

# Investment Linked Fund Performance Report March 2018

# **General Advice Warning**

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# Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance

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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

It was a relatively good month for Malaysian markets in March, despite rising concerns over escalation in US-China trade tensions, which have impacted sentiment in the global markets. The FBMKLCI ended March with a 0.4% m-o-m gain to close at 1,863 points and giving a gain of 3.7% for the 1Q18. The FBMKLCI outperformed the broader market for the third consecutive month in 2018, as the FTSE EMAS fell 1.5% m-o-m and +0.80% q-o-q.

Malaysian Government Security ("MGS") bond yields had reversed the trend, moving the yield curve down 5-14 basis points ("bps") as market expectation of a second rate hike diminished, after dovish statement made in the recent BNM meeting as well as the latest low inflation figures. Ringgit strengthened to RM3.8620/USD from a month earlier of RM3.9150/USD, following the higher Brent crude oil prices at USD70.27/bbl.

Malaysia's real GDP started to slow in 4Q17 to 5.9% y-o-y, after reaching its peak of +6.2% in 3Q17. However, the growth momentum remains strong. For the full-year 2017, real GDP registered the strongest growth in three years of 5.9%, picking up from +4.2% in 2016, and 5% in 2015. This was mainly due to the surge in exports and subsequent pick-up in domestic demand.

Going forward, we are expecting positive local equity market in the first half of the year towards the GE14. For fixed income, post OPR rate hike in Jan'18, BNM is likely to maintain a neutral monetary policy for the remaining of 2018 despite the major central banks are still showing signal towards policy tightening. The external risk factors such as geopolitical tension in North Korea, potential US trade war with China and fluctuation in crude oil prices will continue to weigh on the local market, but we believe corporate bond space still provides attractive yields given stable monetary stance from BNM and strong fundamentals in local market. 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, Jati Funds had outperformed the benchmark. Meanwhile other funds had underperformed 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	ic Fund	Baland	ed Fund	Divider	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 (%)	-3.87%	-1.39%	-0.47%	0.48%	0.09%	0.39%	0.26%	0.39%	-1.71%	-1.07%	0.56%	0.58%	0.34%	-1.47%
3 Months (%)	-6.10%	-2.13%	0.62%	2.45%	1.96%	3.71%	2.99%	3.71%	-5.66%	-2.52%	1.02%	1.18%	1.96%	-0.54%
6 Months (%)	-7.02%	0.73%	1.38%	4.02%	2.51%	6.14%	3.96%	6.14%	-5.16%	1.79%	1.85%	1.85%	1.64%	3.39%
12 Months (%)	-2.24%	12.75%	2.94%	6.01%	1.55%	7.09%	4.31%	7.09%	-2.50%	10.52%	4.55%	4.84%	-1.16%	3.27%

Source: MCIS Insurance Berhad

# AsiaPac Fund Monthly Report (March 2018)

# **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.

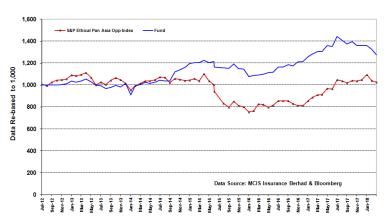
The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; economic and political developments in related countries, foreign exchange fluctuation, illiquid and inefficient securities in the Emerging Markets, and the financial performance of the underlying companies.

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 March 2018, the fund had underperformed the benchmark by 248bps MoM (month on month). This was mainly due to strengthening of ringgit during the period. However for since inception period, the fund had outperformed the benchmark.

#### AsiaPac Fund Performance Since Inception



# **Top Ten Holdings**

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

### **Fund Information**

NAV (30.03.18) RM0.6385
Fund Size RM40.88 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%	85%
Cash	0%	20%	15%

#### **Performance Table**

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	-3.87%	-1.39%
3 months (%)	-6.10%	-2.13%
6 months (%)	-7.02%	0.73%
12 months (%)	-2.24%	12.75%
2 years (% pa)	17.01%	23.95%
3 years (% pa)	1.98%	-0.35%
5 years (% pa)	4.23%	-1.30%
Since Inception	4.34%	0.44%

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.

<sup>\*</sup> Index is S&P Ethical Pan Asia Select Dividend Opportunities sourced from Bloomberg.

# Balanced Fund Monthly Report (March 2018)

# **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**

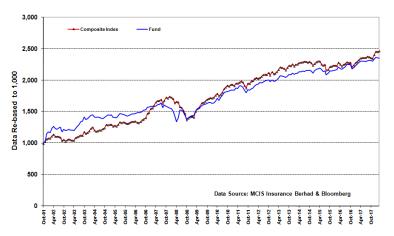
The Fund is considered medium risk given the mixed exposure of equity securities, fixed income and cash. The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; consumer sentiment, financial performance of the underlying companies, industry and economy development, social and political factors, 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 March 2018, the fund had underperformed the benchmark by 95bps MoM (month on month). The underperformance was mainly driven by higher exposure of underperforming securities in the portfolio compared to benchmark.

# **Balanced Fund Performance Since Inception**



# **Top Ten Holdings**

Malaysian Government Securities (Bond)
CIMB Bank Berhad (Bond)
Sarawak Hidro Sdn Bhd (Bond)
Tenaga Nasional Berhad (Equity)
Northern Gateway Infrastructure Sdn Bhd (Bond)
Malayan Banking Berhad (Equity)
Sabah Credit Corporation (Bond)
Projek Lebuhraya Utara-Selatan (Bond)
CIMB Bank Berhad (Equity)
Telekom Malaysia Berhad (Equity)

#### **Fund Information**

NAV (30.03.18) RM1.1740 Fund Size RM7.91 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%	48%
Fixed Income	40%	60%	49%
Cash	0%	20%	3%

#### **Performance Table**

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	-0.47%	0.48%
3 months (%)	0.62%	2.45%
6 months (%)	1.38%	4.02%
12 months (%)	2.94%	6.01%
2 years (% pa)	3.13%	3.90%
3 years (% pa)	2.48%	2.26%
5 years (% pa)	3.20%	2.91%
Since Inception	5.31%	5.61%

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 (March 2018)

# **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

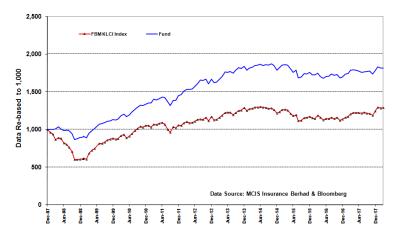
The Fund is considered high risk given the exposure to equity securities. The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; consumer sentiment, financial performance of the underlying companies, the performance of the industry and economy, and the share market in general, social and 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 March 2018, the fund had underperformed the benchmark by 30bps 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 Ten Holdings**

Petronas Gas Berhad
Petronas Chemicals Group Berhad
Public Bank Berhad
Maxis Berhad
Tenaga Nasional Berhad
Malayan Banking Berhad
Axiata Group Berhad
DiGi.Com Berhad
Telekom Malaysia Berhad
IOI Corporation Berhad

#### **Fund Information**

NAV (30.03.18) RM0.8628 Fund Size RM34.55 million Inception Date 21-Jan-08

Fund Management Fee

Pricing Daily

Price Quote Major Newspaper, or

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

Exceptional Refer to your Policy Document

1.5% p.a.

Circumstances

**Fund Manager** 

# **Asset Allocation Ranges**

Asset Class	Min	Max	Current Actual
Malaysian Equity	80%	100%	93%
Cash	0%	20%	7%

#### **Performance Table**

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	0.09%	0.39%
3 months (%)	1.96%	3.71%
6 months (%)	2.51%	6.14%
12 months (%)	1.55%	7.09%
2 years (% pa)	1.94%	4.16%
3 years (% pa)	-0.76%	0.59%
5 years (% pa)	1.73%	2.20%
Since Inception	6.00%	2.51%
Yield #	3.29%	3.36%

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.

<sup>\*</sup> Index is FBM KLCI sourced from Bloomberg.

<sup>#</sup> Yield data is sourced from Bloomberg, and MCIS.

# **Equity Fund Monthly Report (March 2018)**

# **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**

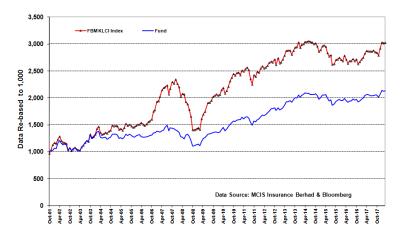
The Fund is considered high risk given the exposure to equity securities. The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; consumer sentiment, financial performance of the underlying companies, the performance of the industry and economy, and the share market in general, social and 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 March 2018, the fund had underperformed the benchmark by 13bps 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 Ten Holdings**

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

#### **Fund Information**

NAV (30.03.18) RM1.0665 Fund Size RM10.25 million

Inception Date 15-Oct-01 1.40% p.a. **Fund Management** 

Fee

Pricing Daily

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

MCIS Insurance Berhad **Fund Manager** Refer to your Policy Document

Exceptional

Circumstances

Asset Allocation Ranges

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Asset Class	Min	Max	Current Actual		
Malaysian Equity	80%	100%	92%		
Cash	0%	20%	8%		

# **Performance Table**

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	0.26%	0.39%
3 months (%)	2.99%	3.71%
6 months (%)	3.96%	6.14%
12 months (%)	4.31%	7.09%
2 years (% pa)	3.56%	4.16%
3 years (% pa)	1.30%	0.59%
5 years (% pa)	3.24%	2.20%
Since Inception	4.70%	6.95%
Yield #	3.36%	3.36%

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.

<sup>\*</sup> Index is FBM KLCI sourced from Bloomberg. # Yield data is sourced from Bloomberg, and MCIS.

# Global Yakin Fund Monthly Report (March 2018)

# **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.

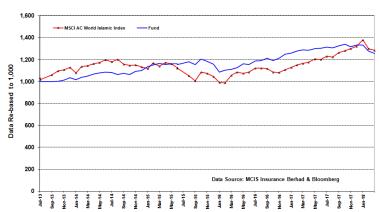
The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; economic and political developments in related countries, foreign exchange fluctuation, illiquid and inefficient securities in the Emerging Markets, and the financial performance of the underlying companies.

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 March 2018, the fund had underperformed the benchmark by 64bps MoM (month on month). The underperformance was mainly due to underperforming of the underlying securities compared to the benchmark index.

Global Yakin Fund Performance Since Inception



# **Top Ten Holdings**

Aberdeen Islamic World Equity Fund (AIWEF)

#### **Fund Information**

NAV (30.03.18) RM0.6282
Fund Size RM34.24 million
Inception Date 8-July-2013
Fund Management 0.85% 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
AIWEF	80%	100%	88%
Cash	0%	20%	12%

#### **Performance Table**

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	-1.71%	-1.07%
3 months (%)	-5.66%	-2.52%
6 months (%)	-5.16%	1.79%
12 months (%)	-2.50%	10.52%
2 years (% pa)	6.31%	10.41%
3 years (% pa)	2.52%	4.17%
5 years (% pa)	-	-
Since Inception	4.92%	5.46%

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.

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

# Income Fund Monthly Report (March 2018)

# **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.

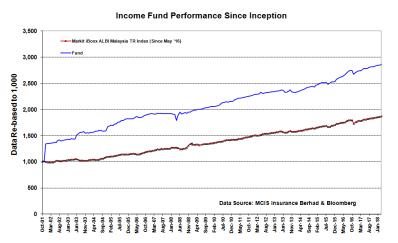
#### **Risks**

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 March 2018, the fund had underperformed the benchmark by 2bps MoM (month on month). The underperformance was due to underperforming of the fixed income securities compared to the benchmark index.



# **Top Ten Holdings**

Malaysian Government Securities
Northern Gateway Infrastructure Sdn Bhd
Danga Capital Berhad
SAJ Capital Sdn Bhd
YTL Corporation Berhad
Quantum Solar Park Malaysia Sdn Bhd
Sabah Development Bank Berhad
Malaysia Building Society Berhad
PBFIN Berhad
BGSM Management Sdn Bhd

#### **Fund Information**

NAV (30.03.18) RM1.4326 Fund Size RM27.20 million Inception Date 15-Oct-01

Fund Management 0.5% 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
Fixed Income	75%	100%	97%
Cash	0%	25%	3%

### **Performance Table**

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	0.56%	0.58%
3 months (%)	1.02%	1.18%
6 months (%)	1.85%	1.85%
12 months (%)	4.55%	4.84%
2 years (% pa)	4.59%	3.56%
3 years (% pa)	4.75%	3.83%
5 years (% pa)	3.98%	3.53%
Since Inception	6.59%	3.87%

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 (March 2018)

# **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**

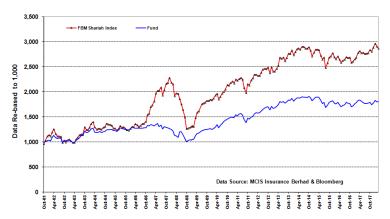
The Fund is considered high risk given the exposure to equity securities. The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; consumer sentiment, financial performance of the underlying companies, the performance of the industry and economy, and the share market in general, social and 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 March 2018, the fund had outperformed the benchmark by 181bps MoM (month on month). The outperformance was mainly driven by higher exposure of outperforming stocks in the portfolio compared to benchmark.

Jati Fund Performance Since Inception



#### **Top Ten Holdings**

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

### **Fund Information**

NAV (30.03.18) RM0.9047
Fund Size RM13.0 million
Inception Date 15-Oct-01
Fund Management 1.35% p.a.

Fee

Pricing Daily

Price Quote Major Newspaper, or

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

Exceptional Circumstances

**Fund Manager** 

Refer to your Policy Document

# **Asset Allocation Ranges**

Asset Class	Min	Max	Current Actual
Malaysian Equity	80%	100%	90%
Cash	0%	20%	10%

#### **Performance Table**

Period	Fund	Index*	
1 month (%)	0.34%	-1.47%	
3 months (%)	1.96%	-0.54%	
6 months (%)	1.64%	3.39%	
12 months (%)	-1.16%	3.27%	
2 years (% pa)	0.50%	2.89%	
3 years (% pa)	-1.59%	0.28%	
5 years (% pa)	1.13%	3.10%	
Since Inception	3.66%	6.61%	
Yield #	3.01%	2.78%	

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

# **Equity Market Review and Outlook**

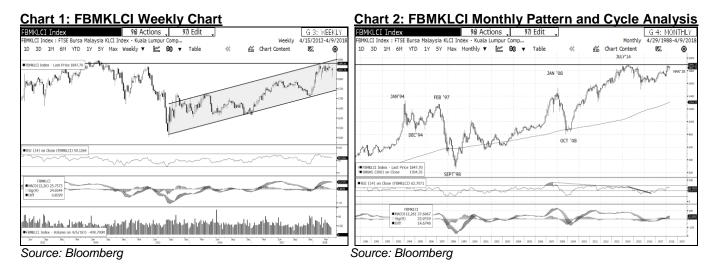
#### **Market Review**

It was a relatively good month for Malaysian markets in March, despite rising concerns over escalation in US-China trade tensions, which have impacted sentiment in the global markets. The FBMKLCI ended March with a 0.4% m-o-m gain to close at 1,863 points giving a gain of 3.7% for the 1Q18. The FBMKLCI outperformed the broader market for the third consecutive month in 2018, as the FTSE EMAS fell 1.5% m-o-m and +0.80% q-o-q. Average daily value traded on Bursa in March fell 14% m-o-m and 19% y-o-y to RM2.47bn as investors may have stayed on the sidelines in view of concerns over the US rate hike and US-China trade war.

During the month, Fed raised interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point to a range of 1.5% to 1.75%, and foreign investors reduce their exposure in Malaysia, with RM0.1bn net outflow in March.

On the domestic economic front, Malaysia's real GDP started to slow in 4Q17 to 5.9% y-o-y, after reaching its peak of +6.2% in 3Q17. However, the growth momentum remains strong. For the full-year 2017, real GDP registered the strongest growth in three years of 5.9%, picking up from +4.2% in 2016, and 5% in 2015. This was mainly due to the surge in exports and subsequent pick-up in domestic demand.

Globally, the US proposed imposing 25% tariffs on about USD50bn worth of Chinese-made products, focusing on high-tech items from semiconductors to lithium batteries while seeking to minimise the impact on American consumers. In response, China's embassy to the US said in a statement that it "strongly condemns and firmly opposes" the tariffs. China will respond to any tariffs imposed by the US against alleged violations of intellectual property rights with the same proportion, scale and intensity, said its US ambassador Cui Tiankai



#### Market Outlook & Strategy

Technically, the FBMKLCI index was a quiet and choppy month in March. The index has broken out its triangle formation, similar during the 1997 Asian Crisis. If history repeats itself, the current movement would likely have trouble taking out the all-time high of 1,896. The critical support level is at 1,708 and a decisive breach below this level suggests that the 10-year cycle bearish phase is likely under way.

The historical performance of the FBMKLCI in April has been positive, registering average monthly gain of 1.8% over the past 10 years. As the GE14 gets closer, the local market may continue to remain choppy. Any downturn will be opportunity to accumulate at lower price. Going forward, we are expecting positive local equity market in the first half of the year towards the GE14.

# **Fixed Income Review and Outlook**

#### **Market Review**

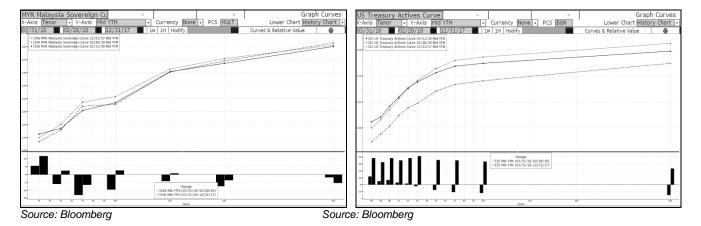
Malaysian Government Security ("MGS") bond yields had reversed the trend, moving the yield curve lower by 5-14 basis points ("bps") as market expectation of a second rate hike diminished, after dovish statement made in the recent BNM meeting as well as the latest low inflation figures. Ringgit strengthened to RM3.8620/USD from a month earlier of RM3.9150/USD, following the higher Brent crude oil prices at USD70.27/bbl and heightened concerns on the potential US-China trade war.

On local economic data, Malaysia had a strong head start in 2018 as the export was growing higher by 17.9% y-o-y in Jan'18 (Dec'17: +4.7%), boosted by "front-loading" ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday in Feb'18 and sustained global economic expansion in early 2018. Import growth rose to +11.6% y-o-y (Dec'17: +7.9%), lifted by the surge in import for re-exports. All in all, the trade balance was seen higher at RM9.7 billion in Jan'18 (Dec'17: RM7.3 bn). Malaysia's inflation was seen at 14-months low at 1.4% in Feb'18 due to high base recorded in the previous year. The cost of transport went down by 0.3% y-o-y while food was seen moderated to +3.0% y-o-y. Industrial Production Index for Jan'18 edged up by 3.0% y-o-y (2.9% y-o-y in Dec'17). Malaysia's external reserves creep up slightly by US\$0.2 billion to US\$103.9 billion in Mar'18. The reserve is sufficient to cover 7.3 months of retained import and 1.1 times short term external debt.

The auctions unveiled in March 2018 are as follows:

Government Auctions				
Issue	Issue Date	Amount (RM million)	Bid-cover (times)	Avg Yield (%)
30Year Re-Issuance of GII(Mat 05/47)	9/3/2018	2,500.00	2.07	4.93
7Year New Issuance of MGS(Mat 03/25)	14/3/2018	4,000.00	2.35	3.88
15Year Re-Issuance of GII(Mat 06/33)	23/3/2018	3,500.00	2.00	4.54
3Year Re-Issuance of MGS(Mat 11/21)	30/3/2018	3,000.00	1.72	3.45

Source: Bank Negara Malaysia



10-year US Treasury yield moved 12-bps lower to 2.74% from last month's 2.86% post the latest FOMC meeting in Mar'18. The minutes turned up to be less hawkish than expected, lowering the chance of a total 4 rate hikes this year. Trump's US\$60 billion tariff slap to China also one of the major factors moving the yields down as the market shifted to risk-off stance due to a potential trade war with China.

# Market Outlook & Strategy

Post OPR rate hike in Jan'18, BNM is likely to maintain a neutral monetary policy for the remaining of 2018 despite the major central banks are still showing signal towards policy tightening. The external risk factors such as geopolitical tension in North Korea, potential US trade war with China and fluctuation in crude oil prices will continue to weigh on the local market, but we believe corporate bond space still provides attractive yields given stable monetary stance from BNM and strong fundamentals in local market. As such, we will keep looking to buy on dips of corporate bonds if the opportunity arises.