

RHB MUDHARABAH FUND

This Fund aims to provide a balanced mix of income and potential for capital growth by investing in stocks listed on the Bursa Malaysia or on any other stock exchanges, unlisted stocks and Islamic debt securities and other non-interest bearing assets acceptable under principles of Shariah. The Fund's activities shall be conducted strictly in accordance with the requirement of the Shariah principles and shall be monitored by the Shariah Adviser of the Fund.

INVESTOR PROFILE

This Fund is suitable for Investors who want:

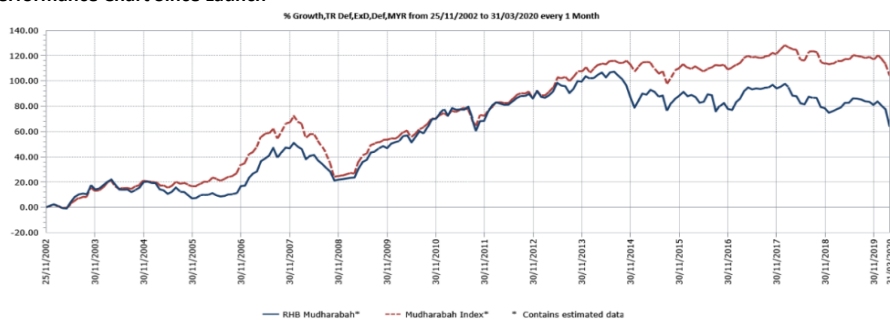
- an investment that complies with the principles of Shariah;
- a professionally managed portfolio of Shariah-compliant equities, sukuk and Islamic debt securities;
- to have a balanced portfolio that provides both income and capital growth; and
- to invest in shares but do not have the time to manage their own portfolio.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

- Up to 60% of NAV will be invested in Shariah-compliant equities;
- Minimum of 40% of NAV will be invested in Islamic debt securities (Sukuk), Islamic money market instruments and/or liquid assets acceptable under Shariah principles.

FUND PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Performance Chart Since Launch*



Cumulative Performance (%)*

	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	YTD
Fund	-7.75	-10.87	-10.91	-10.87
Benchmark	-4.28	-7.36	-6.31	-7.36

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Launch
Fund	-8.49	-14.79	-13.40	38.94
Benchmark	-5.21	-6.33	-4.88	N/A

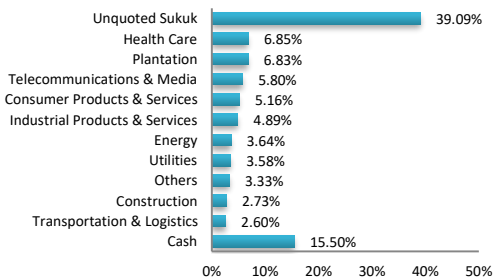
Calendar Year Performance (%)*

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Fund	5.12	-10.64	10.31	-7.40	7.08
Benchmark	3.55	-5.16	6.92	-1.44	2.79

Source: Lipper IM

FUND PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS

Sector Allocation*



Top Holdings (%)*

RHBA 4.88% (27/04/2027) SERIES 2	6.96
SPG IMTN** 5.17% (30/04/2030)	3.62
YTL POWER INTERNATIONAL BHD 5.05% (03/05/2027)	3.58
BGSM MANAGEMENT SDN BHD 5.60% (27/12/2023)	3.58
TENAGA NASIONAL BHD	3.58

*As percentage of NAV, ** IMTN: Islamic Medium Term Note

FUND STATISTICS

Historical NAV (RM)

	1 Month	12 Months	Since Launch
High	0.7578	0.8036	1.0388
Low	0.6670	0.6670	0.4095

Source: Lipper IM

RHB Asset Management Sdn Bhd (174588-x)

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MANAGER'S COMMENTS

EQUITY MARKET REVIEW

The FBM KLCI has fallen significantly over the past 2 months and the index touched its lowest level year to date at 1,207 level but managed to close higher at 1,219 level on 19 March 2020. The index fell by 369 points or 23.2% from 1,588 level as at 31 December 2019. The index has fallen into bear market territory due to the possibility of a global recession in 2020 as a result of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) outbreak. Malaysia also faced political uncertainties albeit with a relief as Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has been officially sworn in as Malaysia's Prime Minister on 1 March 2020. He leads a new coalition government following the collapse of the Pakatan Harapan government on 24 February 2020.

The demand for commodities products were also affected badly amid oversupply. Industrial commodities were hit hard and oil price tumbled. Brent tumbled 9.4% on 6 March 2020 to USD45 per barrel (bbi), biggest daily drop since Global Financial Crisis (GFC). The oil price continues to drop and is hovering around USD20 to USD28 per barrel. Malaysian Ringgit (MYR) also weakened significantly in the first quarter 2020 due to the abovementioned series of events. Subsequently, corporates are faced with lower profit and cash flow problem. This has resulted in the massive sell down of stock market across the globe which the FBM KLCI also suffers badly. The FBM KLCI index has rebounded slightly and closed at 1,350 level on 31 March 2020. The index was down by 234 points or 15% in the first quarter of 2020. However, the FBM KLCI performed relatively better than other indices in the region which were down more than 20% on the average. The FBM Emas Shariah Index also declined by 15.4% during the period of January to March.

EQUITY MARKET OUTLOOK AND STRATEGY

We are of the opinion that the financial market is still unsettled for now due to the uncertainty of when the Covid-19 pandemic will end. The supply disruptions caused by the lock down globally will result in the slowdown in the global productions and demand. In addition, the hoarding of essential items especially agriculture products by the producing countries to protect internal supply and consumption would have an impact on food inflation. The global lock down will have a negative impact on corporates profitability and cash flow if the lock down continues for long period of time. Hence, both domestic and global production are likely to be impacted badly as well. The world's economy is likely to go into recession.

Equity markets are likely to continue with volatility as new cases are still on the rise globally with United States (US) seeing the largest jump in numbers. Corporate earnings would also be downgraded further and the index might not reach its bottom yet. The turning point would be where the number of reported cases globally recedes and countries starts to lift the lock down globally. The FBM KLCI at 1,350 level still has only factored in 3% drop in corporate earnings which we are of the opinion that it has not factored in recession in Malaysia. We would expect further downward revision in corporate earnings going forward. Hence, we will treat the market cautiously in view of further corporate earnings downgrade.

FIXED INCOME MARKET REVIEW

Amid massive selloff in the global financial markets arising from heightened concerns over negative impact from Covid-19, global central banks have since swiftly responded with well synchronized quantitative easing measures and stimulus to boost liquidity as responses to ensure financial markets remain well supported. Apart from a total of 150 basis points (bps) cut in Fed Fund Rate within a span of 1 week, the US Federal Reserve also pledged to bring back asset purchases (bond buying) with a combined size of USD700 billion while the Federal Government had announced USD2 Trillion in stimulus package. The European Central Bank (ECB) announced additional bond-buying programme worth EUR750 billion, to buy public and private sector securities running until at least end of 2020. While the Bank of England announced it will increase the bond buying programme with additional GBP200 billion as well as cutting its key interest rate to a record low of 0.10%.

10-year US Treasury (UST) yields rallied further in March 2020, from 1.16% at the start of the month to eventually close the month at 0.67%. UST yields swung in a 60 bps range throughout the month, as illiquidity began to set in. It traded above 1.2% and below 1% intraday at one point amidst continued flight to safe haven as the Covid-19 pandemic cases appeared outside China. At the close, the benchmark 2-, 5-, 10- and 30-year UST were last traded at 0.2455% (February 2020: 0.91% -66bps), 0.38% (0.94%; -56bps), 0.67% (1.15%; -48bps) and 1.32% (1.675%; -35.5bps) respectively.

Malaysia's financial markets were not spared from the heavy selling pressure as investors clamored to sell all financial assets in all emerging markets in order to raise cash. According to the Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) Annual Report released last Friday, shown a total of RM18 billion worth of capital outflows for the month of March alone. As foreign net sell in equities amounted to MYR5.6 billion, hence the foreign holdings of MYR bonds/sukuk might have declined by MYR12.4 billion in March. On a year to date basis, total foreign outflows for MYR bonds/sukuk amounting to RM17.0 billion.

The extent of foreign capital outflows resulted to the onslaught of selling pressure to the MYR bond/sukuk market in the month of March. Yields jumped to a high of 80 bps before settling lower by 15- 20 bps across the curve towards end of the month. Month-on-month, Malaysia Government Securities (MGS) space bear-steepened with yields collapsing roughly about 40 bps to 60 bps across the tenors after some stabilizing towards the month end. The 3-, 5-, 7-, 10-, 15-, 20- and 30-year MGS closed the month at 2.74% (February 2020: 2.60%), 3.07% (2.63%), 3.22% (2.77%), 3.37% (2.81%), 3.62% (3.05%), 3.71% (3.22%) and 4.00% (3.58%) respectively. On the other hand, action on the Government Investment Issue (GII) – the Shariah compliant version of MGS, mirroring the same pattern with yield sold-off before stabilizing towards the end of the month. At month end, the 3-, 5-, 7-, 10-, 15-, 20- and 30-year GI were reported at 2.88% February 2020: 2.65%), 2.99% (2.67%), 3.31% (2.76%), 3.37% (2.86%), 3.72% (3.06%), 3.77% (3.27%) and 4.07% (3.61%) respectively.

FIXED INCOME MARKET OUTLOOK AND STRATEGY

In addressing the market liquidity, BNM's decided to reduce the statutory reserve requirement ratio by 100 bps to 2% from 3% which augurs well for the MYR bond/sukuk market. The central bank will allow principal dealers to use government bonds/sukuk and Islamic notes of up to MYR1.0 billion as part of reserve requirement compliance which is expected to release MYR30 billion of liquidity into the banking system. We view this as a positive catalyst for the MYR bond/sukuk market, boosting liquidity given the additional demand from local banking institutions for MGS/GII, however we must also be cognizant of potential further foreign capital outflows in the months ahead which may affect market liquidity.

Malaysia's economic environment took a turn for the worst in 1Q20 with the onset of Covid-19. Domestic economic activity is facing an abrupt stop due to the Movement Control Order (MCO) while the country's external sector is set to weaken further as the virus extends its global reach. Despite the calamity, government support during these times is extensive. Malaysia has pushed a substantial stimulus package amounting to RM250.0 billion representing a 17.6% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 2019 in order to address the impact of Covid-19. Weakening global demand, disruption in supply chain, low crude oil prices arising from pandemic global lockdown, have impacted the fundamental of our economy which is increasingly tilted towards a recession. The Government's push for an aggressive stimulus fiscal and BNM's ease in monetary policies should provide a degree of respite and mitigation to the economic stress. Weaker aggregate demand, coupled with low commodity prices, should see inflation to moderate further. With lesser inflationary pressure and weak growth environment, we anticipate BNM to cut its Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) by 50 bps in 2020 to complement the fiscal stimulus spending.

In view of a recessionary period in the coming months ahead, we opine that the current bond/sukuk yields versus deposit rates are at levels which had not been seen before whereby a 10-year GII yields at more than 100 bps higher than the deposit rates. In anticipation of further OPR cut by BNM, hence deposit rates are expected to be much lower thus create value in bond/sukuk investing.

Other factor worth considering, FTSE Russell in its latest interim report has maintained Malaysia in the watch-list for possible downgrade or exclusion from its World Government Bond Index as per its earlier stance last April 2019. We opine that initial fears are overblown over the reduction in weightage or even removal of Malaysia entirely from the FTSE Fixed Income Country Classification March 2020 Interim Update. This would mean that the FTSE Russell team is confident that the Malaysian government is still in the midst of taking strong initiatives and measures to ensure it remains anchored in the index by September 2020.

In conclusion, we opine under such dislocation in bond/sukuk prices attracts opportunities to accumulate and increase bond/sukuk investment and duration positioning in the medium term whereby MYR bond/sukuk yields much more favorable comparative to regional valuation. Nevertheless, in the short term horizon, we feel that the market will still remain uncertain hence we shall take a more cautious stance in portfolio duration.

DISCLAIMER:

Based on the fund's portfolio returns as at 10 March 2020, the Volatility Factor (VF) for this fund is 5.6 and is classified as "Low". (source: Lipper) "Low" includes funds with VF that are above 1.8 but not more than 6.1 (source: Lipper). The VF means there is a possibility for the fund in generating an upside return or downside return around this VF. The Volatility Class (VC) is assigned by Lipper based on quintile ranks of VF for qualified funds. VF is subject to monthly revision and VC will be revised every six months. The fund's portfolio may have changed since this date and there is no guarantee that the fund will continue to have the same VF or VC in the future. Presently, only funds launched in the market for at least 36 months will display the VF and its VC. The VC referred to was dated 31 December 2019 which is calculated once every six months and is valid until its next calculation date, i.e. 30 June 2020.

A Product Highlights Sheet ("PHS") highlighting the key features and risks of the Fund is available and investors have the right to request for a PHS. Investors are advised to obtain, read and understand the PHS and the contents of the Master Prospectus dated 15 July 2017 and its supplementary(ies) (if any) ("the Master Prospectus") before investing. The Master Prospectus has been registered with the Securities Commission Malaysia who takes no responsibility for its contents. Amongst others, investors should consider the fees and charges involved. Investors should also note that the price of units and distributions payable, if any, may go down as well as up. Where a distribution is declared, investors are advised that following the issue of additional units/distribution, the NAV per unit will be reduced from cum-distribution NAV to ex-distribution NAV. Any issue of units to which the Master Prospectus relates will only be made on receipt of a form of application referred to in the Master Prospectus. For more details, please call 1-800-88-3175 for a copy of the PHS and the Master Prospectus or collect one from any of our branches or authorised distributors.

The Manager wishes to highlight the specific risks of the Fund are stock market risk, individual stock risk, liquidity risk, issuer risk, interest rate risk, credit / default risk and shariah specific risk. These risks and other general risks are elaborated in the Master Prospectus.

This factsheet is prepared for information purposes only. It does not have regard to the specific investment objectives, financial situation and the particular needs of any specific person who may receive it. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Returns may vary from year to year.