

KZN DEFENSIVE FUND

MAY 2026

The KZN Defensive Fund is a low risk fund that aims to balance the needs of members that are approaching retirement; to preserve their capital, to maintain exposure to growth assets and maintain the level of income that can be secured at retirement.

The fund is well diversified between asset classes, both locally and internationally, but is managed within conservative parameters. The fund's asset allocation is fixed and the fund makes use of specialist asset managers to select the most attractive securities to invest in within each asset class.

Due to its relatively low allocation to growth assets, the fund has a low chance of capital loss in the short term and is expected to achieve moderate real growth of capital over the long-term. The fund is best suited to members who have a short to medium term (1-3 years) investment horizon.

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

MONTHLY COMMENTARY

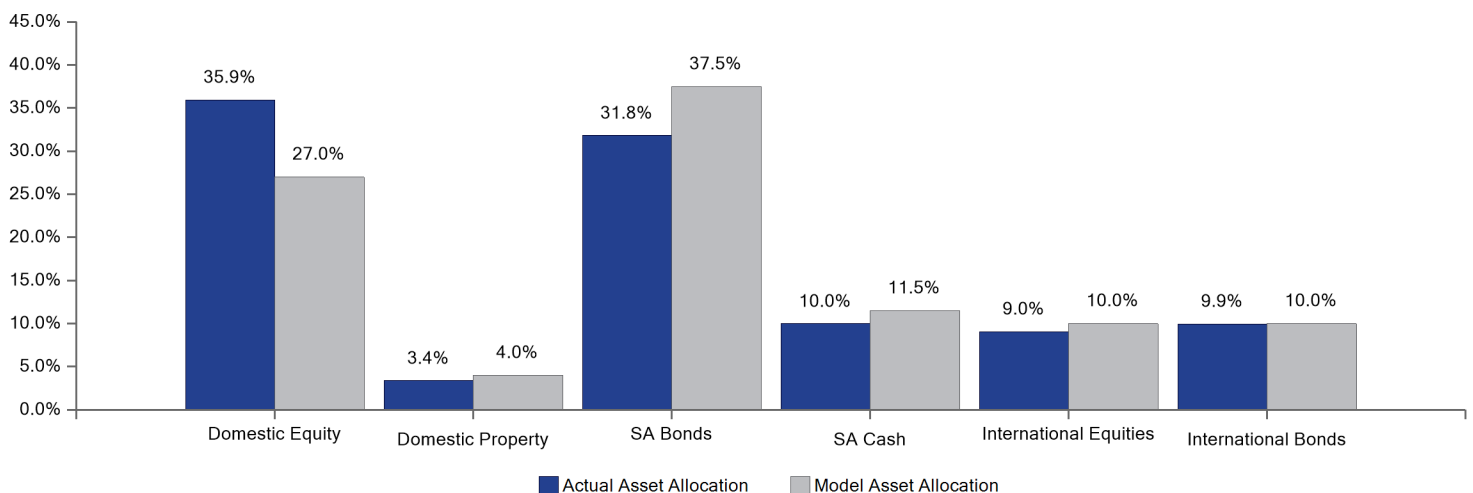
Technology stocks drove markets in May, with the Nasdaq reaching new highs. Strong demand for AI infrastructure pushed up semiconductor stocks, while initial public offering (IPO) filings from SpaceX as well as OpenAI's pre-IPO preparations added further momentum, with space and satellite stocks soaring. AI infrastructure demand appears real rather than speculative. The combined cloud backlog of Amazon, Microsoft and Google has doubled over six months to \$1.5 trillion in sales commitments (not pipeline). That said, the speed and scale of investment warrant close scrutiny, with AI hyperscaler capex expected to rise from \$800bn in 2026 to \$1.1tn in 2027.

Negotiations between the US and Iran have swung sharply from day to day, alternating between optimism over a potential deal and threats of destruction, with markets increasingly desensitised to each development. Core sticking points remain Iran's uranium stockpile, control over the Strait of Hormuz and the ongoing US naval blockade of Iranian ports. Markets have differentiated sharply, rewarding AI winners and punishing oil importers. US equities have been notably insulated from the oil shock, supported by strong earnings, the absence of Fed rate hikes and by tax relief from the One Big Beautiful Budget Act. This price rally has been matched by rising consensus earnings forecasts.

Services inflation remains the stickiest problem globally, due to tightening labour markets and firm pricing power. In the US, services inflation accelerated to a 4% annualised rate in the three months through April, and euro area services inflation picked up to 3.6% annualised, the clearest signal that inflation is not yet under control. A mix of goods-sector cost pressures (China's fading deflationary impulse, surging tech prices, building-supply-chain and transportation-cost pressures) could push core inflation well above 3%. If central banks hike in response, the drag from higher oil, food and borrowing costs will eventually feed through to earnings, setting markets up for disappointment down the line. The SARB raised the policy rate by 25 basis points to 7%, in line with market expectations. While the base case assumes no further hikes, the SARB acknowledged that a combination of El Niño-driven drought conditions and elevated oil prices could necessitate up to three additional rate increases should both risks materialise simultaneously. Against this backdrop, we remain underweight South Africa given the headwinds of rising borrowing costs, food prices and fuel prices.

The FTSE/JSE CAPI Index declined by 0.3%, while Industrials fell 0.9% and Financials advanced 1.1%. The JSE All Bond Index rose by 2.9% and the Rand strengthened 3.0% against the Dollar.

ACTUAL ASSET ALLOCATION AS AT 31 MARCH 2026



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KZN
MUNICIPAL PENSION FUND
Together We Grow Your Wealth

FUND SUMMARY AS AT 31 MAY 2026

STATISTIC	FUND	BENCHMARK
% Positive Months	75.0%	70.0%
% Negative Months	25.0%	30.0%
Worst Month	-3.2%	-5.4%
Best Month	5.1%	5.9%
Average Return	0.9%	0.9%
Median Return	0.9%	1.1%
Maximum Drawdown	-3.5%	-5.4%

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS TO 31 MAY 2026

PERIOD	FUND	BENCHMARK
1 Month	0.8%	1.1%
3 Months	-0.6%	-1.7%
6 Months	4.6%	4.0%
Year to Date	3.1%	2.5%
1 Year	16.1%	17.4%
3 Years	14.4%	15.5%
5 Years	11.4%	11.7%
Since Inception	9.1%	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)	0.48% (Mar 2026)
Transaction Costs (TC)	0.03% (Mar 2026)
Total Investment Charge (TIC)	0.52% (Mar 2026)

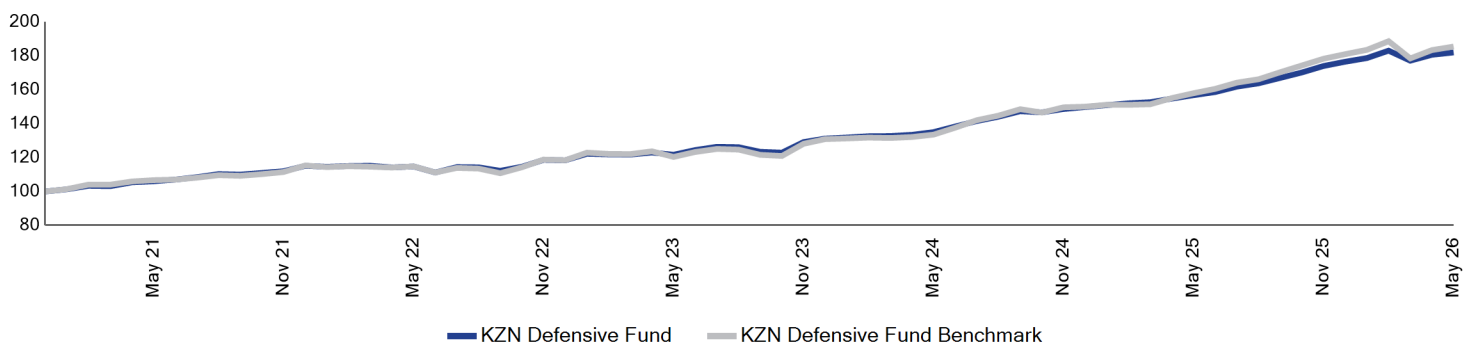
BENCHMARK COMPOSITION

The fund benchmark is a composite benchmark consisting of: 17% Capped All Share, 37.5% ALBI, 4% SAPY, 11.5% StEFl, 10% MSCI All Country World Index, 10% Barclays Global Agg Bond Index, 10% Private Market Composite

HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
2021	1.3%	2.0%	-0.2%	2.2%	0.6%	0.9%	1.3%	1.7%	-0.3%	0.9%	0.9%	2.8%	15.1%
2022	-0.5%	0.4%	0.1%	-0.8%	0.5%	-3.1%	2.9%	-0.1%	-1.8%	2.1%	3.5%	-0.2%	2.8%
2023	3.2%	-0.3%	-0.1%	1.0%	-1.1%	2.3%	1.5%	-0.2%	-2.2%	-0.4%	5.1%	1.6%	10.8%
2024	0.5%	0.5%	0.1%	0.6%	1.2%	2.5%	2.3%	1.8%	2.2%	-0.5%	1.4%	0.8%	14.2%
2025	0.8%	0.7%	0.4%	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%	2.0%	1.2%	1.9%	1.9%	2.2%	1.4%	17.9%
2026	1.2%	2.4%	-3.2%	2.0%	0.8%								3.1%

CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE



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CALENDAR YEAR RETURNS

PERFORMANCE	FUND	BENCHMARK
2021	15.1%	15.3%
2022	2.8%	2.7%
2023	10.8%	10.5%
2024	14.2%	14.6%
2025	17.9%	20.6%

TOP 10 MANAGER ALLOCATION 31 MARCH 2026

MANAGER	PERCENTAGE
Vunani	15.9%
Coronation Absolute Bond - SA Bonds	9.6%
Stanlib Bond Fund	6.3%
iShares Developed World Index Fund	5.9%
Argon SA Equity Fund	5.8%
Taquanta Core Cash - KZN Municipal Pension Fund	4.9%
Coronation - SA Cash	4.9%
Mianzo Capped Swix Active Equity Fund	4.4%
Garrington Private Credit Fund - Class B2 Shares	3.4%
KZN Satrix SmartCore Portfolio	2.8%
Other	35.9%