



CMBI Credit Commentary – EVERRE/TIANHL

EVERRE/TIANHL - Cancellation of special dividend proposal is credit negative

We view Evergrande 's cancellation of special dividend proposal negative. In anticipation of high volatility of EVERRES/TIANHLs to continue, we recommend clients to stay long-short on EVERRE/TIANHL or side-line until more clarities on its funding plan and sale of Guanghui stakes.

As we discussed on 20 Jul'21, we believe that the special dividend payment, if go ahead, could help Evergrande's shareholders to monetize part of their investments in the company. This will strengthen the financial flexibility of Evergrande's shareholders in providing support in the company's future funding exercises, and provide more time and bargaining power for the company to explore other funding options. The special dividend proposal, in our opinion, was derailed by the negative news flow over the past few days. Recalled that the aggregate market capitalization of Evergrande Property Services, China Evergrande Vehicle and HengTeng Networks has declined by USD15bn since 15 Nonetheless, we still believe that Evergrande's listed companies associated investments/subsidiaries/ alternative funding options. The market capitalization of the abovementioned subsidiaries attributable to Evergrande is cUSD17.2bn, as of 26 Jul '21.

With the special dividend payment off the table, the near-term focus will be on the sales of 40.964% of Guanghui stakes for RMB14.85bn to Shenergy, wholly-owned by Shanghai SASAC. There were talks on GZ LGFV and Yuexiu and China Resources providing RMB200bn liquidity to Evergrande, but so far we do not see anything concrete in this regard. We believe that assets/projects disposals and introduction of strategic investors could help notably improve Evergrande's liquidity and restore the market confidence, however, these options are somewhat constrained by the current tight regulatory scrutiny and credit environment.

On a separate note, the S&P downgraded the issue ratings of EVERRE/TIANHL to CCC+ from B. That could lead to forced selling of some RM mandates and PB accounts. Nonetheless, we notice that many RM accounts have reduced exposure to EVERRE/TIANHL and LTV of PBs has been cut before, the marginal impact of the rating downgrade should be contained.

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