

(formerly known as MCIS Zurich Insurance Berhad)

# Investment Linked Fund Performance report July 2014

## **General Advice Warning**

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## Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance

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## AsiaPac Fund **Monthly Report (Jul 2014)**

## **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 CIMB 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

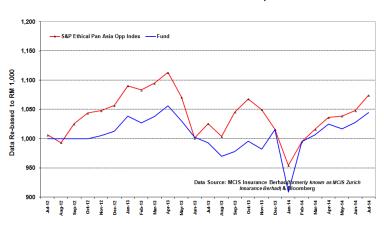
The Fund is considered low risk given the exposure to only one underlying securities with no attempt to select stocks individually or to take defensive positions in declining markets. Risk is managed at the management level, where the asset allocation of the fund to be reviewed on regular basis, and 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 July 2014, the fund had underperformed the benchmark by 93bps MoM (month on month). The underperformance was partly due to foreign exchange movement.



AsiaPac Fund Performance Since Inception

## **Top Five Holdings**

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

## **Fund Information**

NAV (31.07.14) RM0.5223 Fund Size RM 21.0 million 15-July-2012 Inception Date 0.85% p.a. Fund Management

Fee

Pricing Daily

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

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**Asset Allocation Ranges** 

Asset Class	Min	Max	Current Actual
ETF	80%	100%	95%
Cash	0%	20%	5%

## **Performance Table**

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	1.65%	2.58%
3 months (%)	1.89%	3.69%
6 months (%)	14.92%	12.66%
12 months (%)	5.15%	4.77%
2 years (% pa)	4.46%	6.77%
3 years (% pa)	-	-
5 years (% pa)	-	-
Since Inception	2.12%	3.53%

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.

Other Charges: Switching Fee, you are entitled to four free switches per policy year. Additional switches within the same year will be charged at 1% of the value of units switched, subject to a maximum of RM 50; and all taxes, duties and other charges incurred in the purchase, sale, valuation and maintenance of the investments of the Fund.

## Balanced Fund Monthly Report (Jul 2014)

## **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**

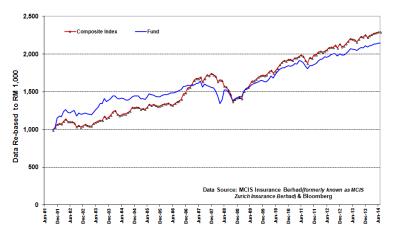
The Fund is considered medium risk given the mixed exposure of equity securities, fixed income and cash. The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; consumer sentiment, financial performance of the underlying companies, industry and economy development, social and political factors, 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 July 2014, the fund had underperformed the benchmark by 15bps MoM (month on month). The underperformance was mainly driven by higher exposure of underperforming securities in the portfolio.

## **Balanced Fund Performance Since Inception**



## **Top Five Holdings**

Malaysian Government Securities-MO11001 (Bond) Khazanah (Bond) Malaysian Government Securities-MS03002H (Bond) Projek Lebuhraya Utara-Selatan Berhad (Bond) Tenaga Nasiaonal Berhad (Equity)

## **Fund Information**

NAV (31.07.14) RM1.0714
Fund Size RM7.0 million
Inception Date 15-Oct-01
Fund Management 1.25% p.a.

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

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

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**Fund Manager** 

## **Asset Allocation Ranges**

Asset Class	Min	Max	Current Actual
Malaysian Equity	40%	60%	46%
Fixed Income	40%	60%	45%
Cash	0%	20%	9%

#### Performance Table

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	-0.07%	0.08%
3 months (%)	0.41%	0.73%
6 months (%)	2.44%	3.32%
12 months (%)	3.92%	4.83%
2 years (% pa)	4.35%	4.93%
3 years (% pa)	4.32%	5.18%
5 years (% pa)	6.07%	6.94%
Since Inception	6.12%	6.68%

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.

 $^{\star}$  Index is composite of 50% FBM KLCI Index, and 50% HSBC Malaysia All Bond FBM KLCI Index. Index data sourced from Bloomberg.

Other Charges: Switching Fee, you are entitled to four free switches per policy year. Additional switches within the same year will be charged at 1% of the value of units switched, subject to a maximum of RM 50; and all taxes, duties and other charges incurred in the purchase, sale, valuation and maintenance of the investments of the Fund.

## Dividend Fund Monthly Report (Jul 2014)

## **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**

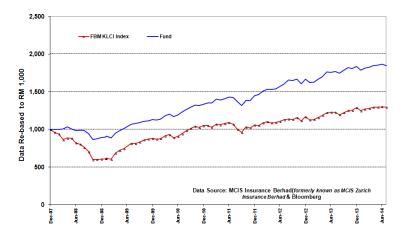
The Fund is considered high risk given the exposure to equity securities. The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; consumer sentiment, financial performance of the underlying companies, the performance of the industry and economy, and the share market in general, social and 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 July 2014, the fund had underperformed the benchmark by 20bps MoM (month on month). The underperformance was mainly driven by higher exposure of underperforming stocks in the portfolio compared to benchmark.

#### **Dividend Fund Performance Since Inception**



## **Top Five Holdings**

Petronas Gas Berhad (Equity) Telekom Malaysia Berhad (Equity) Public Bank Berhad (Equity) Sime Darby Berhad (Equity) Maxis Berhad (Equity)

#### **Fund Information**

NAV (31.07.14) RM0.8786 Fund Size RM 50.5 million Inception Date 21-Jan-08

Fund Management 1.5% p.a. Fee

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#### **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 (%)	-0.80%	-0.60%
3 months (%)	-0.14%	-0.01%
6 months (%)	3.54%	3.73%
12 months (%)	4.36%	5.57%
2 years (% pa)	7.29%	7.10%
3 years (% pa)	9.09%	6.51%
5 years (% pa)	11.58%	9.76%
Since Inception	9.79%	4.01%
Yield #	2.93%	3.53%

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.

Other Charges: Switching Fee, you are entitled to four free switches per policy year. Additional switches within the same year will be charged at 1% of the value of units switched, subject to a maximum of RM 50; and all taxes, duties and other charges incurred in the purchase, sale, valuation and maintenance of the investments of the Fund.

## Equity Fund Monthly Report (Jul 2014)

## **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**

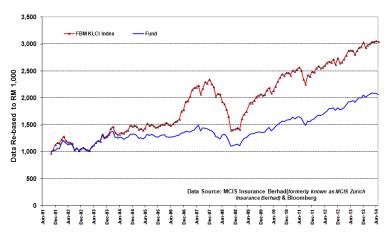
The Fund is considered high risk given the exposure to equity securities. The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; consumer sentiment, financial performance of the underlying companies, the performance of the industry and economy, and the share market in general, social and 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 July 2014, the fund had underperformed the benchmark by 82bps MoM (month on month). The underperformance was mainly driven by higher exposure of underperforming stocks in the portfolio compared to benchmark.

## **Equity Fund Performance Since Inception**



#### **Top Five Holdings**

Tenaga Nasional Berhad (Equity) IOI Corporation Berhad (Equity) Public Bank Berhad (Equity) Maybank Berhad (Equity) Axiata Berhad (Equity)

## **Fund Information**

NAV (31.07.14) RM1.0300 Fund Size RM 9.3 million Inception Date 15-Oct-01 Fund Management 1.40% p.a.

Fee

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

Fund Manager MCIS Insurance Berhad

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## **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 (%)	-1.42%	-0.60%
3 months (%)	-1.65%	-0.01%
6 months (%)	2.33%	3.73%
12 months (%)	5.72%	5.57%
2 years (% pa)	8.34%	7.10%
3 years (% pa)	8.23%	6.51%
5 years (% pa)	9.22%	9.76%
Since Inception	5.79%	9.05%
Yield #	2.79%	3.53%

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.

Other Charges: Switching Fee, you are entitled to four free switches per policy year. Additional switches within the same year will be charged at 1% of the value of units switched, subject to a maximum of RM 50; and all taxes, duties and other charges incurred in the purchase, sale, valuation and maintenance of the investments of the Fund.

## Global Yakin Fund Monthly Report (Jul 2014)

## **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 Islamic World Equity Fund (AIWEF) which managed by Aberdeen Islamic Asset Management 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.

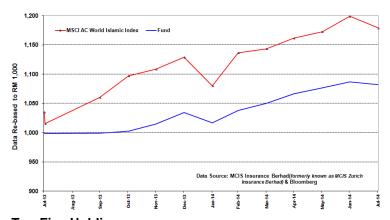
The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; economic and political developments in related countries, foreign exchange fluctuation, illiquid and inefficient securities in the Emerging Markets, and the financial performance of the underlying companies.

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 July 2014, the fund had outperformed the benchmark by 125bps MoM (month on month). The outperformance was partly due to better performance of Aberdeen Islamic World Equity Fund compared to benchmark.

**Global Yakin Fund Performance Since Inception** 



## **Top Five Holdings**

Aberdeen Islamic World Equity Fund (AIWEF)

#### **Fund Information**

NAV (31.07.14) RM0.5411
Fund Size RM 12.7 million

Inception Date 8-July-2013 Fund Management 0.85% p.a.

Fee

Pricing Daily

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Fund Manager MCIS Insurance Berhad
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## **Asset Allocation Ranges**

Asset Class	Min	Max	Current Actual
AIWEF	80%	100%	88%
Cash	0%	20%	12%

## **Performance Table**

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	-0.42%	-1.67%
3 months (%)	1.48%	1.51%
6 months (%)	6.41%	9.15%
12 months (%)	8.28%	13.89%
2 years (% pa)	-	-
3 years (% pa)	-	-
5 years (% pa)	-	-
Since Inception	7.56%	16.44%

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.

Other Charges: Switching Fee, you are entitled to four free switches per policy year. Additional switches within the same year will be charged at 1% of the value of units switched, subject to a maximum of RM 50; and all taxes, duties and other charges incurred in the purchase, sale, valuation and maintenance of the investments of the Fund.

<sup>\*</sup> Index is MSCI AC World Islamic sourced from Bloomberg.

## Income Fund Monthly Report (Jul 2014)

## **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.

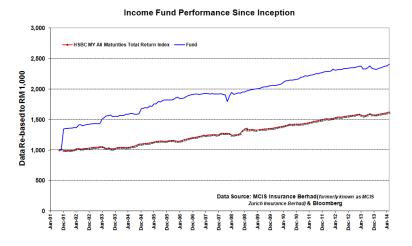
#### **Risks**

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 July 2014, the fund had outperformed the benchmark by 37bps MoM (month on month). The outperformance was mainly driven by better performance of the bond market during the period.



## **Top Five Holdings**

Malaysian Government Securities-MS130005 (Bond) Projek Lebuhraya Utara-Selatan Berhad (Bond) Malaysian Government Securities-MN130003 (Bond) Malaysian Government Securities-MS03002H (Bond) Government Investment Issue-GL130069 (Bond)

#### **Fund Information**

NAV (31.07.14) RM1.2047
Fund Size RM 20.8 million
Inception Date 15-Oct-01
Fund Management 0.5% p.a.

Fee

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Fund Manager MCIS Insurance Berhad

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**Asset Allocation Ranges** 

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Asset Class	Min	Max	Current Actual
Fixed Income	75%	100%	92%
Cash	0%	25%	8%

#### **Performance Table**

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	1.13%	0.76%
3 months (%)	1.90%	1.47%
6 months (%)	3.66%	2.90%
12 months (%)	3.34%	4.00%
2 years (% pa)	1.94%	2.67%
3 years (% pa)	2.62%	3.63%
5 years (% pa)	3.70%	3.99%
Since Inception	7.09%	3.85

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 HSBC Malaysia All Bond FBM KLCI Index, sourced from Bloomberg.

Other Charges: Switching Fee, you are entitled to four free switches per policy year. Additional switches within the same year will be charged at 1% of the value of units switched, subject to a maximum of RM 50; and all taxes, duties and other charges incurred in the purchase, sale, valuation and maintenance of the investments of the Fund.

## Jati Fund Monthly Report (Jul 2014)

## **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**

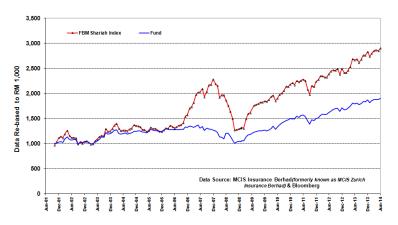
The Fund is considered high risk given the exposure to equity securities. The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; consumer sentiment, financial performance of the underlying companies, the performance of the industry and economy, and the share market in general, social and 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 July 2014, the fund had underperformed the benchmark by 49bps MoM (month on month). The underperformance was mainly driven by higher exposure of underperforming stocks in the portfolio compared to benchmark.

#### Jati Fund Performance Since Inception



## **Top Five Holdings**

Tenaga Nasional Berhad (Equity) Axiata Berhad (Equity) Sime Darby Berhad (Equity) IOI Corporation Berhad (Equity) Telekom Malaysia Berhad (Equity)

## **Fund Information**

NAV (31.07.14) RM0.9477
Fund Size RM10.9 million
Inception Date 15-Oct-01
Fund Management 1.35% p.a.

Fee

Pricing Daily

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

Fund Manager MCIS Insurance Berhad

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**Asset Allocation Ranges** 

Asset Class	Min	Max	Current Actual
Malaysian Equity	80%	100%	85%
Cash	0%	20%	15%

#### **Performance Table**

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	-0.51%	-0.02%
3 months (%)	0.65%	1.28%
6 months (%)	4.06%	6.19%
12 months (%)	4.74%	8.16%
2 years (% pa)	7.17%	8.93%
3 years (% pa)	7.18%	8.86%
5 years (% pa)	9.06%	10.55%
Since Inception	5.11%	8.67%
Yield #	2.26%	3.56%

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.

Other Charges: Switching Fee, you are entitled to four free switches per policy year. Additional switches within the same year will be charged at 1% of the value of units switched, subject to a maximum of RM 50; and all taxes, duties and other charges incurred in the purchase, sale, valuation and maintenance of the investments of the Fund.

## **Equity Market Review and Outlook**

## **Market Review**

July was a volatile month as the FBMKLCI scaled new all-time highs early in the month only to come under slight selling pressure towards month end. The long holiday during Eid Mubarak has caused the KLCI to remain subdued on a monthly basis. The KLCI ended the month 11pts or 0.6% lower to close at 1,871pts. The broader market outperformed the KLCI as the FBM Emas gained 0.5% mom to 13.086pts. Small caps outperformed as the FBM Small cap rallied 6.3% to 19,066pts while the FBM ACE was up 5.7% to 7,045pts. Average daily value traded on Bursa in July increased 13% mom to RM2.11bn.

On the domestic economic front, the headline inflation rate inched higher to 3.3% y-o-y in June, from +3.2% in the previous month, as preparation for the Ramadhan festivity might have exerted upward pressure on prices. The effect of upward adjustment in administrative pricing following the subsidy rationalisation measures also still linger. On the other hand, Bank Negara Malaysia raised the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) by 25 basis points to 3.25% on 10 July which came in within market expectations.



Chart 2: FBMKLCI Monthly Pattern and Cycle Analysis



Source: Bloomberg

## Market Outlook & Strategy

Moving into the month of August 2014, investors will be looking forward to the release of the corporate results for financial period ending 30 June 2014 and the release of 2Q14 GDP figures. This will provide clearer direction on the market to the end of year. Additionally, further inflow of foreign fund into the country will be a point to consider and closely watched as this may indicate the sustainability of any rally on the equity market, additionally, economic development in the Eurozone and China will be closely monitored as it will influence the direction of the local market.

Technically, the rally off the 2008 low is likely coming to an end soon if it has not already reached its terminal point in July. Since the turn of the year, the long term momentum indicators have already been signaling that the upward movement for the index is weakening. It is until mid-July that the KLCI finally showed some sign of weakness after it fell below its key support trend line from the 2011 lows. We are expecting the KLCI to remain nervy as the first trading day of August saw the KLCI hovering near the interim support zone of 1,860-1,850. We are capping the resistance for the KLCI at 1,880-1,890 whilst any downside risk will be capped at 1,855-1,845 this month.

We believe that the lack of earnings impetus from the recent quarterly reporting has caused the KLCI to remain a laggard against the regional peers whilst the already expensive nature of the KLCI based on the current PER of 16.6x would prevent any steep upside in the month of August.

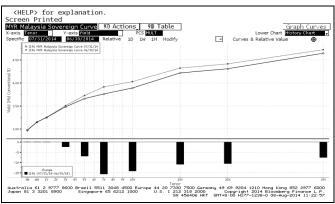
## **Fixed Income Review and Outlook**

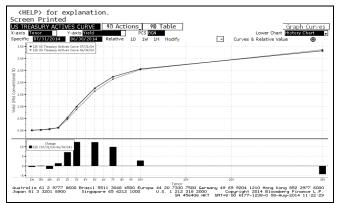
## **Market Review**

The MYR sovereign curve continues to chart a flattening bias trend post the 25bps hike decided at the July MPC. Investors continue to embark on tactical stances, preferring the long-end. Compression in long-end yields have since bode well for longer-dated govvies, which have tightened substantially. Going forward, we opine the wide GG/AAA spread in the long-end, taking cue from pronounced compression in longer-dated govvies have amplified the appeal of these quasi/ high grade segment which are set to emerge as next proxy to tighten. Meanwhile government bond tenders have resumed healthy bid to cover prints post July MPC supported by benign supply dynamics. Sizeable maturities in July-September periods are expected to lend support for MYR bonds. Funds from maturing bonds as expected to return as reinvestment into the MYR bond scene, hence paving the way for more positive supply-demand dynamics.

The government held two securities auctions in the month of July. The government sold RM3bn of 5-year MGS 10/19 where the average yield was 3.707% and bid to cover (btc) of 2.184x. There was also an RM1.5bn 15-year GII 12/28 reopening where the average yield was 4.393% on a btc of 3.813x. The 1.5bn GII 12/28's btc of 3.813x even surpassed the previous 20-year GII 8/33 btc of 3.28x and the best btc for 2014 year to date basis.

During the period in review UST saw some minor gyration in yields following upside surprises from a better than expected 2QGDP print, sending yields backing up higher with the 10-year touching a high of 2.56% level. However the upwardly movement in yields did not sustain, with reversals emerging after a less sanguine July non-farm payroll print. Meanwhile tapering continuity persisted, with the FOMC reducing purchases of mortgage-backed securities and UST to \$10b and \$15b respectively. On the policy front, latest FOMC statement cited that there remains significant underutilization of labour resources. Meanwhile on inflation prospects, the likelihood of inflation running persistently below the 2.0% has diminished somewhat.





Source: Bloomberg

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## Market Outlook & Strategy

We continue to advocate on accumulating bonds whenever there is a knee jerk sell-off arising from sentiment that is bearish. Since the OPR has been raised by 25bps, it moderated some concerns on the quantum of the interest rate increase. We believe this increase in OPR also augurs well to offshore investors as they may see BNM's intention to signal an increase in OPR as a preemptive measure to manage inflation risk as well as to address some financial imbalances in key sectors. That positive interest can be jived to the recent strength in the Ringgit off late against the USD.