# Sun Life Malaysia Balanced Stable Fund

May 2025



#### **FUND OBJECTIVE**

To provide a mixed exposure into equities and bonds, with higher allocation in bonds.

#### **INVESTMENT STRATEGY & APPROACH**

The fund will feed into Sun Life Malaysia Growth Fund and Sun Life Malaysia Conservative Fund according to a predefined asset allocation.

The Sun Life Malaysia Growth Fund combines a top down asset and sector allocation process with a bottom—up stock selection process. The asset allocation process is made after a review of macroeconomic trends in Malaysia and for the major economies. In particular, we consider the direction of GDP growth, interest rates, inflation, currencies and government policies. We next assess their impact on the various sectors, together with sector specific parameters to predict any discernible trends or themes. These trends or themes form the basis of our sector selection. Stock selection is based upon improving fundamentals and attractive relative valuations. Rising investor sentiment is an additional criterion. While we use a number of valuation methodologies, the price-earnings ratio is still preferred.

For the Sun Life Malaysia Conservative Fund, the strategy will be reviewed periodically based on the country's economic and bond outlook. We will adopt an active trading strategy and will be especially selective in buying and selling of securities for the Fund. We formulate an interest rate outlook through examining factors such as the Malaysian inflation rate, monetary policies and economic growth. With an interest rate outlook and yield curve analysis, we identify the weighting of the investment tenure and credit rating for the Fund. As part of the risk management strategy, the Fund is constructed and managed within the predetermined guidelines. Essentially, we monitor the bond portfolio according to duration, credit ratings and sector.

FUND DETAIL O									
FUND DETAILS									
Launch Date	20 October 2008	Domicile	Malaysia						
Currency	Ringgit Malaysia	Launch Price	RM1.0000						
Units in Circulation	1.07 million units (30 May 2025)	Fund Size	RM1.97 million (30 May 2025)						
Unit NAV	RM1.8399 (30 May 2025)	Performance Benchmark	25% FBM100 + 75% 12 month FD						
Fund Manager	Principal Asset Management Bhd	Frequency and Basis of Unit Valuation	The unit price is determined daily based on value of the holdings in the target fund, net of expenses, divided by the total number of units in that fund						
Taxation	8% of annual investment income	Other Charges	Inclusive of auditor fee						
Target Market	Suitable for investors:  Want a diversified portfolio in equities but higher exposure in bonds  Prefer less volatile performance and want slightly higher gains than bond return	Fund Management Charge	The fund will feed into Sun Life Malaysia Growth Fund and Sun Life Malaysia Conservative Fund which applies the following fund management charges:  Sun Life Malaysia Growth Fund: 1.5% p.a  Sun Life Malaysia Conservative Fund: 1.0% p.a  There are no other fund management charges on this fund						

# **Sun Life Malaysia Balanced Stable Fund**

May 2025



### **ASSET ALLOCATION**

Sun Life Malaysia Conservative Fund

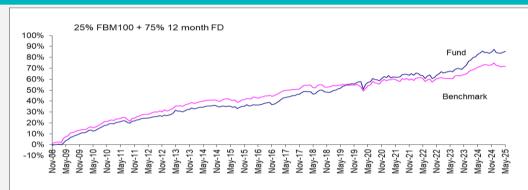
Sun Life Malaysia Growth Fund

75.00% 25.00%

### WHERE THE FUND INVESTS

Sun Life Malaysia Conservative Fund	Sun Life Malaysia Growth Fund	Cash	Total	
75.90%	24.07%	0.03%	100.00%	

### **PERFORMANCE RECORD**



%	YTD	1M	1-Year	3-Years	5-Years	10-Years	Since Inception
Fund*	-0.93	0.49	1.52	13.62	18.15	37.11	85.51
Benchmark	-1.78	-0.13	0.34	6.84	11.43	21.66	71.73

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

Source: Lipper

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

In May 2025, the Fund's performance increased by 0.49%, outperforming the benchmark by 0.62%.

The KLCI declined 2.1% in May 2025 but down marginally in USD terms, and underperformed MSCI ASEAN's +3.5% during the month. The market drifted lower due to jitters surrounding US debts and surging bond yields, while domestically, the lack of fresh leads and a rather uninspiring 1Q25 reporting season.

Malaysia's manufacturing sector improved marginally in May with a PMI reading of 48.8pts vs 48.6pts in the previous month. S&P Global stated that production levels, alongside purchasing, were scaled back amidst subdued new orders, albeit the rate of reduction was the least in 3 months. Employment was unchanged, ending a seven-month sequence of job shedding. Inflation pressure crept up, the sharpest in 6 months, partly due to the effects of US tariffs. Business confidence stayed positive, with firms expecting higher output in the coming year, but firms continue to express concerns about the potential adverse impacts of muted global economy and US trade policies. The latest PMI data still suggests modest growth in GDP. MY GDP grew 4.4% in 1Q25. BNM will be releasing revised GDP estimates for 2025 (previously 4.5-5.5%) but highlighted potential risk to growth due to the trade restrictions.

Intermediate Malaysian Government Securities (MGS) benchmarks rallied sharply in May 2025, outperforming other tenors as liquidity injections supported demand in the belly of the curve. The rally was catalyzed by Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) unexpected 100 basis point cut in the Statutory Reserve Requirement (SRR)—from 2.00% to 1.00%—announced after the May Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting. This move, though not a signal of a change in the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR), was interpreted by market participants as a dovish liquidity-supportive measure, particularly amid ongoing global uncertainty stemming from US tariff policies and volatility in US Treasury yields. The 3-, 5-, 7-, 10-, 15-, 20- and 30-year benchmarks closed at 3.17% (-8bps), 3.20% (-20bps), 3.38% (-17bps), 3.56% (-13bps), 3.70% (-14bps), 3.81% (-11bps) and 4.08% (-2bps), respectively in May. The Malaysian Government Investment Issue (MGII) curve also shifted lower in a more parallel fashion, supported by overall sustained demand for the fixed income asset class. Of particular note was the performance of the new 20-year MGII benchmark, which outperformed on a relative basis following a successful primary auction. The new MGII 5/45 issue garnered a bid-to-cover ratio of over 3.3 times, signaling strong interest on duration despite slightly richer valuation. The 3-, 5-, 7-, 10-, 15-, 20- and 30-year MGII closed at 3.16% (-14bps), 3.28% (-12bps), 3.43% (-12bps), 3.53% (-9bps), 3.67% (-12bps), 3.75% (-17bps) and 4.04% (-4bps), respectively in May.

## Sun Life Malaysia Balanced Stable Fund

May 2025



### **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 Market risk Currency risks Stock and/or securities 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. Interest rates are inclined to fluctuate over time. A rise in the general level of interest rates will result in a decline of the value of all bonds and fixed interest securities. Hence a bond fund's NAV Interest rate risk will most probably decrease with the rise of interest rates. Maintaining an appropriate diverse mix of assets with different yield and maturity profiles will lessen the impact of interest rate risk. Liquidity risk is defined as the ease with which a security can be sold at or near its fair value depending on the volumes traded on the market. Liquidity risk is mitigated through the Liquidity risk selection of stocks with an active trading volume in the open market. This ensures that exit strategies can be executed with little/minimal impacts to price fluctuations. 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 **Company or** security specific 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 risk agencies and market analysts.

**Credit risk** 

Credit risk refers to an issuer's ability to make timely payments of profit and principal. In the event that the issuer of the instrument is faced with financial difficulties, leading to a decrease in their credit worthiness (i.e Bond prices will change/drop in the event of rating downgrade) and default in the payment of profit and principal, the value of the fund may be adversely affected. Credit 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.

Source: Principal Asset Management Bhd

Date : 30 May 2025

#### Disclaimer:

This is strictly the performance of the investment fund, and not the returns earned on the actual premiums paid of the investment-linked product. Past performance of the fund is not an indication of its future performance. 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.