

ASTUTE DIVIDEND MAXIMISER FUND

**Quarterly Report
For Financial Period Ended
30 September 2024**

ASTUTE DIVIDEND MAXIMISER FUND

MARKET REVIEW

The fund recorded a -2.9% performance for the quarter. This trailed the benchmark which has rose by 1.9%. Despite the recent volatility, we maintain a positive outlook on equity markets. Investors are concerned about the potential for a rapid slowdown in the US economy. While growth has indeed moderated, we do not anticipate the US entering a recession for now. Consensus forecasts project US GDP growth to remain positive in both 3Q and 4Q (Bloomberg estimates: 2.3% and 1.8%, respectively). Lowering US interest rates should provide support for equity markets. The Fed cut the federal funds rate (FFR) by 50 bps on 18 September 2024 and may further reduce it by year-end. Should the Fed implement 25 bps cuts at each meeting in the next 12M, the FFR could decline to 3.0% by 2H25, weakening the USD and benefiting EM currencies. Historically, a weaker USD will drive flows to EM including Asia. Furthermore, EM markets like Malaysia have often done well after the Fed cut rates.

For the first time in years, Malaysia appears to be benefiting from a convergence of positive factors. The MYR has appreciated by 11% against the USD since April 2024. On top of that, the Madani government has directed Government-Linked Investment Companies (GLICs) to prioritize domestic investments, resulting in both local and foreign funds being net buyers in 2024. The Ministry of Finance has announced that six leading GLICs will invest RM120 billion in direct domestic projects over the next five years. Additionally, civil servants are set to receive a salary increase of 7% to 15% starting from 1 December 2024.

MARKET OUTLOOK

These developments add to other favorable factors including a potential recovery in semiconductor exports, supply chain diversification away from China, strong foreign direct investments (FDI), improved relations with Singapore (such as the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone and the Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High-Speed Rail), data centre investments, renewable energy initiatives, and plans under the National Semiconductor Strategy.

We increased our exposure to Singapore slightly as we are positive on Singapore banks due to their dividend yields and exposure in non-interest income, treasury revenue and better asset management contribution as interest rates fall.

Malaysia's market valuations remain reasonable with a 2024 PER of 15.2x (10-year range: 12.4x to 21.7x), PBR of 1.4x (10-year range: 1.1x to 2.2x) and a forecast dividend yield of 4.1% for 2024 (10-year range: 2.7% to 5.3%). Our strategy focuses on investing in well-managed companies that offer potential catalysts, growth, and/or attractive dividend yields. We believe the market has the potential to rise in the coming months.

The opinion and information contained herein are based on available data believed to be reliable. It is not to be construed as an offer, invitation or solicitation to buy or sell the securities covered by this report. Astute Fund Management Berhad does not warrant the accuracy of anything stated herein in any matter whatsoever and no reliance upon such statements by anyone shall give rise to any claim whatsoever against Astute Fund Management Berhad.

ASTUTE DIVIDEND MAXIMISER FUND

Performance and Fund Information (%)

	Total Return from 1 Jul 2024 To 30 Sept 2024	Total Return from 1 Apr 2024 To 30 June 2024	Total Return from 1 Jan 2024 to 31 Mar 2024
Astute Dividend Maximiser Fund	-2.90	8.27	9.16
FTSE Bursa Malaysia Top 100 Index	1.90	5.17	6.98

Source: Bloomberg

NAV Per Unit	RM1.150	RM1.1853	RM1.0948
Fund Size	RM3,184,528	RM4,197,576	RM3,945,506

Asset Allocation Mandate

1. Local and foreign equities listed on stock exchanges in Malaysia and the Asia-Pacific region.
2. Fixed income securities, collective investment schemes, money market instruments and deposits with financial institutions in Malaysia and Asia-Pacific region.
3. Structured products.

Asset Allocation

Equities, stock exchanges, fixed income securities, collective investment schemes, money market instruments, deposits with financial institutions and structured products
Liquid assets

Risk Factors

The specific risk factors of the Fund are as follows: -

1. Security risk;
2. Equity related product risk;
3. Credit or default risk;
4. Interest rate risk;
5. Currency risk;
6. Income distribution risk;
7. Securities lending risk; and
8. Risk associated with investment in structured products.

Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance. Unit prices and investment returns may fluctuate.

ASTUTE DIVIDEND MAXIMISER FUND

**UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 JULY 2024 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

	1.7.2024 To 30.9.2024 RM
INVESTMENT LOSSES	
Gross dividend income	55,287
Realised gain on sale of investments	49,704
Unrealised losses on financial assets at fair value through profit and loss ("FVPL")	(156,972)
Other income	1
	<u>(51,980)</u>
LESS: EXPENSES	
Management fee	13,304
Trustee's fee	3,000
Auditors' remuneration	1,497
Tax agent's fee	-
Administrative expenses	2,415
Transaction costs	7,309
	<u>27,525</u>
NET INVESTMENT INCOME/ (EXPENSE)	<u>(79,505)</u>
FOREIGN EXCHANGE GAINS:	
- REALISED	(28,014)
- UNREALISED	(286)
NET LOSS BEFORE TAXATION	<u>(107,805)</u>
INCOME TAX EXPENSE	(2,886)
NET LOSS AFTER TAXATION FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD	<u>(110,691)</u>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE EXPENSE FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD	<u>(110,691)</u>
Total comprehensive expense for the financial period is made up as follows:	
- realised	46,567
- unrealised	(157,258)
	<u>(110,691)</u>

ASTUTE DIVIDEND MAXIMISER FUND

UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

30.9.2024
RM

ASSETS

INVESTMENTS

Quoted investments	2,945,390
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OTHER ASSETS

Sundry receivables	80,863
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Cash at bank	269,306
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	350,169
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TOTAL ASSETS	3,295,559
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NET ASSET VALUE ("NAV") AND LIABILITIES

NAV

Unitholders' capital	2,575,351
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Accumulated profit/ (losses)	609,177
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TOTAL NAV	3,184,528
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LIABILITIES

Sundry payable and accruals	106,074
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Amount owing to Manager	3,957
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Amount owing to Trustee	1,000
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TOTAL LIABILITIES	111,031
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TOTAL NAV AND LIABILITIES	3,295,559
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NUMBER OF UNITS IN CIRCULATION	2,766,779
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NAV PER UNIT (RM)	1.1510
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ASTUTE DIVIDEND MAXIMISER FUND

UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSET VALUE FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 JULY 2024 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

	Unitholders' capital RM	Accumulated losses RM	Total NAV RM
At 1 July 2024	3,477,708	719,868	4,197,576
Net loss after taxation/Total comprehensive expense for the financial period		(110,691)	(110,691)
Contribution by and distribution to the unitholders of the Fund:			
- creation of units	7,500	-	7,500
- cancellation of units	(909,857)	-	(909,857)
Total transactions with unitholders of the Fund	(902,357)	-	(902,357)
At 30 Sep 2024	2,575,351	609,177	3,184,528

CORPORATE DIRECTORY

Manager **Astute Fund Management Berhad [199701004894 (420390-M)]**

Business Office 3rd Floor, Menara Dungun,
No. 46, Jalan Dungun,
Damansara Heights,
50490 Kuala Lumpur

Board of Directors	Y.M. Dato' Tunku Ahmad Zahir bin Tunku Ibrahim	Non-Executive and Independent Director
	Clement Chew Kuan Hock	Executive and Non-Independent Director
	Wong Fay Lee	Non-Executive and Non-Independent Director
	Azran bin Osman Rani	Non-Executive and Independent Director
	Asgari bin Mohd Fuad Stephens	Non-Executive and Non-Independent Director

Secretary Ng Chin Chin (MAICSA 7042650)

Trustee **CIMB Commerce Trustee Berhad (Company No. 313031-M)**
Level 13, Menara CIMB,
Jalan Stesen Sentral 2,
Kuala Lumpur Sentral,
50470 Kuala Lumpur.

Auditor and Reporting Accountant **Crowe Malaysia PLT (201906000005 (LLP0018817-LCA) & AF-1018)**
Level 16, Tower C,
Megan Avenue II,
12, Jalan Yap Kwan Seng,
50450 Kuala Lumpur.

Taxation Advisers **Mazars Taxation Services Sdn Bhd (579147-A)**
Wisma Golden Eagle Realty,
11th Floor, South Block,
No.142-A, Jalan Ampang,
50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Solicitors **Mr.Lim Wei Chien
Wei Chien & Partners**
Level 29, Tower A, Vertical Business
Suite, Avenue 3, Bangsar South.
No.8, Jalan Kerinchi,
59200 Kuala Lumpur.

BUSINESS OFFICE
ASTUTE FUND MANAGEMENT BERHAD

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