

RHB SMART INCOME FUND

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

For the financial year ended 31 March 2024





GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUND

Name, Category and Type

Fund Name - RHB Smart Income Fund

Fund Category - Bond Fund

Fund Type - Income

Investment Objective, Policy and Strategy

Objective of the Fund

This Fund aims to provide investors with higher than average income^ returns compared to fixed deposits over the medium to long term* period through an investment blend comprising primarily of quality fixed income securities and with the remaining investments in a strategically selected portfolio of companies with market capitalisation of not more than RM1 billion.

Note: *"medium to long term" in this context refers to a period between 3-7 years.

^ The income is in the form of units.

Strategy

This Fund will invest primarily in quality fixed income securities with selective participation in securities of companies with market capitalisation of not more than RM1 billion with a view in providing enhanced returns to the Fund. Accordingly, this Fund seeks to achieve its investment objective by structuring a portfolio as follows:

70% - 100% of its Net Asset Value

- Investments in quality fixed income securities (comprising amongst others of convertible debt securities, redeemable debt securities, bonds/securities that are issued and/or guaranteed by the government or quasi-government agencies, corporate bonds carrying at least BBB rating by any Domestic Rating Agencies or its equivalent rating by a reputable rating agency and fixed income collective investment schemes), money market instruments, cash and deposits with financial institutions with minimum risk to capital invested.

0% - 30% of its Net Asset Value

- Investments in securities of companies with market capitalization of not more than RM1 billion (determined at the point of purchase).

The Fund's asset mix would range from 70% - 100% in fixed income securities, money market instruments, cash and deposits with financial institutions, and 0% - 30% in securities of companies with market capitalization of not more than RM1 billion

depending on the market conditions but subject always to a minimum allocation of 70% in fixed income securities, money market instruments, cash and deposits with financial institutions. Although the Fund is actively managed, how active or the frequency of its trading strategy will very much depend on market opportunities.

The risk management strategies and techniques employed by the Manager include diversification of the Fund's investments in terms of its exposure to various industries, sectors and asset classes/type of investments (i.e. equity, fixed income securities and money market instruments). Financial derivatives may also be used for hedging purposes where appropriate. Generally, the assets of the Fund will be invested over a medium to long term period with disposal of the investments when necessary to control risk as well as to optimise capital gains. This is especially so when the full growth potential of the investment is deemed to have been reduced over a prolonged rise in the market value of the investments and the other available investments may present cheaper valuations and higher potential returns. The Fund also complies with the permitted investments and restrictions imposed by the Securities Commission. Adherence to these permitted investments and restrictions also helps the Manager to risk-manage the Fund's portfolio in terms of diversification. Moreover, the Manager in making its investment decisions shall at all times comply with the investment restrictions of the Fund and requirements as set out in the Deed.

Performance Benchmark

Effective from 7 August 2023, the performance of the Fund is benchmarked against RHB Bank Berhad's 12-month fixed deposit rate.

Prior to 7 August 2023, the performance of the Fund is benchmarked against the 12-month Fixed Deposit Rate offered by Malayan Banking Berhad ("Maybank").

Permitted Investments

This Fund may invest in securities traded on Bursa Malaysia or any other market considered as an Eligible Market, unlisted securities, collective investment schemes, financial derivatives, structured products, money market instruments and deposits with any financial institutions and any other investments permitted by the Securities Commission Malaysia from time to time.

Distribution Policy

Consistent with the Fund's objective to provide investors with higher than average income^ returns compared to fixed deposits, the Fund will distribute a substantial portion of its returns to unit holders. Distributions, if any, after deduction of taxation and expenses, are generally declared annually.

Note: ^ The income is in the form of units. Please refer to the Fund's distribution mode.

MANAGER'S REPORT

EQUITY MARKET REVIEW

The year 2023 started with the Financial Times Stock Exchange ("FTSE") Bursa Malaysia Kuala Lumpur Composite Index ("FBM KLCI") declining by 0.67% in January 2023 making it the worst performer in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations ("ASEAN") region. The Morgan Stanley Capital International ("MSCI") ASEAN index closed higher by 4.85% in United States Dollar ("USD"). Malaysia was the second worst in ASEAN in terms of net foreign outflows at USD147 million ("mil") during the month as foreign investors exited out of banks after Bank Negara Malaysia ("BNM") unexpectedly held rates. February month saw Budget 2023 tabled. It was broadly within expectations with no major immediate taxes announced. With the focus on the economy and cost of living issue a priority, the government announced lower taxes for the M40 group, while the T20 group will see higher taxes. Luxury goods taxes will also be introduced this year. The telecommunication sector saw selling pressure as a B40 package for high speed broadband and the Mandatory Standard on Access Pricing review was announced. Markets saw a very volatile month of March 2023 stemming from Federal Open Market Committee ("FOMC") meeting to the Silicon Valley Bank ("SVB") (under SVB Financial Group) and Signature Bank ("Signature") saga, as well as development in Europe on Credit Suisse. On a positive note, the market recovered towards the latter half of the month as banking stress eased after interventions to stem deposit outflows appear to be working, and the thematic play on artificial intelligence driving upside movement. Meanwhile, the FOMC raised the Federal Reserve ("Fed") funds rate by 25 basis points ("bps") to the range of 4.75% to 5.00% at its March 2023 meeting, in line with market expectations. As at the month of May 2023, the FBM KLCI would have posted 5 consecutively monthly declines. During the year 2007 to year 2008 credit crisis and year 1998 Asian Financial crisis has witnessed 6 consecutive months of declines. Major development during the month as a change in Malaysia's energy policy with the lifting of the export ban of renewable energy to develop the clean power industry. The subdued investor sentiment could also be attributed to the upcoming state elections. In June 2023, the FBM KLCI would now have declined for 6 consecutive months with a six month of year 2023 decline of almost 8.00%. This is the worst consecutive record of declines since year 2008. The government announced a few initiatives to promote local capital market and one of the measures was to reduce the stamp duty rate for shares traded on Bursa Malaysia from 0.15% to 0.10%, subject to a maximum cap of Ringgit Malaysia ("RM") 1,000 per contract. The government also announced in the second half of year 2023 electricity tariff review that heavy electricity users in the residential segment will be subject to a 10sen/Kwh surcharge. However, the surcharged imposed on commercial and industrial users will be lowered to 17sen/Kwh. In its June 2023 meeting, the Fed left rates at 5.00% to 5.25%, which was in line with market expectations amid the forward guidance of "Skip" in this meeting. In the month of September 2023, Malaysia economy slowed down after registering strong growth in year 2022 which is in line with the global slowdown in the economy. The Standard and Poor Global Malaysia Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index ("PMI") fell to 46.80 in September 2023 from 47.80 a month earlier. Malaysia's manufacturing activities continue to fall further in September 2023 which was the lowest since January 2023. This was the 13th straight month of drop in the Manufacturing sector as global economy falters. Nevertheless, the recent recovery in the United States ("US") and China manufacturing activities might indicate that the manufacturing activities could have found the bottom. Exports from Malaysia plunged 18.60% Year-on-Year ("YoY") to RM115.16 billion ("bil") in August 2023, coming in worse than market forecasts of negative 16.30%. This marked the 6th straight month of decline in exports and the steepest pace since May 2020 due to weakening global demand and moderating commodity prices. Among key trading partners, exports dropped from Singapore (19.30%), China (20.30%), the US (9.70%) and the European Union (4.60%). However, labour market conditions, particularly employment and wages, remains favourable which is an important factor that supports households' ability to spend. Only four sectors registered positive returns in September 2023 which are Energy (due to rising oil price), Construction (policy driven), Property (policy driven) and Healthcare (value). Foreign institutions turned net buy in the third quarter of year 2023 with RM2.20bil inflows. During October 2023, Budget 2024 was announced, which was viewed as market neutral with lower subsidies at 10.00% of operating expenditures (14.00% for year 2023). Additionally, there were a number of infrastructure related announcements like the restoration of LRT3 and extension of Penang LRT to mainland. Unfortunately, the Malaysian Ringgit ("MYR") also hit year 1998 Asia Financial Crisis lows against the USD during the month. In December 2023, the revival of the High-Speed Rail project was principally agreed to by both the Malaysian and Singaporean governments. Furthermore, the Johor-Singapore Special Economic zone Memorandum of Understanding was expected to be signed in year 2024. In terms of flows, all ASEAN members so inflows with Malaysia seeing an inflow of RM256mil vs RM1,551mil the previous month. Stocks rallied over the last week of year 2023, as US inflation and government bond yields fell, USD turning soft, a dovish Fed and eased recession fears. The market believes that US policymakers would be able to achieve a soft landing. At its last meeting for year 2023, the Fed opted to hold rates steady and signalled an end to its rate hiking cycle. For the full year 2023, China, Hong Kong and ASEAN markets underperformed relative to Developed Market equities. Malaysia closed -2.70%, the second worst in ASEAN, while the Hong Kong market was the worst performing market in year 2023. The FBM KLCI improved by 5.60% during the first quarter of year 2024 ("1Q24"). Strong investor interest in selective themes related to the Property and Construction sector. Some of the themes that gained traction were the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone, a nationwide water tariff hike, talks of more electricity tariff reviews ahead of Tenaga's Regulatory Period 4 and the installation of the Johor Sultan as Malaysia's new Agong. Malaysia saw the second highest net foreign inflow (USD145mil) after Indonesia (USD534mil) during the the month of January 2024. Foreign net flow turned negative during the month of March 2024. Notable events during the month were BNM holding the Overnight Policy Rate ("OPR") at 3.00%, Sime Darby completing the 100% acquisition of UMW Holdings and Malaysia Airports inking the new passenger

services charges for Malaysia, alongside a new Operating Agreement and a potential Turkey sale.

MALAYSIA FIXED INCOME MARKET REVIEW

Malaysian Government Securities ("MGS") market traded slightly weaker in the last week of March 2024 yields rise by about 1bp higher led by month-end and quarter-end rebalancing flows, which were well absorbed by investors buying on dips. There was a 5-year MGS Auction which drew a relatively weak bid to cover ratio of 1.797 times for an auction size of RM5bil, with successful yield ranging from 3.665% to 3.690% and an average yield of 3.681%. This continues the trend of weaker demand for shorter end MGS as key investors are on yield seeking mode preferring the longer end (15 years to 30 years), while interbank funding tightness kept banks demand for short end MGS limited. Meanwhile on the economic front, Malaysia's inflation readings unexpectedly accelerated in February 2024, rising by 1.80% YoY versus 1.50% in the previous month due to upward adjustments in water bill, public transport (flight, railway) and maintenance, and repair of personal transport equipment. Notably, core inflation which removes food and price-administered goods remain steady at 1.80% YoY.

ECONOMIC REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

In terms of inflation, Malaysia's rate of inflation in February 2023 remained at 3.70%, led by growing costs in food and hospitality. In the month of February 2023, the Consumer Price Index ("CPI") saw a slower increase in the food away from home component of 8.90% as compared with 9.30% in January 2023. Among the initiatives that were introduced by the government to reduce the cost of living and ease the inflation of food away from home was Menu Rahmah that was announced on 31 January 2023. Also, a continuous heavy rain since the end of December 2022 to February 2023 in several states has led to increases in food prices, especially vegetables. As a result of the transition of the monsoon, the inflation for the vegetables subgroup has recorded a significant increase of 5.80% as compared to 1.00% in January 2023. For year 2023, BNM is expecting headline inflation to remain elevated despite moderating in the fourth quarter of year 2022. This is due to strength in domestic demand and improvement in the labour market will similarly keep the core inflation elevated in the near term. The elevated core inflation will trend above headline inflation for a few months in year 2023, but both headline and core inflation are projected to average between 2.80% and 3.80% this year. Overall, our expectation on domestic inflation is to grind lower due to base effects of year 2022. In the month of March 2023, BNM has decided to maintain its OPR at 2.75%, as inflation is expected to moderate in year 2023 with upward pressures remaining partly contained by price controls and fuel subsidies. The decision is the 2nd consecutive time the central bank maintained its benchmark interest rate after four straight hikes last year by a cumulative 100bps to tame inflation and respond to tightening fiscal policy by the US Fed. BNM has highlighted that although Malaysia's economy has grown strongly

by 8.70% last year, the downside risks continue to stem mainly from global developments, including from weaker than expected growth outturns or much tighter and more volatile global financial conditions. Malaysia's inflation rose to 2.80% in June 2023, compared to 3.30% YoY in April 2023 and May 2023. There was a slower increase seen in some groups as compared with the previous months such as food and non-alcoholic beverages, transport and furnishings. Malaysia's inflation has moderated after having peaked at 4.70% last August 2023, with the government having introduced measures such as price controls on certain items. Meanwhile, it said core inflation eased to 3.50% in May 2023 compared to 3.60% in April 2023. As BNM expects the economy to moderate in year 2023 amid a slower global economy, and the growth will remain driven by domestic demand, as household spending will be underpinned by sustained improvement in employment and income prospects.

BNM maintained the OPR unchanged at 3.00% throughout the fourth quarter of year 2023 ("4Q23"), signalling that the central bank had probably completed its interest rate hiking cycle having previously increased the OPR by 25bps to 3.00% in May 2023. This was a sharp contrast from the 4 straight increases in OPR in year 2022 from 1.75% to 2.75%. At the current level of 3.00%, BNM assessed that the monetary policy stance remains supportive of the economy but highlighted the risk to inflation from potential rationalisation in subsidy and price controls in year 2024. In terms of domestic economic releases, Malaysia's CPI numbers have reached a 33-month low of 1.50% YoY in November 2023 (previous: 1.80%, consensus: 1.70%) as food and non-alcoholic inflation continue to moderate. Core inflation have now eased to 2.00% from 2.40% in previous month. Separately, Malaysia's trade data worsened in, where exports contracted by -5.90% YoY (previous: -4.40%, consensus: -5.20%) in November 2023 due to tepid electrical and electronic shipments and lower chemical products and palm oil export. Meanwhile, imports rose 1.70% YoY (previous: -0.30%, consensus: -0.60%) led by increase in intermediate capital goods and further rise of consumption goods.

Meanwhile, Malaysia's exports declined slightly in February 2024 by -0.80% from a year ago (YoY) compared with January 2024 of 8.70% YoY while imports growth eased to 8.40% YoY from January 2024 of 18.70% YoY. BNM maintains official year 2024 forecasts for Gross Domestic Product ("GDP") at 4.00% to 5.00% compared with year 2023 of 3.70% and tweaked inflation rate outlook to 2.00% to 3.50% from 2.10% to 3.60% compared with 2.50% in year 2023. BNM reiterate its view that MYR is undervalued against fundamentals and growth prospects and see gradual firming of MYR this year. Malaysia's February 2024 inflation recorded 1.80% growth from a year ago (YoY) compared with January 2024 of 1.50% YoY. This was above the consensus estimate of 1.50% YoY. The headline and core inflation increased by 0.50% and 0.20%, respectively, compared to the previous month. Malaysia's February 2024 manufacturing PMI improved further to 49.50 from 49.00 in January 2024. There were indications of demand picking up in Malaysia with only slight moderation in new orders, export orders and production. Employment was broadly unchanged but appears to have stabilized.

BNM on 7 March 2024 kept the OPR unchanged at 3.00%. BNM noted that growth in the regional economies is expected to improve, while China's growth would likely remain modest given continued weakness in the Property market. BNM's view that global trade is expected to strengthen as the global technology upcycle gains momentum. BNM also expects that Malaysia economy will improve in year 2024 on the back of the recovery in exports and resilient domestic expenditure.

EQUITY MARKET OUTLOOK & STRATEGY

Recent economic data suggests that Malaysia economy is improving. If this sustains it will help corporate earnings to recover after falling into negative growth in year 2023. The recently concluded 4Q23 results season saw higher proportion of hits than misses. Earnings were slightly upgraded for year 2024 post earnings announcement. There is an expectation of a soft landing in US, where inflation stabilizes without economic growth taking a significant downturn for the US, which means that a recession would likely be avoided. The Fund Manager expects the positive catalysts in the local market to continue due to the structural reforms announced by the government to achieve long term sustainable economic growth. The Madani Economic Framework, the New Industrial Masterplan 2030, and the National Energy Transition Roadmap are positive for the economy and the improvement in the bigger picture bodes well for corporate Malaysia's earnings outlook. The positive local sentiments are also supported by the announcement that China would be injecting fresh stimulus in a bid to boost the country's struggling economy. Furthermore, the better than expected US economic growth 4Q23 would also alleviate the fear that US economy is going into recession in year 2024. However, the unresolved developments in the Middle East and the concern over the health of the Chinese economy couple with strong US economic data for now that would encourage the US Fed to hold higher for longer rates would create volatility in the market in the short term. The Fund Manager is positive on the equity outlook for year 2024 with much of the bad news already in the price although the US rate cut might be pushed towards second half of year 2024 from 1Q24. China in our view should recover in year 2024. Besides better economy, corporate earnings are also expected to recover having recorded negative growth last year. The Fund Manager identify three key themes for Malaysia in year 2024, government execution of the policies it announced in year 2023, such as higher development expenditure and energy transition plans, the Johor-Singapore theme, with the setting up of a Special Economic Zone in Johor, the MYR current weakness, which the Fund Manager expects to strengthen in the latter part of year 2024 amid potential US Fed pivot and uplift in the technology cycle. Sector specific, the Fund Manager remains overweight healthcare sector, construction and infrastructure sector, water related sector, tourism sector, renewable energy and utilities sector and technology sector.

FIXED INCOME OUTLOOK & STRATEGY

The outlook for fixed income market in year 2024 remains highly positive in our view as global inflationary pressures retreated and the balance of probabilities have also

now shifted towards major central banks reversing some of their aggressive tightening in the past two years. The International Monetary Fund in its year 2023 World Economic Outlook Update had also projected for global GDP growth to be lower at 2.90% in year 2024, from 3.00% projected previously and typically slower GDP growth translates into a better outlook for fixed income market due to the lower interest rate expectation.

For Malaysia, the Fund Manager expects BNM to keep the OPR unchanged in year 2024 as inflation had moderated lower inflation at 1.50% YoY November 2023 while growth remains uneven in the country. While BNM indicated that it is monitoring closely for any inflationary impact from the government's subsidy rationalisation, the Fund Manager believes that the subsidy rationalisation by the government will be gradual and hence inflation is likely to be contained. This stable OPR environment, coupled by improving supply (e.g. lower government deficit) and demand dynamics by local institutions (e.g. pension funds, insurance companies) augur well for the local fixed income market in our opinion.

Meanwhile, the Malaysian corporate bond and sukuk market are also likely to benefit from the positive momentum in the overall bond market as the Fund Manager expects credit conditions in Malaysia to be broadly stable in year 2024 supported by resilient domestic growth and a more benign inflationary outlook. The Fund Manager remains positive on the corporate sub-sector and believe that it can continue to provide yield enhancement for the bond portfolios.

In summary, the Fund Manager is constructive of the bond market as the Fund Manager still see opportunities within the government and corporate credit securities market. The Fund Manager advocates on positioning the bond portfolio to increase investments whenever exacerbated selling occurs, as yield levels are expected to come off on lower year 2024 growth and inflation expectations. The stance to monetary policy locally by BNM will continue to be determined by new data but the Fund Manager expects this to be still supportive in light of a broadly stable macroeconomic outlook.

REVIEW OF FUND PERFORMANCE DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

For the financial year under review, the Fund registered a return of 6.27%* against its benchmark return of 2.66%*. The Fund outperformed its benchmark by 3.61% during the financial year under review. The Net Asset Value per unit of the Fund was RM0.7918 (2023: RM0.7450) as at 31 March 2024.

The investment strategy and policy employed during the financial year under review were in line with the investment strategy and policy as stated in the prospectus. The Fund has achieved its objective of providing long term wealth accumulation through capital appreciation.

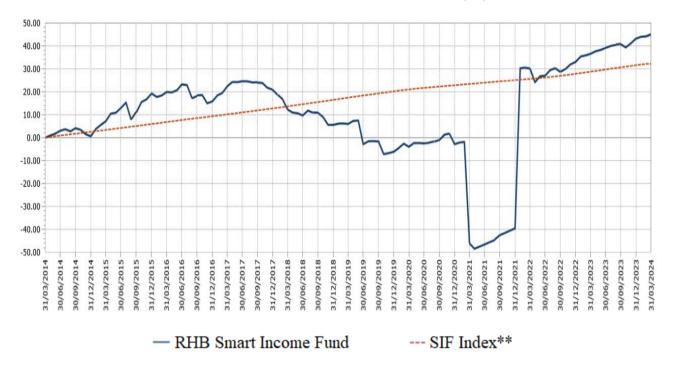
^{*} Source: Lipper Investment Management ("Lipper IM"), 15 April 2024

PERFORMANCE DATA

	Annual Total Returns Financial Year Ended 31 March				
	2024 %	2023	2022 %	2021 %	2020 %
RHB Smart Income Fund					
- Capital Return	6.27	4.90	140.99	(43.78)	(9.40)
- Income Return	-	-	_	_	-
- Total Return	6.27	4.90	140.99	(43.78)	(9.40)
SIF Index**	2.66	2.49	1.85	1.97	3.07

	Average Annual Returns			
	1 Year 31.03.2023- 31.03.2024 %	3 Years 31.03.2021- 31.03.2024 %	5 Years 31.03.2019- 31.03.2024 %	10 Years 31.03.2014- 31.03.2024 %
RHB Smart Income Fund	6.27	38.97	6.46	3.78
SIF Index**	2.66	2.33	2.40	2.82

Performance of RHB Smart Income Fund for the period from 31 March 2014 to 31 March 2024 Cumulative Return Over The Period (%)



Source: Lipper IM, 15 April 2024

The abovementioned performance figures are indicative returns based on daily Net Asset Value of a unit (as per Lipper Database) since 31 March 2014.

The calculation of the above returns is based on computation methods of Lipper.

** Effective from 7 August 2023, the performance of the Fund is benchmarked against RHB Bank Berhad's 12-month fixed deposit rate.

Prior to 7 August 2023, the performance of the Fund is benchmarked against the 12-month Fixed Deposit Rate offered by Malayan Banking Berhad ("Maybank").

A combination of benchmark/composite benchmark has been used for the performance computation as follows:

From 30 September 2013 to 06 August 2023	12-month Fixed Deposit Rate offered by Malayan Banking Berhad ("Maybank").
07 August 2023 onwards	RHB Bank Berhad's 12-month fixed deposit rate

Note: Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance and unit prices and investment returns may go down, as well as up.

The abovementioned performance computations have been adjusted to reflect distribution payments and unit splits wherever applicable.

	1	As at 31 March			
Fund Size	2024	2023	2022		
Net Asset Value (RM million)	10.35	9.78	9.37		
Units In Circulation (million)	13.08	13.12	13.12		
Net Asset Value Per Unit (RM)	0.7918	0.7450	0.7138		

	Financial Year Ended 31 March			
Historical Data	2024	2023	2022	
Unit Prices				
NAV - Highest (RM)	0.7917	0.7450	0.7138	
- Lowest (RM)	0.7452	0.6745	0.2256	
Distribution and Unit Split	-	-	-	
Others				
Total Expense Ratio (TER) (%) #	1.67	1.67	1.67	
Portfolio Turnover Ratio (PTR) (times) #	-	-	_	

[#] The TER and PTR for the financial year was consistent compared with the previous financial year.

DISTRIBUTION

For the financial year under review, no distribution has been proposed by the Fund.

PORTFOLIO STRUCTURE

The asset allocations of the Fund as at reporting date were as follows:

	As at 31 March		
	2024	2023 %	2022 %
Sectors	70	70	70
Unquoted fixed income securities	96.43	98.89	99.78
Liquid assets and other net current assets	3.57	1.11	0.22
	100.00	100.00	100.00

The asset allocation was reflective of the Fund's investment strategy.

SECURITIES FINANCING TRANSACTIONS

The Fund has not undertaken any securities lending or repurchase transactions for the financial year under review.

CROSS TRADE

The Fund has not carried out any cross trade transactions for the financial year under review.

SOFT COMMISSION

There were no soft commissions received by the management company for the financial year under review.

RHB SMART INCOME FUND STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
		$\mathbf{R}\mathbf{M}$	$\mathbf{R}\mathbf{M}$
ASSETS			
Bank balances	5	50,870	130,352
Deposits with licensed financial institutions	5	344,557	-
Investments	6	9,983,791	9,668,629
TOTAL ASSETS	-	10,379,218	9,798,981
LIABILITIES			
Accrued management fee		13,121	12,546
Amount due to Trustee		525	502
Other payables and accruals		11,700	8,700
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	25,346	21,748
NET ASSET VALUE	_	10,353,872	9,777,233
	_	_	
EQUITY Unit halders' conital		16 454 106	16 402 004
Unit holders' capital Accumulated losses		16,454,196 (6,100,324)	16,492,004 (6,714,771)
Accumulated losses	-	10,353,872	9,777,233
	-	10,333,672	9,111,233
UNITS IN CIRCULATION (UNITS)	7	13,076,099	13,124,099
NET ASSET VALUE PER UNIT (RM)		0.7918	0.7450
	_		

RHB SMART INCOME FUND STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

INCOME RM	RM
Interest income from deposits with licensed	
financial institutions 5,660	171
Interest income from unquoted fixed income	
securities 539,742	336,149
Net unrealised gain on changes in fair value 237,233	229,411
782,635	565,731
EXPENSES	
	(140,977)
Trustee's fee 9 (6,058)	(5,639)
Audit fee (5,700)	(5,700)
Tax agent's fee (3,000)	(3,000)
Other expenses (1,977)	(1,760)
(168,188)	(157,076)
Net income before taxation 614,447	408,655
Taxation 10	
Net income after taxation 614,447	408,655
Net income after taxation is made up as follow:	
Realised amount 313,318	125,643
Unrealised amount 301,129	283,012
614,447	408,655

RHB SMART INCOME FUND STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSET VALUE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Unit holders' <u>capital</u> RM	Accumulated <u>losses</u> RM	Total net asset value RM
Balance as at 1 April 2022	16,492,004	(7,123,426)	9,368,578
Movement in net asset value:			
Net income after taxation	-	408,655	408,655
Balance as at 31 March 2023	16,492,004	(6,714,771)	9,777,233
Balance as at 1 April 2023	16,492,004	(6,714,771)	9,777,233
Movement in net asset value:			
Net income after taxation	-	614,447	614,447
Cancellation of units	(37,808)	-	(37,808)
Balance as at 31 March 2024	16,454,196	(6,100,324)	10,353,872

RHB SMART INCOME FUND STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	<u>Note</u>	2024 DM	2023
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING		RM	RM
ACTIVITIES			
Interest received from deposits with licensed			
financial institutions		5,660	171
Interest received from unquoted fixed			
income securities		461,813	244,787
Management fee paid		(150,878)	(140,610)
Trustee's fee paid		(6,035)	(5,624)
Payment for other fees and expenses	<u>.</u>	(7,677)	(10,110)
Net cash generated from operating activities	-	302,883	88,614
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash paid for units cancelled	<u>-</u>	(37,808)	
Net cash used in financing activities	-	(37,808)	
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		265,075	88,614
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	<u>-</u>	130,352	41,738
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	5	395,427	130,352

RHB SMART INCOME FUND NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. THE FUND, THE MANAGER AND THEIR PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The RHB Smart Income Fund (hereinafter referred to as "the Fund") was constituted pursuant to the execution of a Master Deed dated 27 April 2004 as modified by the First Supplemental Master Deed dated 8 June 2004, Second Supplemental Master Deed dated 19 October 2005, Third Supplemental Master Deed dated 8 December 2005, Fourth Supplemental Master Deed dated 28 February 2006, Fifth Supplemental Master Deed dated 9 March 2006, Sixth Supplemental Master Deed dated 22 September 2006, Seventh Supplemental Master Deed dated 15 December 2006, Eighth Supplemental Master Deed dated 30 January 2007, Ninth Supplemental Master Deed dated 9 April 2007, Tenth Supplemental Master Deed dated 14 May 2007, Eleventh Supplemental Master Deed dated 15 May 2007, Twelfth Supplemental Master Deed dated 27 June 2007, Thirteenth Supplemental Master Deed dated 24 December 2007, Fourteenth Supplemental Master Deed dated 28 February 2013, Fifteenth Supplemental Master Deed dated 4 September 2013, Sixteenth Supplemental Master Deed dated 2 March 2015, Seventeenth Supplemental Master Deed dated 8 May 2015, Eighteenth Supplemental Master Deed dated 25 May 2015, Nineteenth Supplemental Master Deed dated 3 June 2015, Twentieth Supplemental Master Deed dated 11 December 2018 and Twenty-First Supplemental Master Deed dated 7 February 2023 (collectively referred to as "the Deeds") between RHB Asset Management Sdn Bhd ("the Manager") and HSBC (Malaysia) Trustee Berhad ("the Trustee").

The Fund was launched on 7 September 2004 and will continue its operations until terminated according to the conditions as provided in the Deeds. The principal activity of the Fund is to invest in Permitted Investments as set out in the Deeds.

All investments will be subject to Securities Commission Malaysia ("SC")'s Guidelines on Unit Trust Funds, SC's requirements, the Deeds, except where exemptions or variations have been approved by the SC, internal policies and procedures and objective of the Fund.

The main objective of the Fund is to provide investors with higher than average income returns compared to fixed deposits over the medium to long term period through an investment blend comprising primarily of quality fixed income securities and with the remaining investments in a strategically selected portfolio of companies with market capitalisation of not more than RM1 billion.

The Manager, a company incorporated in Malaysia, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of RHB Investment Bank Berhad, effective 6 January 2003. Its principal activities include rendering of investment management services, management of unit trust funds and private retirement schemes and provision of investment advisory services.

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Manager on 23 May 2024.

2. SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 Basis of preparation of the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of financial assets and financial liabilities (including derivative instruments) at fair value through profit or loss, except those as disclosed in the summary of material accounting policies, and in accordance with Malaysian Financial Reporting Standards ("MFRS") and International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS").

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with MFRS and IFRS requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of income and expenses during the financial year. It also requires the Manager to exercise their judgement in the process of applying the Fund's accounting policies. Although these estimates and judgement are based on the Manager's best knowledge of current events and actions, actual results may differ. There were no areas involving higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements.

(a) Standards and amendments to existing standards effective 1 April 2023

There are no standards, amendments to standards or interpretations that are effective for annual periods beginning on 1 April 2023 that have a material effect on the financial statements of the Fund.

(b) New standards, amendments and interpretations effective after 1 April 2023 and have not been early adopted

A number of new standards and amendments to standards and interpretations are effective for the financial year beginning after 1 April 2023. None of these is expected to have a significant effect on the financial statements of the Fund, except the following set out below:

• Amendments to MFRS 101 'Classification of liabilities as current or noncurrent' clarify that liabilities are classified as either current or non-current, depending on the rights that exist at the end of the reporting period. Classification is unaffected by the entity's expectations or events after the reporting date (e.g. the receipt of a waiver or a breach of covenant).

The amendment is effective for the annual financial reporting period beginning on or after 1 April 2024.

The amendment shall be applied retrospectively.

2.2 Financial assets

Classification

The Fund classifies its financial assets in the following measurement categories:

- those to be measured subsequently at fair value through profit or loss ("FVTPL"), and
- those to be measured at amortised cost.

The Fund classifies its investments based on both the Fund's business model for managing those financial assets and the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial assets. The portfolio of financial assets is managed and performance is evaluated on a fair value basis. The Fund is primarily focused on fair value information and uses that information to assess the assets' performance and to make decisions. The Fund has not taken the option to irrevocably designate any equity securities as financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income. The contractual cash flows of the Fund's debt securities are solely principal and interest, however, these securities are neither held for the purpose of collecting contractual cash flows nor held both for collecting contractual cash flows and for sale. The collection of contractual cash flows is only incidental to achieving the Fund's business model's objective. Consequently, all investments are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

The Fund classifies cash and cash equivalents as financial asset measured at amortised cost as these financial assets are held to collect contractual cash flows consisting of the amount outstanding.

Recognition and measurement

Regular purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised on the trade date - the date on which the Fund commits to purchase or sell the asset. Financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are initially recognised at fair value.

Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the investments have expired or the Fund has transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership.

Subsequent to initial recognition, all financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value. Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the 'financial assets at fair value through profit or loss' category are presented in statement of income and expenses within net gains or losses on investments in the year in which they arise.

2.2 Financial assets (continued)

Recognition and measurement (continued)

Interest on debt securities at fair value through profit or loss is recognised in the statement of income and expenses.

Unquoted fixed income securities denominated in Ringgit Malaysia are revalued on a daily basis based on fair value prices quoted by a bond pricing agency ("BPA") registered with SC as per the SC's Guidelines on Unit Trust Funds.

Where such quotations are not available or where the Manager is of the view that the price quoted by the BPA for a specific unquoted fixed income security differs from the market price by more than 20 basis points, the Manager may use the market price, provided that the Manager:

- (i) Records its basis for using a non-BPA price;
- (ii) Obtains necessary internal approvals to use the non-BPA price; and
- (iii) Keeps an audit trail of all decisions and basis for adopting the market price.

Deposits with licensed financial institutions are stated at cost plus accrued interest calculated on the effective interest method over the year from the date of placement to the date of the statement of financial position, which is a reasonable estimate of fair value due to the short-term nature of the deposits.

Financial assets at amortised cost are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Impairment of financial assets

The Fund measures credit risk and expected credit losses using probability of default, exposure at default and loss given default. Management considers both historical analysis and forward-looking information in determining any expected credit loss. Management considers the probability of default to be close to zero as these instruments have a low risk of default and the counterparties have a strong capacity to meet their contractual obligations in the near term. As a result, no loss allowance has been recognised based on the 12-month expected credit losses as any such impairment would be wholly insignificant to the Fund.

Significant increase in credit risk

A significant increase in credit risk is defined by management as any contractual payment which is more than 30 days past due or a counterparty credit rating which has fallen below BBB/Baa.

2.2 Financial assets (continued)

Definition of default and credit-impaired financial assets

Any contractual payment which is more than 90 days past due is considered credit impaired.

Write-off

The Fund writes off financial assets, in whole or in part, when it has exhausted all practical recovery efforts and has concluded there is no reasonable expectation of recovery. The assessment of no reasonable expectation of recovery is based on the unavailability of debtor's sources of income or assets to generate sufficient future cash flows to repay the amount. The Fund may write off financial assets that are still subject to enforcement activity. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off will result in impairment gains. There are no write-offs/recoveries during the financial year.

2.3 Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into and the definitions of a financial liability.

Financial liabilities, within the scope of MFRS 9, are recognised in the statement of financial position when, and only when, the Fund becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

The Fund's financial liabilities which include accrued management fee, amount due to Trustee and other payables and accruals are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is extinguished. Gains and losses are recognised in statement of income and expenses when the liabilities are derecognised, and through the amortisation process.

2.4 Unit holders' capital

The unit holders' contributions to the Fund meet the criteria of the definition of puttable instruments to be classified as equity instruments under MFRS 132 "Financial Instruments: Presentation". These criteria include:

- the units entitle the holder to a proportionate share of the Fund's net asset value;
- the units are the most subordinated class and class features are identical;
- there is no contractual obligation to deliver cash or another financial asset other than the obligation on the Fund to repurchase; and
- the total expected cash flows from the units over its life are based substantially on the statement of income and expenses of the Fund.

2.4 Unit holders' capital (continued)

The outstanding units are carried at the redemption amount that is payable at each financial year if the unit holders exercise the right to put the units back to the Fund.

Units are created and cancelled at prices based on the Fund's net asset value per unit at the time of creation or cancellation. The Fund's net asset value per unit is calculated by dividing the net assets attributable to unit holders with the total number of outstanding units.

2.5 Income recognition

Interest income from short-term deposits with licensed financial institutions and unquoted fixed income securities are recognised on an accrual basis using the effective interest method.

Interest income is calculated by applying the effective interest rate to the gross carrying amount of a financial asset, except for financial assets that subsequently become creditimpaired. For credit-impaired financial assets, the effective interest rate is applied to the net carrying amount of the financial assets (after deduction of the loss allowance).

Realised gain or loss on sale of unquoted fixed income securities are measured by the difference between net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of investments (adjusted for accretion of discount or amortisation of premium).

Net income or loss is the total of income less expenses.

2.6 Taxation

Current tax expense is determined according to Malaysian tax laws at the current rate and includes all taxes based upon the taxable income earned during the financial year.

2.7 Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise bank balances and deposits with licensed financial institutions with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

2.8 Presentation and functional currency

Items included in the financial statements of the Fund are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Fund operates (the "functional currency"). The financial statements are presented in Ringgit Malaysia ("RM"), which is the Fund's presentation and functional currency.

3. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The Fund is exposed to a variety of risks, which include market risk, price risk, interest rate risk, credit risk, liquidity risk and capital risk.

Financial risk management is carried out through internal control processes adopted by the Manager and adherence to the investment restrictions as stipulated in the SC's Guidelines on Unit Trust Funds.

Market risk

Securities may decline in value due to factors affecting securities markets generally or particular industries represented in the securities markets. The value of a security may decline due to general market conditions which are not specifically related to a particular company, such as real or perceived adverse economic conditions, changes in the general outlook for corporate earnings, changes in interest or currency rates or adverse investors' sentiment generally. They may also decline due to factors that affect a particular industry or industries, such as labour shortages or increased production costs and competitive conditions within an industry. Equity securities generally have greater price volatility than fixed income securities. The market price of securities owned by a unit trust fund might go down or up, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably.

Price risk

Price risk is the risk that the fair value of the investments of the Fund will fluctuate because of changes in market prices.

The Fund is exposed to price risk arising from interest rate risk in relation to its investments of RM9,983,791 (2023: RM9,668,629) in unquoted fixed income securities. The Fund's exposure to price risk arising from interest rate risk and the related sensitivity analysis are disclosed in "Interest rate risk" below.

Interest rate risk

In general, when interest rates rise, unquoted fixed income securities prices will tend to fall and vice versa. Therefore, the net asset value of the Fund may also tend to fall when interest rates rise or are expected to rise. In order to mitigate interest rates exposure of the Fund, the Manager will manage the duration of the portfolio via shorter or longer tenured assets depending on the view of the future interest rate trend of the Manager, which is based on its continuous fundamental research and analysis.

This risk is crucial since unquoted fixed income securities portfolio management depends on forecasting interest rate movements. Prices of unquoted fixed income securities move inversely to interest rate movements, therefore as interest rates rise, the prices of unquoted fixed income securities decrease and vice versa. Furthermore, unquoted fixed income securities with longer maturity and lower yield coupon rates are more susceptible to interest rate movements.

3. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (CONTINUED)

<u>Interest rate risk</u> (continued)

Investors should note that unquoted investments in unquoted fixed income securities and money market instruments are affected by interest rate fluctuations. Such investments may be affected by unanticipated rise in interest rates which may impair the ability of the issuers to make payments of profit income and principal, especially if the issuers are highly leveraged. An increase in interest rates may therefore increase the potential of default by an issuer.

The table below summarises the sensitivity of the Fund's profit after taxation and net asset value as at reporting date to movements in prices of unquoted fixed income securities held by the Fund as a result of movement in interest rate fluctuation by +/(-) 1% with all other variables held constant.

		npact on profit
	afte	er taxation and
% Change in interest rate		net asset value
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	RM	RM
+1%	(46,349)	(46,715)
- 1%	46,626	47,004

The Fund's exposure to interest rate risk arises from investment in money market instruments is expected to be minimal as the Fund's investments comprise mainly short term deposits with approved licensed financial institutions.

Credit risk

Credit risk refers to the possibility that the issuer of a particular investment will not be able to make timely or full payments of principal or income due on that investment. For investments in fixed income securities, risk is minimised by spreading its maturity profile. The credit risk arising from cash and cash equivalents is managed by ensuring that the Fund will only maintain cash balances and place deposits with reputable licensed financial institutions. The settlement terms of the proceeds from the creation of units receivable from the Manager are governed by the SC's Guidelines on Unit Trust Funds.

3. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (CONTINUED)

<u>Credit risk</u> (continued)

The following table sets out the credit risk concentration and counterparties of the Fund:

		Cash and cash	
<u>J</u>	nvestments RM	<u>equivalents</u> RM	Total RM
<u>2024</u>	KIVI	KIVI	KIVI
AAA	-	395,427	395,427
A2	9,983,791		9,983,791
_	9,983,791	395,427	10,379,218
<u>2023</u>			
AAA	-	130,352	130,352
A2	9,668,629		9,668,629
_	9,668,629	130,352	9,798,981

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Fund will encounter difficulty in meeting its financial obligations.

Liquidity risk exists when particular investments are difficult to sell. As such, the Fund may not be able to sell such illiquid investments at an advantageous time or price to meet its liquidity requirements. Unit trust funds with principal investment strategies that involve securities or securities with substantial market and/or credit risk tend to have the greater exposure to liquidity risk. As part of its risk management, the Manager will attempt to manage the liquidity of the Fund through asset allocation and diversification strategies within the portfolio. The Manager will also conduct constant fundamental research and analysis to forecast future liquidity of its investments.

3. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (CONTINUED)

<u>Liquidity risk</u> (continued)

The table below summarises the Fund's financial liabilities into relevant maturity groupings based on the remaining period from the statement of financial position date to the contractual maturity date. The amounts in the table are the contractual undiscounted cash flows.

	Less than 1 month RM	Between 1 month to 1 year RM
Accrued management fee Amount due to Trustee	13,121 525	-
Other payables and accruals	13,646	11,700 11,700
2023 Accrued management fee Amount due to Trustee Other payables and accruals	12,546 502 - 13,048	8,700 8,700

Capital risk

The capital of the Fund is represented by equity consisting of unit holders' capital of RM16,454,196 (2023: RM16,492,004) and accumulated losses of RM6,100,324 (2023: RM6,714,771). The amount of equity can change significantly on a daily basis as the Fund is subject to daily subscriptions and redemptions at the discretion of unit holders. The Fund's objective when managing capital is to safeguard the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern in order to provide returns for unit holders and benefits for other stakeholders and to maintain a strong capital base to support the development of the investment activities of the Fund.

4. FAIR VALUE ESTIMATION

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (i.e. an exit price).

The fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities traded in an active market (such as publicly traded derivatives and trading securities) are based on quoted market prices at the close of trading on the financial year end date.

4. FAIR VALUE ESTIMATION (CONTINUED)

An active market is a market in which transactions for the assets or liabilities take place with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis.

The fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities that are not traded in an active market is determined by using valuation techniques. The Fund uses a variety of methods and makes assumptions that are based on market conditions existing at each financial year end date. Valuation techniques used for non-standardised financial instruments such as options, currency swaps and other over-the-counter derivatives, include the use of comparable recent transactions, reference to other instruments that are substantially the same, discounted cash flow analysis, option pricing models and other valuation techniques commonly used by market participants making the maximum use of market inputs and relying as little as possible on entity-specific inputs.

The fair values are based on the following methodologies and assumptions:

- (i) For bank balances and deposits with licensed financial institutions with maturities less than 1 year, the carrying value is a reasonable estimate of fair value.
- (ii) The carrying value of receivables and payables are assumed to approximate their fair values due to their short term nature.

Fair value hierarchy

The Fund adopted MFRS 13 "Fair Value Measurement" in respect of disclosures about the degree of reliability of fair value measurement. This requires the Fund to classify fair value measurements using a fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs used in making the measurements. The fair value hierarchy has the following levels:

- Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active market for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (that is, as prices) or indirectly (that is, derived from prices)
- Level 3: Inputs for the asset and liability that are not based on observable market data (that is, unobservable inputs)

4. FAIR VALUE ESTIMATION (CONTINUED)

Fair value hierarchy (continued)

The following table analyses within the fair value hierarchy the Fund's financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (by class) measured at fair value:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	$\overline{\mathbf{R}\mathbf{M}}$	$\overline{\mathbf{R}\mathbf{M}}$	$\overline{\mathbf{R}\mathbf{M}}$	$\overline{\mathbf{R}\mathbf{M}}$
2024				
Financial assets at FVTPL:				
- Unquoted fixed income				
securities	-	9,983,791	-	9,983,791
_				
2023				
Financial assets at FVTPL:				
- Unquoted fixed income				
securities	-	9,668,629	-	9,668,629

Financial instruments that trade in markets that are considered to be active but are valued based on quoted market prices, dealer quotations or alternative pricing sources supported by observable inputs are classified within Level 2. This includes unquoted fixed income securities. As Level 2 instruments include positions that are not traded in active markets and/or are subject to transfer restrictions, valuations may be adjusted to reflect illiquidity and/or non-transferability, which are generally based on available market information. The Fund's policies on valuation of these financial assets are stated in Note 2.2.

5. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents comprise:

	<u>2024</u> RM	2023 RM
Bank balances	50,870	130,352
Deposits with licensed financial institutions	344,557	-
	395,427	130,352

6. INVESTMENTS

Investments:				2024 RM	2023 RM
Unquoted fixed incom	ne securitie	es	9,98	33,791	9,668,629
Investments as at 31 M	arch 2024	are as follow	rs:		
Name of Instruments	Rating	Nominal <u>Value</u> RM	Cost RM	<u>Fair Value</u> RM	% of Net Asset <u>Value</u> %
UNQUOTED FIXED INCOME SECURIT	TIES				
MALAYSIA					
Unquoted Bonds					
5.50% MEX I Capital Berhad 21/01/2037	A2*	2,422,304	2,063,335	2,583,164	24.95
5.50% MEX I Capital	A2	2,422,304	2,003,333	2,363,104	24.33
Berhad 21/01/2038	A2*	6,369,231	5,415,820	6,835,827	66.02
5.50% MEX I Capital			- , - ,	- , , -	
Berhad 21/01/2039	A2*	521,260	442,549	564,800	5.46
6.00% MEX II Sdn					
Bhd 29/04/2030	D**	3,000,000	3,176,230		
TOTAL INOLOTED					
TOTAL UNQUOTED INCOME SECURIT			11,097,934	9,983,791	96.43
II (COMI DICOM)		į		7,700,171	70110
TOTAL INVESTMEN	NTS		11,097,934	9,983,791	96.43

Investments as at 31 March 2023 are as follows:

Name of Instruments	Rating	Nominal <u>Value</u> RM	Cost RM	Fair Value RM	% of Net Asset <u>Value</u> %
UNQUOTED FIXED INCOME SECURIT	TIES				
MALAYSIA					
Unquoted Bonds					
5.00% MEX I Capital					
Berhad 21/01/2037	A2*	2,422,304	2,041,720	2,508,589	25.66
5.00% MEX I Capital					
Berhad 21/01/2038	A2*	6,369,231	5,363,470	6,616,746	67.67
5.00% MEX I Capital					
Berhad 21/01/2039	A2*	521,260	438,584	543,294	5.56
6.00% MEX II Sdn					
Bhd 29/04/2030	D**	3,000,000	3,176,230	-	
TOTAL UNQUOTED INCOME SECURIT			11,020,004	9,668,629	98.89
TOTAL INVESTMEN	NTS		11,020,004	9,668,629	98.89

* MEX I Capital Berhad ("MEX I Capital") RM1.126 billion Sukuk Musharakah

The restructuring of the Sukuk Musharakah ("Existing Sukuk") involving its redemption via an exchange with a new Sukuk Musharakah of RM1.126 billion in nominal value ("New Sukuk"), was completed on 21 January 2022.

RAM Ratings has assigned a rating of A2 to the New Sukuk on 19 January 2022, with a stable outlook premised on the cash flow generation of the Expressway vis-à-vis Sukuk payment obligations and the more restrictive covenants in place to govern the transaction.

In approving the restructuring on 13 October 2021, Sukukholders had agreed that any prevailing claims against the Issuer, Maju Expressway Sdn Bhd ("MESB") and/or Maju Holdings Sdn Bhd ("Maju Holdings") shall be nullified once the Existing Sukuk is exchanged with the New Sukuk. Upon the completion of the restructuring, the Sukukholders via the Trustee have withdrawn the notice of appeal for the claims on 18 February 2022.

** MEX II Sdn Bhd ("MEX II") RM1.30 billion Sukuk Murabahah Programme

On 18 October 2019, MARC had downgraded the rating of MEX II Sdn Bhd's ("MEX II") RM1.3 billion Sukuk Murabahah Programme from AA- to A whilst maintaining the rating on a negative outlook premised on rising completion risk and increased uncertainty with regard to completion and associated tolling date of the 16.8km Lebuhraya KLIA (MEX Extension) project. MARC further placed MEX II's ratings on MARCWatch Negative on 22 May 2020 due to the lack of construction progress at the Expressway.

On 30 October 2020, MEX II fulfilled its obligation on the Sukuk with a full and timely profit payment of circa RM39 million from monies previously ring-fenced for the sole benefit of Sukukholders in a reserve account.

On 18 November 2020, MARC downgraded MEX II's ratings to BBB from A and the rating remained on MARCWatch Negative following concerns on MEX II's timely ability to obtain additional financing to meet its debt obligations in April 2021 and complete a sukuk restructuring exercise.

On 9 February 2021, MARC further downgraded the rating to BB from BBB while maintaining the rating on MARCWatch Negative due to escalating risk that MEX II may not be able to obtain a liquidity line in time to meet Sukuk principal and profit payments of RM68.7 million due on 29 April 2021.

On 26 March 2021, MARC downgraded MEX II's rating to C from BB while maintaining the rating on MARCWatch Negative due to mounting liquidity pressure and the risk of missing the upcoming Sukuk payments on 29 April 2021, further highlighting that MEX II's viability rests on a successful Sukuk restructuring through which additional funding will be available to complete the Expressway.

On 26 April 2021, Sukukholders holding in aggregate not less than 75% of the nominal value of the Sukuk had consented to the deferment of Sukuk principal and profit amounting to RM68.7 million originally due on (i) 28 April 2021 (i.e., principal repayment of RM30 million and the profit payment in respect of this tranche only) and (ii) 30 April 2021 (i.e., profit payments in respect of the other tranches) for 4 months until 27 August 2021.

** MEX II Sdn Bhd ("MEX II") RM1.30 billion Sukuk Murabahah Programme (continued)

On 24 August 2021, Sukukholders voted to approve the deferment of Sukuk obligations falling due on 27 August 2021 and 29 October 2021 to 31 December 2021 to buy more time for the proposed restructuring. On 3 January 2022, the Trustee formally declared an Event of Default when MEX II failed to remit the deferred amount on due date of 31 December 2021 upon which the Dissolution Amount of RM1.38 billion became immediately due and payable to Sukukholders. Resolutions for the Trustee to declare an Event of Default and to subsequently appoint a receiver were passed by Sukukholders earlier. Sukukholders had also earlier formally rejected MEX II's request to extend the deferment period beyond 31 December 2021 as well as rejected the company's restructuring proposal.

On 5 January 2022, MEX II applied for a Judicial Management Order ("JM Application"), resulting in an automatic moratorium against enforcement and such other creditor action. The Court had earlier fixed a Hearing on 23 February 2022 for the JM Application as well as for the Trustee (acting for and behalf of the Sukukholders) to seek leave of Court to proceed with enforcement/appointment of a receiver during the automatic moratorium period.

The Court Hearing, however, was postponed several times due to adjournments sought by the legal representative of MEX II and allowed by the Court for the parties to file further documents, from originally 23 February 2022 to 28 February 2022 then to 4 March 2022 and subsequently continued on 8 March 2022. The Judge then decided to reserve his decision to 26 April 2022.

On 26 April 2022, the Court dismissed the Issuer's application for JM order and further allowed the Trustee's Leave Application. Pursuant to the favorable outcome, Ernst & Young ("EY") was appointed as the Receiver and Manager ("R&M") of the secured property via Extraordinary Resolutions in Writing on 29 April 2022.

On 29 April 2022, Notice of Appeals ("Appeals") were filed by the Issuer against the High Court's decision and pursuant to case management on 1 September 2022, the High Court has fixed the cases to be heard on 15 May 2023.

On 10 May 2022, the Issuer served Notices of Motion ("NOM") to preserve its assets until full and final dispose of the Appeal. On 12 August 2022, the Court of Appeal ruled in favour of Sukukholders by dismissing the NOMs.

EY had resigned on 13 February 2023, and BDO Consulting Sdn Bhd ("BDO") has been appointed to replace EY as the R&M with effect from 27 February 2023. BDO will work with Sukukholders as well as the relevant government authorities and parties to expedite the restructuring of the Sukuk.

** MEX II Sdn Bhd ("MEX II") RM1.30 billion Sukuk Murabahah Programme (continued)

On 15 May 2023, the Court of Appeal has ruled in favour of the Sukukholders whereby the appeal sought by MEX II has been unsuccessful. On 15 June 2023, MEX II filed Motions to Appeal to Federal Court. A hearing took place on 26 September 2023, where the Appeal by MEX II was dismissed, exhausting all legal options for MEX II.

The R&M continues to work on a restructuring proposal for MEX II and has submitted a proposal to Kementerian Kerja Raya on 21 November 2023. The proposal is currently under negotiations with the government agencies.

7. UNITS IN CIRCULATION

	<u>2024</u> Units	2023 Units
At beginning of the financial year Cancellation of units during the financial year	13,124,099 (48,000)	13,124,099
At end of the financial year	13,076,099	13,124,099

8. MANAGEMENT FEE

In accordance with the Prospectus, the management fee provided in the financial statements is 1.50% (2023: 1.50%) per annum based on the net asset value of the Fund, calculated on a daily basis for the financial year.

9. TRUSTEE'S FEE

In accordance with the Prospectus, the Trustee's fee provided in the financial statements is 0.06% (2023: 0.06%) per annum based on the net asset value of the Fund, calculated on a daily basis for the financial year.

10. TAXATION

(a) Tax charge for the financial year

	2024 RM	2023 RM
Current taxation		

10. TAXATION (CONTINUED)

(b) Numerical reconciliation of income tax expense

The numerical reconciliation between the net income before taxation multiplied by the Malaysian statutory income tax rate and the tax expense of the Fund is as follows:

	2024 RM	2023 RM
Net income before taxation	614,447	408,655
Tax calculated at a statutory income tax rate of 24% Tax effects of:	147,467	98,077
- Investment income not subject to tax	(187,832)	(135,775)
- Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	2,345	2,346
- Restriction on tax deductible expenses	38,020	35,352
Tax expense		_
11. TOTAL EXPENSE RATIO ("TER")		
	2024 %	2023 %
TER	1.67	1.67

The TER ratio is calculated based on total expenses excluding investment transaction related costs of the Fund to the average net asset value of the Fund calculated on a daily basis.

12. PORTFOLIO TURNOVER RATIO ("PTR")

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
PTR (times)	<u>-</u> _	_

The PTR ratio is calculated based on average of acquisition and disposals of the Fund for the financial year to the average net asset value of the Fund calculated on a daily basis.

13. UNITS HELD BY THE MANAGER AND PARTIES RELATED TO THE MANAGER

The number of units held by the Manager and related party are as follows:

		2024		2023
	Units	RM	Units	RM
The Manager RHB Capital Nominees	7,873,887	6,234,544	6,499,378	4,842,037
(Tempatan) Sdn Bhd	560,128	443,509	874,716	651,663

The units are held beneficially by the Manager for booking purposes. The Manager is of the opinion that all transactions with the related parties have been entered into in the normal course of business at agreed terms between the related parties.

The units held by RHB Capital Nominees (Tempatan) Sdn Bhd, a wholly owned subsidiary of ultimate holding company of the Manager, are under nominees structure.

Other than the above, there were no units held by Directors or parties related to the Manager.

The holding company and the ultimate holding company of the Manager is RHB Investment Bank Berhad and RHB Bank Berhad respectively. The Manager treats RHB Bank Berhad group of companies including RHB Investment Bank Berhad and its subsidiaries as related parties.

14. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS BY CATEGORIES

	<u>2024</u> RM	2023 RM
Financial assets	24.72	
Financial assets at FVTPL		
 Unquoted fixed income investments 	9,983,791	9,668,629
Financial assets at amortised cost		
 Bank balances 	50,870	130,352
 Deposits with licensed financial institutions 	344,557	-
	395,427	130,352
TO 111 1 111/4		
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities at amortised cost		
 Accrued management fee 	13,121	12,546
 Amount due to Trustee 	525	502
 Other payables and accruals 	11,700	8,700
	25,346	21,748

STATEMENT BY MANAGER RHB SMART INCOME FUND

We, Dato' Darawati Hussain and Mohd Farid Bin Kamarudin, two of the Directors of RHB Asset Management Sdn Bhd, do hereby state that in the opinion of the Directors of the Manager, the accompanying statement of financial position, statement of income and expenses, statement of changes in net asset value, statement of cash flows and the accompanying notes, are drawn up in accordance with Malaysian Financial Reporting Standards and International Financial Reporting Standards so as to give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Fund as at 31 March 2024 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the financial year then ended and comply with the provisions of the Deeds.

On behalf of the Manager,

Dato' Darawati Hussain Director Mohd Farid Bin Kamarudin Director

23 May 2024

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

To the unit holders of RHB Smart Income Fund ("Fund")

We have acted as Trustee of the Fund for the financial year ended 31 March 2024 and we hereby confirm to the best of our knowledge, after having made all reasonable enquiries, RHB Asset Management Sdn Bhd has operated and managed the Fund during the year covered by these financial statements in accordance with the following:

- 1. Limitations imposed on the investment powers of the Management Company under the Deeds, securities laws and the Guidelines on Unit Trust Funds;
- 2. Valuation and pricing is carried out in accordance with the Deeds; and
- 3. Any creation and cancellation of units are carried out in accordance with the Deeds and any regulatory requirement.

Notwithstanding the above, the value of investment in the debenture of MEX I Capital Bhd amounting to 96.43% of the Fund's NAV (as at 31 March 2024) and total value of investment in Maju Holdings Sdn Bhd (comprises of MEX II Sdn Bhd and MEX I Capital Bhd) amounting to 96.43% have inadvertently exceeded the investment spread limits as prescribed in paragraph (7) under Schedule B* and paragraph (2) and (6) under Schedule B-Appendix II** of SC's Guidelines on Unit Trust Funds. The Management Company will continue to monitor the position until rectified.

For HSBC (Malaysia) Trustee Berhad

Yap Lay Guat Manager, Investment Compliance Monitoring

Kuala Lumpur 23 May 2024

^{*} Paragraph (7) The aggregate value of a fund's investments in, or exposure to, a single issuer through (a) transferable securities; (b) money market instruments; (c) deposits; (d) underlying assets of derivatives; and (e) counterparty exposure arising from the use of OTC derivatives, must not exceed 25% of the fund's NAV. In determining the single issuer aggregate limit, the value of the fund's investments in instruments in paragraph (3) issued by the same issuer must be included in the calculation.

^{**} Paragraph (2) The value of a fund's investments in (a) transferable securities; and (b) money market instruments, issued by any single issuer must not exceed 20% of the fund's NAV (single issuer limit). In determining the single issuer limit, the value of the fund's investments in paragraph (3) of Schedule B by the same issuer must be included in the calculation.

^{**} Paragraph (6) The value of a fund's investments in transferable securities and money market instruments issued by any group of companies must not exceed 30% of the fund's NAV (group limit). In determining the group limit, the value of the fund's investments in instruments in paragraph (3) of Schedule B issued by the issuers within the same group of companies must be included in the calculation.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE UNIT HOLDERS OF RHB SMART INCOME FUND

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements of RHB Smart Income Fund ("the Fund") give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Fund as at 31 March 2024 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the financial year then ended in accordance with Malaysian Financial Reporting Standards and International Financial Reporting Standards.

What we have audited

We have audited the financial statements of the Fund, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2024, and the statement of income and expenses, statement of changes in net asset value and statement of cash flows for the financial year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policies, as set out on pages 13 to 35.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with approved standards on auditing in Malaysia and International Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements" section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence and other ethical responsibilities

We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the By-Laws (on Professional Ethics, Conduct and Practice) of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants ("By-Laws") and the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) ("IESBA Code"), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the By-Laws and the IESBA Code.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE UNIT HOLDERS OF RHB SMART INCOME FUND (CONTINUED)

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Information other than the financial statements and auditors' report thereon

The Manager of the Fund is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises Manager's Report, but does not include the financial statements of the Fund and our auditors' report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements of the Fund does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements of the Fund, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements of the Fund or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Manager for the financial statements

The Manager of the Fund is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements of the Fund that give a true and fair view in accordance with Malaysian Financial Reporting Standards and International Financial Reporting Standards. The Manager is also responsible for such internal control as the Manager determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements of the Fund that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements of the Fund, the Manager is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Manager either intends to liquidate the Fund or to terminate the Fund, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE UNIT HOLDERS OF RHB SMART INCOME FUND (CONTINUED)

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements of the Fund as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with approved standards on auditing in Malaysia and International Standards on Auditing will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with approved standards on auditing in Malaysia and International Standards on Auditing, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- (a) Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements of the Fund, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- (b) Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control.
- (c) Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Manager.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE UNIT HOLDERS OF RHB SMART INCOME FUND (CONTINUED)

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- (d) Conclude on the appropriateness of the Manager's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements of the Fund or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.
- (e) Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements of the Fund, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements of the Fund represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Manager regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

OTHER MATTERS

This report is made solely to the unit holders of the Fund, and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility to any other person for the content of this report.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS PLT LLP0014401-LCA & AF 1146 Chartered Accountants

Kuala Lumpur 23 May 2024

CORPORATE INFORMATION

MANAGER

RHB Asset Management Sdn Bhd

REGISTERED OFFICE

Level 10, Tower One, RHB Centre, Jalan Tun Razak, 50400 Kuala Lumpur

PRINCIPAL AND BUSINESS OFFICE

Level 8, Tower Two & Three, RHB Centre, Jalan Tun Razak, 50400 Kuala Lumpur

Email address: rhbam@rhbgroup.com

Tel: 03-9205 8000 Fax: 03-9205 8100

Website: https://rhbgroup.com/myinvest

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr Chin Yoong Kheong (Independent Non-Executive Chairman)

YBhg Dato' Darawati Hussain (Senior Independent Non-Executive Director)

Tuan Syed Ahmad Taufik Albar (Non-Independent Non-Executive Director)

(Resigned with effect from 29 February 2024)

Encik Mohd Farid Bin Kamarudin (Chief Executive Officer / Managing Director) (Appointed with effect from 1 August 2023)

Puan Hijah Arifakh Binti Othman (Independent Non-Executive Director)

(Resigned with effect from 1 June 2023)

Puan Sharizad Binti Juma'at (Independent Non-Executive Director)

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

YBhg Dato' Darawati Hussain (Independent Chairperson)

Puan Hijah Arifakh Binti Othman (Resigned with effect from 1 June 2023)

Mr Chin Yoong Kheong

Puan Sharizad Binti Juma'at

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER / MANAGING DIRECTOR

Encik Mohd Farid Bin Kamarudin (Appointed with effect from 1 August 2023)

SECRETARIES

Encik Azman Shah Md Yaman (LS No. 0006901)

Izafaniz Binti Abdullah Kamir (MACS01851)

Filza Zainal Abidin (LS No: 0008413)

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75000 Melaka

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Fax: 06-292 2212

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10300 Georgetown, Penang

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Prai Office No 38, First Floor

Jalan Todak 2 Seberang Jaya

13700 Perai, Penang

Tel: 04-386 6670 Fax: 04-386 6528

TRUSTEE HSBC (Malaysia) Trustee Berhad

BANKER RHB Bank Berhad

AUDITORS PricewaterhouseCoopers PLT

TAX ADVISER PricewaterhouseCoopers Taxation Services Sdn Bhd

DISTRIBUTORS RHB Asset Management Sdn Bhd

RHB Bank Berhad

RHB Investment Bank Berhad

Affin Bank Berhad AmBank (M) Berhad

AmInvestment Bank Berhad

Astute Fund Management Berhad (APEX)

Areca Capital Sdn Bhd CIMB Private Banking

Citibank Berhad

Genexus Advisory Sdn Bhd Hong Leong Bank Berhad iFAST Capital Sdn Bhd Kenanga Investors Berhad

Maybank Berhad

Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad

OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Berhad

Phillip Mutual Berhad

Principal Asset Management Berhad

Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad

Standard Financial Adviser Sdn Bhd

United Overseas Bank (Malaysia) Berhad UOB Kay Hian Securities (M) Sdn Bhd



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