

# Investment Linked Fund Performance Report April 2018

### **General Advice Warning**

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The positive momentum continues in the month of April for local bourse, FBMKLCI. The benchmark Index posted a new year high of 1,895 points on 19 April 2018. The index registered a monthly gain of 0.4% m-o-m to close at 1,870.4 points. The FBMKLCI continued to outperform the broader market for the fourth consecutive month in 2018, as the FTSE EMAS fell 0.1% mom in April. Average daily value traded on Bursa in April fell 5% m-o-m and 16% y-o-y to RM2.358b billion, its lowest monthly turnover since Aug 2017, as investors may have stayed on the sidelines in view of uncertainties ahead of GE14.

Malaysian government bond yield had a bad hit in April, moving the yield curve higher in a flattening manner, in conjunction with higher US Treasury yields and the upcoming Malaysia's 14th general election in May. Foreign investors sidelined Malaysia market to avoid political risk. Due to the same cause, the ringgit weakened slightly to RM3.922/USD from RM3.862/USD in a month ago. Brent crude oil was reaching a new year high at USD75.12/bl (USD70.27/bl in Mar'18) not seen in 3.5 years time as the continuing conflicts in Syria fuelled fears of oil supply shortages. Further action taken by OPEC to cap its members' oil output is also a concern, though the ever growing US shale oil output may undermine the decision.

On local economic data, both exports and imports had a negative turn in February as both figures were exacerbated in the previous month due to the Lunar New Year festivities, as people tends to store-up items. All in all, the trade balance was seen maintained at positive MYR 9.02 billion.

Going forward, election results will play a role in the direction of the market for the immediate term. On the longer term, as stability returns, equity market will attract investors focus on the back of improving corporate earnings and stability that will push prices higher. For fixed income, 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, all Funds had outperformed the their respective 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	c Fund	Baland	ed Fund	Divider	d Fund	Equit	/ Fund	Global Y	akin Fund	Incom	ne Fund	Jati F	und
	Fund	Benchmark	Fund	Benchmark	Fund	Benchmark	Fund	Benchmark	Fund	Benchmark	Fund	Benchmark	Fund	Benchmark
Monthly (%)	2.85%	1.62%	0.23%	-0.09%	0.73%	0.37%	0.87%	0.37%	2.05%	1.58%	-0.31%	-0.55%	0.73%	-0.47%
3 Months (%)	-3.48%	-4.82%	-0.48%	0.19%	-0.08%	0.10%	0.64%	0.10%	-3.75%	-5.30%	0.41%	0.28%	-0.44%	-3.58%
6 Months (%)	-5.90%	0.26%	1.54%	4.29%	3.13%	7.01%	4.82%	7.01%	-4.37%	2.02%	1.54%	1.55%	1.78%	0.66%
12 Months (%)	0.61%	14.07%	2.27%	4.72%	2.08%	5.79%	4.43%	5.79%	-0.30%	10.98%	3.43%	3.57%	-1. <mark>1</mark> 5%	1.52%

Source: MCIS Insurance Berhad

# AsiaPac Fund Monthly Report (April 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 April 2018, the fund had outperformed the benchmark by 123bps MoM (month on month). The fund had also outperformed the benchmark since inception.

# 1,600 1,400 1,200 1,000 1,000 800 400 200 Data Source: MCIS Insurance Berhad & Bloomberg

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#### AsiaPac Fund Performance Since Inception

#### **Top Ten Holdings**

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

#### **Fund Information**

NAV (30.04.18) RM0.6567
Fund Size RM42.17 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 Refer to your Policy Document

Circumstances

#### **Asset Allocation Ranges**

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

#### **Performance Table**

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	2.85%	1.62%
3 months (%)	-3.48%	-4.28%
6 months (%)	-5.90%	0.26%
12 months (%)	0.61%	14.07%
2 years (% pa)	19.49%	26.52%
3 years (% pa)	2.30%	-1.82%
5 years (% pa)	4.44%	-1.31%
Since Inception	4.78%	0.71%

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 (April 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**

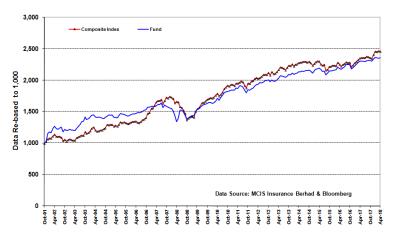
The Fund is considered medium risk given the mixed exposure of equity securities, fixed income and cash. The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; consumer sentiment, financial performance of the underlying companies, industry and economy development, social and political factors, 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 April 2018, the fund had outperformed the benchmark by 32bps MoM (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)
Tenaga Nasional Berhad (Equity)
Malayan Banking Berhad (Equity)
Sabah Development Bank Berhad
Northern Gateway Infrastructure Sdn Bhd (Bond)
Sabah Credit Corporation (Bond)
Projek Lebuhraya Utara-Selatan (Bond)
CIMB Bank Berhad (Equity)
Telekom Malaysia Berhad (Equity)

#### **Fund Information**

NAV (30.04.18) RM1.1767 Fund Size RM8.01 million

Inception Date 15-Oct-01 Fund Management 1.25% p.a.

Fee Pricing Daily

Price Quote Major Newspaper, or

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

Exceptional Refer to your Policy Document

Circumstances

**Fund Manager** 

**Asset Allocation Ranges** 

Asset Class	Min	Max	Current Actual
Malaysian Equity	40%	60%	48%
Fixed Income	40%	60%	46%
Cash	0%	20%	6%

#### **Performance Table**

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	0.23%	-0.09%
3 months (%)	-0.48%	0.19%
6 months (%)	1.54%	4.29%
12 months (%)	2.27%	4.72%
2 years (% pa)	3.69%	4.48%
3 years (% pa)	2.34%	2.26%
5 years (% pa)	3.01%	2.56%
Since Inception	5.30%	5.58%

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 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**

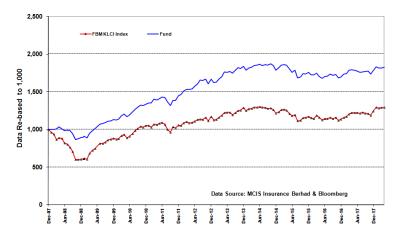
The Fund is considered high risk given the exposure to equity securities. The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; consumer sentiment, financial performance of the underlying companies, the performance of the industry and economy, and the share market in general, social and 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 April 2018, the fund had outperformed the benchmark by 36bps MoM (month on month). The outperformance was mainly driven by higher exposure of outperforming 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
Telekom Malaysia Berhad
DiGi.Com Berhad
Axiata Group Berhad
IOI Corporation Berhad

#### **Fund Information**

NAV (30.04.18) RM0.8691 Fund Size RM34.75 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%	93%
Cash	0%	20%	7%

#### **Performance Table**

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	0.73%	0.37%
3 months (%)	-0.08%	0.10%
6 months (%)	3.13%	7.01%
12 months (%)	2.08%	5.79%
2 years (% pa)	3.65%	5.74%
3 years (% pa)	-0.47%	0.95%
5 years (% pa)	1.47%	1.72%
Since Inception	6.02%	2.53%
Yield #	3.24%	3.34%

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.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>ast}$  Index is FBM KLCI sourced from Bloomberg.

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

# Equity Fund Monthly Report (April 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**

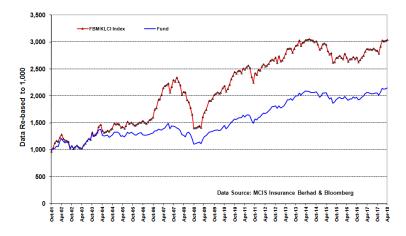
The Fund is considered high risk given the exposure to equity securities. The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; consumer sentiment, financial performance of the underlying companies, the performance of the industry and economy, and the share market in general, social and 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 April 2018, the fund had outperformed the benchmark by 50bps MoM (month on month). The outperformance was mainly driven by higher exposure of outperforming 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 Telekom Malaysia Berhad Sime Darby Plantation Berhad Petronas Dagangan Berhad Petronas Gas Berhad

#### **Fund Information**

NAV (30.04.18) RM1.0758 Fund Size RM10.30 million

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

Fee

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Fund Manager MCIS Insurance Berhad

Exceptional Refer to your Policy Document

Circumstances

**Asset Allocation Ranges** 

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

#### **Performance Table**

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	0.87%	0.37%
3 months (%)	0.64%	0.10%
6 months (%)	4.82%	7.01%
12 months (%)	4.43%	5.79%
2 years (% pa)	5.04%	5.74%
3 years (% pa)	1.43%	0.95%
5 years (% pa)	2.88%	1.72%
Since Inception	4.73%	6.93%
Yield #	3.34%	3.34%

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 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.

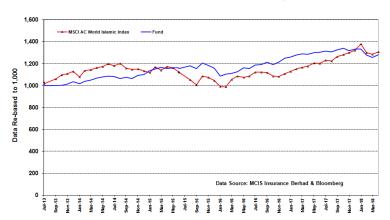
The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; economic and political developments in related countries, foreign exchange fluctuation, illiquid and inefficient securities in the Emerging Markets, and the financial performance of the underlying companies.

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 April 2018, the fund had outperformed the benchmark by 47bps MoM (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 Islamic World Equity Fund (AIWEF)

#### **Fund Information**

NAV (30.04.18) RM0.6411

Fund Size RM35.61 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%	87%
Cash	0%	20%	13%

#### **Performance Table**

Period	Fund	Index*
1 month (%)	2.05%	1.58%
3 months (%)	-3.75%	-5.30%
6 months (%)	-4.37%	2.02%
12 months (%)	-0.30%	10.98%
2 years (% pa)	6.73%	9.78%
3 years (% pa)	3.54%	3.73%
5 years (% pa)	-	-
Since Inception	5.28%	5.71%

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 (April 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.

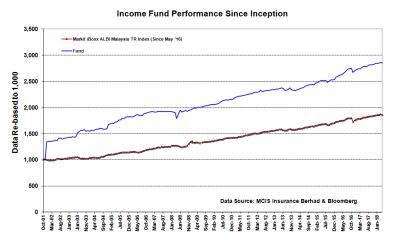
#### **Risks**

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 April 2018, the fund had outperformed the benchmark by 24bps MoM (month on month). The outperformance was due to outperforming of the fixed income securities compared to the benchmark index.



#### **Top Ten Holdings**

Malaysian Government Securities
UiTM Solar Power Sdn Berhad
SAJ Capital Sdn Bhd
Northern Gateway Infrastructure Sdn Bhd
YTL Corporation Berhad
Quantum Solar Park Malaysia Sdn Bhd
Sabah Development Bank Berhad
Asian Finance Bank Berhad
PBFIN Berhad
Sabah Credit Corporation

#### **Fund Information**

NAV (30.04.18) RM1.4282 Fund Size RM27.11 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

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Circumstances

#### **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 (%)	-0.31%	-0.55%
3 months (%)	0.41%	0.28%
6 months (%)	1.54%	1.55%
12 months (%)	3.43%	3.57%
2 years (% pa)	4.21%	3.14%
3 years (% pa)	4.37%	3.46%
5 years (% pa)	3.87%	3.30%
Since Inception	6.53%	3.82%

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 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**

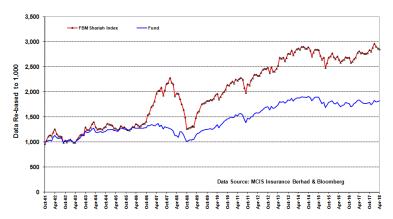
The Fund is considered high risk given the exposure to equity securities. The following factors can potentially affect the value of the Fund; consumer sentiment, financial performance of the underlying companies, the performance of the industry and economy, and the share market in general, social and 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 April 2018, the fund had outperformed the benchmark by 120bps 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
Sime Darby Plantation Berhad
Axiata Group Berhad
Petronas Gas Berhad
Maxis Berhad
Perlis Plantation Berhad
IOI Corporation Berhad
IHH Healthcare Berhad
Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad

#### **Fund Information**

NAV (30.04.18) RM0.9113 Fund Size RM13.31 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%	88%
Cash	0%	20%	12%

#### Performance Table

Period	Fund	Index*			
1 month (%)	0.73%	-0.47%			
3 months (%)	-0.44%	-3.58%			
6 months (%)	1.78%	0.66%			
12 months (%)	-1.15%	1.52%			
2 years (% pa)	2.15%	3.86%			
3 years (% pa)	-1.34%	0.24%			
5 years (% pa)	0.85%	2.46%			
Since Inception	3.69%	6.54%			
Yield #	2.84%	2.75%			

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**

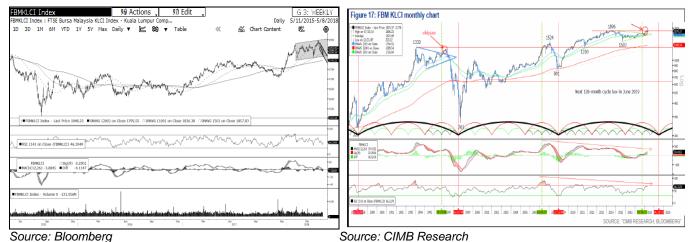
The positive momentum continues in the month of April for local bourse, FBMKLCI. The benchmark Index posted a new year high of 1,895 points on 19 April 2018. The index registered a monthly gain of 0.4% m-o-m to close at 1,870.4 points. This represents the second consecutive month of gains by the Malaysian market. The gain was driven partly by net foreign buying of RM1.5billion in April 2018. The FBMKLCI continued to outperform the broader market for the fourth consecutive month in 2018, as the FTSE EMAS fell 0.1% mom in April. Average daily value traded on Bursa in April fell 5% m-o-m and 16% y-o-y to RM2.358b billion, its lowest monthly turnover since Aug 2017, as investors may have stayed on the sidelines in view of uncertainties ahead of GE14.

Locally, Malaysian Prime Minister announced the dissolution of Parliament on 6 April 2018, paving the way for a general election (GE14) on 9 May 2018 (Wednesday). On the economic data, the downtrend for Malaysia's headline inflation rate continued in March, as it eased to 1.3% YoY – the lowest in 17 months, from +1.4% in February and +2.7% in January. This was mainly due to a decline in transportation and communication costs during the month while F&B inflation eased for the third straight month. Malaysia's exports rebounded to grow 2.2% YoY in March after falling 2% in February amid higher E&E and commodity shipments. Imports plunged 9.6% YoY, worsening from -2.8% in February as imports of capital and consumption goods deteriorated.

Globally, the world economy showed signs of stabilizing after a recent moderation as manufacturing activity strengthened for the first time this year. A purchasing managers index for factories across more than 40 countries rose to 53.5 in April from March's six-month low of 53.3. Gauges of production and new orders both rose, though export growth slowed. April data indicated that developed nations, on average, continued to outperform emerging markets. Meanwhile, the US economic growth cooled in 1Q18 as consumers pulled back following outsize spending in the prior period, though solid business investment cushioned some of the weakness. GDP rose at a 2.3% annualised rate, after climbing 2.9% in the prior quarter.

Chart 1: FBMKLCI Weekly Chart

Chart 2: FBMKLCI Monthly Pattern and Cycle Analysis



#### Market Outlook & Strategy

Technically, April was a rollercoaster month. The FBMKLCI index was dampened by the US-China trade war tension in the first three trading days. Thereafter, the index recovered to hit a record. Chart-wise, the index has formed a weekly bearish engulfing candlestick pattern at the all-time record closing. Coupled with the negative divergence formation on the indicators, the index is likely to undergo a correction in May. Since February, the key index is now in the final quadrant of its 126-months cycle, where a major downcycle could take place anytime. Traders may want to stay alert. Resistance: 1,896 & 1,920. Supports: 1,850 & 1,800.

Going forward, election results will play a role in the direction of the market for the immediate term. On the longer term, as stability returns, equity market will attract investors focus on the back of improving corporate earnings and stability that will push prices higher. On the other hand, foreign factors especially the performance of the Wall Street will also influence the market direction.

#### **Fixed Income Review and Outlook**

#### **Market Review**

Malaysian government bond yield had a bad hit in April, moving the yield curve higher in a flattening manner, in conjunction with higher US Treasury yields and the upcoming Malaysia's 14th general election in May. Foreign investors sidelined Malaysia market to avoid political risk. Due to the same cause, the ringgit weakened slightly to RM3.922/USD from RM3.862/USD in a month ago. Brent crude oil was reaching a new year high at USD75.12/bl (USD70.27/bl in Mar'18) not seen in 3.5 years time as the continuing conflicts in Syria fuelled fears of oil supply shortages. Further action taken by OPEC to cap its members' oil output is also a concern, though the ever growing US shale oil output may undermine the decision.

On local economic data, both exports and imports had a negative turn in February as both figures were exacerbated in the previous month due to the Lunar New Year festivities, as people tends to store-up items. All in all, the trade balance was seen maintained at positive MYR 9.02 billion. In line, industrial production has also slowed down from the calendar effect of the Lunar New Year holiday in the short month of February, seen at +3.0% YoY in February (+5.4% YoY in Jan'18, adjusted). Malaysia's inflation was seen maintaining its low figure in March at 1.3% YoY (1.4% YoY in Feb'18) as the cost for transport dropped at the back of strengthening Ringgit. Malaysia's external reserves jumped by US\$6.10 billion to US\$110.0 billion in the mid of Apr'18, highest since Feb'15, supported by capital, trade and corporate flows. The reserve is sufficient to cover 7.7 months of retained import and 1.1 times short term external debt.

The auctions unveiled in April 2018 are as follows;

Government Auctions				
Issue	Issue Date	Amount	Bid-cover	Avg Yield
		(RM million)	(times)	(%)
20Year Re-Issuance of GII(Mat 08/37)	13/4/2018	2,500.00	2.12	4.80
5Year New Issuance of MGS(Mat 04/23)	20/4/2018	4,000.00	1.56	3.76
10Year New Issuance of GII(Mat 10/28)	28/4/2018	4,000.00	2.70	4.37

Source: Bank Negara Malaysia

The world most monitored bond, the 10-year US Treasury note hits 3.027% in the month of Apr'18 for the first time since 2014, as the good economic data are in-line with Federal Reserve's expectation for their rate hike action. In addition, the US-China trade war and geopolitical conflicts in Middle-East have also been putting pressure to the strength of US dollar and hence lifting the Treasury yields higher. The 10-year US Treasury note was last seen stabilizing back to 2.95%.

#### 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-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 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.