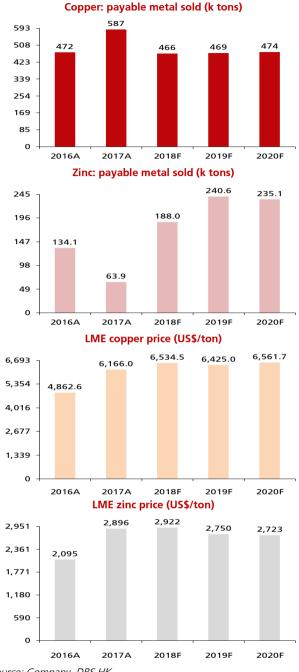
MMG. Copper has been a major earnings contributor for MMG. Following the acquisition of Las Bambas mine, copper's share of revenue reached as high as 86% in 2017. Copper will remain the company's key metal with its revenue contribution estimated at 77% in 2018 and 73%. As such, copper production and sales volume is a critical component of the company's earnings as well as share price.

Increase in zinc sales volume would determine future growth.

With the production and sales volume of copper likely to remain stable in coming years, MMG's revenue growth will be led by the ramp-up of zinc production at Dugald River mine. Zinc will grow in importance to its earnings along with higher production volume from Dugald River mine. Zinc's contribution to the company's revenue will rise to 14.7% in 2019 from c.11% in 2018, and Dugald River mine's EBITDA contribution will rise from an estimated 6% in 2018 to 11% in 2019.

Earnings most highly correlated to copper price. Earnings from each commodity would depend on sales volume as well as prices. Based on 2018, every US\$1/lb change in copper price has a US\$118m impact on its EBIT, according to the company's sensitivity analysis.

Increasing leverage on zinc. The company's sensitivity analysis shows that every US\$1/lb change in zinc price has a US\$35m impact on its EBIT for 2018. This is set to increase going forward along with zinc's rising significance to the company's earnings.



Appendix 1: A look at Company's listed history – what drives its share price?

MMG's share price vs LME copper price



Remark

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Copper has been a major earnings contributor for MMG. Following the acquisition of Las Bambas mine, copper's share of revenue reached as high as 86% in 2017. Accordingly, MMG 's share price moves in tandem with LME copper price.



MMG's share price vs LME zinc price

Zinc is the second biggest contributor to MMG's revenue. Its share of revenue plunged from as high as 36% in 2014 to 4.1% in 2017, due to disposal of mines (Century & Golden Grove). However, this is on the rise again as it acquired Dugald River mine, which started commercial production in 2H17.

Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., DBS HK

Balance Sheet:

Due to financing for its mine acquisitions, the company's net debt rose to US\$9.7bn and net gearing to 4.4x in 2015. However, the company is committed to reducing this, and net debt stood at US\$8.4bn in 2017 while net gearing dropped to 2.8x. Given the company's emphasis on debt reduction, we forecast its net debt level to continue trending down to US\$7.3bn in 2018 and US\$6.7bn in 2019, and net gearing to fall to 2.5x in 2018 and 2.2x in 2019.

Share Price Drivers:

Metal prices. The company's share price moves in tandem with copper and zinc prices, as sales of copper and zinc are first and second highest contributors to earnings.

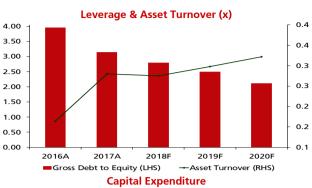
Key Risks:

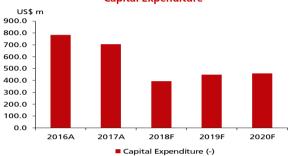
Key risks include (1) Volatility in metal prices; (2) Implications of 2018 Mining Code by the DRC Government; (3) FX rate fluctuations; (4) Project execution risk.

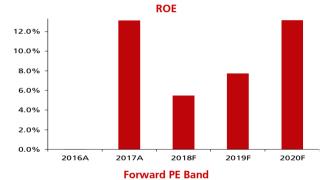
Company Background

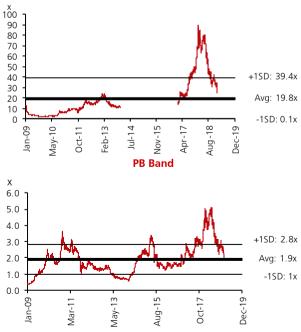
MMG is a mid-tier global resources company that mines, explores and develops base metal projects with focus on copper and zinc. As at September 2018, the company owned a total of four mines across Australia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Peru. This includes Las Bambas and Dugald River, which are among the world's top copper and zinc mines respectively. On payable metal basis, the company sold 586.8k tons of copper, 67.9k tons of zinc, 23.8k tons of lead, as well as some gold, silver and molybdenum in 2017. It has a primary listing in Hong Kong (1208 HK), and secondary listing on Australian Securities Exchange (MMG ASX).

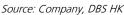












Key Assumptions

2016A	2017A	2018F	2019F	2020F
471.6	586.8	465.9	469.0	474.0
134.1	63.9	188.0	240.6	235.1
4,862.6	6,166.0	6,534.5	6,425.0	6,561.7
2,095.0	2,895.9	2,922.0	2,750.0	2,722.5
	471.6 134.1 4,862.6	471.6 586.8 134.1 63.9 4,862.6 6,166.0	471.6 586.8 465.9 134.1 63.9 188.0 4,862.6 6,166.0 6,534.5	471.6 586.8 465.9 469.0 134.1 63.9 188.0 240.6 4,862.6 6,166.0 6,534.5 6,425.0

Source: Company, DBS HK

Segmental Breakdown (US\$ m)

FY Dec	2016A	2017A	2018F	2019F	2020F
Revenues (US\$ m)					
Las Bambas	1,224	2,937	2,608	2,637	2,816
Kinsevere	400	501	518	501	512
Dugald River	0	0	274	440	447
Rosebery	449	305	330	329	316
Sepon	391	392	0	0	0
Century	24	0	0	0	0
Total	2,489	4,143	3,727	3,907	4,090
EBITDA by Mine (US\$ m)					
Las Bambas	655	1,741	1,360	1,347	1,449
Kinsevere	116	179	183	161	159
Dugald River	0	0	111	207	216
Rosebery	179	156	190	173	185
Sepon	102	119	0	0	0
Century	(10)	0	0	0	C
Others			46.4	55.16	53.1
Total	949	2,210	1,755	1,834	1,956
EBITDA by Mine Margins (%)					-
Las Bambas	53.5	59.3	52.1	51.1	51.5
Kinsevere	29.0	35.7	35.4	32.2	31.1
Dugald River	N/A	N/A	40.4	47.1	48.2
Rosebery	40.0	51.1	57.4	52.7	58.6
Sepon	26.0	30.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Century	(42.3)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	38.1	53.3	48.3	48.4	49.1

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Income Statement (US\$ m)

Income Statement (US\$ r	n <u>)</u>				
FY Dec	2016A	2017A	2018F	2019F	2020F
Revenue	2,489	4,143	3,727	3,907	4,090
Cost of Goods Sold	(1,896)	(2,495)	(2,442)	(2,615)	(2,680)
Gross Profit	592	1,648	1,286	1,292	1,410
Other Opng (Exp)/Inc	(328)	(550)	(443)	(444)	(438)
Operating Profit	265	1,098	843	848	972
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0	0	5	0	0
Associates & JV Inc	0	0	0	0	0
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(313)	(534)	(545)	(569)	(519)
Dividend Income	0	0	0	0	0
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0	179	0	0	0
Pre-tax Profit	(48)	744	302	279	453
Тах	(50)	(395)	(167)	(149)	(205)
Minority Interest	(54)	(201)	(68)	(29)	(61)
Preference Dividend	0	0	0	0	0
Net Profit	(153)	147	68	101	187
Net Profit before Except.	(153)	(32)	68	101	187
EBITDA	949	2,210	1,755	1,834	1,956
Growth					
Revenue Gth (%)	27.6	66.5	(10.0)	4.8	4.7
EBITDA Gth (%)	N/A	132.8	(20.6)	4.5	6.6
Opg Profit Gth (%)	(215.8)	315.0	(23.3)	0.6	14.6
Net Profit Gth (%)	85.1	N/A	(53.9)	48.6	85.9
Margins & Ratio					
Gross Margins (%)	23.8	39.8	34.5	33.1	34.5
Opg Profit Margin (%)	10.6	26.5	22.6	21.7	23.8
Net Profit Margin (%)	(6.1)	3.6	1.8	2.6	4.6
ROAE (%)	(18.0)	13.1	5.5	7.7	13.2
ROA (%)	(1.0)	1.0	0.5	0.8	1.5
ROCE (%)	(3.2)	(4.0)	(3.8)	(3.8)	(2.8)
Div Payout Ratio (%)	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Interest Cover (x)	0.8	2.1	1.5	1.5	1.9
Source: Company, DBS HK					
1					

Interim Income Statement (US\$ m)

FY Dec	1H2016	2H2016	1H2017	2H2017	1H2018
_					
Revenue	586	1,903	1,942	2,201	1,899
Cost of Goods Sold	(531)	(1,366)	(1,068)	(1,427)	(1,152)
Gross Profit	55	537	874	774	747
Other Oper. (Exp)/Inc	(122)	(205)	(445)	(105)	(170)
Operating Profit	(67)	332	429	669	577
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0	0	0	0	5
Associates & JV Inc	0	0	0	0	0
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(47)	(266)	(260)	(273)	(250)
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0	0	174	5	0
Pre-tax Profit	(114)	66	343	401	332
Tax	21	(72)	(229)	(166)	(139)
Minority Interest	1	(55)	(96)	(105)	(65)
Net Profit	(93)	(60)	18	129	129
Net profit bef Except.	(93)	(60)	(156)	124	129
Growth					
Revenue Gth (%)	(47.4)	127.3	231.4	15.7	(2.2)
Opg Profit Gth (%)	1,240.0	(248.4)	(740.6)	101.7	34.5
Net Profit Gth (%)	(100.2)	93.9	N/A	N/A	623.0
Margins					
Gross Margins (%)	9.4	28.2	45.0	35.2	39.3
Opg Profit Margins (%)	(11.4)	17.4	22.1	30.4	30.4
Net Profit Margins (%) Source: Company, DBS HK	(15.8)	(3.2)	0.9	5.9	6.8

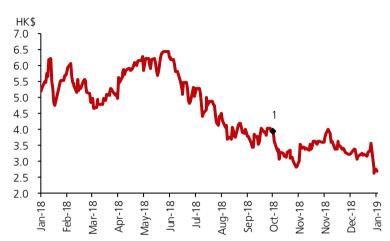
FY Dec	2016A	2017A	2018F	2019F	2020
Net Fixed Assets	12,084	11,982	10,955	10,457	9,973
Invts in Associates & JVs	0	0	0	0	(
Other LT Assets	1,114	1,111	946	916	887
Cash & ST Invts	553	936	914	930	998
Inventory	346	296	224	247	256
Debtors	851	408	474	523	54
Other Current Assets	282	56	52	52	52
Total Assets	15,230	14,790	13,565	13,126	12,70
-					
ST Debt	737	694	521	521	52
Creditors	656	745	820	872	93
Other Current Liab	217	63	68	68	6
LT Debt	9,516	8,659	7,715	7,115	6,41
Other LT Liabilities	1,514	1,657	1,495	1,495	1,49
Shareholder's Equity	1,031	1,211	1,262	1,341	1,50
Minority Interests	1,559	1,760	1,685	1,714	1,77
Total Cap. & Liab.	15,230	14,790	13,565	13,126	12,70
Nen Ceeh Willer Cenitel	606	(40)	(120)	(110)	(1.40
Non-Cash Wkg. Capital		(48)	(138)	(118)	(149
Net Cash/(Debt)	(9,700) 124.7	(8,417) 35.9	(7,321) 46.4	(6,706) 48.9	(5,937 48.
Debtors Turn (avg days)	124.7	55.9 174.1	46.4 195.6	46.9 195.5	200.
Creditors Turn (avg days)		69.2	53.5	55.5	200. 55.
Inventory Turn (avg days)	104.1 0.2	0.3			
Asset Turnover (x)	0.2 1.3		0.3 1.2	0.3 1.2	0. 1.
Current Ratio (x)		1.1			
Quick Ratio (x)	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.
Net Debt/Equity (X)	3.7	2.8	2.5	2.2	1.
Net Debt/Equity ex MI (X)	9.4	6.9	5.8	5.0	3.
Capex to Debt (%)	7.7	7.5	4.8	5.9	6.
Z-Score (X) Source: Company, DBS HK	NA	NA	NA	NA	N/

Cash Flow Statement (US\$ m)

FY Dec	2016A	2017A	2018F	2019F	2020F
	(10)			270	450
Pre-Tax Profit	(48)	744	297	279	453
Dep. & Amort.	685	933	912	987	984
Tax Paid	(50)	(395)	(167)	(149)	(205)
Assoc. & JV Inc/(loss)	0	0	0	0	0
(Pft)/ Loss on disposal of FAs	0	0	0	0	0
Chg in Wkg.Cap.	(163)	(516)	53	(10)	35
Other Operating CF	300	1,605	704	537	485
- Net Operating CF	722	2,370	1,800	1,644	1,752
Capital Exp.(net)	(785)	(705)	(394)	(449)	(460)
Other Invts.(net)	33	208	173	(10)	(4)
Invts in Assoc. & JV	0	0	0	0	0
Div from Assoc & JV	0	0	0	0	0
Other Investing CF	(95)	(25)	120	0	0
Net Investing CF	(847)	(522)	(101)	(460)	(464)
Div Paid	(4)	0	0	0	0
Chg in Gross Debt	(21)	(1,072)	(903)	(600)	(700)
Capital Issues	511	9	11	0	0
Other Financing CF	(407)	(401)	(815)	(569)	(519)
Net Financing CF	79	(1,464)	(1,707)	(1,169)	(1,219)
Currency Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0
Chg in Cash	(46)	383	(8)	15	68
Opg CFPS (US\$)	0.14	0.36	0.22	0.21	0.21
Free CFPS (US\$)	(0.01)	0.21	0.18	0.15	0.16



Target Price & Ratings History



S.N	o. Date	Closing Price	12-mth Target Price	Rating
1:	4-Oct-18	HK\$3.95	HK\$4.70	Buy

Source: DBS HK Analyst: Lee Eun Young



DBS HK recommendations are based an Absolute Total Return* Rating system, defined as follows:

STRONG BUY (>20% total return over the next 3 months, with identifiable share price catalysts within this time frame)

BUY (>15% total return over the next 12 months for small caps, >10% for large caps)

HOLD (-10% to +15% total return over the next 12 months for small caps, -10% to +10% for large caps)

FULLY VALUED (negative total return i.e. > -10% over the next 12 months)

SELL (negative total return of > -20% over the next 3 months, with identifiable catalysts within this time frame)

*Share price appreciation + dividends

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Sources for all charts and tables are DBS HK unless otherwise specified.

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