

Investment Linked Fund Performance Report April 2019

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The FBMKLCI Index fell 0.1% m-o-m (or 1.3 points) at the end of April 2019. The decline in the market was driven by concerns over potential short-term weakness in the ringgit due to potential OPR cut or downgrade of Malaysia bonds in the FTSE Russel's World Government Bond Index (WBGI), as well as corporate earnings risk due to slowing global growth prospects and policy uncertainties. This has resulted in continued net foreign outflow of RM1.5billion in April 2019.

For fixed income market, Malaysia Government Securities ("MGS") has weakened across the curve in April following the negative news on the removal of Emerging Market bonds from Norwegian sovereign wealth fund and the potential downgrade of ringgit bonds from FTSE Russell World Government Bond Index.

On the local economic front, Malaysia's Industrial production index (IPI) increased at a slower pace of 1.7% in February compared with a Bloomberg survey of a 2.2% increase due to a decline in the mining output. This is the weakest in eight months. The slower growth was in tandem with exports partly distorted by the timing of the Lunar New Year holidays.

Moving forward, we are cautious on the local equity market outlook especially on the first half of the year. We are concern on the government policies uncertainties which had shooed away foreign investors out of the country and the continuous ringgit weakening. Corporate earnings were still weak and we expect the global geopolitical tension on trade war will continue to dampen the sentiment. We will overweight on the defensive stocks and underweight the underperforming stocks.

For fixed income, following the latest BNM Annual Report, BNM is expected to turn dovish in monetary policy in order to support the weak economy. The external risk factors such as geopolitical tension in the Middle-East, US-China trade war and fluctuation in crude oil prices will continue to weigh on the local market, but we believe corporate bond space still provides attractive yields. As such, we will keep looking to buy on dips of corporate bonds if the opportunity arises.

Based on the performance table below, on monthly basis, Asiapac, Balanced, Global Yakin and Income Funds had outperformed their benchmarks.

Policyholders are encouraged to focus into regular premium given the current risk and volatile period of the economic and market condition. Risk adverse investors should focus into income fund due to its less volatile as compared to equity related funds.

Performance Table: Funds vs Benchmarks

	Asiapa	nc Fund	Baland	ced Fund	Divide	nd Fund	Equit	/ Fund	Global Y	akin Fund	Incom	e Fund	Jati F	und
	Fund	Benchmark	Fund	Benchmark	Fund	Benchmark	Fund	Benchmark	Fund	Benchmark	Fund	Benchmark	Fund	Benchmark
Monthly (%)	1.04%	0.03%	0.10%	0.00%	-0.95%	-0.08%	-0.53%	-0.08%	2.64%	1.07%	0.87%	0.21%	-0.53%	1.27%
3 Months (%)	0.57%	0.06%	1.05%	-0.10%	-1.14%	-2.45%	-0.82%	-2.45%	5.63%	4.84%	2.42%	2.37%	0.78%	2.46%
6 Months (%)	2.34%	7.23%	2.26%	0.06%	0.84%	-3.92%	0.36%	-3.92%	5.55%	5.99%	3.52%	4.26%	2.38%	0.55%
12 Months (%)	2.69%	-3.77%	-0.53%	-3.04%	-5.96%	-12.19%	-5.96%	-12.19%	4.21%	-0.03%	6.60%	6.83%	-6.99%	-10.12%

Source: MCIS Insurance Berhad

AsiaPac Fund Monthly Report (April 2019)

Investment Objective

To achieve steady income stream with potential growth in the Asia Pacific Region over medium to long term. The aim of the Fund is to outperform the S&P Ethical Pan Asia Select Dividend Opportunities Index over periods of five or more years.

Investment Strategy

To invest in Asia Pacific Ethical Dividend Exchange Traded Fund (ETF), managed by Principal Asset Management where the ETF is listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange.

The ETF focuses on top 40 ethical and high yielding stocks in the Asia Pacific Region excluding India, Taiwan, Japan, New Zealand and Philippines. The fund provides country diversification across the industry that is traded in US Dollar.

Risks

The Fund is considered low risk given the exposure to only one underlying securities with no attempt to select stocks individually or to take defensive positions in declining markets. Risk is managed at the management level, where the asset allocation of the fund to be reviewed on regular basis, and adjusted to commensurate with the Investment Team view on the relative attractiveness of each asset class.

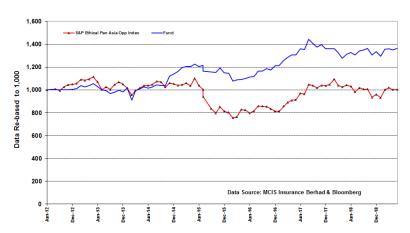
The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; economic and political developments in related countries, foreign exchange fluctuation, illiquid and inefficient securities in the Emerging Markets, and the financial performance of the underlying companies.

The target market is for investors who are seeking regional exposure from investment and at the same time, seeking for medium to long term capital appreciation with moderate market risk.

Fund Performance

For the month ended April 2019, the fund had outperformed the benchmark by 101bps m-o-m (month on month). The fund had also outperformed the benchmark since inception.

AsiaPac Fund Performance Since Inception



Top Ten Holdings

CIMB S&P Asia Pacific Ethical Dividend Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)

Fund Information

NAV (30.04.19) RM0.6824
Fund Size RM50.52 million
Inception Date 15-July-2012
Fund Management 0.85% p.a.

Fee

Pricing Daily

Price Quote Major Newspaper, or http://www.mcis.my
Fund Manager MCIS Insurance Berhad

Exceptional Circumstances

Refer to your Policy Document

Asset Allocation Ranges

Asset Class	Min	Max	Current Actual
ETF	80%	100%	79.6%
Cash	0%	20%	20.4%

Performance Table

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	1.04%	0.03%
3 months (%)	0.57%	0.06%
6 months (%)	2.34%	7.23%
12 months (%)	2.69%	-3.77%
2 years (% pa)	0.37%	9.77%
3 years (% pa)	6.99%	6.78%
5 years (% pa)	6.06%	-0.66%
Since Inception	4.66%	0.05%

Notice: Past performance is not indicative of future performance, and the performance of the Fund is not guaranteed.

The Fund returns are calculated by MCIS and based on the value of the NAV, and for periods greater than 12-months are annualised numbers. Actual returns of the Fund are on a net basis (gross of tax and net of fees) and based on the performance of the Fund, and not the returns earned on the actual premiums/ contributions paid for the product.

^{*} Index is S&P Ethical Pan Asia Select Dividend Opportunities sourced from Bloomberg.

Balanced Fund Monthly Report (April 2019)

Investment Objective

The objective of the Balanced Fund is to provide security and income, while maintaining and potentially increasing the value of capital over the medium to long-term, through exposure across a range of asset classes. The Fund aims to outperform the performance benchmark over periods of three or more years.

Investment Strategy

To invest in Malaysian equities and fixed income securities, including government bonds and corporate debt securities. The asset allocation is reviewed on a regular basis, and is adjusted commensurate with our view on the relative attractiveness of each asset class.

Risks

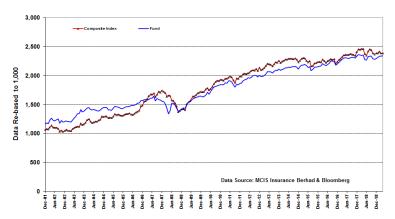
The Fund is considered medium risk given the mixed exposure of equity securities, fixed income and cash. The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; consumer sentiment, financial performance of the underlying companies, industry and economy development, social and political factors, and the liquidity of the underlying assets. Additionally, levels of interest rates, and credit downgrades of defaults can affect the value of fixed income securities

The target market is clients wanting the surety of insurance protection, with an element of potential upside investment exposure.

Fund Performance

For the month ended April 2019, the fund had outperformed the benchmark by 10bps m-o-m (month on month). The outperformance was mainly driven by higher exposure of outperforming securities in the portfolio compared to benchmark.

Balanced Fund Performance Since Inception



Top Ten Holdings

Malaysian Government Securities (Bond)
CIMB Bank Berhad (Bond)
Northern Gateway Infrastructure Sdn Bhd (Bond)
Sabah Development Bank Berhad (Bond)
Tenaga Nasional Berhad (Equity)
Malayan Banking Berhad (Equity)
Sabah Credit Corporation (Bond)
Projek Lebuhraya Utara-Selatan (Bond)
Malaysia Steel Works (KL) Berhad (Bond)
Bank Pembangunan Malaysia Berhad (Bond)

Fund Information

NAV (30.04.19) RM1.1705 Fund Size RM7.76 million Inception Date 15-Oct-01

Fund Management 1.25% p.a.

Fee Pricing Daily

Price Quote Major Newspaper, or

http://www.mcis.my

Fund Manager MCIS Insurance Berhad

Exceptional Refer to your Policy Document

Circumstances

Asset Allocation Ranges

Asset Class	Min	Max	Current Actual
Malaysian Equity	40%	60%	44%
Fixed Income	40%	60%	53%
Cash	0%	20%	3%

Performance Table

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	0.10%	0.00%
3 months (%)	1.05%	-0.10%
6 months (%)	2.26%	0.06%
12 months (%)	-0.53%	-3.04%
2 years (% pa)	0.86%	0.77%
3 years (% pa)	2.26%	1.91%
5 years (% pa)	1.87%	0.94%
Since Inception	4.96%	5.07%

Notice: Past performance is not indicative of future performance, and the performance of the Fund is not guaranteed.

The Fund returns are calculated by MCIS and based on the value of the NAV, and for periods greater than 12-months are annualised numbers. Actual returns of the Fund are on a net basis (gross of tax and net of fees) and based on the performance of the Fund, and not the returns earned on the actual premiums/ contributions paid for the product.

* The benchmark index is a composite of 50% FBM KLCI Index and 50% of Markit iBoxx ALBI Malaysia TR Index (Since Dec '12). Prior to that, the index used was HSBC Malaysia All Bond Index for the fixed income portion. Benchmark return is calculated on re-based basis. The source is from the subscription of Markit Indices.

Dividend Fund Monthly Report (April 2019)

Investment Objective

To achieve steady income stream with potential for capital growth over medium to long term by focusing mostly on high dividend yielding stocks and money market instruments. The aim of the Fund is to outperform the FBM KLCI Index over periods of five or more years.

Investment Strategy

To invest in a broad selection of companies listed on the Malaysian Stock Exchange. Using a relative value methodology, the fund focuses on undervalued stocks relative to fundamental value, with the aim of achieving an income stream, together with some degree of long-term capital gains.

Risks

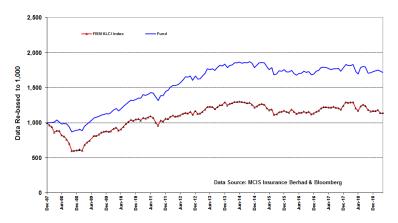
The Fund is considered high risk given the exposure to equity securities. The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; consumer sentiment, financial performance of the underlying companies, the performance of the industry and economy, and the share market in general, social and political factors, and the liquidity of the underlying assets.

The target market is clients wanting the surety of insurance protection, with an element of potential upside investment exposure.

Fund Performance

For the month ended April 2019, the fund had underperformed the benchmark by 103bps m-o-m (month on month). The underperformance was mainly driven by higher exposure of underperforming securities in the portfolio compared to benchmark.

Dividend Fund Performance Since Inception



Top Ten Holdings

Petronas Chemicals Group Berhad
Petronas Gas Berhad
Public Bank Berhad
Maxis Berhad
Tenaga Nasional Berhad
DiGi.Com Berhad
Malayan Banking Berhad
IOI Corporation Berhad
Sime Darby Plantation Berhad
Petronas Dagangan Berhad

Fund Information

NAV (30.04.19) RM0.8173
Fund Size RM30.91 million
Inception Date 21-Jan-08
Fund Management 1.5% p.a.

Fee

Pricing Daily

Price Quote Major Newspaper, or http://www.mcis.my

Fund Manager MCIS Insurance Berhad

Exceptional Refer to your Policy Document

Circumstances

Asset Allocation Ranges

Asset Class	Min	Max	Current Actual
Malaysian Equity	80%	100%	98%
Cash	0%	20%	2%

Performance Table

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	-0.95%	-0.08%
3 months (%)	-1.14%	-2.45%
6 months (%)	0.84%	-3.92%
12 months (%)	-5.96%	-12.19%
2 years (% pa)	-2.02%	-3.62%
3 years (% pa)	0.34%	-0.61%
5 years (% pa)	-1.46%	-2.58%
Since Inception	4.90%	1.14%
Yield #	3.42%	3.46%

Notice: Past performance is not indicative of future performance, and the performance of the Fund is not quaranteed.

The Fund returns are calculated by MCIS and based on the value of the NAV, and for periods greater than 12-months are annualised numbers. Actual returns of the Fund are on a net basis (gross of tax and net of fees) and based on the performance of the Fund, and not the returns earned on the actual premiums/ contributions paid for the product.

^{*} Index is FBM KLCI sourced from Bloomberg. # Yield data is sourced from Bloomberg, and MCIS.

Equity Fund Monthly Report (April 2019)

Investment Objective

The objective of the Equity Fund is to achieve capital growth over the medium to long term by focusing on high quality equities listed on the FBM KLCI Index. The aim of the Equity Fund is to outperform the Index over periods of five or more years.

Investment Strategy

To invest in a broad selection of companies listed on the Malaysian Stock Exchange. Using a relative value methodology, the fund focuses on the stocks whose shares appear undervalued relative to fundamental value, with the aim of achieving long term growth in capital value.

Risks

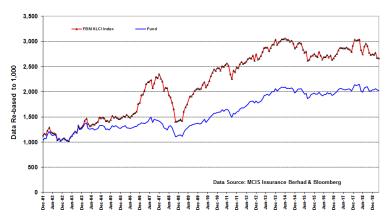
The Fund is considered high risk given the exposure to equity securities. The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; consumer sentiment, financial performance of the underlying companies, the performance of the industry and economy, and the share market in general, social and political factors, and the liquidity of the underlying assets.

The target market is clients wanting the surety of insurance protection, with an element of potential upside investment exposure.

Fund Performance

For the month ended April 2019, the fund had underperformed the benchmark by 61bps m-o-m (month on month). The underperformance was mainly driven by higher exposure of underperforming securities in the portfolio compared to benchmark.

Equity Fund Performance Since Inception



Top Ten Holdings

Public Bank Berhad
Tenaga Nasional Berhad
Malayan Banking Berhad
Petronas Chemicals Group Berhad
IOI Corporation Berhad
Sime Darby Plantation Berhad
Petronas Gas Berhad
Petronas Dagangan Berhad
CIMB Bank Berhad
Maxis Berhad

Fund Information

NAV (30.04.19) RM1.0117
Fund Size RM9.53 million
Inception Date 15-Oct-01
Fund Management 1.40% p.a.

Fee

Pricing Daily

Price Quote Major Newspaper, or http://www.mcis.my

Fund Manager MCIS Insurance Berhad

Exceptional Circumstances

Asset Allocation Ranges

Asset Class	Min	Max	Current Actual
Malaysian Equity	80%	100%	94%
Cash	0%	20%	6%

Refer to your Policy Document

Performance Table

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	-0.53%	-0.08%
3 months (%)	-0.82%	-2.45%
6 months (%)	0.36%	-3.92%
12 months (%)	-5.96%	-12.19%
2 years (% pa)	-0.90%	-3.62%
3 years (% pa)	1.24%	-0.61%
5 years (% pa)	-0.69%	-2.58%
Since Inception	4.09%	4.09%
Yield #	3.34%	3.46%

Notice: Past performance is not indicative of future performance, and the performance of the Fund is not guaranteed.

The Fund returns are calculated by MCIS and based on the value of the NAV, and for periods greater than 12-months are annualised numbers. Actual returns of the Fund are on a net basis (gross of tax and net of fees) and based on the performance of the Fund, and not the returns earned on the actual premiums/ contributions paid for the product.

^{*} Index is FBM KLCI sourced from Bloomberg. # Yield data is sourced from Bloomberg, and MCIS.

Global Yakin Fund Monthly Report (April 2019)

Investment Objective

The fund aims for capital appreciation in the long term by investing in an international portfolio of Shariah-compliant equities and equity-related securities of companies with good growth potential.

Investment Strategy

The Fund is to feed into Aberdeen Standard Islamic World Equity Fund (ASIWEF) which managed by Aberdeen Standard Islamic Investment (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd. The Fund invests in shariah approved securities across the globe.

The Fund seeks to achieve its objective by investing in an international portfolio of Shariah-compliant equities and equity-related securities of companies with good growth potential. The countries that the Fund will invest in will include, but not limited to Canada, United States of America, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Japan, Australia, China, Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Brazil and Mexico.

Risks

The Fund is considered low risk given the exposure to only one underlying securities with no attempt to select stocks individually or to take defensive positions in declining markets. Risk is managed at the management level, where the asset allocation of the fund to be reviewed on regular basis, and adjusted to commensurate with the Investment Team view on the relative attractiveness of each asset class.

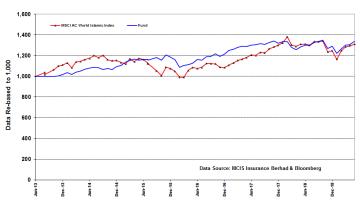
The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; economic and political developments in related countries, foreign exchange fluctuation, illiquid and inefficient securities in the Emerging Markets, and the financial performance of the underlying companies.

The Fund is suitable for investors who seek capital appreciation over a long term investment horizon and who are willing to accept high level of risk.

Fund Performance

For the month ended April 2019, the fund had outperformed the benchmark by 157bps m-o-m (month on month). The outperformance was mainly due to outperforming of the underlying securities compared to the benchmark index.

Global Yakin Fund Performance Since Inception



Top Ten Holdings

Aberdeen Standard Islamic World Equity Fund (ASIWEF)

Fund Information

Fund Management

NAV (30.04.19) RM0.6681 Fund Size RM41.25 million Inception Date 8-July-2013

Fee

Pricing Daily

Price Quote Major Newspaper, or

http://www.mcis.my

Fund Manager MCIS Insurance Berhad

Exceptional Refer to your Policy Document

0.85% p.a.

Circumstances

Asset Allocation Ranges

Asset Class	Min	Max	Current Actual
ASIWEF	80%	100%	83%
Cash	0%	20%	17%

Performance Table

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	2.64%	1.07%
3 months (%)	5.63%	4.84%
6 months (%)	5.55%	5.99%
12 months (%)	4.21%	-0.03%
2 years (% pa)	1.93%	5.33%
3 years (% pa)	5.88%	6.41%
5 years (% pa)	4.61%	2.99%
Since Inception	5.09%	4.70%

Notice: Past performance is not indicative of future performance, and the performance of the Fund is not guaranteed.

The Fund returns are calculated by MCIS and based on the value of the NAV, and for periods greater than 12-months are annualised numbers. Actual returns of the Fund are on a net basis (gross of tax and net of fees) and based on the performance of the Fund, and not the returns earned on the actual premiums/ contributions paid for the product.

^{*} Index is MSCI AC World Islamic sourced from Bloomberg.

Income Fund Monthly Report (April 2019)

Investment Objective

The objective of the Income Fund is to provide investors with security of income by investing in a mix of fixed income and fixed deposit securities. The aim of the Fund is to outperform the HSBC Malaysia Local Currency All Bond Total Return Index.

Investment Strategy

To invest into underlying asset classes as per the Asset Allocation Ranges. The asset allocation is reviewed on a regular basis, and is adjusted commensurate with our view on the relative attractiveness of each asset class. The Fund invests in cash and fixed income securities including government bonds and corporate debt securities.

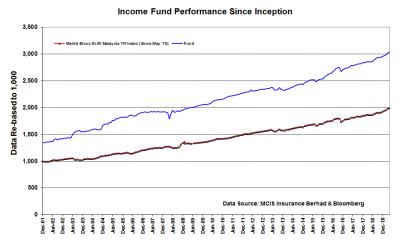
Risks

The Fund is considered lower risk given the exposure to cash and fixed income securities. The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; consumer sentiment, financial performance of the underlying companies, the performance of the industry and economy, and the share market in general, social and political factors, and the liquidity of the underlying assets. Additionally, levels of interest rates, and credit downgrades or defaults can affect the value of fixed income securities.

The target market is clients wanting the surety of insurance protection, with an element of potential upside investment exposure.

Fund Performance

For the month ended April 2019, the fund had outperformed the benchmark by 66bps m-o-m (month on month). The outperformance was due to outperforming of the fixed income securities compared to the benchmark index.



Top Ten Holdings

Northern Gateway Infrastructure Sdn Bhd Sabah Development Bank Berhad UiTM Solar Power Sdn Berhad SAJ Capital Sdn Bhd Malaysia Steel Works (KL) Berhad YTL Corporation Berhad CIMB Bank Berhad Quantum Solar Park Malaysia Sdn Bhd Asian Finance Bank Berhad Malaysian Government Securities

Fund Information

NAV (30.04.19) RM1.5224 Fund Size RM30.22 million Inception Date 15-Oct-01

Fund Management 0.5% p.a.

Fee

Pricing Daily

Price Quote Major Newspaper, or

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Fund Manager MCIS Insurance Berhad

Exceptional Refer to your Policy Document

Circumstances

Asset Allocation Ranges

Asset Class	Min	Max	Current Actual
Fixed Income	75%	100%	89%
Cash	0%	25%	11%

Performance Table

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	0.87%	0.21%
3 months (%)	2.42%	2.37%
6 months (%)	3.52%	4.26%
12 months (%)	6.60%	6.83%
2 years (% pa)	5.00%	5.19%
3 years (% pa)	5.00%	4.36%
5 years (% pa)	5.19%	4.45%
Since Inception	6.54%	3.99%

Notice: Past performance is not indicative of future performance, and the performance of the Fund is not guaranteed.

The Fund returns are calculated by MCIS and based on the value of the NAV, and for periods greater than 12-months are annualised numbers. Actual returns of the Fund are on a net basis (gross of tax and net of fees) and based on the performance of the Fund, and not the returns earned on the actual premiums/ contributions paid for the product.

* The benchmark index is Markit iBoxx ALBI Malaysia TR Index (Since Dec '12). Prior to that, the index used was HSBC Malaysia All Bond Index. Benchmark return is calculated on rebased basis. The source is from the subscription of Markit Indices.

Jati Fund Monthly Report (April 2019)

Investment Objective

The Jati Fund is invested in accordance with Shariah principles in Shariah sanctioned equities, money market instruments, and fixed income investments. The aim is to provide security and income, while maintaining and potentially increasing the value of capital over the medium to long-term. The Jati Fund is not a takaful product.

Investment Strategy

To invest in a broad selection of Shariah approved securities listed on the Malaysian Stock Exchange. Using a relative value methodology it looks to buy stocks whose shares appear undervalued relative to fundamental value, with the aim of achieving an income stream, together with some degree of long-term capital gains.

Risks

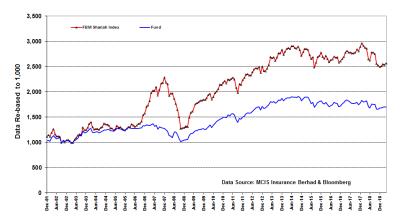
The Fund is considered high risk given the exposure to equity securities. The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; consumer sentiment, financial performance of the underlying companies, the performance of the industry and economy, and the share market in general, social and political factors, and the liquidity of the underlying assets.

The target market is clients wanting the surety of insurance protection, with an element of potential upside investment exposure.

Fund Performance

For the month ended April 2019, the fund had underperformed the benchmark by 74bps m-o-m (month on month). The underperformance was mainly driven by higher exposure of underperforming securities in the portfolio compared to benchmark.

Jati Fund Performance Since Inception



Top Ten Holdings

Petronas Chemicals Group Berhad Tenaga Nasional Berhad Perlis Plantation Berhad Petronas Gas Berhad Sime Darby Plantation Berhad Axiata Group Berhad IOI Corporation Berhad Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad Maxis Berhad Sime Darby Berhad

Fund Information

NAV (30.04.19) RM0.8476 Fund Size RM13.65 million

Inception Date 15-Oct-01 Fund Management 1.35% p.a.

Fee

Fund Manager

Pricing Daily

Price Quote Major Newspaper, or

http://www.mcis.my MCIS Insurance Berhad

Exceptional Refer to your Policy Document Circumstances

Asset Allocation Ranges

Asset Class	Min	Max	Current Actual
Malaysian Equity	80%	100%	86%
Cash	0%	20%	14%

Performance Table

Period	Fund	Index*	
1 month (%)	-0.53%	1.27%	
3 months (%)	0.78%	2.46%	
6 months (%)	2.38%	0.55%	
12 months (%)	-6.99%	-10.12%	
2 years (% pa)	-4.11%	-4.48%	
3 years (% pa)	-0.99%	-1.03%	
5 years (% pa)	-2.08%	-2.18%	
Since Inception	3.05%	5.52%	
Yield #	2.51 %	2.77%	

Notice: Past performance is not indicative of future performance, and the performance of the Fund is not guaranteed.

The Fund returns are calculated by MCIS and based on the value of the NAV, and for periods greater than 12-months are annualised numbers. Actual returns of the Fund are on a net basis (gross of tax and net of fees) and based on the performance of the Fund, and not the returns earned on the actual premiums/ contributions paid for the product.

* Index is FBMS Index sourced from Bloomberg. # Yield data is sourced from Bloomberg, and MCIS.

Equity Market Review and Outlook

Market Review

The FBMKLCI Index fell 0.1% m-o-m (or 1.3 points) at the end of April 2019. The decline in the market was driven by concerns over potential short-term weakness in the ringgit due to potential OPR cut or downgrade of Malaysia bonds in the FTSE Russel's World Government Bond Index (WBGI), as well as corporate earnings risk due to slowing global growth prospects and policy uncertainties. This has resulted in continued net foreign outflow of RM1.5billion in April 2019.

It underperformed the FBM Emas Index which gained 0.9% during the same period. The average daily value traded on the Malaysian stock exchange fell 17% m-o-m and 45% y-o-y to RM2.38billion in April 2019, partly due to lower trading activities by foreign investors.

On the local economic front, Malaysia's Industrial production index (IPI) increased at a slower pace of 1.7% in February compared with a Bloomberg survey of a 2.2% increase due to a decline in the mining output. This is the weakest in eight months. The slower growth was in tandem with exports partly distorted by the timing of the Lunar New Year holidays.

The month of April was a good for the U.S. equity markets. Both the Dow Jones (+2.6% m-o-m) and S&P 500 (+3.9% m-o-m) benchmarks briefly hit new all-time highs, exceeding the previous record peaks from August-September of last year. At the same time, that dollar strength in conjunction with surging equity markets helped to extend the down-move for gold prices. Since its February peak, gold was down nearly 5% as of the end of April.



Market Outlook & Strategy

Technically, the index has broken out of its downward channel. The index could potentially bounce towards the 1,685-1,690 zones in the following weeks. Nevertheless, the expected bounce could be capped as the on-going US and local corporate earnings season as well as the negotiations between US and China over the on-going trade war may act as a drag on market sentiment. Cycle-wise, most of the longer term cycles are still on a downtrend. The cycles should keep the local market under pressure until mid-year. Generally for 2019, the bears are likely to have the upper hand. Based on historical data, the performance of the FBMKLCI in May tends to be negative for the average of 10 years at -1.6%.

Moving forward, we are cautious on the local equity market outlook especially on the first half of the year. We are concern on the government policies uncertainties which had shooed away foreign investors out of the country and the continuous ringgit weakening. Corporate earnings were still weak and we expect the global geopolitical tension on trade war will continue to dampen the sentiment. We will overweight on the defensive stocks and underweight the underperforming stocks.

Fixed Income Review and Outlook

Market Review

Malaysia Government Securities ("MGS") has weakened across the curve in April following the negative news on the removal of Emerging Market bonds from Norwegian sovereign wealth fund and the potential downgrade of ringgit bonds from FTSE Russell World Government Bond Index. MGS levels were last seen at: 3Y 3.426% (+1), 5Y 3.593% (+6), 7Y 3.762% (+5), 10Y 3.784% (+1), 15Y 4.13% (+4), 20Y 4.357% (+7), 30Y 4.626% (+4). In line, the capital outflow has moved the Ringgit weaker further against the green back to RM4.1330/USD (Mar'19: RM4.0810/USD). Brent crude oil price rallied to USD72.80/barrel compared to USD68.39/barrel a month earlier, taking cue from the geopolitical tension in the Middle-East and Venezuela crisis.

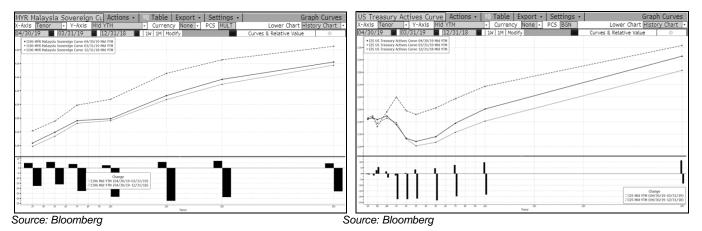
On local economic data, the inflation returned to positive territory at +0.2% y-o-y in March (Feb'19: -0.4% y-o-y) after 2 straight months of negative inflation due to lower oil price base a year earlier. Export growth and import growth both dropped in Feb'19 by -5.3% y-o-y (Jan'19: +3.1% y-o-y) and -9.4% y-o-y (Jan'19: +1.0% y-o-y) respectively, due to Lunar New Year festivities and front loading activities. All in all, the trade balance was sustained at +RM11.1 billion (Jan'19: +RM11.5 billion).

External reserve increased by USD0.5 billion to USD103.05 billion by mid-Apr'19. The reserve is sufficient to cover 7.7 months of retained import and 1.0 times short term external debt, and is above the IMF's estimate of adequate reserve level of USD96.9 billion.

The auctions unveiled in April 2019 are as follows;

Government Auctions				
Issue	Issue Date	Amount	Bid-cover	Avg Yield
		(RM million)	(times)	(%)
15year Re-Issuance of MGS(Mat 11/33)	8/4/2019	3,500.00	2.79	4.07
5year New Issuance of GII(Mat 10/24)	15/4/2019	3,500.00	2.31	3.66
7year Re-Issuance of MGS(Mat 07/26)	30/4/2019	3,500.00	1.51	3.76

Source: Bank Negara Malaysia



The 10-year US Treasury yield surged by 18bps to 2.59% in mid-Apr'19 after the US Fed toned down the possibility of interest rate cut in 2019. The 10-year US Treasury yield was last seen lower at 2.50% by end-April 2019 (Mar'19: 2.41%) following the heightened geopolitical tension in the Middle East.

Market Outlook & Strategy

Following the latest BNM Annual Report, BNM is expected to turn dovish in monetary policy in order to support the weak economy. The external risk factors such as geopolitical tension in the Middle-East, US-China trade war and fluctuation in crude oil prices will continue to weigh on the local market, but we believe corporate bond space still provides attractive yields. As such, we will keep looking to buy on dips of corporate bonds if the opportunity arises.