

HLA Venture Managed Fund (HLAVMF)

February 2024

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.

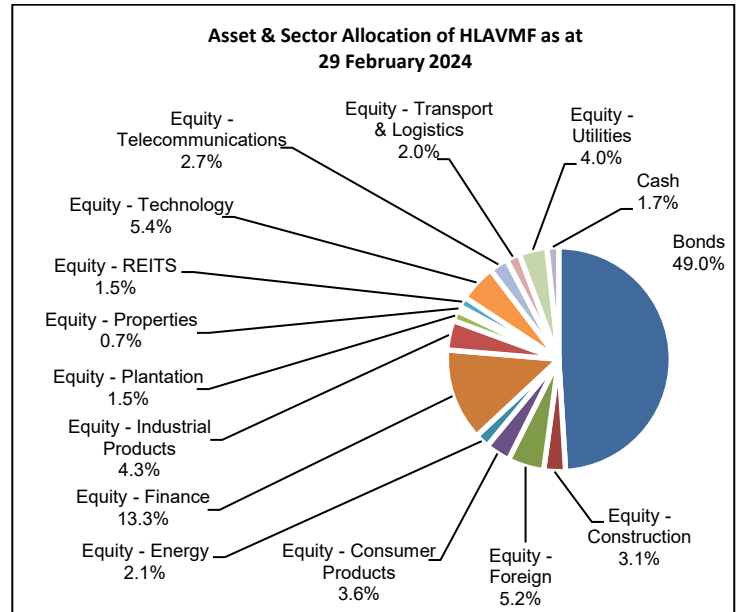
4. Target Market

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

Fund Details

Unit Price (29/02/2024)	: RM2.4558
Fund Size (29/02/2024)	: RM353.3 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 three (3) months 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.

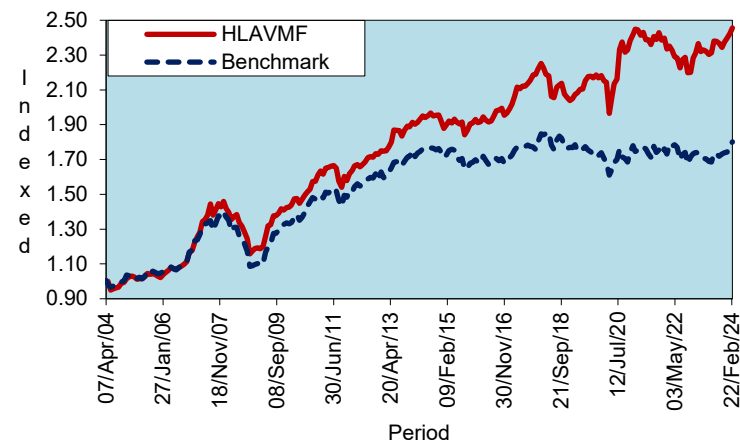


FI : Fixed Income
EQ : Equities

Top 5 Holdings for HLAVMF as at 29 February 2024

Rank	Holder	Asset Class	%
1.	TNB POWER GENERATION SND BHD 0	FI	9.7
2.	MSIAN GOVERNMENT SECURITIES	FI	7.6
3.	IMTIAZ SUKUK II BERHAD 1	FI	7.3
4.	MSIAN GOVERNMENT SECURITIES 3	FI	5.0
5.	MAYBANK	EQ	5.1
Total Top 5			34.7

Historical Performance



	YTD	1 month	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years	Since Inception
HLAVMF	2.44%	1.31%	5.82%	0.46%	18.48%	28.33%	145.58%
Benchmark*	3.40%	1.34%	4.68%	2.73%	0.93%	3.71%	79.26%
Relative	-0.96%	-0.03%	1.14%	-2.27%	17.55%	24.63%	66.32%

*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

During the month, global equities continued to move up for a fourth consecutive month driven by a relatively good set of earnings release and AI frenzy. US Jan CPI of +3.1% yoy was higher than market's expectation due to stubbornly high shelter prices. Following the CPI beat, market further revised down their expectations on rate cuts to match that of the Fed's 2024 75bps rate cut guidance. As such, calls for a soft-landing has become more mainstream with market reaching new highs in the US. As for China equities, the market recovered some of its losses in January on the back of some positive news such as stock market rescue measures, a larger than expected loan prime rate cut and a better-than-expected Lunar New Year's consumption data. In addition, Brent oil continued its rebound by +3.2% m-o-m in February underpinned by slowing non-OPEC supply growth, persistent underproduction from several OPEC+ producers and ahead of an OPEC+ decision in March.

Domestically, all eyes were on 4Q23 earnings release and the Ringgit's weakness. Positively, the recent 4Q23 earnings release saw sustained momentum in that at least 70% of KLCI companies that reported came within or above market expectations. Meanwhile, the Ringgit's continued depreciation was primarily due to the strengthening of the USD, and uncertainties surrounding China's economic growth. But, more importantly, exports have been sliding and other pillars of the Balance of Payments have been weak as well. The continuous exports contraction has narrowed MY's current account balance to 1.2% of GDP in 2023 – the lowest level since AFC.

During the month, trading activities took a slight breather with average daily trading value decreasing to RM2.7b in February as compared to RM3.2b a month ago. It was foreigners that continued to support the market with a doubling of foreign net buy inflows of RM1.3 billion compared to January 2024. Economically, Malaysia released the final 4Q23 GDP print that grew lower at 3.0% yoy than previously indicated at 3.4% yoy. With that, full year 2023 GDP numbers were revised down to 3.7%, missing government's estimates of 4-5% growth. In January, the FBM KLCI registered a positive return of +2.54% m-o-m to close at 1,551.4 points. The FBM Shariah gained by +2.22% m-o-m, FBM Emas increased by +2.21% m-o-m whilst FBMSC climbed the least at +0.35% m-o-m.

Globally, investors are waiting in anticipation on the timing of US interest rate cuts in 2024, which is largely dependent on upcoming macro data releases. Geopolitically, market continues to watch the primaries wins in the US where the previous president Donald Trump seems to be gaining ground. As for HK/China markets, investors have their eyes on the upcoming 2024 China's National People's Congress for 2024 economic targets and any potential stimulus announcement although expectations are low. Domestically, attention will be focused on the implementation of announced initiatives by the government and the potential announcement of several key infrastructure projects such as JS-SEZ, Penang LRT, Phase 1B of Pan Borneo Highway Sabah, and Sabah Sarawak Link Road Phase 2. We remain defensive with our strategy being tilted towards dividend-yielding names. Sectors that we favour include financials (banks), transport, construction, utilities and commodities (Metals/Oil & Gas).

Fixed Income Market Review

In February 2024, US Treasuries ("UST") slumped across all the tenors as the sentiment turned bearish when the FOMC minutes indicated that most of the Federal Reserve Officials flagged concerns over the risk of cutting rates too quickly. They viewed that lowering the borrowing cost could potentially dampen Fed's progress on tackling inflation. The selling-off pressure was further exacerbated, attributable to several other factors; including an upward surprise of Jan CPI MoM (actual: 0.30% vs. forecast: 0.20%), stronger-than-expected NFP (actual: 353K vs. forecast: 187K), as well as higher-than-expected Jan PPI MoM (actual: 0.3% vs. forecast: 0.1%), slightly offset by lower-than-expected 4Q GDP print QoQ (actual: 3.2% vs. forecast: 3.3%). At month-end, the 2-, 5-, 10-, and 30-year UST closed at 4.62% (+41bps), 4.24% (+41bps), 4.25% (+34bps), and 4.38% (+21bps), respectively.

Ringgit bonds were under pressure due to weaker Ringgit performance coupled with high global yields. Higher USDMYR has led the foreign holdings in Ringgit bonds to remain weak, with January 2024 outflows widening to RM5.1 billion from December 2023 outflows of RM2.1 billion. Nonetheless, the overall foreign outflow had minimal impact on the MGS curve as the outflow mainly concentrated at the front-end. MGS yields remain confined by a relatively tight trading range of around 10bps for the last 3 months compared to UST. On the data front, the 3-, 5-, 10-, and 30-year MGS settled at 3.50% (+11bps), 3.59% (+5bps), 3.86 (+8bps), and 4.20% (-1bps) respectively at month-end.

In the corporate bonds segment, some prominent new issuances during the month were Pengurusan Air SPV Berhad (RM 1.1 billion, AAA), Bank Simpanan Nasional Berhad (RM 1.0 billion, AAA), UEM Sunrise Berhad (RM 500 million, AA- IS) and United Overseas Bank (Malaysia) Berhad (RM500 million, AA1).

Outlook & Strategy

With the Fed's low confidence in loosening its monetary policy, bearish momentum in UST might continue until supportive catalysts become visible in the near term. It would be ideal if US inflation could further ease nearer to 2.0% (currently 3.1%), giving the Fed more confidence in its rate-cutting decision. The next FOMC would be crucial to watch as rates could be reversed if it becomes less hawkish given the UST had weakened significantly recently.

Domestically, weaker Ringgit will continue to weigh on Ringgit bonds performance especially on the short-end if the foreign outflow persists. We also note on the potential headwinds coming from global macro as US rate cut is now repricing as low as 75bps for 2024, providing a relatively higher investment yield. However, we are not overly concern on the above, as we observed the presence of strong support from onshore real money investors for duration and credit risks. Yields on the long-end bonds are holding up steadily, while credit spreads on GG papers trended lower into single digit lately. Given the tight credit spread to the MGS, we believe this may entice participants to hold the more liquid MGS instead. With the above backdrop, we hold a neutral view on the Ringgit bond market.

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

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Benchmark	7.3%	-2.6%	-1.3%	-0.8%	6.6%	-1.9%	-1.8%	2.3%	-1.0%	-1.2%
HLAVMF - Gross	11.4%	-0.7%	4.3%	3.4%	15.4%	-7.6%	9.0%	13.1%	0.4%	-2.6%
HLAVMF - Net	9.3%	-1.9%	2.7%	2.0%	12.9%	-8.3%	7.0%	10.8%	-0.9%	-3.6%

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. 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:

- 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 through foreign currency forward where appropriate

Additional risk disclosure on hedging of foreign currency

Currency	Hedging exposure (mil)	Investment exposure (mil)
HKD	37.3	31.1
SGD	0.3	0.27

- a) Positions in derivative instruments are only for hedging in order to manage foreign currency risk, and should not be used for speculative purposes.
- b) Fund Managers have the flexibility to hedge against its respective currency through the use of FX forwards to cover the market value of the underlying asset. In the event if the ringgit strengthens against the foreign currency, the losses from the movement would be offset by the hedging instrument and vice versa.
- c) The fund is required to hedge at least 50% of the **total** cost of the portfolio.

Scenario analysis of the derivatives

Fund Manager X invests in a Foreign Asset A with a market value of USD 250,000 using MYR 1,000,000 based on the exchange rate of USD/MYR of 4.00 (One US dollar is equivalent to MYR 4.00). At the same time, Fund Manager X hedged its exposure of USD 250,000 at USD/MYR at 4.00.

Scenario A

Assuming:

- a) MYR weakens to USD/MYR 4.50 (One US Dollar is equivalent to MYR 4.50)
- b) Foreign Asset A market value is unchanged at USD250,000.

Fund manager would have made a gain of MYR 125,000 from currency weakness alone ($USD250,000 \times 4.50 = MYR1,125,000$ – initial outlay of MYR1,000,000). However, due to the hedging contract entered earlier at USD/MYR 4.00, there will be no gain on the currency movement.

Scenario B

Assuming:

- a) MYR strengthens to USD/MYR 3.50 (One US Dollar is equivalent to MYR 3.50)
- b) Foreign Asset A market value is unchanged at USD250,000.

Fund manager would have made a loss of MYR 125,000 from currency weakness alone ($USD250,000 \times 3.50 = MYR875,000$ – initial outlay of MYR1,000,000). However, due to the hedging contract entered earlier at USD/MYR 4.00, there will be no loss on the currency movement.

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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.