

How to handle your retirement planning

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By: Ismitz Matthew De Alwis



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That saying actually applies to retirement planning as well. However, all too often we race through the nitty-gritty details of our finances and neglect to focus on crucial elements especially on saving for retirement long before those golden years approach.

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Create Emergency Fund – While busy paring down your debt, don't forget you should be building up an emergency fund. Ideally, you should aim to have six months of take-home pay but if it seems too lofty, start with one month and build from there.

Set aside Retirement Fund – Contribute a small percentage of your paycheque that you feel is reasonable. You can start with 5% contribution monthly then add 1% bi-yearly. If you earn a salary of RM2,000, the 5% is only RM100 a month, that works out to about RM3 a day which is very reasonable. While the amount may seem small, the magic is in the compounding process when your savings or investments help you earn interests over time. The longer you save and invest, the more interests you earn. One secret to discipline retirement saving is to have your savings taken automatically from your paycheque, or known as "Pay Yourself First".

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So how to juggle it all and still make your retirement plan work?

Here's the analogy: If you try to fill too many buckets, none of them are going to get very full. So, prioritise on your three biggest goals. If you haven't mastered the big three – paying off credit card debt, building an emergency fund and putting aside for your retirement savings – then those should automatically be your top priorities. Once you've addressed your basic financial security needs, you can start contributing to other goals like saving down payment for a house or kids' education fund.

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- End -

Ismitz Matthew De Alwis is the Executive Director and CEO of Kenanga Investors Berhad, one of Malaysia's top investment management firms. Matthew is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and holds a Capital Market Services Representative's Licence (CMSRL) from the Securities Commission for fund management and investment advice. He is a staunch believer that financial literacy will empower Malaysians to prepare adequately for their retirement.



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Saturday, 12 March 2016

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BY ISMATZ MATTHEW DE ALWIS

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Market Summary

Updated: 15 Mar 2016 11:20 PM
Quotes are delayed by at least 15 mins

FBM KLCI	1694.31	-0.35%	Vol (00)	7,203,668
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Day's Range		52 Weeks Range	
Low	1694.18	Low	1503.56
High	1699.44	High	1856
Steady	276	Losses	253
Unchanged	258	Untraded	943

Market Movers

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Symbol	Active	Gainers	Losers	Last	Chg	Vol (00)
AAX-WA				0.175	0.005	499,465
ARASIA				1.780	0.070	408,460
AAX				0.305	0.010	397,563
SKH				0.080	0.000	351,176
PWORTH				0.115	0.005	199,654

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