

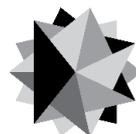
Affin Hwang

Flexible Maturity Income Fund 8

Quarterly Report

31 March 2021

Out **think.** Out **perform.**



AFFIN HWANG
CAPITAL

MANAGER

Affin Hwang Asset Management Berhad
199701014290 (429786-T)

TRUSTEE

TMF Trustees Malaysia Berhad (610812-W)

AFFIN HWANG FLEXIBLE MATURITY INCOME FUND 8

Quarterly Report and Financial Statements As at 31 March 2021

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QUARTERLY REPORT

FUND INFORMATION

Fund Name	Affin Hwang Flexible Maturity Income Fund 8
Fund Type	Income
Fund Category	Wholesale Fixed Income (Close-ended)
Investment Objective	The Fund aims to provide income through investments in fixed income instruments
Duration of the Fund	Three (3) years close-ended Fund
Termination Date	30 August 2021
Benchmark	3-years Malayan Banking Berhad fixed deposit rate as at Investment Date
Distribution Policy	Depending on the level of income the Fund generates, the Fund will provide distribution on an annual basis.

FUND PERFORMANCE DATA

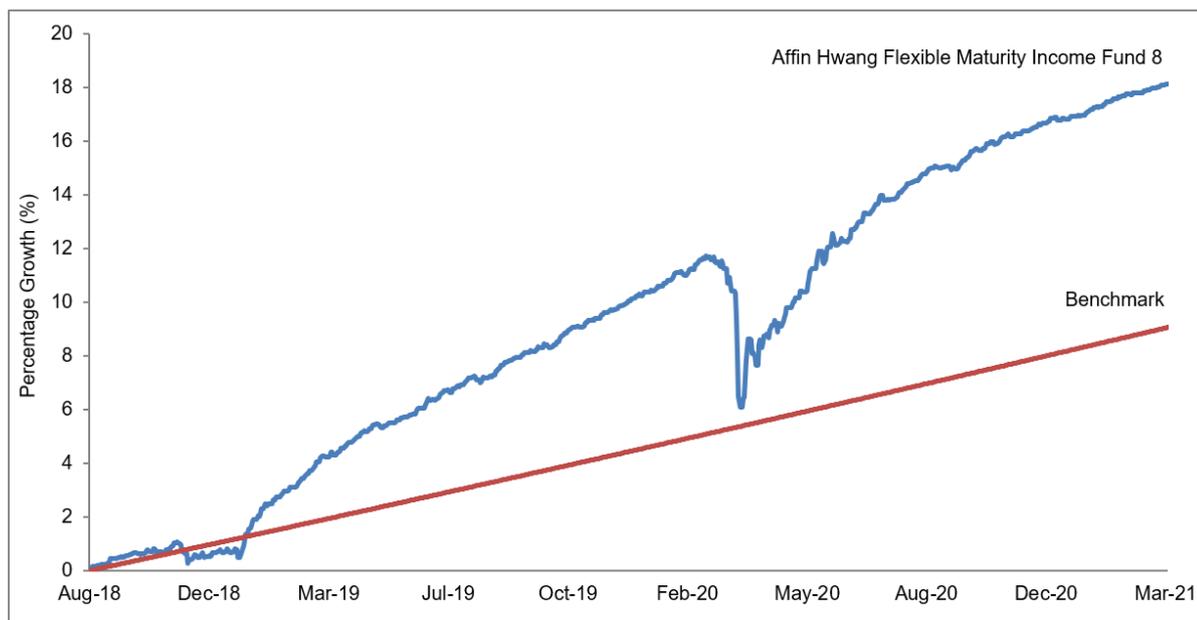
Category	As at 31 Mar 2021	As at 31 Dec 2020
Total NAV (RM'million)	211.644	210.053
NAV per Unit (RM)	1.0828	1.0707
Unit in Circulation (million)	195.453	196.181

Performance as at 31 March 2021

	3 Months (1/1/21 - 31/3/21)	6 Months (1/10/20 - 31/3/21)	1 Year (1/4/20 - 31/3/21)	Since Commencement (28/8/18 - 31/3/21)
Fund	1.13%	2.58%	9.28%	18.13%
Benchmark	0.83%	1.68%	3.40%	9.06%
Outperformance	0.30%	0.90%	5.88%	9.07%

Source of Benchmark: Bloomberg

Movement of the Fund versus the Benchmark



"This information is prepared by Affin Hwang Asset Management Berhad (AFFINHWANGAM) for information purposes only. Past earnings or the fund's distribution record is not a guarantee or reflection of the fund's future earnings/future distributions. Investors are advised that unit prices, distributions payable and investment returns may go down as well as up. Source of Benchmark is from Bloomberg."

Benchmark: 3-years Malayan Banking Berhad fixed deposit rate as at Investment Date

Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance and that Unit prices and investment returns may go down, as well as up.

Asset Allocation

Fund's asset mix during the period under review:

	31 March 2021
	(%)
Fixed Income	90.10
Derivative	-0.11
Cash & money market	10.01
Total	100.00

Strategies Employed

Over the period under review, the Manager maintained a focus on high conviction credit names across both domestic and regional space. To date, the Fund's bond holdings have continued to meet their respective financial obligations in respect of their outstanding debt.

Market Review

Global equities started 2021 on a strong note as policy easing, and global vaccine rollouts went underway. At the start of January, US markets saw strong optimism. The storming of the US Capitol in early January had little effect over the broader market. The market showed strong attention to the Biden administration's US\$ 1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief proposal in mid-January. However, a black swan event at the end of the month saw retail investors selectively targeting underperforming stocks (e.g. GME and AMC) that resulted in a short squeeze and pushing their share prices to new highs.

US equity markets ended the month of February with modest gains though sentiment was tested as surging bond yields and inflation fears took precedence. Whilst equities and bonds tend to move in opposite directions, the reality is that equity outperformance in the past year has largely come from growth-centric stocks and “stay at home” trades, which are now facing short-term squeezes on their profit margins from rising rates. Another factor is the shift from growth to value, with value stocks performing better over the month.

Global equities endured a mixed session in March as US-China tensions boiled over dampening sentiment. The S&P 500 index rose 4.4% higher as the latest US labour data showed signs of a rebound. In Asia, the MSCI Asia ex-Japan index fell 2.5% as increased regulatory scrutiny prompted a selloff in Chinese technology stocks. The Hong Kong Hang Seng index dropped 1.8% in March. With recovery still in a fragile state, global central banks including the Fed are expected to keep monetary policy accommodative to nurse the economy through the pandemic. Meanwhile, rising bond yields continue to unsettle markets.

Commodities saw strong returns in January, buoyed by vaccination programs and normalization of the economy. The commodity market saw multiple consecutive weeks of increased market inflow, particularly across crude oil, grain & oilseed, and livestock markets. This rally continued in February, as copper saw its largest monthly gain in over four years and oil prices hitting new one-year highs. The S&P GSCI posted a return on 14.15% in the quarter.

Following from 2020's political overhang, Malaysia's Yang di-Pertuan Agong issued a Proclamation of Emergency, resulting in the implementation of MCO 2.0 as daily Covid-19 cases rose to four digits. Restrictions on movement were less stringent than the initial MCO from 2020, though inconsistent communication surrounding the restrictions resulted in some public confusion.

Malaysia's Consumer Price Index (CPI) came in at 122.5 in February 2021, a marginal increase of 0.1% from January 2021. Despite this, trade numbers have been gradually increasing as global trade picks up. December 2020 saw Malaysia's exports rise 10.8% y-o-y and imports rebounding for the first time in 9 months by 1.6% y-o-y. This positive momentum continued in January 2021, with exports expanding by 6.6% y-o-y to RM 89.6 billion. Imports saw the same trend, increasing by 1.3% y-o-y.

In February and March, the local equity market's performance was muted relative to regional peers, gaining by 0.8% and 1.0% in the respective months. February was also results season in the local market, with the tech sector largely reporting earnings beat on the back of robust demand. Meanwhile, Finance Minister Tengku Zafrul clarified in an interview that the government is not looking to impose capital gains tax on stocks. The government is mulling new taxes to widen its revenue base once the economy is on a more stable footing.

The Malaysian bond market saw an unwinding of “rate cut” bets at the end of January following BNM's announcement to keep interest rates unchanged at 1.75% highlighting that recovery of the local economy was underway. The shorter-end of the MGS curve saw yields rise whilst longer-tenured papers remained resilient that month.

Yields trended higher in tandem with US treasury movement in the quarter. Undoubtedly, the performance of the local bond market has been subpar since the start of the year; especially given the volatility in US Treasury yields, as well as the lack of support from EPF due to its ongoing commitment to the i-Sinar and i-Lestari programme. However, we were seeing some demand returning in March, as more investors – including insurance players and asset managers – are seen nibbling into the market given the more attractive yield levels.

Investment Outlook

Global markets have rallied sharply from their lowest, supported by fiscal and monetary stimulus. The economy is still recovering, albeit at a slow pace, as consumers' confidence return. Recovery plays will be the most obvious theme for the year of improving macroeconomic conditions and the inevitable rollout of vaccines has everyone looking to the future and letting go of 2020's miseries. We have already seen the rotation from growth to value take place in the start of 2021.

Earnings momentum will continue in 2021 with earnings growth projected to rise by 38.0% in Asia ex-Japan (ex-Financials) according to estimates by some sell-side analysts. Key sectors leading the recovery include the energy, consumer discretionary and industrials. Though, this is tempered by moderately higher valuations which has crept up above historical averages. Liquidity conditions remain positive and with

earnings visibility from Asian companies that are riding along a China-led economic recovery, Asia continues to be an ocean of growth potential as the region continues to grow.

Back home, economic recovery continues to be delayed by Covid-19 as cases surge throughout the country. From a bottom-up perspective, the domestic focus will be on the recovery beneficiaries and exporters in the technology and EMS segment which have strong earnings visibility in the near term as well increasing demand. Political risk has been delayed with the declaration of state of emergency until August 2021.

ESG funds have also been gathering plenty of interest and we will expect this investor shift to ESG-focused funds to be more commonplace across the industry. The Biden administration's foray into building stronger climate change initiatives also signals a shift for the investment industry as this will generate more opportunities across asset classes. The wider implications of this on the economy will take time to materialise, but will continue to be observed.

AFFIN HWANG FLEXIBLE MATURITY INCOME FUND 8

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Financial period ended 31.3.2021 RM	Financial period ended 31.3.2020 RM
INVESTMENT INCOME/(LOSS)		
Interest income from financial assets at amortised cost	80,103	44,063
Interest income from financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	5,091,669	5,395,874
Exit fee income	22,616	36,108
Net gain on foreign currency exchange	293,786	565,659
Net loss on forward foreign currency contracts at fair value through profit or loss	(6,481)	(3,023,650)
Net loss on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(40,378)	(3,626,517)
	<u>5,441,315</u>	<u>(608,463)</u>
EXPENSES		
Trustee fee	(41,904)	(42,039)
Auditors' remuneration	(5,176)	(4,000)
Fund accounting fee	(6,500)	(1,083)
Tax agent's fee	(1,907)	(1,749)
Other expenses	(27,270)	(23,972)
	<u>(82,757)</u>	<u>(72,843)</u>
NET PROFIT/(LOSS) BEFORE TAXATION	5,358,558	(681,306)
Taxation	(4,800)	(2,437)
NET PROFIT/(LOSS) AFTER TAXATION AND TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/(LOSS) FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD	<u>5,353,758</u>	<u>(683,743)</u>
Net profit/(loss) after taxation is made up of the following:		
Realised amount	6,110,294	5,282,202
Unrealised amount	(756,536)	(5,965,945)
	<u>5,353,758</u>	<u>(683,743)</u>

AFFIN HWANG FLEXIBLE MATURITY INCOME FUND 8

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	<u>2021</u> RM	<u>2020</u> RM
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	17,845,887	3,383,354
Exit fee income receivable	-	22,197
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	194,042,081	205,870,057
Forward foreign currency contracts at fair value through profit or loss	1,182,914	1,955,801
Tax recoverable	10,038	1,019
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>213,080,920</u>	<u>211,232,428</u>
LIABILITIES		
Forward foreign currency contracts at fair value through profit or loss	1,417,597	4,953,832
Amount due to Manager - cancellation of units	-	1,109,866
Amount due to Trustee	7,180	7,068
Auditors' remuneration	5,176	4,000
Tax agent's fee	5,407	5,249
Other payables and accruals	1,850	1,136
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>1,437,210</u>	<u>6,081,151</u>
NET ASSET VALUE OF THE FUND	<u>211,643,710</u>	<u>205,151,277</u>
EQUITY		
Unitholders' capital	195,184,473	198,233,370
Retained earnings	16,459,237	6,917,907
NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNITHOLDERS	<u>211,643,710</u>	<u>205,151,277</u>
NUMBER OF UNITS IN CIRCULATION	<u>195,453,000</u>	<u>198,311,000</u>
NET ASSET VALUE PER UNIT (RM)	<u>1.0828</u>	<u>1.0345</u>

AFFIN HWANG FLEXIBLE MATURITY INCOME FUND 8

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Unitholders' <u>capital</u> RM	Retained <u>earnings</u> RM	<u>Total</u> RM
Balance as at 1 October 2020	197,446,613	11,105,479	208,552,092
Total comprehensive income for the financial period	-	5,353,758	5,353,758
Movement in unitholders' capital:			
Cancellation of units	(2,262,140)	-	(2,262,140)
Balance as at 31 March 2021	<u>195,184,473</u>	<u>16,459,237</u>	<u>211,643,710</u>
Balance as at 1 October 2019	200,039,042	7,601,650	207,640,692
Total comprehensive loss for the financial period	-	(683,743)	(683,743)
Movement in unitholders' capital:			
Cancellation of units	(1,805,672)	-	(1,805,672)
Balance as at 31 March 2020	<u>198,233,370</u>	<u>6,917,907</u>	<u>205,151,277</u>

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