Bank Sector – Overweight

News update

Sarachada Sornsong | Email: sarachada.sor@thanachartsec.co.th

Delaying lending rate hike on concern of NPLs

- **TBA aims to delay raising the interest rate.**
- **This is due to concern of NPLs…**
- **…as 14% of loans in Covid-19 and soft loan programs.**
- **Already baked in slow int hike and NIM contraction in 2023.**

Thai Bank Association (TBA) had press conference yesterday regarding its interest rate movement stance after the Monetary Policy committee (MPC) agreed to raise policy rate by 25bps to 0.75%. In a nutshell, TBA sees economic recovery as uneven. SME and household remain fragile so the banking association will not react immediately to the increase in policy rate. The delayed interest rate hike is mainly to support fragile borrowers estimated at 1.6m accounts with total loans outstanding (including soft loans) of Bt2.53tr or around 14% of total commercial bank loans as of August 2022.

- TBA sees large corporate as the segment that can shoulder higher costs. SME and retail segments remain fragile. So, the interest rate hike won't be across the board. In addition to gradual interest rise, banks are still exploiting BoT's comprehensive debt restructuring program to avoid NPL cliff and ensure smooth transition of banking operation.
- With our house's view for an increase in policy rate to 1.5% and a resumption of full deposit levy (FIDF fee) to 0.46% from 0.23% in 2020-21, we believe rising lending rates are unavoidable.
- We expect banks to increase prime rate going to next year but don't expect the increasing magnitude to be large enough to offset rising funding costs from higher FIDF fees. This answers the question of why we expect NIM to contract by 4bps in 2023 before rising by 2bps in 2024.
- So, TBA's bearish tone on the banking rate movement does not incur any downsides to our earnings forecast.
- Having largest exposures to corporate and overseas loans, BBL is well poised to benefit the most. Meanwhile, we see KBANK's collaboration with JMT to allow it to manage NPLs and provisions and curb deterioration asset quality impact to bottom lines.

General Disclaimers And Disclosures:

This report is prepared by analysts who are employed by the research department of TNS. While the information is from sources believed to be reliable, neither the information nor the forecasts shall be taken as a representation or warranty for which TNS or TCAP or its group companies or any of their employees incur any responsibility. This report is provided to you for informational purposes only and it is not, and is not to be construed as, an offer or an invitation to make an offer to sell or buy any securities. Neither TNS, TCAP nor its group companies accept any liability whatsoever for any direct or consequential loss arising from any use of this report or its contents.

The information and opinions contained herein have been compiled or arrived at from sources believed reliable. However, TNS, TCAP and its group companies make no representation or warranty, express or implied, as to their accuracy or completeness. Expressions of opinion herein are subject to change without notice. The use of any information, forecasts and opinions contained in this report shall be at the sole discretion and risk of the user.

TNS, TCAP and its group companies perform and seek to perform business with companies covered in this report. TNS, TCAP, its group companies, their employees and directors may have positions and financial interest in securities mentioned in this report. TNS, TCAP or its group companies may from time to time perform investment banking or other services for, or solicit investment banking or other business from, any entity mentioned in this report. Therefore, investors should be aware of conflict of interest that may affect the objectivity of this report.

Note: Thanachart Securities Public Company Limited act as a Market Maker and Derivative Warrants Issuer. At present, TNS has issued 65 Derivative Warrants which are ADVANC16C2210A, ADVANC16C2211A, AMAT16C2209A, AOT16C2212A, AOT16C2209A, BANPU16C2210A, BCH16C2211A, BGRI16C2209A, BLA16C2208A, BLA16C2209A, CBG16C2210A, CENTEL16C2209A, COM716C2208A, COM716C2209A, COM716C2211A, COM716C2211B, COM716C2211C, CPALL16C2211A, EA16C2209A, EA16C2211A, ESSO16C2209A, ESSO16C2209B, FORTH16C2211A, GPSC16C2209A, GULF16C2210A, GUNK16C2209A, HANA16C2209A, HANA16C2211A, IVL16C2209A, IVL16C2211A, JMART16C2210A, JMART16C2211A, JMT16C2210A, JMT16C2211A, KBAN16C2208A, KBAN16C2209A, KBANK16C2211A, KCE16C2208A, KCE16C2209A, KCE16C2211A, KTC16C2211A, KTC16C2209A, MINT16C2211A, MTC16C2209A, PTG16C2211A, PTG16C2209A, PTTE16C2209A, RBF16C2209A, RCL16C2208A, SAWAD16C2211A, S5016C2209A, S5016P2209A, SAWA16C2209A, SCB16C2211A, SCB16C2208A, SET5016C2209B, SET5016P2209B, SPRC16C2209A, STEC16C2209A, TIDLOR16C2212A, TOP16C2211A, TTA16C2208A, TTA16C2211A, TU16C2210A, WHA16C2209A (underlying securities are ADVANC, AMATA, AOT, BANPU, BCH, BGRIM, BLA, CBG, CENTEL, COM7, CPALL, EA, ESSO, FORTH, GPSC, GULF, GUNKUL, HANA, IVL, JMART, JMT, KBANK, KCE, KTC, MINT, MTC, PTG, PTTEP, RBF, RCL, SAWAD, SCB, SET50, SPRC, STEC, TIDLOR, TOP, TTA, TU, WHA). before making investment decisions.

Note: Our major shareholder TCAP (Thanachart Capital Pcl) which holding 50.96% of Thanachart Securities and also TCAP holding 100% of Thanachart SPV1 Co. Ltd. TCAP and Thanachart SPV1 Co. Ltd has stake in THANI for 60% and being the major shareholder of THANI.

Note: Thanachart Capital Public Company Limited (TCAP), TMBThanachart Bank Public Company Limited (TTB), are related companies to Thanachart Securities Public Company Limited (TNS). Thanachart Securities Pcl is a subsidiary of Thanachart Capital Pcl (TCAP) which holds 23% of the shareholding in TMBThanachart Bank Pcl.

Note: Thanachart Capital Public Company Limited (TCAP), Ratchthani Leasing Public Company Limited (THANI), MBK PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED (MBK) and PATUM RICE MILL AND GRANARY PUBLIC COMPANY LIMTED (PRG) are related companies to Thanachart Securities Public Company Limited (TNS) . Since TNS covers those securities in research report, consequently TNS incurs conflicts of interest.

Disclosure of Interest of Thanachart Securities

Investment Banking Relationship

Within the preceding 12 months, Thanachart Securities has lead-managed public offerings and/or secondary offerings (excluding straight bonds) of the securities of the following companies: The One Enterprise Pcl. (ONEE TB)