

# Sun Life Malaysia Equity Income Fund

March 2024



## FUND OBJECTIVE

To provide investors with an opportunity to gain consistent and stable income by investing in a diversified portfolio of dividend yielding equities and fixed income securities. The Fund may also provide moderate capital growth potential over the medium to long-term period.

## FUND DETAILS

Launch Date	20 May 2014	Domicile	Malaysia
Currency	Ringgit Malaysia	Launch Price	RM1.0000
Units in Circulation	6.43 million units (29 March 2024)	Fund Size	RM11.18 million (29 March 2024)
Unit NAV	RM1.7390 (29 March 2024)	Dealing	Daily (as per Bursa Malaysia trading day)
Fund Manager	Principal Asset Management Bhd	Target Fund	Principal Titans Income Plus Fund
Benchmark	50% FBM100 Index + 50% MSCI AC Asia ex-Japan Index	Taxation	8% of annual investment income
Risk Profile	Suitable for investors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Have a medium to long-term investment horizon</li><li>▪ Target capital appreciation</li><li>▪ Do not require regular income</li><li>▪ Comfortable with higher volatility</li><li>▪ Willing to take higher risk for potential higher gains</li></ul>	Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Sun Life Malaysia does not impose any fund management charge on Sun Life Malaysia Equity Income Fund.</li><li>▪ Up to 1.5% per annum of fund management charge is applied on the target fund's NAV by Principal Asset Management Berhad.</li></ul>

## ASSET ALLOCATION OF THE TARGET FUND

Equities (Foreign)	Equities (Local)	Mutual Fund	Cash
48.68%	41.61%	2.11%	7.60%

Sun Life Malaysia Assurance Berhad 199001005930 (197499-U)

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## SECTOR ALLOCATION OF THE TARGET FUND

Information Technology	23.79%
Industrials	15.87%
Financials	10.21%
Energy	8.87%
Real Estate	7.68%
Consumer Discretionary	7.00%
Communication Services	6.17%
Utilities	4.25%
Others	5.62%
Consumer Staples	2.94%
Cash	7.60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## TOP HOLDINGS OF THE TARGET FUND

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing (Taiwan)	5.46%
Tencent Holdings Ltd (Hong Kong)	3.97%
Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (South Korea)	3.53%
CIMB Group Holdings Bhd (Malaysia)	3.50%
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing ADR (United State)	3.10%
Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (Malaysia)	2.98%
Sunway Bhd (Malaysia)	2.82%
IJM Corp Bhd (Malaysia)	2.51%
Tenaga Nasional Bhd (Malaysia)	2.47%
Dialog Group Bhd (Malaysia)	2.31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.65%</b>

## PERFORMANCE RECORD

This fund feeds into Principal Titans Income Plus Fund (“target fund”) with the objective to provide investors with an opportunity to gain consistent and stable income by investing in a diversified portfolio of dividend yielding equities and fixed income securities. The Fund may also provide moderate capital growth potential over the medium to long-term period.

Table below shows the investment returns of Sun Life Malaysia Equity Income Fund versus its benchmark as at 29 March 2024:

%	YTD	1M	6M	1-Year	3-Years	5-Years	Since Inception
<b>Fund*</b>	10.98	4.19	12.09	9.88	3.52	32.72	73.90
<b>Benchmark</b>	6.05	1.29	9.35	10.02	-6.79	7.11	26.53

\* 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

For the month, the fund rose +4.19% in MYR terms, outperforming the benchmark by +290bps. The outperformance of the month was driven by Industrials, Health Care and Real Estate.

KLCI lost 1% in March as profit-taking set in following 5 months of consecutive gains. Bets on rate cuts by the Fed were pushed back given the persistent strong data out of the US. Within the broader market, Property, Construction, Tech, Healthcare and Energy did well. The latest PMI data still supports a modest improvement in 1Q24 GDP growth. Manufacturers remain optimistic that demand environment would improve. Malaysia's equity market valuation still remains extremely compressed with forward PE of c13.5x which is still ~1.5SD below the historical mean.

Whilst remaining positive on the domestic economy, we took the opportunity to lock in our gains on strength. We believe the recent performance provides an opportunity for us to rebalance our portfolios and deploy the cash into quality names that have lagged. Our key preferred sectors remain on those that stand to gain from the NETR, including Utilities, Construction, and Property. We still see opportunities in selective O&G names as we see value and we believe the sector will be supported by strong Petronas activities in the coming years. Additionally, we remain optimistic on selective Financials as we expect positive momentum to persist in 2024, primarily fueled by better earnings outlook.

MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan Index rose by 2.3% in USD terms in March. The best performing markets were Taiwan ROC, and Korea, while Hong Kong SAR and Thailand lagged. The USD appreciated by 0.32% and the US 10-year bond yields fell slightly by 5 bps to 4.2%. China manufacturing PMI surprised on the upside, with NBS PMI exceeding 50 in March. In Asia, there are growth drivers for 2024. For example, recovery in the semiconductor industry, India's strong economic growth and capex cycle, lower interest rates, all of which is likely to lead to better earnings growth in Asia in the next 12 months.

We have a positive view on Asian equities given attractive investment themes and corporates have the potential to post better earnings growth than developed markets in 2024. We will continue to diversify the portfolio and position the portfolio in areas where they are likely to print strong earnings growth such as the semiconductor industry, beneficiaries of AI spend, lower interest rate, or rising capex as well as India. We will also be selective in our investments in China, especially for those companies who have shown signs of turnaround.

**RISKS**

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

<b>Stock specific risk</b>	Prices of a particular stock may fluctuate in response to the circumstances affecting individual companies such as adverse financial performance, news of a possible merger or loss of key personnel of a company. Any adverse price movements of such stock will adversely affect the target fund's NAV.
<b>Credit and default risk</b>	The target fund will be exposed to a certain degree of credit and default risk of issuers or counterparties when the target fund invests in debt securities, money market instruments and/or place deposits. Credit risk relates to the creditworthiness of the securities issuers or counterparties and their expected ability to make timely payment of interest and/or principal. Any adverse situations faced by the issuers or counterparties may impact the value as well as liquidity of the investments. In the case of rated debt securities, this may lead to a credit downgrade. Default risk relates to the risk that a securities issuer or counterparty either defaulting on payments or failing to make payments in a timely manner which will in turn adversely affect the value of the investments. This could adversely affect the value of the target fund. We aim to mitigate this risk by performing bottom-up and top-down credit research and analysis to determine the creditworthiness of its issuers or counterparties, and impose investment limits on exposures for issuers or counterparties with different credit profiles as a precautionary step to limit any loss that may arise directly or indirectly as a result of a defaulted transaction.
<b>Interest rate risk</b>	Interest rate risk refers to the impact of interest rate changes on the valuation of debt instruments and money market instruments. When interest rates rise, debt instruments and money market instruments prices generally decline and this may lower the market value of the target fund's investment in debt instruments and money market instruments. In managing the debt instruments, we take into account the coupon rate and time to maturity of the debt instruments with an aim to mitigate the interest rate risk. As for money market instruments, the typical tenor of these instruments are less than 12-month maturity and unlike debt instrument, any change to interest rate will only have a minor impact to the prices of these instruments.
<b>Country risk</b>	Investments of the target fund in any country may be affected by changes in the economic and political climate, restriction on currency repatriation or other developments in the law or regulations of the countries in which the target fund invests in. For example, the deteriorating economic condition of such countries may adversely affect the value of the investments undertaken by the target fund in those affected countries. This in turn may cause the NAV of the target fund or price of units to fall.

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

<b>Currency risk</b>	As the investments of the target fund may be denominated in currencies other than the base currency of the target fund, any fluctuation in the exchange rate between the base currency of the target fund and the currencies in which the investments are denominated may have an impact on the value of these investments. You should be aware that if the currencies in which the investments are denominated depreciate against the base currency of the target fund, this will have an adverse effect on the NAV of the target fund in the base currency of the target fund and vice versa. You should note that any gains or losses arising from the fluctuation in the exchange rate may further increase or decrease the returns of the investment.
<b>Risk of investing in emerging markets</b>	In comparison with investments in the developed markets, investment in emerging markets may involve a higher degree of risk due to the greater possibility of political or economic instability and societal tensions. Emerging markets are markets that are, by definition, "in a state of transition" and are therefore exposed to rapid political change and economic declines. The securities in the emerging markets may face a higher risk of price drop while the exchange rates in these emerging markets are generally more volatile than those of developed markets. As such, you should be aware that investments in emerging markets may subject to higher price volatility and therefore will tend to have a higher investment risk that will affect the target fund's growth. We attempt to mitigate these risks through active asset allocation management and diversification across different countries and sectors, in addition to our continuous bottom-up and top-down research and analysis.
<b>Risks associated with investment in warrants</b>	There are inherent risks associated with investment in warrants. The value of warrants is influenced by the current market price of the underlying security, the exercise price of the contract, the time to expiration of the contract and the estimate of the future volatility of the underlying security's price over the life of the contract. Generally, the erosion in value of warrants accelerates as it approaches its expiry date. Like securities, we will undertake fundamental research and analysis on these instruments with an aim to mitigate its risks.

**Source : Principal Asset Management Bhd**

**Date : 29 March 2024**

### 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.