# Phillip allocator

117 April 2021

MONTHLY INVESTMENT ALLOCATOR



## MARKET OUTLOOK

The ASEAN bourses recorded mix returns in March with Philippine's Stock Exchange Index (PCOMP), Jakarta Composite Index (JCI) and FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI Index (FBMKLCI) fell by 5.18%, 4.11% and 0.27% MoM respectively. Meanwhile Singapore's Straits Times Index (STI) and Thailand's Stock Exchange Index (SET) rose by 7.33% and 6.04% MoM respectively.

As more Americans are vaccinated against Covid-19 virus, US economy added 916,000 jobs in March 2021, the highest in seven months as fiscal relief takes hold after the President Joe Biden signed USD1.9 trillion stimulus into the law on the back of easing business restrictions. The improvement in the labour market resulting in unemployment rate to lower to 6.0% from 6.2% in the previous month, after reaching an all-time high of 14.8% in April 2020. The manufacturing and construction sectors are seen booming with employment opportunities meanwhile leisure and hospitality segment still grapple to bounce back. The Biden administration also has double down on its vaccination goal to 200 million people in the first 100 days of his term after surpassing the initial 100 million people target set in December 2020.

China's services sector continued to accelerate when the Caixin Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) climbed to 54.3 in March 2021 from 51.5 in February 2021 with business confidence rose to highest level since February 2011 albeit inflationary pressure remained. Although new exports order remained in contraction, overall sales activity recorded the highest increased in three months. Businesses have been reported rising input costs and output prices across both services and manufacturing sectors. A PMI reading above 50-mark indicates expansion. On the other hand, manufacturing activity also maintained in expansion territory last month, albeit dropped to 50.6, the lowest reading since April 2020.

Japan's Prime Minister vowed to press ahead with the Olympic Games after about one year delayed which scheduled to start on 23 July to 8 August 2021. However, the organisers will not allow international spectators to attend which would dampen the long-awaited tourism boom to bolster its subdued domestic economy. This potentially resulting in lowering the nation's domestic consumption expenditure by JPY60-70 billion compared to normal circumstances. Japan also seen new wave of infections in Osaka and its neighbouring provinces which resulted to one-month stricter virus measures imposed by the local authority.

Market will be on the lookout for another mega spending bill proposed by Biden administration totalling USD2.25 trillion as part of the country's infrastructure plan which focus on transportation, renewable energy, and manufacturing sector while addressing the climate change agenda. The proposal is expected to create additional 19 million jobs and slated to be funded through increase to the corporate tax rate and profits on foreign income. For this month, we have made no changes on portfolio allocation while monitor the development of Archegos meltdown and Credit Suisse overhauls.

# **EQUITY**

FBMKLCI fell by 0.27% MoM in March 2021 to close at 1,573.51 points. Looking at the trading participants for the month, local institutions and foreign investors were both net buyers, buying MYR1.58 billion and MYR0.03 billion worth of shares respectively. Local retailers on the other hand were the only net sellers, selling MYR1.61 billion worth of shares. For year-to-date (YTD), local institutions and foreign investors were the net buyers, buying MYR3.75 billion and MYR1.73 billion worth of shares respectively while the local retailers were net sellers, selling MYR5.48 billion.

Overall, majority sectors in Malaysia recorded mix returns in March. Property, construction, transport, industrial product, telecom, and finance sectors were in the positive territory which went up by 8.4%, 6.1%, 3.4%, 3.1%, 2.5%, 2.4%, and 1.5% MoM respectively. Meanwhile healthcare, technology, plantation, and energy sectors were in negative territory which went down by 9.4%, 6.1%, 2.3%, 0.8%, and 0.1% MoM respectively. Healthcare was the worst-hit sector amid lackluster sentiment on the glove counters performances as vaccine rollout touted to lower the risk of Covid-19 infections.

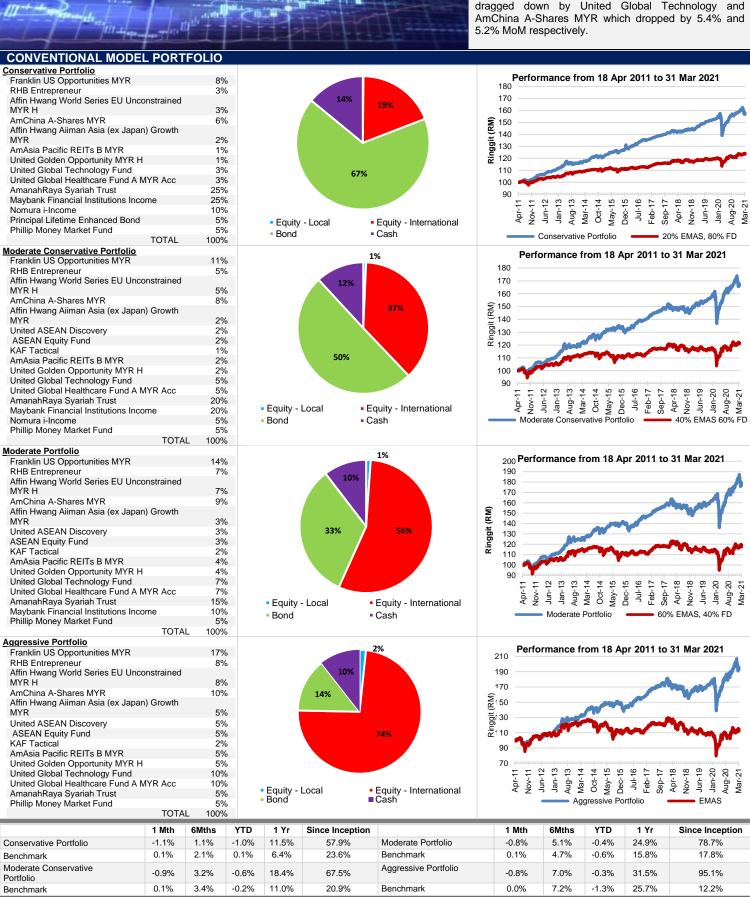
### **BOND**

In March 2021, the yield for the Malaysian Government Securities (MGS) for the 3-year, 5-year, 7-year, and 10-year rose by 15bps, 34bps, 23bps, and 16bps to close at 2.13%, 2.66%, 3.08% and 3.24% respectively.

### **COMMODITIES**

Nymex (WTI) crude oil price fell by 3.80% MoM in March, closing at USD59.16/barrel from USD61.50/barrel in February. Crude palm oil went up by 1.88% MoM to close at MYR4,061/MT in March compared to MYR3,986/MT. The price has surpassed the MYR4,000 mark propelled by a solid rise in palm oil exports which stood at 1.27 million tonnes, up by 26.8% MoM in March. Meanwhile gold price went down by 0.87% MoM to close at USD1,713.80/Oz in March, as compared to USD1,728.80/Oz in February.





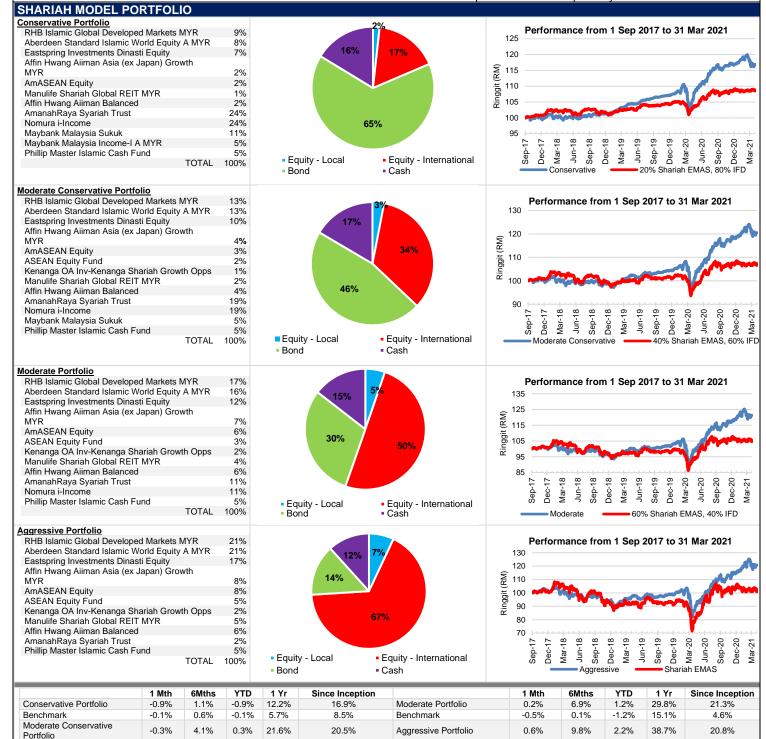
Source: Lipper`



Commentary
For March, all our model portfolios have underperformed the benchmark. Overall, the portfolios were mainly

### Commentary

Most of the Shariah model portfolios have outperformed the benchmark in March except for the conservative portfolio. The overall portfolios were supported by Manulife Shariah Global REIT MYR and Aberdeen Standard Islamic World Equity A MYR which soared 7.9% and 4.5% MoM respectively.



Benchmark
Source: Lipper

-0.3%

0.3%

-0.7%

10.1%

6.5%

Benchmark

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-2.4%

27.1%

0.8%

-1.0%