PHILLIP MUTUAL BERHAD

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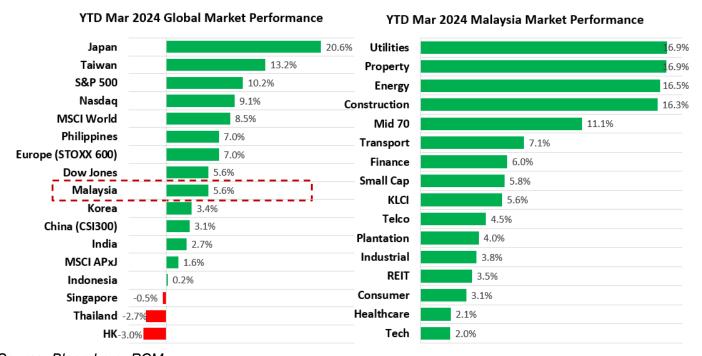


Unit Trust Funds Thrive Amid Malaysia's Market Challenges

During the first quarter of 2024, resilient economic data propelled global equities, with the MSCI World rising 8.5%. Developed market equities, particularly in the US, Europe and Japan, performed strongly, while emerging market equities underperformed amid concerns over China's growth. Meanwhile, there remains a positive return for India, albeit at a slower pace. In Malaysia, the market saw a recovery with a +5.6% increase this year, reversing the 2.7% decline experienced in 2023. All sectors showed gains year-to-date as of March 2024, with Utilities, Property, Energy, and Construction leading the way, while Tech and Healthcare sectors lagged behind (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Global and Malaysia Market Performance YTD March 2024

Market review- YTD March 2024



Source: Bloomberg, PCM

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In our previous piece, we highlighted that despite the challenges of 2023, the majority of our Private Managed Accounts achieved positive returns, surpassing the 2.7% decline in the KLCI. As we transitioned into 2024, the first quarter concluded with continued strong performance, driven by our commitment to effective bottom-up stock selection and prudent management practices, enabling us to navigate the market adeptly. The commendable performance is also evident across our in-house managed unit trust funds, notably showcased by our flagship fund, the Phillip Master Equity Growth Fund, which achieved a YTD return of +9.97% as of March 2024. Additionally, our other funds have displayed resilience in the face of a challenging market environment. Please see Figure 2 for a summary of our performance across different funds.

Figure 2: PMB Unit Trust Funds 2023 and 2024 YTD March Performance

Fund	Туре	Fund Size (in RM'mn)	2023 Return (%)	2024 YTD March Return (%)
Phillip AsiaPac Income Fund	Mixed Asset (Asia)	7.03	-0.49	-1.32
Phillip Focus China Fund	Equities (China)	9.06	-16.41	-0.05
Phillip Global Disruptive Innovation MYR H Fund	Equities (Global)	6.06	9.15	12.97
Phillip Global Stars Fund	Equities (Global)	3.43	26.60	2.84
Phillip Dana Dividen *	Equities (Global-Shariah)	3.32	20.30	4.78
Phillip Dividend Fund	Equities (Malaysia-Income)	33.78	0.95	6.14
Phillip Master Equity Growth Fund	Equities (Malaysia)	59.20	1.34	9.97
Phillip Pearl Fund	Equities (Malaysia-Small Cap)	50.04	3.72	7.99
Phillip Recovery Fund	Equities (Malaysia)	17.68	4.03	7.62
Phillip Dana Aman *	Equities (Malaysia- Shariah)	28.79	4.09	4.47
Phillip SELECT Balance Fund	Mixed Asset (Malaysia)	26.23	5.17	5.95
Phillip Dana Murni *	Fixed Income (Malaysia)	16.36	5.50	1.01
Phillip Master Money Market Fund	Money Market	494.82	3.40	0.84
Phillip Master Islamic Cash Fund *	Money Market (Shariah)	526.38	3.43	0.87

Source: Lipper, compiled by PCM, * indicates Shariah funds

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2024's Malaysia Outlook

We maintain a favorable outlook on the Malaysian market for the medium to long term, and we anticipate that the <u>five investment themes outlined in our previous analysis</u> will continue to influence the future outlook of the Malaysian market.

- 1. **Theme One**: Peaking interest rates bode well with equities; Opportunities for Emerging Markets and Malaysia Market.
- 2. **Theme Two**: Stable domestic political environment; Economic restructuring is set to bolster growth prospects.
- 3. **Theme Three**: Reversal in foreign outflows; Robust buying interests from foreigners provides support for Malaysia market.
- 4. Theme Four: Recovery in global tech cycle; Malaysia's Tech and E&E sectors would benefit.
- 5. **Theme Five**: Strong economic fundamentals Stronger GDP, moderating inflation, low unemployment and an improved MYR.

In terms of positioning, we think Johor, Sarawak and Penang thematic play will continue to play out in 2024. The 3 states of Johor, Sarawak and Penang contributed an estimated 26% to Malaysia's real GDP in 2022. We see excitement in the 3 states in 2024 driven by catalytic developments and their longer-term growth plans, alongside recovery in tourism which will benefit the country as a whole.

Figure 3: Malaysia Thematic Play

JOHOR SARAWAK Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ) Post-Covid Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030 will improve cross-border goods flow and FDI Hydrogen producer by 2027; Plans to export 1GW hydro power to Singapore via undersea cable. Sector: Property, Construction, Utilities, RE Sector: Property, Construction, Energy, Utilities Malaysia Thematic Play PENANG **TOURISM BOOM** Catalytic projects include PIA expansion, Bayan Tourism efforts: New flight routes, AirAsia fleet Lepas LRT, Silicon Island development, health & expansion, MM2H revamp, visa-free programs, medical hub in Bandar Cassia, recovery in tech tax refund, budget allocation, and airport cycle expansion. Sector: Property, Construction, Utilities, Tech Sector: Gaming, Consumer, Healthcare, REITs

Source: PCM

Our investment portfolio focuses on quality companies that possess strong fundamentals, including stable earnings and a promising future outlook, and are led by capable management teams. Please click on the link to learn more or email us at phillipmutual@phillipcapital.com.my if you require any further information.

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