KZN MODERATE FUND

JANUARY 2025

The KZN Moderate Fund is a 50% / 50% combination of the KZN Managed Fund and KZN Defensive Fund. It is a fund with moderate risk that aims to deliver real growth but with less volatility.

The portfolio is well diversified and invests across all local and foreign asset classes and makes use of good quality balanced asset managers and specialist asset managers within certain asset classes.

Over the longer term returns are expected to be less volatile but at the same time lower than for a typical balanced fund, because of the 50% exposure to the KZN Defensive Fund.

Due to its moderate allocation to growth assets, the fund has a moderate chance of capital loss in the short term, but is expected to achieve real growth of capital over the long-term, albeit lower than that of a typical balanced fund. As a result, the fund is best suited to members who have medium term (3-5 years) investment horizon.

The portfolio complies with the prudential investment guidelines set out in Regulation 28 of the Pensions Funds Act.

MONTHLY COMMENTARY

2024 was a pivotal year in global politics, characterised by significant electoral shifts across many nations as voters expressed their desire for alternatives to established political parties and leadership. The Financial Times reported that for the first time in over a century, every developed country's governing party facing elections lost vote share, reflecting widespread dissatisfaction with the status quo. Politicians have increasingly been compelled to respond to populist demands to gain power. As governments become more involved in economic interventions, political volatility is leading to increased economic instability. Trump's strategy of "Making America great again" is heavily dependent on tariffs, and market volatility rose in January 2025 on uncertainties about these. The escalated geopolitical risks were confirmed in the January 2025 International Monetary Fund (IMF) World Economic Outlook update, indicating "Growth on divergent paths amid elevated policy uncertainty".

Our base has become cautious despite anticipation of strong US earnings growth alongside slowly declining inflation. The US economy is expected to see a rise in investment sentiment due to prospects for easing regulatory and tax policies. The primary risk to this outlook has shifted from US recession concerns to the potential for reaccelerating inflation, which could prompt the Fed to implement aggressive rate hikes as a result of inflation risks associated with tariffs.

Global volatility is likely to remain elevated until it becomes clear that Trump's policies will not lead to higher inflation and interest rates. Non-US business sentiment will be constrained by the looming threat of a trade war in the coming months. A downturn in the global economy due to tariffs could negatively impact the US economy.

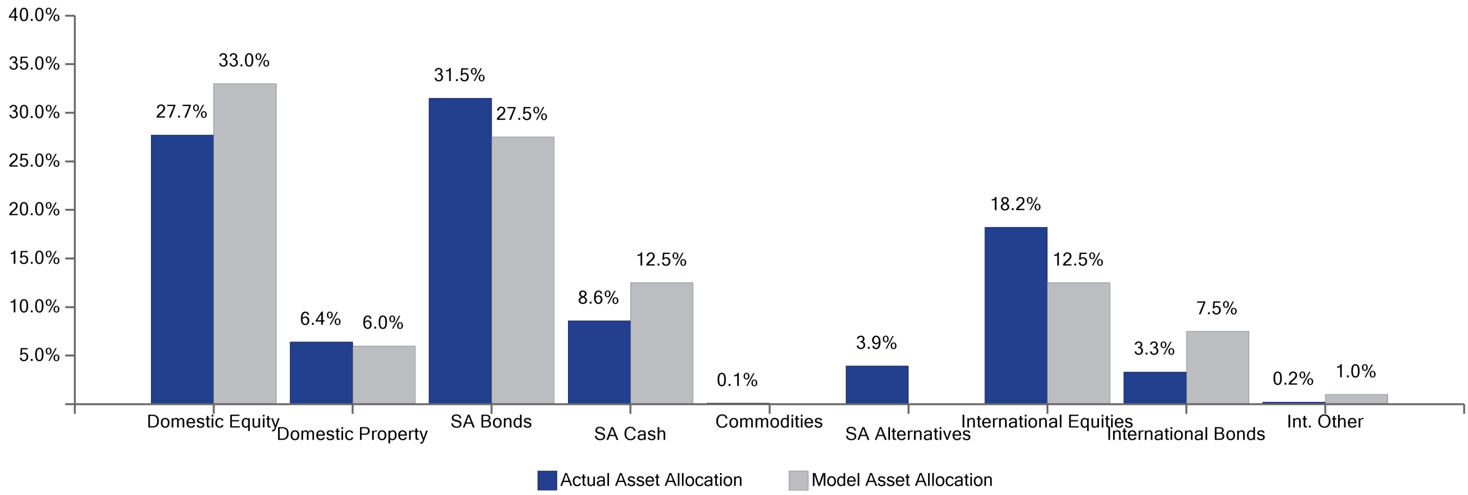
Inflation in South Africa remains muted, and the South African Reserve Bank cut interest rates by another 25 bps. However, the return of load-shedding, Trump's tariffs on emerging markets and now his specific focus on South Africa pose downside risks.

Despite a multi-stage ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas after 15 months of conflict, escalating geopolitical tensions continue to pose a concern.

Upside growth risk exists from bazooka Chinese or European fiscal stimulus to counter tariffs. Historically, global equities tend to perform well after an initial rate cut by the Fed, especially if the economy avoids recession in the subsequent year.

The FTSE/JSE Capped SWIX Index climbed 2.6%. Industrials gained 1.1%, while Financials fell by 2.7%. The JSE All Bond Index rose 0.4%, and the Rand strengthened 1.1% against the Dollar.

ACTUAL ASSET ALLOCATION



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KZN MUNICIPAL PENSION FUND

FUND SUMMARY AS AT 31 JANUARY 2025

STATISTIC	FUND	BENCHMARK
% Positive Months	68.3%	66.7%
% Negative Months	31.7%	33.3%
Worst Month	-9.1%	-8.8%
Best Month	7.8%	8.3%
Average Return	0.9%	0.8%
Median Return	1.0%	0.8%
Maximum Drawdown	-12.4%	-12.3%

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS TO 31 JANUARY 2025

PERIOD	FUND	BENCHMARK
1 Month	1.2%	1.1%
3 Months	3.5%	3.2%
6 Months	7.2%	6.4%
Year to Date	1.2%	1.1%
1 Year	15.9%	15.9%
3 Years	10.1%	9.7%
5 Years	10.8%	9.9%
Since Inception	8.6%	8.5%

Inception Date: 29 May 2015. Returns prior to inception are backtested.
Returns are net of the TIC.

FEES

	PERCENTAGE
Total Expense Ratio (TER)	0.56% (Sep 2024)
Transaction Costs (TC)	0.08% (Sep 2024)
Total Investment Charge (TIC)	0.64% (Sep 2024)

CALENDAR YEAR RETURNS

PERFORMANCE	FUND	BENCHMARK
2020	6.8%	6.4%
2021	19.1%	16.2%
2022	2.4%	1.0%
2023	11.5%	12.1%
2024	14.6%	14.7%

TOP 10 MANAGER ALLOCATION 31 JANUARY 2025

MANAGER	PERCENTAGE
Vunani	11.0%
iShares Developed World Index Fund	9.2%
Coronation Absolute Bond - SA Bonds	6.6%
KZN Satrix SmartCore Portfolio	5.9%
Argon SA Equity Fund	5.8%
M&G - Global Balanced	5.5%
Coronation - Global Balanced	5.5%
Ninety One Global Balanced Fund	5.5%
Stanlib Bond Fund	4.4%
Mianzo Capped Swix Active Equity Fund	4.4%
Other	36.3%

BENCHMARK COMPOSITION

The fund benchmark is a composite benchmark consisting of: 33% SWIX, 27.5% ALBI, 6% SAPY, 12.5% STeFI, 12.5% MSCI World Index, 7.5% Barclays Global Bond Index, 1% Global Cash

HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
2021	2.3%	3.1%	0.3%	1.9%	0.3%	0.6%	1.7%	1.6%	-0.3%	1.8%	1.0%	3.2%	19.1%
2022	-0.6%	0.7%	-0.2%	-1.2%	0.5%	-3.8%	3.2%	-0.2%	-2.3%	3.1%	4.2%	-0.7%	2.4%
2023	4.8%	-0.3%	-0.9%	1.5%	-1.0%	2.2%	1.6%	-0.4%	-2.6%	-1.4%	6.2%	1.7%	11.5%
2024	0.1%	0.7%	0.8%	0.6%	1.4%	2.1%	2.2%	1.6%	2.4%	-0.4%	1.3%	0.9%	14.6%
2025	1.2%												1.2%

CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE