

# HLA Venture Managed Fund (HLAVMF)

April 2021

## Fund Features

### 1. Investment Objective

The objective of the fund is aim to provide investors with prospects for long-term capital appreciation through diversification in various capital instruments including equity, government securities, private debt securities, money market instruments and foreign assets as well as derivatives. This fund aims to outperform the benchmark comprising of FTSE Bursa Malaysia Kuala Lumpur Composite Index (FBM KLCI) and Maybank 12-month fixed deposit rate in a ratio of 50:50.

### 2. Investment Strategy & Approach

This fund will participate in both fixed income and equity markets as well as benchmarked against the FTSE Bursa Malaysia Kuala Lumpur Composite Index (FBM KLCI) and Maybank 12-month fixed deposit rate in equal proportion. This fund is suitable for investors who are willing to take moderate risk.

### 3. Asset Allocation

The fund will invest up to a maximum 50% of its NAV in equities.

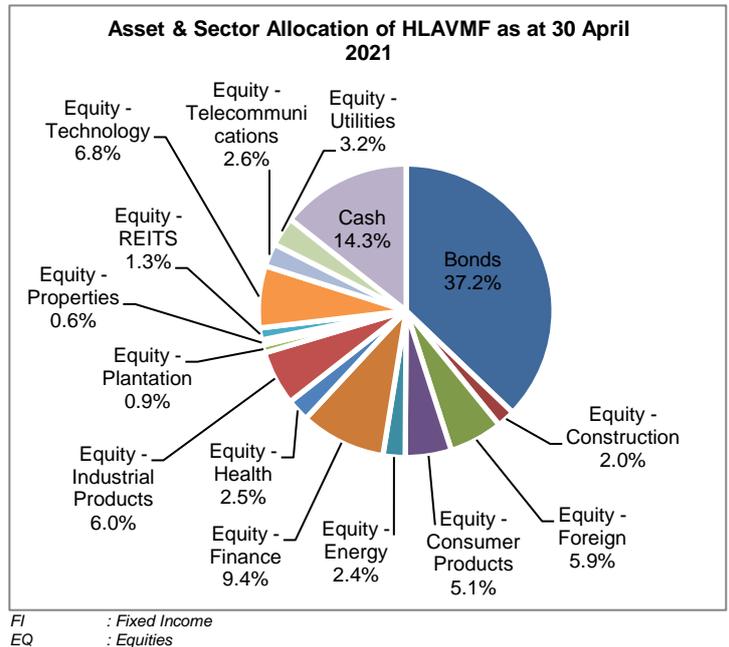
### 4. Target Market

This fund is suitable for investors who are willing to take moderate risk.

## Fund Details

Unit Price (30/4/2021)	:RM2.4303
Fund Size (30/4/2021)	:RM312.8 mil
Fund Management Fee (effective as at 01/03/2017)	: 1.23% p.a. (capped at 1.25%)
Fund Manager	:Hong Leong Assurance Berhad
Fund Category	:Managed
Fund Inception	:07 April 2004
Benchmark	:50% FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI Index (FBM KLCI)&50% 12-month Fixed Deposit Interest Rates
Frequency of Unit Valuation	:Daily

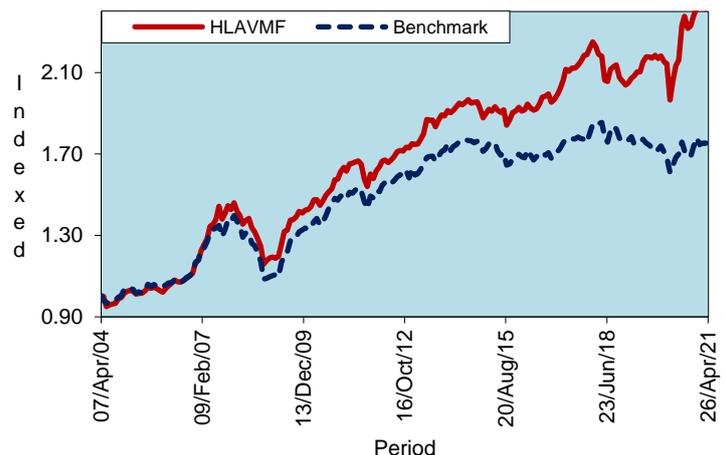
The Company reserves the right to change the cap of Fund Management Fee (% p.a.) by giving the Policy Owner ninety (90) days prior written notice. The Fund Management Fee will be reviewed monthly and will be revised if the previous month end actual asset allocation deviates by more than ten percent (10%) of the initial asset allocation.



## Top 5 Holdings for HLAVMF as at 30 Apr 2021

Rank	Company	Asset Class	%
1.	MAYBANK	EQ	3.4
2.	CIMB	EQ	3.2
3.	TENAGA	EQ	2.8
4.	MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT SECURITIES	FI	2.7
5.	RHBBANK	EQ	2.7
Total Top 5			14.9

## Historical Performance



	YTD	1 month	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years	Since Inception
HLAVMF	0.51%	0.68%	18.03%	11.50%	26.15%	46.85%	143.03%
Benchmark*	-0.53%	0.98%	7.65%	-4.60%	4.40%	17.36%	76.10%
Relative	1.04%	-0.30%	10.38%	16.10%	21.75%	29.49%	66.93%

\*Source: Bloomberg, Maybank

**Notice: Past performance of the fund is not an indication of its future performance**

# HLA Venture Managed Fund (HLAVMF)

## Market Review, Outlook & Strategy - Equities Market

In April, US led the rise in global equities as both the S&P 500 and Nasdaq hit record highs while the Asia-ex Japan markets continued to lag. The strong US market was on the back of earnings optimism and the release of economic data that indicated the recovery was on track. Some of the optimism was mitigated by concerns over President Biden's proposed tax hikes on the rich to fund spending on Social Security and a US\$2.3trn infrastructure spending plan. During the month, global number of Covid 19 daily cases again reached record highs following the surge in infections in India with a new strain. Vaccine rollouts continued to gain momentum in the US and UK while the EU and emerging markets continued to lag. The Fed Chair also maintained that the committee will not act pre-emptively and is unlikely to pull back from their policies until substantial progress towards employment and inflation has been made. Rates are likely to be maintained for the whole of 2021 with potential taper discussions happening only in late 2021 or early 2022. The 10-year US Treasury yield fell 7bps to 1.63% but is expected to resume the uptrend eventually as the global recovery gains traction. In China, there has been more regulatory oversight and noise on the Chinese tech names which have caused the stocks to underperform the market. The combination of tech regulation and fines, share sale/ fund raising and tightening liquidity in China would continue to pose a near-term overhang for the sector.

Domestically in April, the reopening plays took a breather while glove stocks enjoyed a revival. The overall market was lacklustre as the sharp rise in Covid 19 cases coupled with Malaysia's slow dispensation of vaccines have resulted in the government reverting to a tighter lockdown mode (from CMCO to MCO). Top Glove's share price was boosted when it announced that it had resolved its 11 indicators of forced labour which was verified by independent consultant Impactt. The telco sector also saw interest during the month backed by the Celcom-Digi merger talk. Sentiment for construction was lifted on the back of the approval of the MRT3 project in the Klang Valley.

Retailers were net buyers at +RM0.6bn (USD146m) whilst local institutions turned small net buyers at +RM0.1bn (USD24m). Foreign institutions were net sellers at -RM1.1bn (USD268m). Retailers and local institutions accounted for 36.7% and 27.5% of the value traded while foreign institutions accounted for the remaining 15.1%. For the month, the best performing index was the FBM Shariah index which appreciated by 3.3% mom. FBM KLCI increased by 1.8% mom to close at 1,601.65 points. FBMSC and FBM Emas were up by 2.7% mom and 1.6% mom respectively.

Regionally, investors are likely to be following closely the pace of vaccination in the developed markets and the progress of reopening particularly in the US and UK. Bond yields are likely to continue fluctuating while threat of inflation continues to be real given the supply side disruption. Domestically, key events to follow in May are the Monetary Policy Committee meeting where rates are expected to remain status quo, release of 1Q21 GDP numbers for Malaysia and also Jan-Mar quarter's results reporting. Market participants will also be following closely the Covid-19 daily infection curve which has spiked up following the relaxation and reopening of schools. The reimposition of a new round of MCO 3.0 would further delay the return to normalcy and potential economic recovery. As such, markets will remain volatile. We maintain our barbell strategy by investing in both the value and growth sectors, with focus still on the recovery/ reopening theme, reflation beneficiaries and 5G/ technology names.

## Market Review, Outlook & Strategy - Fixed Income Market

U.S. Treasury ("UST") yields have eased in April from record high levels observed a month prior. The 5-, 10- and 30-year UST yields declined by 5, 8 and 7 bps m-o-m respectively as opinions that inflation expectations have already been priced in took hold and that record level yields recorded in March offered attractive valuations. Yield of the closely watched 10Y UST reached a low of 1.53% in mid-April, coming of its high of 1.78% observed in end March. The decline in yields was also driven by several macroeconomic factors which placed additional hurdles on the US's current path of economic recovery. Chief among such factors is the pause on the Johnson & Johnson vaccine due to emergence of blood clots side effects in some recipients. The pause will ostensibly result in a set-back in the immunisation timeline which would in turn drag the pace of economic recovery. Additionally, renewed tension between the US and Russia after the former imposed sanctions on the latter for its interference in the US election among others has also placed additional strain on the economic outlook as a result of said tension. CPI in March rose 2.6% y-o-y, largely in line consensus estimate of 2.5%, in line with the Fed's stance that worry of higher than expected inflation in the short term is far-fetched.

On the local front, govies yield fell relatively in line with the general movement of the UST with the 10-, 15- and 30-year MGS declining by 15, 5 and 10bps m-o-m respectively. The decline in local yields was also driven by FTSE Russef's affirmation of Malaysia's membership in the WGBI which supported buying interest. This month saw the GoM successfully issuing USD1.3 billion of sustainability sukuk, the first of its kind, which was well received. The issuance was oversubscribed by 6.4x, reflecting investors' confidence in the nation's economic health and prospects. Some upward pressure on yields in late April came largely as a result of some supportive economic data. Malaysia's CPI in March came in at 1.7%, above consensus expectations of 1.6%. Additionally, strong export data in March which increased by 31.0% y-o-y compared with February's 17.6% also supported prospects of economic recovery on the local front.

In the corporate bond segment, investor's demand preference continued to centre on liquid and strong investment grade bonds with AAA and GG bonds comprising the bulk of daily transactions. Some prominent new issuances during the month are Infracap Resources Sdn Bhd (RM5.75 billion, AAA), MKD Kencana Sdn Bhd (RM1.0 billion, GG), Imtiaz Sukuk II Berhad (RM1.0 billion, AA2) and OSK Rated Bond Sdn Bhd (RM578 million, AA).

Over the near term, movement in the UST would likely be influenced by policy measures coupled with relevant economic indicators. Biden's proposed tax bill which aims to double the capital gains tax to 39% for individuals earning north of USD1 million could put pressure on the equity market which would induce risk-off sentiments. The president also unveiled his latest stimulus bill of USD1.8 trillion for education and childcare which could result in an increase in public debt issuance to fund said proposal.

On the domestic front, all eyes will be on the MPC in early May. Close attention will also be directed towards daily infection rates which has been spiking past the 3,000 level as of late. This has resulted in a new movement control order ("MCO") to arrest the high case numbers. Additionally, progress on the nation's vaccination programme will also be monitored to gauge the feasibility of the December 2021 immunisation target. We expect risk off sentiment to kick in with MCO 3.0 and that would provide good opportunity for the fund to take profit and rebalance its position for the second half of the year.

## **Actual Annual Investment Returns for the Past Ten (10) Calendar Years**

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Benchmark</b>	2.9%	7.0%	7.3%	-2.6%	-1.3%	-0.8%	6.6%	-1.9%	-1.8%	2.3%
<b>HLAVMF - Gross</b>	1.6%	10.3%	11.4%	-0.7%	4.3%	3.4%	15.4%	-7.6%	9.0%	13.1%
<b>HLAVMF - Net</b>	0.3%	8.3%	9.3%	-1.9%	2.7%	2.0%	12.9%	-8.3%	7.0%	10.8%

Net returns are adjusted for tax and fund management fees.

Those are the actual returns in the past ten (10) years, or since inception if shorter, and are strictly the performance of the investment-linked fund. Thus, the returns are not earned on the actual premium paid of the investment-linked product.

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# HLA Venture Managed Fund (HLAVMF)

## Investment Risks

All investments carry risks. Policy Owners must be prepared to accept certain degree of risk associated with this Investment. The following are the non-exhaustive list of risks associated to this fund.

### 1. Market Risk

Market risk stems from the fact that there are other economy-wide perils, which threaten all businesses. It is mainly caused by uncertainties in the economy, political and social environment.

### 2. Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the fund invested cannot be readily sold and converted into cash. This may arise when the trading volume is low and/or where there is a lack of demand for the security.

### 3. Credit Risk

This refers to the possibility that the issuer of a security will not be able to make timely payments of interest or principal repayment on the maturity date. The default may lead to a fall in the value of the funds.

### 4. Interest Rate Risk

The level of interest rates has an impact on the value of investments. Any increase in rates will lead to a fall in the value of securities, thus affecting the value of the funds.

### 5. Country Risk

The foreign investment of a fund may be affected by the political & economic conditions of the country which the investments are made.

### 6. Currency Risk

This risk is associated with investments that are denominated in foreign currencies. Fluctuation in foreign exchange rates will have an impact on the value of the funds.

## Risk Management

The company has in place its Authorized Investment Framework which forms part of the Risk Management process. The authority framework covers the nature and scope of the investment authority that is exercisable by various parties in managing the Company's investments. The potential investment risks that are taken into consideration in managing the fund include economic conditions, liquidity, qualitative and quantitative aspects of the securities. The investment manager(s) have put in place the following controls to reduce the risks through:

- a) having a flexible tactical asset allocation
- b) investing in a wide range of companies across different sectors
- c) setting prudent investment limits on various exposures
- d) taking into account the liquidity factor in selecting securities
- e) engaging in the hedging of foreign currency exposure where appropriate

## Basis of Unit Valuation

1. The assets of every fund are to be valued to determine the value at which units of a particular fund can be liquidated or purchased for investment purposes.
2. The unit price of a unit of a fund shall be determined by the Company but in any event shall not be less than the value of fund of the relevant fund (as defined below), divided by the number of units of the given fund in issue on the business day before the valuation date, and the result adjusted to the nearest one hundredth of a cent.
3. The maximum value of any asset of any fund shall not exceed the following price:
  - a) The last transacted market price at which those assets could be purchased or sold on the business day before the valuation date; or
  - b) In the case of securities for which market values are not readily available, the price at which, in our Investment Manager's opinion, the asset may have been purchased on the business day before the valuation date; plus any expenses which would have been incurred in its acquisition.
4. To ensure fair treatment to all unit holders, the cost of acquiring and disposing of assets is recouped by making a transaction cost adjustment to the net asset value per unit.

## Exceptional Circumstances

The Company reserves the right to defer the payment of benefits (other than death benefit) under this Policy for a period not exceeding six (6) months from the date the payment would have been normally effected if not for intervening events such as temporary closure of any Stock Exchange in which the fund is invested which the Company, in its discretion, may consider exceptional.

## Basis of Calculation of Past Performance

The historical performance of the fund is calculated based on the price difference over the period in consideration compared to the older price of the period in consideration.

$$\frac{\text{Unit Price}_t - \text{Unit Price}_{t-1}}{\text{Unit Price}_{t-1}}$$

## Others

HLA Venture Managed Fund is managed by Hong Leong Assurance Berhad (HLA). Any amount invested in this fund is invested by HLA on behalf of Policy Owner in equity, fixed income, collective investment scheme, foreign asset, derivatives and money market instrument/s. If the financial institutions and/or corporations issuing the equity, fixed income, collective investment scheme, foreign asset, derivatives and money market instruments defaults or insolvent, the Policy Owner risks losing part or all of his/her amount that were invested into the instruments on his/her behalf by HLA.

**THIS IS AN INSURANCE PRODUCT THAT IS TIED TO THE PERFORMANCE OF THE UNDERLYING ASSETS, AND IS NOT A PURE INVESTMENT PRODUCT SUCH AS UNIT TRUSTS.**

## Disclaimer:

Policy Owner must evaluate your options carefully and satisfy yourself that the investment-linked fund chosen meets your risk appetite. Past performance of the fund is not an indication of its future performance. The intention of this document is to enable Policy Owner to better understand the fund features and details in order to assist Policy Owner to making an informed decision. This document shall not be construed as professional advice on investment choices.

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