

HLA Venture Managed Fund (HLAVMF)

April 2022

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.

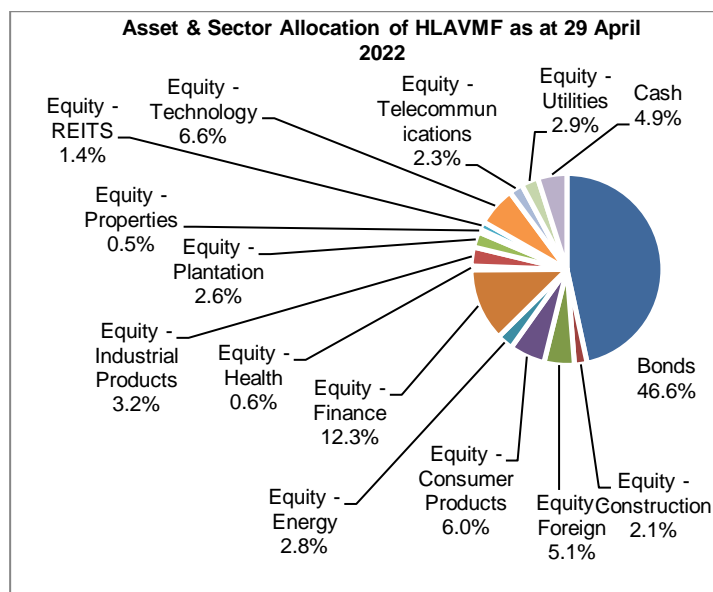
4. Target Market

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

Fund Details

Unit Price (29/4/2022)	:RM2.2910
Fund Size (29/4/2022)	:RM309.9 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.

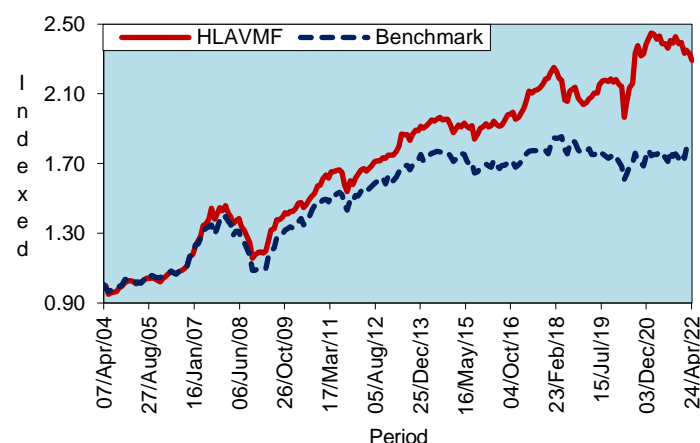


FI : Fixed Income
EQ : Equities

Top 5 Holdings for HLAVMF as at 29 Apr 2022

		%
1. MALAYSIA GOV SECURITIES 1	FI	5.6
2. CIMB	EQ	4.3
3. MAYBANK	EQ	4.1
4. RHBBANK	EQ	3.5
5. MALAYSIA INVESTMENT ISSUE 1	FI	3.1
Total Top 5		20.6

Historical Performance



	YTD	1 month	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years	Since Inception
HLAVMF	-4.42%	-1.60%	-5.73%	8.91%	8.30%	38.17%	129.10%
Benchmark*	1.35%	0.49%	0.85%	1.86%	0.71%	15.28%	77.62%
Relative	-5.77%	-2.09%	-6.59%	7.05%	7.59%	22.89%	51.48%

*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

Volatility continued to dominate markets throughout April. Investors had to brace for a more hawkish Fed following the sharp rise in inflation and the situation was further aggravated by supply chain disruptions from China's lockdown. There is also little progress on Russia-Ukraine peace talks and the situation may be further complicated by the European Union's proposal of imposing a gradual ban on Russian oil by the end of the year with fresh sanctions imposed by the US and Europe for alleged war crimes committed by the Russian forces against Ukrainian civilians. Over in China, there were some positive developments on the regulatory front which include the revision of rules on the confidentiality and filing management in foreign-listing Chinese companies and policymakers pledging to support the healthy growth in platform companies. China's President Xi Jinping also said that China would boost domestic demand by increasing infrastructure spending in transportation, energy, water and new energy.

In Malaysia, 'feel-good' initiatives by the government continues as expectations of an early election heat up. The special EPF withdrawal disbursement commenced during the month and the Prime Minister declared free toll at 9 highways during the festive period. Gamuda also announced that its 4-toll road concession holding companies received an offer to acquire its highway stakes for ~RM5.5b and this will enable the government to save ~RM5b on toll road compensation. Recently, Bank Negara Malaysia finally awarded the 5 digital banking licenses to Boost-RHB, GXS Bank-Kuok Brothers, YTL-SEA, AEON-MoneyLion and KAF Consortium. Commodities remained elevated during the month with some policy flip flops seen in Indonesia resulting in CPO prices fluctuating between RM6,200/tonne to RM7,500/tonne levels. Despite elevated commodities prices, the Ringgit weakened against the US\$ to 4.35, a level last seen in Mar 2020.

The average daily trading value in April declined to RM2.1b vs March's RM3.1b. Retailers were small net buyers with +RM0.2b whilst local institutions stayed net sellers at -RM1.1b. Foreign institutions remained net buyers at +RM0.8b. Retailers and local institutions accounted for 38.5% and 26.6% of value traded. Foreign institutions accounted for 23.1% of value traded. The FBM KLCI was up by 0.8% mom to close at 1,600.43 pts. FBM Shariah was also higher by 0.7% mom, FBM Emas by 0.7% mom and FBM Small Cap outperformed the other indices with a +2.9% mom return.

For the month of May, the Federal Reserve announced a 50bps hike to its benchmark rate. This was in line with the Fed's earlier guidance and also market expectations. Positively, a less 'hawkish' Fed statement and confidence of steering the economy to a 'soft-landing' allayed some concerns among investors. On the Russia-Ukraine conflict, a key milestone to watch will be on 9th May – 'Victory Day' for Russia which commemorates the country's defeat of the Nazis in 1945. Speculation is growing that the Russian President could step up its military operations come May 9. Elsewhere, investors will also be keen to 'wait-and-see' China's policies to rescue the economy following pledges to meet its growth targets without compromising on the country's stringent Covid Zero strategy. As for Malaysia, the domestic economy is expected to continue its recovery as full economic reopening takes place. It will also be the earnings season and investors will be looking forward to the guidance provided as we are near mid-2022. 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

UST rates continued to climb in April in reaction to increasingly hawkish comments by Fed officials. The 2-, 5-, 10- and 30-year UST yields increased by 38, 49, 59 and 55 bps respectively m-o-m. The sharp increase reflects concerns on the Fed's potential policy action to tame inflationary pressures. Apart from future interest rate hikes, additional concerns have been raised about Fed officials' comments on balance sheet reduction, particularly on the magnitude and pace of such reductions. Concerns about inflation culminated in the 10Y note hitting 2.98%, its highest level since December 2018. Throughout the month, yields found some respite, which prevented them from rising further, with the ongoing global economic uncertainty being a key factor in this regard. Concerns on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine coupled with renewed lockdown measures in China did mildly temper the current increase in yield.

On the local front, govies yield continued to track the trend in US with a greater magnitude than previous month. Despite having considerably varying economic fundamentals especially in term of inflation, domestic yields recorded substantial increases in April. The yields on the 3-, 5-, 10-, 15- and 30-tenors increased by 72, 50, 50, 62 and 50 bps, respectively. Fundamentally, the transition towards an endemic phase has been relatively smooth, with almost all restrictive measures on economic activity being eliminated. Additionally, March inflation readings came in at 2.2%, a far cry from US levels. Domestic yields, however, have increased in lockstep with the UST which has increased to perceived attractive rates, inducing sell-offs in the domestic notes.

In the corporate bond segment, some prominent new issuances during the month are Kuala Lumpur Danainfra Nasional Berhad (RM2.5 billion, GG), Public Bank Berhad (RM2.0 billion million, AA1), Cagamas Berhad (RM1.9 billion, AAA), SP Setia Berhad (RM1.2 billion, AA) and MMC Port Holdings Sdn Bhd (RM1.0 billion, AA-).

The UST is likely to be influenced by the Fed interest rate and balance sheet reduction policies. Additionally, sentiment driven by Fed officials' comments will also likely steer the direction and magnitude of yield movements. At the same time, close attention will be paid to potential risk-off events, including the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and China's economic uncertainty.

With the major upward shift in yield curve in April where market players braced for aggressive tightening stance by major central banks globally led by US Federal Reserve, local government bond yields were elevated as a result. The knee jerk reaction has caused yields to be much higher than pre-pandemic levels by at least 40bps to 115bps across the yield curve which renders the existing levels very attractive given still record low policy rate. With such attractive valuation, we opine it is time to be nimble and selective in deploying cash in order to achieve a higher yield over overnight rate. We believe yields may begin to recede once interest rate normalisation take place in the US.

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

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Benchmark	7.0%	7.3%	-2.6%	-1.3%	-0.8%	6.6%	-1.9%	-1.8%	2.3%	-1.0%
HLAVMF - Gross	10.3%	11.4%	-0.7%	4.3%	3.4%	15.4%	-7.6%	9.0%	13.1%	0.4%
HLAVMF - Net	8.3%	9.3%	-1.9%	2.7%	2.0%	12.9%	-8.3%	7.0%	10.8%	-0.9%

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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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:

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

Basis of Unit Valuation

- 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.
- 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.
- The maximum value of any asset of any fund shall not exceed the following price:
 - The last transacted market price at which those assets could be purchased or sold on the business day before the valuation date; or
 - 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.
- 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.