

# Portfolio managed by: Momentum Consult (Pty) Ltd

## **Portfolio Manager Commentary**

Equity markets retreated in March amid rising tariff-driven economic concerns and escalating geopolitical tensions. US markets were down sharply at the start of the month before recovering some losses by month end, with the S&P 500 down by 5.7% in US dollar (USD) terms. The tech-heavy NASDAQ index declined by -8.1% in USD terms. European markets fared slightly better, benefitting from ongoing rotation from investors seeking alternatives to the US, with the MSCI Europe (ex UK) down 0.6% in USD terms. South African equities (FTSE/JSE Capped SWIX) bucked the trend, delivering strong positive performance of 3.6%, being the best performing asset class year-to-date, up 5.8%

Elevated uncertainty stemming from the volatile nature of US trade policy dampened growth expectations in the US, while in Europe, the fiscal response has been much more forceful than many were anticipating. These factors combined pushed developed market equities (MSCI World) down 4.5% in USD terms for the month. Emerging market equities (MSCI EM) outperformed developed markets, up 0.6% in USD terms, with Chinese equities (MSCI China) also up 2% in USD terms. Global property (FTSE EPRA Nareit) did not escape the volatility, down 2.1% for the month.

In bond markets, yields surged initially as optimism rose. However, yields plunged sharply towards the end of the month, amid safe-haven demand ahead of Trump's tariffs announcement. It is worth noting that yields move in the opposite direction of prices (and returns), with a lower yield indicating greater demand for government debt. Global bonds (FTSE WGBI) delivered a positive return overall, up 0.7% for the month in USD terms. The rand held steady, strengthening by 1.8% to trade at R18.32 against the US dollar at

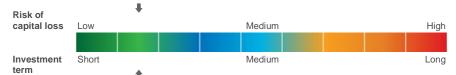
South African equities (FTSE/JSE Capped SWIX) had a strong month, up 3.6%. The resources sector was the main driver of local equity returns, up 18.4% for the month and 27.9%1 year-to-date. Industrials were down 0.3% after a strong month in February while Financials ended the month flat. Listed property (ALPI) ended the month down 1.5% and down 4.2% year-to-date.

SA bonds (FTSE/JSE ALBI) ended the month in positive territory, up 0.2% overall. However, the yield curve continued to steepen in March as bonds at the long end of the curve, in the 12+ year spectrum, came under pressure in response to the budget, down 0.7%. Shorter dated instruments in the one to 3-year and three to 7-year maturities contributed 0.8% and 1% respectively, to offset losses from longer dated bonds, while bonds in the seven to 12-year spectrum contributed 0.4%. As the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) kept the repo rate unchanged at 7.5%, in line with the consensus forecast, local cash (SteFI) continue to deliver inflation beating returns, up 0.6% for the month and 8.3% for the past year.

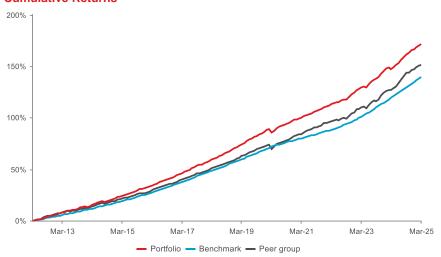
During times of sharp market movements, caution and patience is required. Even though March saw sharp swings driven by intensifying' tariff concerns, unsettling markets and elevating volatility, a diversified approach to portfolio construction remains the best tool to navigate uncertainty.

# **Risk Appetite: Low**

The portfolio typically has no or low equity exposure, resulting in higher interest yields and stable capital values with the probability of capital losses over the short term (3 months) very low.



#### **Cumulative Returns**





# 31 March 2025

#### **Portfolio Information**

#### **Investment Mandate**

The portfolio aims to outperform the benchmark, net of investment management fees, over any rolling 1-year

#### **Investment Strategy**

The portfolio aims to provide a reasonable level of income, taking into account current levels of interest rates and dividend yields. The portfolio is focused on income generating asset classes and may have limited exposures to equity and property. A multi-manager approach is utilised whereby fund managers are combined based on their skill and expertise. The portfolio may invest in foreign assets as permitted by legislation and complies with Regulation 28 of the Pension Funds Act, 1956. The offshore exposure of the overall portfolio will be based on that of the underlying funds.

#### **Launch Date**

August 2020

#### **Benchmark**

STeFI Call + 1% over rolling 1-year periods

#### **Peer Group**

(ASISA) South African MA Income

#### Reg. 28 Compliant

# Portfolio Manager

Momentum Consult Investment Committee

#### **Platform Availability**

AIMS, Allan Gray, Glacier, INN8, Momentum Wealth, Ninety One, Old Mutual, PPS and STANLIB

# Portfolio Fees (Per Annum)

Discretionary Fund Manager Fee: 0.17% Total Investment Charges (TIC)\*: 0.50% Total Portfolio Fee\*\*: 0.67%

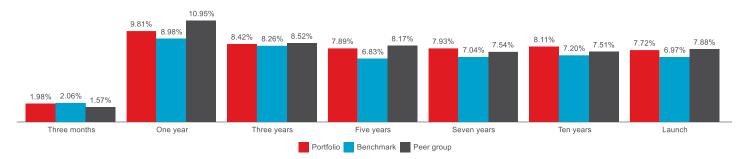
\*The TIC is a weighted average of the TICs of the collective investment scheme portfolios in which the portfolio invests. This has been calculated using the latest available data.
\*\*The Total Portfolio Fee is the sum of the Discretionary Fund Manager Fee and the TIC.

# **Contact Details**

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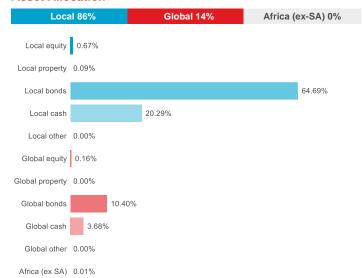
# **Monthly Returns**

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
2021	Portfolio	0.39%	0.18%	0.46%	0.75%	0.52%	0.37%	0.56%	0.61%	0.37%	0.43%	0.60%	0.90%	6.32%
	Benchmark	0.37%	0.35%	0.37%	0.36%	0.37%	0.36%	0.37%	0.37%	0.37%	0.37%	0.36%	0.39%	4.53%
2022	Portfolio	0.44%	0.36%	0.46%	0.49%	0.52%	-0.09%	0.74%	0.59%	-0.08%	1.01%	1.14%	0.73%	6.50%
	Benchmark	0.40%	0.37%	0.41%	0.41%	0.44%	0.45%	0.48%	0.52%	0.52%	0.57%	0.57%	0.63%	5.92%
2023	Portfolio	1.29%	0.19%	0.87%	0.34%	-0.36%	1.52%	1.07%	0.80%	0.21%	0.95%	1.42%	0.91%	9.58%
	Benchmark	0.65%	0.61%	0.67%	0.67%	0.71%	0.71%	0.75%	0.75%	0.73%	0.75%	0.73%	0.75%	8.80%
2024	Portfolio	0.84%	0.40%	-0.53%	0.76%	0.85%	0.86%	1.15%	0.88%	1.03%	0.64%	0.99%	0.27%	8.44%
	Benchmark	0.75%	0.71%	0.75%	0.73%	0.75%	0.73%	0.75%	0.75%	0.73%	0.73%	0.71%	0.72%	9.16%
2025	Portfolio	0.76%	0.64%	0.56%										1.98%
	Benchmark	0.71%	0.64%	0.69%										2.06%

#### **Portfolio Allocation**

Fund	Allocation
Prescient Income Provider Fund (A2)	35.00%
Fairtree BCI Income Plus Fund (H)	35.00%
Curate Momentum Enhanced Yield Fund (D)	30.00%

#### **Asset Allocation**



#### **Disclosures**

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