April 2023



### **FUND OBJECTIVE**

To maximize capital growth over the medium to long-term through the stock market.

| FUND DETAILS         |  |               |   |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------|--|---------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| Launch Date          | 20 October 2008  | Domicile      | Malaysia                                      |  |  |  |  |
| Currency             | Ringgit Malaysia   | Launch Price  | RM1.0000                                      |  |  |  |  |
| Units in Circulation | 28.10 million units<br>(28 April 2023)   | Fund Size     | RM73.34 million<br>(28 April 2023)            |  |  |  |  |
| Unit NAV             | RM2.6099<br>(28 April 2023)  | Dealing       | Daily<br>(as per Bursa Malaysia trading day)  |  |  |  |  |
| Fund Manager         | Principal Asset Management Bhd   | Benchmark     | FBM100  |  |  |  |  |
| Taxation             | 8% of annual investment income   | Fees          | Management Fee: 1.5% p.a.                     |  |  |  |  |
| Risk Profile         | Suitable for investors:  With a medium to long-term investment horizon  Seek maximum capital appreciation  Do not require regular income  Comfortable with higher volatility  Willing to take higher risk for potential higher gains | Other Charges | Inclusive of auditor fee & transaction charge |  |  |  |  |

| ASSET ALLOCATION OF THE FUND |           |  |  |  |
|------------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|
| Equities                     | Cash      |  |  |  |
| Minimum 80% - 98%            | Up to 20% |  |  |  |

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| SECTOR ALLOCATION OF THE FUND  |         |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------|---------|--|--|--|
| Financial Services             | 20.69%  |  |  |  |
| Consumer Products & Services   | 12.60%  |  |  |  |
| Health Care                    | 9.11%   |  |  |  |
| Technology                     | 8.36%   |  |  |  |
| Industrial Products & Services | 8.07%   |  |  |  |
| Energy                         | 6.34%   |  |  |  |
| Telecommunications & Media     | 6.15%   |  |  |  |
| Utilities                      | 4.88%   |  |  |  |
| Plantation                     | 4.23%   |  |  |  |
| Transportation & Logistics     | 3.49%   |  |  |  |
| Construction                   | 2.75%   |  |  |  |
| REIT                           | 0.53%   |  |  |  |
| Cash                           | 12.80%  |  |  |  |
| Total                          | 100.00% |  |  |  |

| TOP HOLDINGS OF THE FUND (EQUITIES) |        |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--|--|--|
| Public Bank Bhd - Local             | 5.96%  |  |  |  |
| CIMB Group Holdings Bhd             | 5.57%  |  |  |  |
| Malayan Banking Bhd                 | 5.54%  |  |  |  |
| Genting Malaysia Bhd                | 5.00%  |  |  |  |
| Tenaga Nasional Bhd                 | 4.88%  |  |  |  |
| Press Metal Aluminium Holding Bhd   | 3.81%  |  |  |  |
| Hartalega Holdings Bhd              | 3.60%  |  |  |  |
| Genting Bhd                         | 3.38%  |  |  |  |
| My Eg Services Bhd                  | 2.87%  |  |  |  |
| Telekom Malaysia Bhd                | 2.58%  |  |  |  |
| Total                               | 43.19% |  |  |  |





| %         | YTD   | 1M    | 1-Year | 3-Years | 5-Years | 10-Years | Since<br>Inception |
|-----------|-------|-------|--------|---------|---------|----------|--------------------|
| Fund*     | -2.38 | -0.13 | -7.19  | 15.69   | -3.05   | 17.66    | 160.99             |
| Benchmark | -3.26 | -0.33 | -9.35  | 4.16    | -21.57  | -12.67   | 85.16              |

<sup>\*</sup> Calculation of past performance is based on NAV-to-NAV

Notice: Past performance of the fund is not an indication of its future performance which may differ. The fund performance is not guaranteed.

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#### **FUND MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

#### Market review

In April 2023, the Fund was down 0.13%, outperforming the benchmark by 20 basis points (bps). The outperformance was mainly due to the fund's overweight in Consumer Discretionary, Industrials and Information Technology as well as its underweight in Materials.

#### **Portfolio Strategy**

FBMKLCI was down 0.5%, hence ending April at 1416 pts. Commodities, Telcos and Consumer Discretionary did well during the month, while Financials weakened further on lingering fear of a potential banking contagion.

Malaysia's PMI reading for April was 48.8 pts, similar to March. According to S&P Global, demand generally remained subdued, leading firms to limit production and scale back their purchasing activity. However, there were some positive signs with regards to new export orders. Also positive was improving employment trends with hirings up for the fourth month running, shorter delivery times and input cost inflation muted, the latter enabling firms to reduce output prices to stimulate demand. Overall, hopes that new orders will return to growth supported confidence that production will rise over the next 12 months.

No change to BNM's GDP growth of 4-5% in 2023. BNM raised OPR by 25bps to 3.00% in the latest MPC meeting and economists are still expecting another 25bps hike for the rest of the year. Malaysia's CPI eased to 3.4% in March against February's 3.7%, driven by lower price of RON97, as well as lower pace of increase in Restaurant and Hotels, and Food and Non-alcoholic beverages. The latest reading was within BNM's inflation target of 2.8-3.8% for 2023.

Malaysia's equity market valuations remain extremely compressed with forward PE of under 13x still at over -2SD below the historical mean. This is based on consensus earnings growth of 9% for 2023 and 6% for 2024. The re-tabled Budget 2023 offered much needed clarity on the new Government's policy posture. Overall, we are encouraged by the non-extension of Prosperity Tax (no derailment of re-acceleration of corporate earnings in 2023), delayed implementation of GST and capital gains tax, and fiscal target discipline. There were also numerous tax incentives to spur MSMEs and investments into various high impact sectors. We remain hopeful that elevated risk premiums on Malaysia would abate over time.

Despite domestic fundamentals and valuations remains positive, we are cautious on near term given the global risk events. Thus, we prefer to be defensive and have adopted a barbell approach between value and growth. In terms of sectors, we prefer domestic driven sectors such as Consumer Discretionary and Utilities which deemed as more defensive in nature among the sectors while we continue to like structural growth themes in selective Technology. In view of stronger rebound in tourist arrivals post reopening, we also like airport and tourism related stocks. Key risks are derailment of Malaysia's macro recovery and corporate earnings growth due to a larger-than-expected impact of rising inflation, slower global economic growth as well as heightened geopolitical risks.

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#### **RISKS**

All investment carries some form of risks. The potential key risks include but are not limited to the following:

Market risk is the risk of negative movement that affects the price of all assets in a particular capital market. The factors influencing the performance of the markets include:

- Economic and financial market conditions
- Political change
- Broad investor sentiment
- Movements in interest rate and inflation
- Currency risks

Stock values fluctuate in response to the activities and performance of individual companies and general market or economic conditions. Such movements in the underlying values of the share of the investment portfolio will cause the NAV or prices of units to fall as well as rise. Market risk is mitigated through careful selection of securities and diversification through spreading of risk across a basket of assets and/or sectors.

# Company or security specific risk

Market risk

There are many specific risks, which apply to individual companies or securities. Examples include the possible effect on a company of losing a key executive or the unforeseen entry of a new competitor into the market. The risk is mitigated by conducting in-house periodic reviews and analysis. In-house analysis is then supplemented by periodic reviews from rating agencies and market analysts.

### **Credit risk**

The risk of loss of principal or loss of a financial reward stemming from counterparty's failure to repay a loan or otherwise meet a contractual obligation. This risk is primarily applicable to the liquid assets of this fund. Credit risk is mitigated by conducting in-house periodic reviews and analysis. Inhouse analysis is then supplemented by periodic reviews from rating agencies and market analysts.

Source : Principal Asset Management Bhd

Date : 28 April 2023

#### Disclaimer:

The benchmark performance is not a guide to future performances which may differ. The performance of the fund is not guaranteed. The value of the fund will fluctuate and may fall below the amount of premiums paid and the fund value depends on the actual performance of the underlying investment. This material is for information purposes only and is subject to change at any time without notice. Sun Life Malaysia does not guarantee its accuracy, completeness, correctness or timeliness for any purpose or reason. This information should not be considered as advice or recommendation in relation to your account or particular investment objectives, financial situation or needs. You may not revise, transform, or build upon this material without prior written consent of Sun Life Malaysia. Before acting on any information you should seek independent financial advice. Sun Life Malaysia may suspend the unit pricing and defer the payment of benefits, other than death and total and permanent disability benefits, subscription or redemption of units, switching of funds, under this contract for a reasonable period in exceptional circumstances, such as and including intervening events resulting in temporary closure of any stock exchange.