

PRESS RELEASE  
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## KENANGA INVESTORS WINS OVERALL ISLAMIC GROUP AWARD FOR FOURTH YEAR

*The firm swept two group Awards and five fund awards for the 3 & 5 Year categories*



From left: **Syarifah Hidayatul Syed Mustaffa** (*Portfolio Manager, Investment*), **Low Pei Yee** (*Portfolio Manager, Investment*), **Ismitz Matthew De Alwis** (*Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer*), **Lee Sook Yee** (*Chief Investment Officer*), **Christopher Kok Keng Fai** (*Head of Equities, Investment*).

**Kuala Lumpur, 19 April 2021:** Kenanga Investors Berhad (“Kenanga Investors”) received a total of seven (7) awards at the Refinitiv Lipper Fund Awards Malaysia 2021. Kenanga Investors won the overall best **Malaysia Islamic Funds Group Awards (Equity)** and **Malaysia Provident Funds Group Awards (Mixed Assets)** categories. This year remains the fourth occasion the firm has won under the Malaysia Islamic Fund (Equity) Group category.

Besides the overall awards, other individual fund wins include, **Kenanga SyariahEXTRA Fund** (“KSEF”) which swept a total of four awards in two categories; *Malaysia Islamic Funds* under

***Mixed Asset MYR Balanced for 3 Years and 5 Years*** and ***Malaysia Provident Funds*** under ***Mixed Asset MYR Balanced for 3 Years and 5 Years***.

Similarly, the **Kenanga Growth Opportunities Fund** (“KGOF”) won ***Malaysia Provident Funds*** under ***Equity Malaysia Small and Mid-Caps for 3 Years***.

“Our success can be contributed to our commitment to sustainable performance. In 2020, we experienced one of the most volatile market conditions ever; it is a testament to our capabilities as an asset and wealth manager to be able to achieve the outperformance we experienced last year. Without a doubt, our investment team lead by Ms Lee Sook Yee the 2020 Malaysia CIO of the Year winner by the recent Asia Asset Management’s Best of the Best Awards, have worked tirelessly and are constantly on the lookout for innovative ideas and products. Our long-standing philosophy of bottom-up stock picking combined with a stringent risk management framework guided us as we navigated the intricate investment landscape. This enabled us to produce superior returns, often illustrated by our history of strong 3, 5, and 10-year consistent top performances,” says Ismitz Matthew De Alwis, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer.

He further adds, “Last year, our decision to overweight the tech and healthcare sectors proved crucial as demand in these sectors was accelerated due to the pandemic. Overall, we chose to stick to our convictions with a longer-term view. This contributed to the subsequent rebound and outperformance. We believe that in 2021, the vaccination efforts should underpin economic recovery despite growth expectations and inflationary concerns. We will continue to adopt a barbell strategy in our sector positioning and maintain an overweight in tech to ride on secular growth trends while also favouring more cyclical sectors such as consumer discretionary, financials, energy, and commodities to take advantage of the recovery.

As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, KSEF delivered returns of 40.29%\* (3-years), 62.78%\* (5-years), 119.79%\* (10-years). For the same period, KGOF’s returns stood at 50.81%\* (3-years), 63.62%\* (5 years), 156.80%\* (10-years).

Going forward, the asset and wealth management firm plans to extend its growing reach in sustainable investing. “We have been actively supporting the increasing interest in socially responsible investing and Islamic investments which has experienced a sharp peak in demand during these post-pandemic times. The universe of sustainable investments will be an integral component towards providing long-term value to both our internal and external stakeholders as its indicators offer additional insight in evaluating a company’s longevity beyond traditional financial performance,” adds De Alwis.

As a signatory to the Malaysian Code for Institutional Investors and a member of the Institutional Investors Council, Kenanga Investors has recently launched the Kenanga Waqf Al-Ihsan Fund, in line with the recent announcement of a new framework by regulators to facilitate the offering of Islamic funds with Waqf features to grow the Islamic social finance segment. This, after its recent

acquisition of a local Islamic exchange-traded funds provider which has added depth to its existing ETF suite.

In early 2021, the Malaysian Rating Corporation Berhad ("MARC") reaffirmed its investment manager rating ("IMR") of IMR-2 on Kenanga Investors and its wholly-owned subsidiary Kenanga Islamic Investors Berhad ("KIIB") for the fourth consecutive year since the first rating in 217. The IMR rating reflects the firm's sustainable investment strategies and well-grounded risk management practices.

For more information about Kenanga Investors, please visit [www.kenangainvestors.com.my](http://www.kenangainvestors.com.my)

*\*Results Source: Lipper Investment Analytics, 31 December 2020*

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The Refinitiv Lipper Fund Awards, granted annually, highlight funds and fund companies that have excelled in delivering consistently strong risk-adjusted performance relative to their peers. The Refinitiv Lipper Fund Awards are based on the Lipper Leader for Consistent Return rating, which is a risk-adjusted performance measure calculated over 36, 60 and 120 months. The fund with the highest Lipper Leader for Consistent Return (Effective Return) value in each eligible classification wins the Refinitiv Lipper Fund Award. For more information, see [lipperfundawards.com](http://lipperfundawards.com) Although Refinitiv Lipper makes reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data contained herein, the accuracy is not guaranteed by Refinitiv Lipper.

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### **About Kenanga Investors Berhad 199501024358 (353563-P)**

We provide investment solutions ranging from collective investment schemes, portfolio management services, and alternative investments for retail, corporate, institutional, and high net worth clients via a multi-distribution network.

Most recently, the Hong Kong-based Asia Asset Management's 2021 Best of the Best Awards awarded KIB under the following categories, Malaysia - Best Equity Manager, Malaysia CIO of the Year, Malaysia – Best Islamic Fund (Equity), and Malaysia Best House for Alternatives. The Kenanga Growth Fund ("KGF") won Core Equity – Malaysia while the Kenanga Syariah Growth Fund ("KSGF") won Core Equity – Malaysia (Islamic) at the FSMOne Recommended Unit Trusts Awards 2020/2021. The Kenanga Balanced Fund was recognized under the Balanced – Malaysia category.

# kenanga

## Kenanga Investors

At the Refinitiv Lipper Fund Awards 2020, KIB won the “Best Mixed Asset Award – Malaysia Pension” and “Best Equity Award – Malaysia Islamic” titles. KSGF was awarded “Equity Malaysia – Malaysia Islamic” for 10-years while the Kenanga Diversified Fund was named “Mixed Asset MYR Flexible – Malaysia Pension” for 3-years and 5-years. KSGF was also named “Malaysia Best Equity over 10-years” at the Refinitiv Lipper Fund Awards 2020 for Global Islamic Markets.

For the fourth consecutive year, KIB was affirmed an investment manager rating of IMR-2 by Malaysian Rating Corporation Berhad since first rated in 2017. The IMR rating reflects the fund management company's well-established investment processes and sound risk management practices. For 2020, the average one-year, three-year and five-year annualized returns for its top 20 largest unit trust funds outperformed its benchmarks.

*This Press Release was issued by Kenanga Group's Marketing & Communications department.*

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**Also mentioned here:**

[The Edge Markets](#) (21 April 2021)



The screenshot shows a news article from The Edge Markets. The article is titled "Kenanga Investors wins two group awards" and is dated April 19, 2021. It features a portrait of Matthew De Alwis, CEO and executive director of Kenanga. The article text states that Kenanga Investors Bhd won two group awards and five individual awards at the Refinitiv Lipper Fund Awards 2021. It also mentions that the firm's investment strategy of bottom-up stock-picking, coupled with a stringent risk management framework, guided them through the complexities of the investment universe, enabling them to produce superior returns to the index in the medium to long term.

[The Edge Markets](#) (19 April 2021)



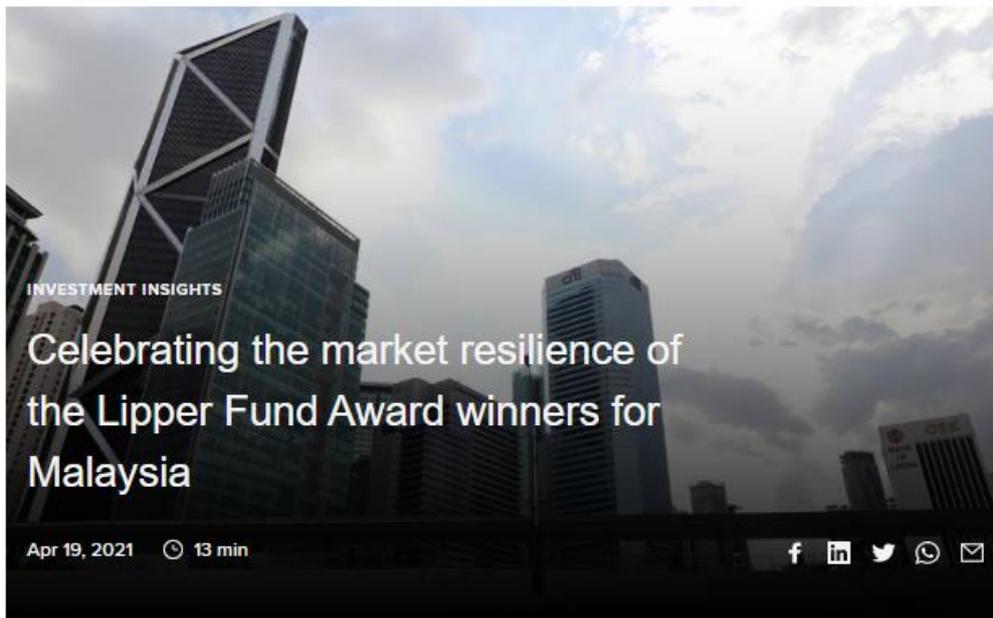
The screenshot shows a news article from The Edge Markets. The article is titled "Resilience in a year of black swan events" and is dated April 19, 2021. It features a photograph of several black swans swimming in a body of water. The article text discusses the firm's investment strategy and its performance in a year of black swan events.

[Refinitiv](#) (19 April 2021)

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This year's winners of the Refinitiv Lipper Fund Awards have been announced for Malaysia. Based entirely on quantitative criteria, the industry's premier awards programme recognises the country's best performing funds through a rigorous and independent assessment process.

