



# **Bangkok Life Assurance**

BLA TB / BLA.BK

## 1:44

43.8

25.0

8 June 2016

## Rising bond yield spurs earnings lift

#### Investment thesis

We have upgraded BLA's rating to BUY from HOLD. This move is attributable to fast recovery in the long-term bond yield in 2Q16 and what looks to be a rising trend for interest rates in FY17. It also allows BLA to reverse its reserve of Liability Adequacy Test (LAT) to reduce FY16 provisions for its life-policy reserve to 83% of total premiums from its former 88%. Thus, we have swung our FY16 profit forecast in a revision up to Bt850m from a loss of Bt850m previously. We also raise our FY17 profit forecasts by 5% to Bt4.3bn, up 406% YoY. Given the favorable outlook on rising interest rates and our earnings upgrade, we have raised our YE16 target price to Bt50, pegged to embedded value of Bt31.19/share and total VNB of Bt18.82.

#### Provision is revised down after bond yield rises in 2Q16 ...

After setting extra provisions of Bt11bn for the LAT reserve against lower long-term bond yield (down 60bps QoQ to 1.7%) in 1Q16, we expect BLA to reverse its LAT reserve to reduce provisioning for its life-policy reserves in 2Q16 onwards because of the fast 10-year bond yield recovery back to 2.0% happening at the moment. Given the assumption of no change in the bond yield of 2.0% until YE16, we have cut our FY16 provisioning for life-policy reserves to 83% of total premiums, from the former 88%. The lower provisioning enables us to revise up our FY16 earnings forecast to Bt850m from our former massive loss estimate of Bt850m, as mentioned previously. We also expect provisioning to drop to the usual 70% of total premiums in FY17.

#### Maintain ROI target of 4.60% in FY16

We anticipate FY16 ROI of 4.6% (including investment gain) following 5.4% in 1Q16 and 5.6% last year. The possibility of high bond yields late this year would present BLA with a chance to accrue more long-term bonds. The firm invests more than Bt20bn (11% of total investment) in foreign-currency-denominated bonds that yield about 6%. Note that we forecast BLA to have FY17 ROI of 4.3% (plus investment gain) next year. Note that Morgan Stanley has forecast that Thailand's policy rate would stay flat at 1.5% in FY16 and rise to 2.0% next year. If this was true, the 10-year long-term bond yield would have room to rise further next year from its present 2%. This could provide scope for upside to our FY17 ROI.

#### Emphasis on bottom-line growth led by high-margin products

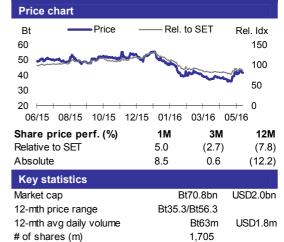
BLA has focused on medium to medium-to-long-term policies (whole life, credit life, pension funds and long-term endowments such as Gain 1<sup>st</sup> 245 plus) in FY16. It should be noted that we forecast that its FY16 FYP and total premiums will rise 30% and 13%, respectively. Lately, BLA, in collaboration with Thaire Life (THREL), sold its first healthcare product (*Health Plus*) in FY16. We have not as yet plugged this product into our model.

### Sector: Insurance - OVERWEIGHT

Rating: BUY Target Price: Bt50.00 Price (7 June 2016): Bt41.50

Est. free float (%)

Foreign limit (%)



Consensus rating	BLS Target price vs. Consensus	BLS earnings vs. Consensus
100 80 60 40 20 0 80 54 Hold 20 Sell	Bt 60.0 40.0 20.0	Btm 6000 4000 2000 -2000 -4000
	BLS Cons.	

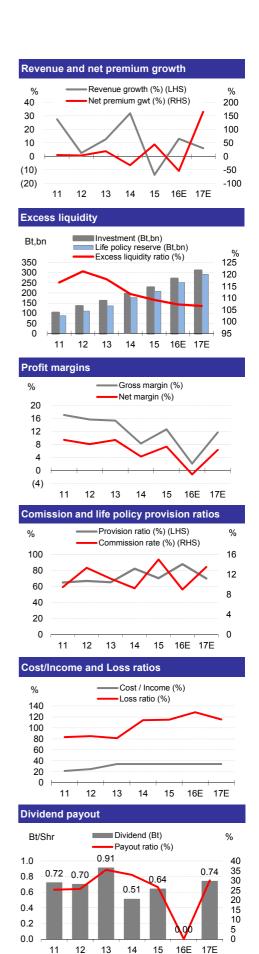
Financial summary	/			
FY Ended 31 Dec	2014	2015	2016E	2017E
Total rev (Btm)	61,427	55,589	62,702	65,678
Net profit (Btm)	2,650	4,108	(750)	4,200
Fully diluted EPS (Bt)	1.55	2.41	(0.44)	2.46
EPS grow th (%)	-39.5%	+55.0%	-118.3%	-660.0%
PER (x)	26.8	17.3	(94.5)	16.9
EV/EBITDA (x)	16.4	16.1	(103.1)	18.0
PBV (x)	2.59	2.45	2.42	2.12
Dividend (Bt)	0.51	0.64	0.00	0.74
ROA (%)	1.2	1.6	(0.3)	1.2
Net gearing (x)	7.2	8.0	9.0	8.9
Total loss ratio (%)	82.3	70.4	88.0	70.0
Total premium Mkt (%)	12.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
CG/Anti-Corruption	n			4

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## **BLA: Financial Tables - Year**

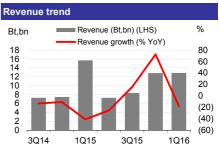
PROFIT & LOSS (Btm)	2013	2014	2015	2016E	2017E
Insurance premium	38,795	51,172	44,175	49,937	52,933
Less Life policy reserve	(25,357)	(42,106)	(31,114)	(43,944)	
Net premium Underw riting expenses	<b>13,438</b> (13,939)	<b>9,066</b> (14,243)	<b>13,061</b> (17,473)	<b>5,992</b> (17,963)	<b>15,880</b> (21,423)
Profit from insurance	(501)	(5,177)	(4,412)	(11,971)	(5,543)
Revenue on investment	7,601	10,255	11,414	12,765	12,745
Other income/exp.	39	48	64	550	583
Net revenue	7,139	5,126	7,066	1,344	7,785
Operating expenses	(1,828)	(2,033)	(2,179)	(2,348)	(2,686)
EBIT Minority interest	<b>5,311</b> 0	<b>3,093</b> 0	<b>4,887</b> 0	<b>(1,003)</b> 0	<b>5,100</b> 0
Extra items	0	0	0	0	0
Income tax	(930)	(443)	(779)	253	(900)
Net profit (loss)	4,381	2,650	4,108	(750)	4,200
Reported EPS	3.62	1.55	2.41	(0.44)	2.46
Fully diluted EPS	3.62	1.55	2.41	(0.44)	2.46
Core net profit Core EPS	<b>4,341</b> 3.58	<b>2,602</b> 1.52	<b>4,044</b> 2.37	<b>(1,300)</b> (0.76)	<b>3,617</b> 2.12
EBITDA	5,407	3,189	4,983	(908)	5,196
KEY RATIOS	,	,	,	, ,	,
Revenue grow th (%)	12.7	31.9	(13.7)	13.0	6.0
Gross margin (%)	15.4	8.3	12.7	2.1	11.7
EBITDA margin (%)	11.6	5.2	9.0	(1.4)	7.8
Operating margin (%)	9.4 9.4	4.2 4.3	7.3 7.4	(2.1)	5.5 6.3
Net margin (%) Core profit margin (%)	9.4	4.3	7.4	(1.2) (2.1)	5.5
ROA (%)	2.5	1.2	1.6	(0.3)	1.2
ROE (%)	19.7	10.4	15.2	(2.6)	12.5
Commission/Insurance premium	11.2	9.3	15.0	9.0	13.5
Life policy Provision/insurance premium re	65.4	82.3	70.4	88.0	70.0
Cost/income	34.0 81.3	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0
Combined ratio	01.3	114.1	114.9	128.7	115.5
Cash & Equivalent	1,331	5,708	7,102	6,100	4,500
Total investment in securities	161,126	198,238	227,584	270,825	311,449
Total net loans	3,526	4,735	6,139	6,753	7,382
Premises & equipment (Net)	327	389	547	558	569
Other assets	5,925	6,520	8,204	13,586	12,386
Total assets	172,234	215,590	249,576	297,822	336,287
Life policy reserve Unpaid benefit to life policy	136,616 8,800	177,435 1,489	208,383 470	252,327 11,661	292,030 2,118
Premium received in advance	950	2,239	459	500	550
Other liabilities	3,604	8,851	13,272	4,033	8,088
Total liabilities	149,971	190,013	222,585	268,521	302,787
Paid-up capital	1,212	1,698	1,704	1,704	1,704
Share premium	2,846 18,138	3,091 20,787	3,220 22,017	3,295 24,301	3,295 28,501
Retained earnings Shareholders equity	22,264	25,576	<b>26,990</b>	29,300	33,500
Minority interests	0	0	0	0	0
Total Liab.&Shareholders' equity	172,234	215,590	249,575	297,822	336,287
CASH FLOW (Btm)					
Net income	4,381	2,650	4,108	(750)	4,200
Depreciation and amortization	136	143	150	157	165
Change in w orking capital FX, non-cash adjustment & others	23,571 804	39,598 805	30,708 806	43,534 807	37,788 808
Cash flows from operating activities	28,087	42,390	34,966	42,941	42,153
Capex (Invest)/Divest	(88)	(126)	(247)	(11)	(11)
Others	(27,427)	(49,777)	(39,023)	(38,252)	(46,005)
Cash flows from investing activities	(27,515)	(36,529)	(32,407)	(38,263)	(46,016)
Debt financing (repayment)	0 809	0	0	0	0
Equity financing Dividend payment	(917)	(678)	(1,325)	(1,090)	0 0
Others	(27,427)	(49,777)	(39,023)	(38,252)	(46,005)
Cash flows from financing activities	(107)	(678)	(1,325)	(1,090)	Ó
Net change in cash	465	5,183	1,235	3,587	(3,864)
Free cash flow (Btm)	28,000	42,264	34,719	42,930	42,142
FCF per share (Bt)	23.1	24.7	20.3	25.1	24.7
Insurance data	2013	2014	2015	2016E	2017E
FYP (Btm)	6,818	8,928	7,707	8,712 36,476	9,235
RYP (Btm) SP	28,545 1,425	37,379 1,358	32,268 1,362	36,476 1,472	38,665 3,716
Total premium (Btm)	39,079	51,172	44,175	49,937	52,933
FYP mkt (%)	7.8	9.7	8.4	7.6	7.2
Total premium Mkt (%)	7.7	8.9	9.6	8.7	8.9





## **BLA: Financial Tables - Quarter**

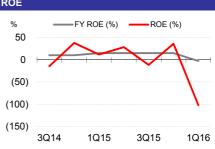
1Q15	2Q15	3Q15	4Q15	1Q16	Revenue tre
15,711	7,252	8,368	12,844	12,856	
12,104	2,906	7,241	8,862	17,848	Bt,bn
3,607	4,346	1,127	3,982	(4,993)	18
5,746	4,127	4,469	3,131	6,564	16 14
(2,139)	219	(3,342)	850	(11,556)	12
2,511	2,466	2,715	2,478	2,716	10
1,010	113	91	29	555	8
3,522	2,579	2,806	2,507	3,270	4 2
15	18	13	18	138	0
1,398	2,816	(523)	3,375	(8,148)	3Q14
498	571	551	559	541	Revenue tre
0	0	0	0	0	rtovondo tro
900	2,245	(1,074)	2,816	(8,689)	Bt,bn
		,		,	60
		, ,		,	50 <sub>85</sub>
					40
		, ,	1	,	30
					20
, ,	•	,		,	10
(0)		(1)	2	(0)	0
					3Q14
33	15	17	25	22	
77	40	87	69	139	Net profit tr
24	28	25	27	20	Bt,m
7	5	5	4	5	0.000
4	19	(7)	15	(43)	6,000
14	14	14	13	13	4,000 —— 2,000 ——
15	16	15	16	14	0
12	29	(11)	36	(102)	(2,000)
1	3	(1)	4	(11)	(4,000)
7	8	8	9	8	(6,000)
36	20	147	98	194	(8,000)
			4015	1016	Net margin
1Q15	2Q15	3Q15			
1,405	564	461	7,102	5,590	%
1,405 212,733	564 224,442	461 226,543	7,102 227,584	5,590 240,689	
1,405 212,733 4,938	564	461 226,543 5,683	7,102 227,584 6,139	5,590 240,689 6,463	% 30 20
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1,405 212,733 4,938 460 10,524 230,061	564 224,442 5,430 465 7,660 238,561	461 226,543 5,683 534 9,097 242,317	7,102 227,584 6,139 547 8,204 249,576	5,590 240,689 6,463 572 13,003 266,318	30 20 10 0 (10) (20) (30) (40)
1,405 212,733 4,938 460 10,524 230,061 189,539	564 224,442 5,430 465 7,660 238,561 192,445	461 226,543 5,683 534 9,097 242,317 199,686	7,102 227,584 6,139 547 8,204 249,576 208,383	5,590 240,689 6,463 572 13,003 266,318 234,972	30 20 10 0 (10) (20) (30) (40) (50)
1,405 212,733 4,938 460 10,524 230,061 189,539 1,690	564 224,442 5,430 465 7,660 238,561 192,445 4,620	461 226,543 5,683 534 9,097 242,317 199,686 1,612	7,102 227,584 6,139 547 8,204 249,576 208,383 470	5,590 240,689 6,463 572 13,003 266,318 234,972 699	30 20 10 0 (10) (20) (30) (40)
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1,405 212,733 4,938 460 10,524 230,061 189,539 1,690 566 12,498 204,293 1,200 2,700 15,443 25,768 0 1Q15 1,672 13,914 436	564 224,442 5,430 465 7,660 238,561 192,445 4,620 628 13,473 211,167 1,200 2,700 16,506 27,394 (0) 2Q15 1,052 5,806 537	461 226,543 5,683 534 9,097 242,317 199,686 1,612 723 15,024 217,045 1,200 2,700 15,176 25,272 0 3Q15 2,538 5,398 501	7,102 227,584 6,139 547 8,204 249,576 208,383 470 0 13,732 222,585 1,704 3,220 22,066 26,990 0 4Q15 3,821 6,097 3,070	5,590 240,689 6,463 572 13,003 266,318 234,972 699 0 6,395 242,065 1,704 3,295 19,253 24,253 0 1Q16 2,410 10,998 0	30 20 10 0 (10) (20) (30) (40) (50) 3Q1 ROE % 50 0
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	15,711 12,104 3,607 5,746 (2,139) 2,511 1,010 3,522 15 1,398 498 0 900 135 0 765 0 (126) (0)  33 77 24 7 4 14 15 12 1 7	15,711 7,252 12,104 2,906 3,607 4,346 5,746 4,127 (2,139) 219 2,511 2,466 1,010 113 3,522 2,579 15 18 1,398 2,816 498 571 0 0 900 2,245 135 400 0 (0) 765 1,844 0 1 (126) 2,113 (0) 1  33 15 77 40 24 28 7 5 4 19 14 14 15 16 12 29 1 3 7 8	15,711 7,252 8,368 12,104 2,906 7,241 3,607 4,346 1,127 5,746 4,127 4,469 (2,139) 219 (3,342) 2,511 2,466 2,715 1,010 113 91 3,522 2,579 2,806 15 18 13 1,398 2,816 (523) 498 571 551 0 0 0 0 900 2,245 (1,074) 135 400 (287) 0 (0) (0) 765 1,844 (786) 0 1 (0) (126) 2,113 (1,177) (0) 1 (1)  33 15 17 77 40 87 24 28 25 7 5 5 4 19 (7) 14 14 14 15 16 15 12 29 (11) 1 7 8 8 8 36 20 147	15,711         7,252         8,368         12,844           12,104         2,906         7,241         8,862           3,607         4,346         1,127         3,982           5,746         4,127         4,469         3,131           (2,139)         219         (3,342)         850           2,511         2,466         2,715         2,478           1,010         113         91         29           3,522         2,579         2,806         2,507           15         18         13         18           1,398         2,816         (523)         3,375           498         571         551         559           0         0         0         0           900         2,245         (1,074)         2,816           135         400         (287)         531           0         0         0         0           765         1,844         (786)         2,285           0         1         (0)         1           (126)         2,113         (1,177)         2,769           (0)         1         (1)         2           33<	15,711         7,252         8,368         12,844         12,856           12,104         2,906         7,241         8,862         17,848           3,607         4,346         1,127         3,982         (4,993)           5,746         4,127         4,469         3,131         6,564           (2,139)         219         (3,342)         850         (11,556)           2,511         2,466         2,715         2,478         2,716           1,010         113         91         29         555           3,522         2,579         2,806         2,507         3,270           15         18         13         18         138           1,398         2,816         (523)         3,375         (8,148)           498         571         551         559         541           0         0         0         0         0         0           900         2,245         (1,074)         2,816         (8,689)           135         400         (287)         531         (1,801)           0         0         0         0         0           765         1,844         (786)











## Company profile

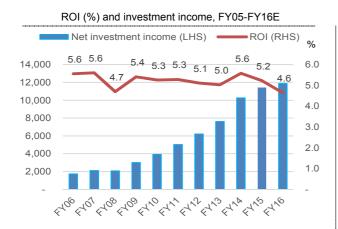
Bangkok Life Assurance Public Company Limited (BLA) is one of Thailand's largest pure-life-assurance players and a subsidiary of Bangkok Bank. Its FYP revenue growth is currently about twice the industry average. The firm ranked fifth in market share of 9.5% for total life assurance premiums in 1Q16

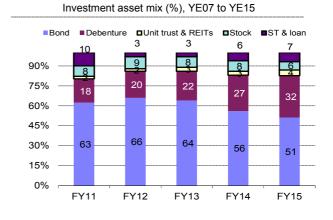


Figure 1: Total life assurance premium market share (%), FY07-1Q16 Market share of Total premium (%) FY07 FY08 FY09 FY10 FY11 FY12 FY13 FY14 FY15 1Q16 American International Assurances (AIA) 37.9 33.3 31.0 28.7 26.3 25.0 22.8 22.2 19.6 Audhya Allianz C.P Life Plc., (AZAY) 9.5 6.5 6.1 6.2 6.3 5.8 5.7 5.4 5.4 5.4 Thai Life Insurance 15.2 14.4 13.7 12.4 12.2 12.5 12.4 12.5 12.7 12.4 SCB Life Insurance Plc 6.0 7.5 8.3 9.2 10.7 10.3 9.8 6.8 9.6 9.9 Muang Thai Life Assurance 8.3 10.0 12.5 13.6 16.3 19.2 6.8 7.7 11.5 14.9 Bangkok Life Assurance Plc. 6.1 7.7 10.3 8.3 6.7 8.9 9.6 8.9 8.8 9.5 Krungthai AXA Life Insurance 2.9 4.1 4.9 6.0 6.4 7.4 9.7 10.2 9.7 Ocean Life Insurance 4.6 4.3 4.1 3.9 4.0 3.8 3.1 2.9 2.6 2.3 Prudential Life Assurance (Thailand) Plc. 0.9 1.2 1.2 1.3 3.3 1.1 1.4 2.3 3.1 3.2 Others 3.2 4.2 6.6 5.5 4.9 5.5 10.2 8.8 9.2 8.8 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100 Total

Sources: TLAA and Bualuang Research estimates

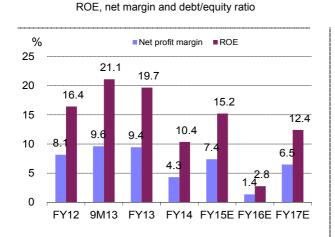
Figure 2: BLA's net investment income (Btm) and net ROI (%), FY05-FY16 and Investment asset breakdown, FY08-1Q15



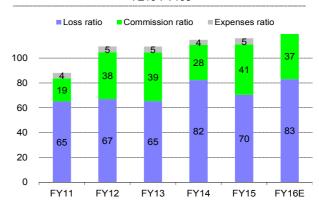


Sources: Company data and TLAA

Figure 3: Net margin (%), ROE (%) and debt/equity ratio, YE12-FY16e, and combined ratio (%)



Loss ratio, expense ratio and commission ratio, YE10-FY16e



Sources: Company data and TLAA



## **Regional Comparisons**

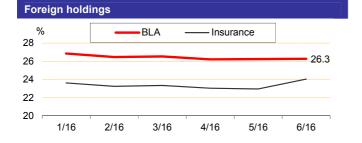
	Bloomberg	Price	Market Cap	PER	(x)	EPS Gro	wth (%)	PBV	' (x)	ROE	(%)	Div Yie	eld (%)
	Code	(local curr.)	(US\$ equivalent)	2016E	2017E	2016E	2017E	2016E	2017E	2016E	2017E	2016E	2017E
Ping An Insurance (Group)	601318 CH	CNY32.1	87,132	10.3	9.4	2.5	13.1	1.4	1.3	15.7	15.9	1.7	1.9
China Life Insurance	601628 CH	CNY21.4	84,444	18.3	16.3	-1.1	10.7	1.8	1.7	10.0	11.1	1.9	2.0
China Pacific Insurance (Gro	up 601601 CH	CNY27.1	35,761	15.5	13.7	-9.3	13.0	1.8	1.7	11.9	12.2	2.8	2.9
T&D Holdings	8795 JP	JPY1,050.0	6,667	8.3	7.9	16.0	5.2	0.5	0.5	6.3	6.3	3.2	3.4
Bangkok Life Assurance	BLA TB	THB41.50	2,009	n.m.	16.9	n.m.	n.m.	2.4	2.1	-2.6	12.5	0.0	1.8
Thaire Life Assurance	THREL TB	THB10.90	186	14.7	13.1	14.5	12.4	4.6	4.3	32.9	33.9	5.3	5.9
Simple average				13.4	12.9	4.5	10.9	2.1	1.9	12.4	15.3	2.5	3.0

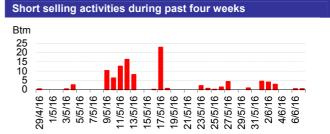














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Financial Advisor	Lead underwriter/ Underwriter/ Co-underwriter

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Score Range	Score Range	Description
90 – 100		Excellent
80 – 89		Very Good
70 – 79		Good
60 – 69		Satisfactory
50 – 00359		Pass
Below 50	No logo given	N/A

### **Anti-Corruption Progress Indicator**

Level	Description
5	Extended
4	Certified
3B	Established by Commitment and Policy
3A	Established by Declaration of Intent
2	Declared
1	Committed
Partially progress	Partially progress
No progress	No progress



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#### BUALUANG RESEARCH - RECOMMENDATION FRAMEWORK

#### STOCK RECOMMENDATIONS

**BUY:** Expected positive total returns of 15% or more over the next 12 months.

**HOLD:** Expected total returns of between -15% and +15% over the next 12 months.

SELL: Expected negative total returns of 15% or more over the next 12 months

**TRADING BUY:** Expected positive total returns of 15% or more over the next 3 months.

#### SECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS

**OVERWEIGHT:** The industry, as defined by the analyst's coverage universe, is expected to outperform the relevant primary market index over the next 12 months. **NEUTRAL:** The industry, as defined by the analyst's coverage universe, is expected to perform in line with the relevant primary market index over the next 12 months.

**UNDERWEIGHT:** The industry, as defined by the analyst's coverage universe, is expected to underperform the relevant primary market index over the next 12 months.