



## PRESS RELEASE

### DRAFT

#### **KENANGA GROWTH FUND WINS BEST MALAYSIA LARGE-CAP EQUITY AWARD FROM MORNINGSTAR**

*Kenanga Growth Fund – Series 2 USD secured Best Malaysia Large-Cap Equity as its inaugural win*

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**Kuala Lumpur, 11 April 2022:** Kenanga Investors Berhad (“Kenanga Investors”) won the **Best Malaysia Large-Cap Equity Fund** for the **Kenanga Growth Fund – Series 2 USD** (the Fund). This marks the Fund’s first major award since its inception in May 2018.

The Fund’s portfolio employs a barbell investments strategy that strikes a balance between risk and reward, focusing on structural growth themes and cyclical. “A balanced and stable strategy is crucial in facing market conditions of high volatility due to the re-emergence of COVID-19 variants. Our strong returns and outperformance can be credited to our diligent investment team led by Chief Investment Officer, Ms. Lee Sook Yee. As bottom-up stock pickers, our investment philosophy reflects our belief that fundamental research combined with a relative value approach can create consistent superior risk adjusted returns”, says Ismitz Matthew De Alwis, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer.

Picking up from last year’s pandemic crisis, recent events have sparked the asset manager’s decision to continue leaning towards the tech and healthcare sectors, which proved crucial in withstanding the turbulent market conditions.

De Alwis adds, “We navigated through speed bumps in 2021 by constantly reviewing our investment theses to make sure they stayed relevant, identified the “relative winners” from sectors which were deemed resilient, consistently-growing and reasonably priced. Moving forward, we intend to adopt a slightly more defensive position, while buying on weakness to take advantage of market volatility”.

On the increasing awareness and demand for ESG investing, De Alwis remarks “Our stance on sustainable investing has also seen us incorporating ESG considerations into our investment processes. In 2022 for the most part, we will continue to adopt a long-term-performance mindset through sustainable investing. We have recently launched the first SRI-qualified high yield bond fund with the Kenanga Sustainability Series: High Yield Bond Fund which integrates ESG analytics with fixed income strategies to capture new growth opportunities and mitigate risks. We look forward to playing a pivotal role in developing Malaysia’s sustainable investing landscape as part of our commitment to responsibly serve the needs of current and future investors”.

Since inception, the MYR Class has appreciated by 63.17%\* in Net Asset Value terms while the USD Class has returns of 55.18%\* against a benchmark of 33.52%\* demonstrating the Fund’s success in achieving its objective of providing unit holders with long-term capital growth.

The annual Morningstar Malaysia Fund Awards is designed to help investors identify the retail funds that added the most value for investors within the context of their relevant peer group in 2021 and over longer time periods. The awards methodology emphasises the one-year period but in order to obtain an award, funds must also have delivered strong three-year returns after adjusting for risk within the award peer groups. Furthermore, they must have at least been in the top half of their respective peer groups in a minimum of two out of the three previous calendar years.

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

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### **About Kenanga Investors Berhad**

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 Kenanga Growth Fund Series 2 won Best Malaysia Large-Cap Equity Fund at the **2022 Morningstar Awards Malaysia**

At the **Refinitiv Lipper Fund Awards Malaysia 2022**, KIB won overall best Mixed Assets - Malaysia Pension Funds Group award for the third time. Accompanying this were individual fund wins awarded to:

- Kenanga Growth Fund for best Equity Malaysia Fund over 10 Years
- Kenanga Malaysian Inc Fund for best Equity Malaysia Diversified over 3 Years
- Kenanga Growth Opportunities Fund for best Equity Malaysia Small & Mid Cap over 5 Years
- Kenanga Diversified Fund for best Mixed Asset MYR Flexible over 10 Years

The Hong Kong-based Asia Asset Management’s **2022 Best of the Best Awards** awarded KIB under the following categories, Malaysia Best Impact Investing Manager, Best Application of ESG (ASEAN), Malaysia - Best Equity Manager, Malaysia CEO of the Year, Malaysia CIO of the Year, and Malaysia Best House for Alternatives.

The **FSMOne Recommended Unit Trusts Awards 2021/2022**, named Kenanga Balanced Fund as “Balanced – Malaysia” for the 3rd year, Kenanga ASnitaBond Fund as the “Core Fixed Income – Malaysia (Islamic)” for the second time, while Kenanga OnePRS Conservative Fund was awarded the “Private Retirement Scheme – Conservative” title (3rd year).

For the fifth 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 on KIB reflects the fund management company’s well-established investment processes and sound risk management practices. During the first half of 2021, KIB’s 20 largest unit trust funds outperformed its benchmarks for the one-year, three-year and five-year periods.

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

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