

HLA Venture Managed Fund (HLAVMF)

September 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.

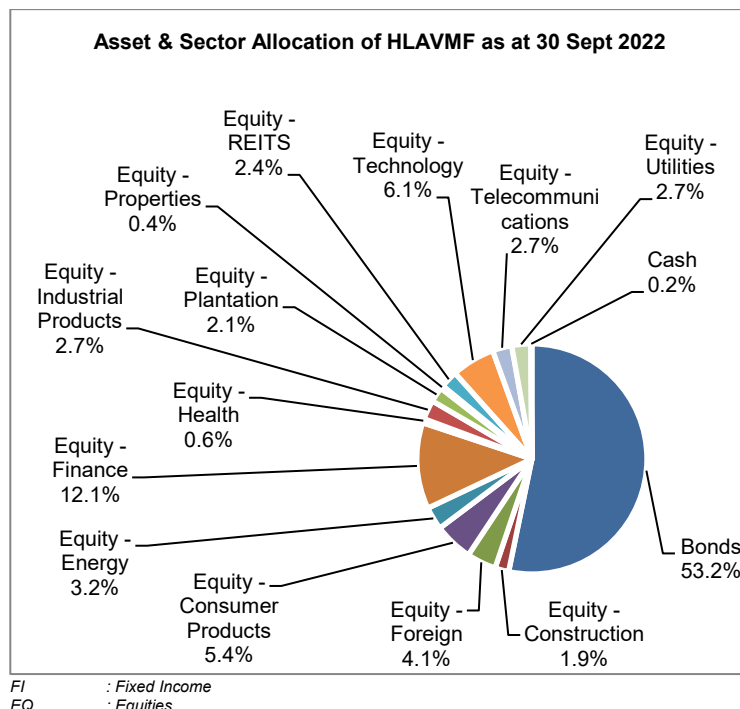
4. Target Market

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

Fund Details

Unit Price (30/9/2022)	:RM2.1984
Fund Size (30/9/2022)	:RM302.2 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

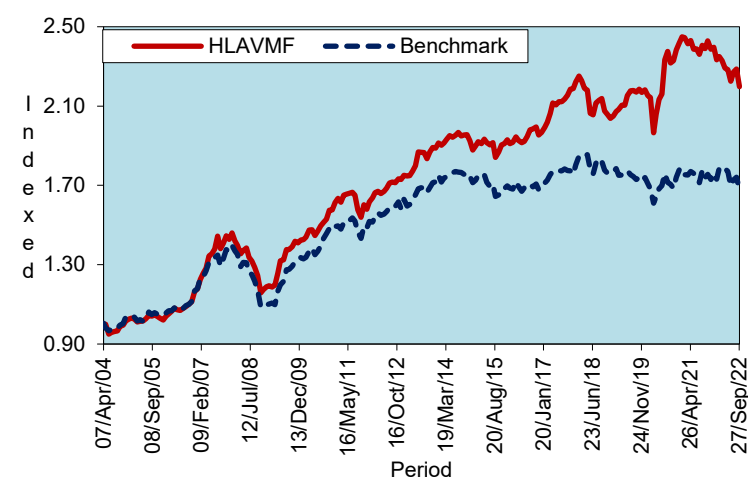
The Company reserves the right to change the cap of Fund Management Fee (% p.a.) by giving the Policy Owner ninety (90) days prior written notice. The Fund Management Fee will be reviewed monthly and will be revised if the previous month end actual asset allocation deviates by more than ten percent (10%)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



Top 5 Holdings for HLAVMF as at 30 Sept 2022

		%
1.	TNB POWER GENERATION SDN BHD 0	FI 10.0
2.	IMTIAZ SUKUK II BERHAD 1	FI 8.3
3.	MALAYSIA GOVERNMENT SECURITIES 1	FI 7.3
4.	CIMB	EQ 4.4
5.	MAYBANK	EQ 4.0
Total Top 5		34.0

Historical Performance



	YTD	1 month	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years	Since Inception
HLAVMF	-8.28%	-3.85%	-8.03%	1.30%	2.02%	28.27%	119.84%
Benchmark*	-4.78%	-3.71%	-3.64%	-3.06%	-5.54%	5.18%	66.86%
Relative	-3.50%	-0.14%	-4.38%	4.37%	7.57%	23.09%	52.98%

*Source: Bloomberg, Maybank

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

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Market Review, Outlook & Strategy - Equities Market

September was a tough month where global equities slumped in tandem with other risk assets while the greenback surged with the DXY Index near a 20-year high. Market sentiment was depressed due to global growth concerns with rising possibility of central banks overtightening and ongoing geopolitical tensions. During the FOMC meeting, the Fed raised rates by another 75 bps and signaled that the Fed remains committed to tighten at the expense of the economy until inflation subsides. Geopolitically, the Russia-Ukraine tension deteriorated further when the Russian President announced a partial mobilization of reservists and the annexation of captured Ukraine territory with the threat of nuclear weapons should Russia be invaded. US-China tension rose when the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations approved the Taiwan Policy Act of 2022 which could potentially increase US' support for Taiwan by providing billions of dollars in defense capabilities. FX volatility was also seen in the British pound after the new UK government announced a radical economic plan in a bid to boost growth and Yen weakens as the BoJ remains steadfast in its stance of ultra-easy monetary policy in order to spur inflation and to support growth in Japan.

Back to Malaysia, we saw Bank Negara Malaysia raised the Overnight Policy Rate by 25bps to 2.5% as headline CPI hit the highest in 5.5 years to +4.7% yoy in August (July: +4.4% yoy). There is increasing expectation that Parliament could be dissolved after the tabling of Budget 2023 on 7th October with UMNO leaders confirming to the media that general election would be held this year. The three best-performing sectors in September were construction (-2.1% mom), transport (-2.9% mom) and REIT (-3.4% mom). The top three worst-performing sectors in September were plantation (-10% mom), energy (-8% mom) and telecommunication (-7.1% mom). Average daily trading value increased to RM1.8b in September from RM1.7b in August. Foreign institutions turned net sellers -RM1.6b while local institutions turned net buyers (+RM1.1b). Local retailers remained net buyers +RM0.5b. Retailers and local institutions accounted for 24% and 36% of value traded. Foreign institutions accounted for 29% of value traded. The 4 major indices were negative in September: FBM KLCI -7.8% mom, FBM Shariah -7.5% mom, FBM Emas -6.7% mom and FBMSC -4.6% mom.

The market will remain volatile and investors are likely to remain cautious with the rising likelihood of a global recession. Investors will continue to monitor closely Fed speak to gauge the interest rates trajectory as well as the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and the impact on commodity prices. Also in China, the 20th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party on 16th October will be followed closely for any indication of a softer stance to the current zero Covid strategy as well as the successful reopening of Hong Kong and Macau. Domestically, the upcoming Budget 2023 on 7th October is unlikely to excite the market but potentially an indication of an early 15th General Election. We remain defensive, investing in both value and growth. Sectors that we continue to favour include interest rate hike beneficiaries (banks), selected recovery/reopening names (consumers with pricing power) and 5G/ technology (easing of supply chain bottlenecks).

Market Review, Outlook & Strategy - Fixed Income Market

UST rates shot up in September due to grave inflationary concerns coupled with the unabating hawkish tone from policy makers. The 2-, 5-, 10- and 30-years UST yields increased by 79, 74, 64 and 48 bps respectively m-o-m. The sharp increase in yield came on the back of higher than expected August CPI readings of 8.3% y-o-y against market forecast of 8.1%. Subsequent to this, the 10Y note surpassed the 4.0% level for the first time in 12 years. At the close of the month, the Bank of England announced a massive 65 billion pounds bond buying programme. This policy dislocation at a time where central banks worldwide are trailing down the policy tightening path came to the surprise of the market and sent yields plummeting. The 10Y fell by more than 26bps to just under 3.70%, on track to the biggest single-day drop since March 2009.

On the local front, relatively similar trends were observed in govies yields as it continued to track the trend in the US. The yields on the 5-, 10-, 15- and 30-years tenors increased by 33, 43, 41 bps respectively. The strong economic footing as reflected by 2Q GDP was accommodative for the central bank to raise the OPR by 25bps in its quest to combat rising price pressures. August CPI came in at 4.7% y-o-y, higher than the 4.4% recorded a month prior, with the increase stemming largely from food components. The 10Y MGS settled at 4.42% at the end of September compared to 3.99% a month prior.

In the corporate bond segment, some prominent new issuances during the month were CIMB Bank Berhad (RM1.5 billion, AA2), CIMB Group Holdings (RM1.5 billion, AA2), edotco Malaysia Sdn Bhd (RM1.4 billion, AA+) and IGB REIT Capital Sdn Bhd (RM1.2 billion, AAA).

The UST is likely to be influenced by inflation data and comments from Fed officials, who have remained adamant in their commitment to bring inflation down to 2%, which is a far cry from current levels. We are of the opinion that the current hawkish environment will likely persist over the near term as inflation is unlikely to cool off substantially. On the flip side, recessionary indicators and signs of a slowing economy as a result of aggressive tightening have started to emerge particularly in the labour market. We will remain vigilant in observing relevant data to anticipate if a reversal in current policy tightening is on the horizon.

Domestically, the MGS will likely track the movement of its US counterpart. Yields would most likely trend higher on account of the Fed's current aggressive trajectory. In addition, the upcoming budget dubbed as the election year budget could be one that is costly and would necessitate additional government borrowings. In view of the above, we would stay cautious and continue to monitor key economic data that could cause risk-off sentiments while waiting for oversold bond reinvestment opportunities.

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.

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

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.

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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. Derivatives are used to hedge against currency risk. The Fund aims to hedge up to 100% of foreign currency exposure using derivatives.

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.