

**For Immediate Release**

30 June 2015

## **Manulife launches Shariah-compliant flexi fund to deliver benefits of multi-market exposure**

**Kuala Lumpur** – Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad today announced the launch of the **Manulife Investment-ML Shariah Flexi Fund** (the Fund), which is the sixth fund in the company's award-winning Flexi Series of unit trusts. The Islamic mixed-asset growth fund seeks to provide long-term\* capital appreciation to investors by investing in a diversified portfolio of Shariah-compliant equities, sukuk bonds and Islamic liquid assets.

The Flexi Series has won a total of 11 awards from Lipper and Morningstar during the period 2011 to 2015. Most recently, the Manulife Investment-HW Flexi fund received the "Mixed Asset MYR Flexible" fund award in the 5-year category of The Edge-Lipper Malaysia Fund Awards 2015.

Mr. Wong Boon Choy, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad, said: "Through market engagement we have become aware that many Malaysian investors have difficulty determining how and when to rebalance their unit trust investment portfolios to reflect fluctuating investment market conditions. The Manulife Investment-ML Shariah Flexi Fund adopts a flexible asset allocation strategy under which our investment professionals draw on their expertise to adjust exposure to asset classes and investment markets as necessary, taking this responsibility out of the hands of individual investors."

Wong continued, "The net asset value of our Flexi Series has grown significantly since we launched the first constituent fund in 2005. We are proud that aggregate assets under management in the series of funds recorded annual growth of 31% over the five years ended 31 December 2014. This has been driven by continued positive response from investors who are looking for options that allow them to invest with peace of mind while also offering the potential for a reasonable rate of return."

The new fund's flexible asset allocation strategy allows it to invest up to 98% of its net asset value ("NAV") in a single asset class of Shariah-compliant equities. However, when the Fund Manager expects a bearish equity market, up to 100% of the NAV can be shifted to Shariah-compliant fixed income instruments which consist of sukuk bonds, Islamic money market instruments and Islamic liquid assets.

Mr. Jason Chong, Chief Investment Officer and Managing Director of Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad, explained: "The Fund's flexible asset allocation strategy is an all-weather approach that has the potential to deliver equity capital gains during market upturns while also having the potential to generate steady income based on sukuk bonds and/or Islamic money market instrument investments amid a downturn."

"Manulife Investment-ML Shariah Flexi Fund is the first Shariah-compliant fund in the Flexi Series that may invest up to 30% of its NAV in the Asia Pacific region, including in China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, South Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Japan. Thus, the Fund can be an efficient way for investors to add geographical diversification to their portfolios and to benefit from returns opportunities in regional markets."



The Manulife Investment-ML Shariah Flexi Fund is suitable for investors who are willing to accept a medium to high level of risk, seek capital appreciation, seek investments which conform to Shariah requirements, do not seek a regular income stream and have a long-term investment horizon of at least five years.

During the 21-day initial offer period, which runs from 30 June until 20 July 2015, the initial offer price is RM0.25 per unit. The minimum initial investment is RM1,000 and the minimum additional investment is RM100.

The Manulife Investment-ML Shariah Flexi Fund is distributed by Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad's unit trust advisers.

*\* Long-term in this context refers to a period of at least five years.*

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### **About Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad**

Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad is a wholly owned subsidiary of Manulife Holdings Berhad, which is majority owned by Canada-based Manulife Financial Corporation. On 1 September 2014, Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad officially merged with MAAKL Mutual Berhad to form a single entity known as Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad. Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad offers a comprehensive range of over 30 unit trust funds in the asset classes of equity, fixed income and money markets. Led by a highly experienced senior management team, Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad is well positioned to be among the most professional unit trust force in Malaysia. Our award-winning MHO Mobile application is available on the iPad, iPhone and Android Smartphones. MHO Mobile empowers investors to monitor and manage their unit trust investments at any time, from anywhere. Visit us online at [www.manulifeinvestment.com.my](http://www.manulifeinvestment.com.my).

### **About Manulife Asset Management**

Manulife Asset Management is the global asset management arm of Manulife, providing comprehensive asset management solutions for investors. This investment expertise extends across a broad range of public and private asset classes, as well as asset allocation solutions. As at 31 March 2015, assets under management for Manulife Asset Management were approximately US\$302 billion. Manulife Asset Management's public markets units have investment expertise across a broad range of asset classes including public equity and fixed income, and asset allocation strategies. Offices with full investment capabilities are located in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, and the Philippines. In addition, Manulife Asset Management has a joint venture asset management business in China, Manulife TEDA. The public markets units of Manulife Asset Management also provide investment management services to affiliates' retail clients through product offerings of Manulife and John Hancock. John Hancock Asset Management and Declaration Management and Research are units of Manulife Asset Management. Additional information about Manulife Asset Management may be found at [ManulifeAM.com](http://ManulifeAM.com).

### **About Manulife**

Manulife is a leading Canada-based financial services group with principal operations in Asia, Canada and the United States. We operate as John Hancock in the US and as Manulife in other parts of the world. We provide strong, reliable, trustworthy and forward-thinking solutions for our customers' significant financial decisions. Our international network of employees, agents and distribution partners offers financial protection and wealth management products and services to millions of clients. We also provide asset management services to institutional customers. Assets under management by Manulife and its subsidiaries were approximately US\$648 billion as at 31 March 2015. Manulife Financial Corporation trades as 'MFC' on the TSX, NYSE and PSE, and under '945' on the SEHK. Manulife can be found on the Internet at [manulife.com](http://manulife.com).

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Investors are advised to read and understand the contents of the Prospectus of Manulife Investment-ML Shariah Flexi Fund dated 30 June 2015 and the Supplemental Master Prospectus dated 30 June 2015 which have been registered with the Securities Commission who takes no responsibility for its contents, before investing. Application for Units can only be made on receipt of the Master Application Form referred to in the Prospectus of Manulife Investment-ML Shariah Flexi Fund dated 30 June 2015 and the Supplemental Master Prospectus dated 30 June 2015, which can be obtained at the Manager's registered office or any of the Manulife support centres. Investors are further advised to read and understand the Product Highlights Sheet (PHS) before making any investment decision. The PHS is available and members have the right to request for a PHS from the Manager. Investors should consider the fees and charges involved and note that prices may go down as well as up. The Manager wishes to highlight the specific risks of the Fund which are specific equity risk, default risk, interest rate risk and reclassification of Shariah status risk. The Manager makes no guarantee, representation or warranty and accepts no responsibility or liability as to the accuracy or completeness of the information herein as some of the information in this material is derived from third party sources. The Manager believes such information to be reliable but it has not been independently verified. All opinions in respect of market review, fund review and outlook constitute the Manager's opinion as of the date of the issuance of this material and are subject to change without notice. The information herein is not and should not be construed as an offer or solicitation, or recommendation to acquire or dispose of any investment and should not be considered as investment advice. Any person considering an investment should seek independent advice on the suitability or otherwise of the particular investment.

The Manager, Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad (MAMSB) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Manulife Holdings Berhad and holds a Capital Markets Services License for fund management, dealing in securities restricted to unit trusts, dealing in private retirement schemes and financial planning under the Capital Markets and Services Act 2007. MAMSB operates under the brand name of Manulife Asset Management - the asset management arm of Manulife Financial.

