FUND COMMENTARY

JANUARY 2014



Equity Market Review & Outlook

REVIEW

- The US markets tumbled towards the end of January as investors became jittery on the news of the sharp depreciation of Argentine's Peso against the US Dollar and the potential impact to other emerging markets such as Brazil, Turkey and South Africa. The Asia Pacific regional markets also succumbed to the risk-off trade. China's Markit PMI came in at 49.5 in January, the first time it has been below 50 since August 2013, raising concerns regarding China's economic slowdown.
- Domestically, January is traditionally a positive month for the KLCI, but this was not so this year. Malaysia was not spared from the regional sell-off, and the Malaysian Ringgit depreciated by almost 2% mom against the US Dollar as at end January 2014. The KLCI ended the month at 1,804 points, declining 3.37% mom or 62.9 points, wiping out the gains of the previous month. The broader market outperformed the KLCI slightly as the FBM Emas declining 397.3 points or 3.09% mom. FBM Small Cap index outperformed the KLCI gaining 0.02% during the month. Average value traded on Bursa in December declined 38% mom to RM2.0bn.
- The sector indices on the local bourse closed generally lower for January, with the best performing sectors being Construction (-1.40%) and Industrial Production (-2.00%). The worst performing sectors were the Consumer (-3.60%), and Plantation (-5.78%).

OUTLOOK

- The sell-off seen at the end of January seems to have legs, going into February. The confluence of a few pieces of negative news such as weak China PMI, weak US PMI, and broad based concerns on emerging market liquidity has shaken investors. Of some concern is the sell-off in emerging market currencies against the US Dollar, however this has been partly due to the outflows from Global Equity Exchange Traded Funds as investors buy into the risk-off trade.
- With the uncertainties in the region, on a relative basis, Malaysia should benefit being a low beta market. In addition, the Malaysian government has already taken steps to address the issues regarding the fiscal deficit and smaller current account by continuing with their subsidy rationalization stance, which will build the country's resilience and improve its fundamentals. On a more micro level, February will be reporting season month, and we are expecting results to not be very inspiring. Cost of living pressures will continue to be highlighted in the coming quarters as suppliers adjust prices for 2014.
- Given the high foreign holdings in Malaysian equities and in the Malaysian Government Securities (MGS), we expect volatility to persist in these markets, as well as for the Ringgit in the short term. Any corrections in the market would serve as an opportunity to accumulate selective fundamentally strong stocks with attractive valuations.

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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- The much awaited National Automotive Policy announced during the month stated that it targets to reduce car prices by 20-30% by end 2018 by inviting more competition into the market. Whilst the focus of the NAP was to develop the Energy Efficient Vehicles (EEVs) in Malaysia for local consumption and for exports, industry players still need more details to assess the impact of the NAP.
- **BNM** issued an industry consultative paper to the financial industry proposing that banks introduce a prime financing rate (PFR) to replace the base lending rate (BLR) as reference for pricing retail loans.
- S P Setia announced that it had been given notice by Tan Sri Liew Kee Sin, Dato' Teow Leong Seng and Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye of their intentions to resign from their respective positions as President & Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Non-Independent, Non-Executive Director respectively.

INDEX PERFORMANCE & MOVERS

RPT

Histori	cal Equi	i ty In	dex M	overs	PAGE	1/ 4
FBM100		Change	Pct Chg	Start Pi	rice Er	nd Price
FTSE BURSA MAL	TOP 100	-413.52	-3.28%	12589.3	38 13	2175.86
Index Member	Information			: :	:	12800
Additions: 1	Up: 24	1 1	; ;	;;		
Deletions: 6	Down: 73			~~ <u>;</u> ;		
Current: 100	Unch: 8		; ;		:	12200
Sort: Inc	lex Points					12000
Order: Asc	ending	L	<u> </u>	i i		
1/2/2014 -	1/30/2014	30DEC13 3JA	N14 9	15 2:	1 27	31
LA	GGING MOVERS			LEADING N	10VERS	
	Price Change	Index Pts	Security	End Price	Change 1	Index Pts
CIMB MK 6.	9270	-64.449	TNB MK	11.80	+.42	+24.798
IOI MK 4.	2051	-35.822	MISC MK	6.00	+.30	+8.341
SAKP MK 4.	3951	-32.908	GENT MK	10.40	+.14	+5.843
AXIATA MK 6.	5634	-31.992	MRC MK	1.53	+.24	+3.667
SIME MK 8.	9953	-31.223	AMM MK	7.33	+.09	+2.966
MAY MK 9.	6331	-25.219	AIRA MK	2.26	+.06	+2.340
DIGI MK 4.	69 27	-19.030	PKS MK	2.93	+.18	+2.006
PBK MK 19	0.0832	-17.086	CMS MK	7.42	+.55	+1.795
KLK MK 23	3.42 -1.48	-14.932	UMWOG MK	4.17	+.16	+1.371
MAXIS MK 6.	9730	-14.872	HLFG MK	15.82	+.34	+1.349
+ Added during Australia 61 2 9777 8 Japan 81 3 3201 8900	range, - Remo 600 Brazil 5511 3048 4 Singapore 65 6212	500 Europe 44 20		Copyright 2	10 Hong Kong 8 014 Bloomberg	352 2977 6000 Finance L.P.

Source: Bloomberg

	Last Pı	rice	MoM Changes		
Indices	31-Dec-13	31-Jan-14	+/-	%	
FBMKLCI	1867.0	1804.0	-62.9	-3.37%	
FBMMES	5675.8	5901.3	225.5	3.97%	
FBM100	12589.4	12175.9	-413.5	-3.28%	
FBM70	14182.1	13761.1	-421.1	-2.97%	
FBMSCAP	15694.2	15696.7	2.5	0.02%	
FBMEMAS	12853.6	12456.3	-397.3	-3.09%	
FBMSHA	13051.6	12604.0	-447.6	-3.43%	
FBMHIJRAH	14323.6	13823.3	-500.3	-3.49%	
MSCI APxJ	468.2	444.0	-24.2	-5.16%	

Source: Bloomberg