

Kagiso Equity Alpha Fund

March 2017

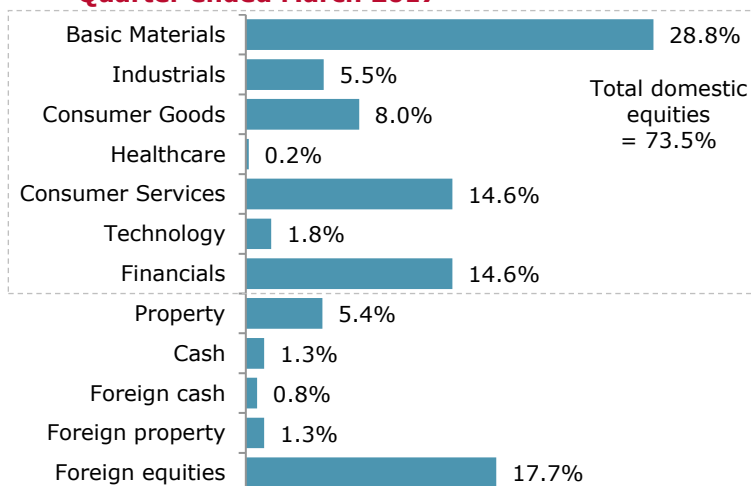


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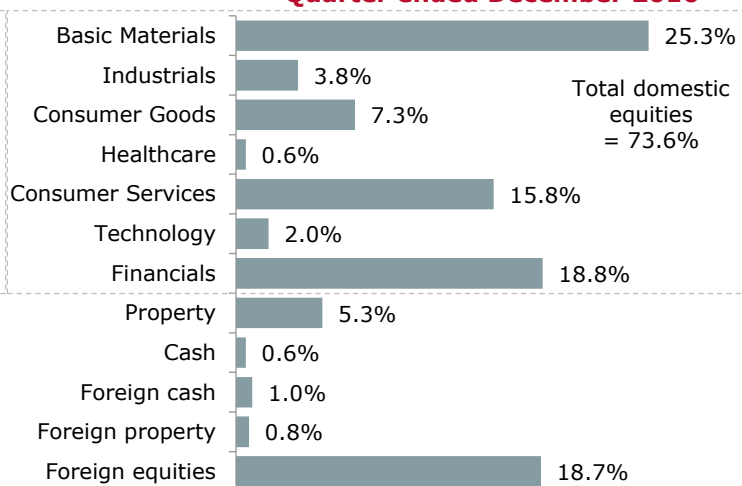
This fund aims to be fully invested in domestic and international equities and is positioned in our team's best ideas, which emanate from our bottom-up research process. This usually entails significant deviations from market cap-weighted benchmark positions. Active portfolio management is incorporated in search of an optimal risk/reward balance and consistent positive alpha.

Asset and sector allocation

Quarter ended March 2017



Quarter ended December 2016



Top 10 holdings

Quarter ended March 2017

Naspers	14.0%
Old Mutual	6.3%
AECI	6.1%
Northam Platinum	4.7%
African Rainbow Minerals	3.8%
Tongaat Hulett	3.7%
Anglo Platinum	3.3%
Sasol	3.2%
Mondi	2.5%
Tiso Blackstar Group	2.2%
Total	49.8%

Quarter ended December 2016

Naspers	13.3%
Old Mutual	7.4%
AECI	5.9%
Tongaat Hulett	4.0%
Northam Platinum	3.6%
African Rainbow Minerals	3.3%
Mondi	3.0%
Anglo Platinum	2.8%
Tiso Blackstar Group	2.6%
FirstRand/RMB	2.6%
Total	48.5%

Fund size R345.03 million

NAV 713.00 cpu

Number of participatory interests 52,057,168

Income distributions

31 December 2016 4.00 cpu

30 June 2016 4.24 cpu

Key indicators

Equity markets (total return)	Quarterly change
MSCI World Equity (US Dollar return)	5.9%
MSCI Emerging Market Equity (US Dollar return)	11.1%
FTSE/JSE All Share Index	-2.1%
FTSE/JSE Resources Index	-1.1%
FTSE/JSE Financials Index	3.2%
FTSE/JSE Industrials Index	-5.4%
Commodities and currency	Quarterly change
Platinum (\$/oz)	-12.0%
Gold (\$/oz)	-12.3%
Brent Crude (\$/barrel)	13.6%
Rand/US Dollar (USD)	-0.2%

Policy objective The fund adhered to the policy objective as stated in the Supplemental Deed

Additional information Please read this quarterly investment report in conjunction with the minimum disclosure document for the fund

The fund delivered strong growth this quarter, returning 6.7% and ranked 3rd in the ASISA EQ General sector. This was due to strong performances from our global holdings and some of our high conviction local holdings, particularly among the mid-caps, as well as Naspers. The fund has returned 18.3% per annum since its inception just over 12 years ago, ranked 4th.

Global economic backdrop

Global growth remains low, but the outlook has improved as evidenced by a further pickup in a broad array of sentiment indicators globally. So far, there has been only modest evidence of any follow through of positive sentiment into real activity, and business investment spending in particular remains lacklustre. Importantly, inflation expectations have picked up meaningfully from very low levels.

In the US, consumer and business confidence has remained extremely high post the elections. There is strong evidence of a tightening labour market, which should start feeding through into higher wage increases, with positive knock-on effects for consumption expenditure. Modest recoveries in capital spend and industrial production seems to be largely due the cyclical recovery in the oil and gas market, and expectations are high for a more broad-based rebound. President Trump has been slow to deliver on promised reforms and expansionary fiscal policy, but appears to be softening his stance on protectionism.

European growth remains slow, with the exception of Germany, Spain and Ireland, which seem to be accelerating modestly. Importantly, sentiment has improved despite an uncertain political backdrop with many key economies facing important polls in coming months and the Brexit negotiations looming.

In China, significant fiscal stimulus continues to support fixed asset investment and therefore buoy GDP growth. The stimulus has thus far been effective, providing a much improved backdrop for commodity demand. We are concerned that in the short term, a slowdown of the very buoyant property market will dampen some of the construction-led growth, and that in the medium term, the associated debt build-up makes the current economic path unsustainable.

Emerging market economies have shown good growth into 2017 so far, with Latin America swinging from contraction to reasonable growth, and South Korea, Russia and India accelerating.

South African economic backdrop

The South African economy remains weak, although improving slightly in 2017 due recoveries in agriculture and mining. Recovery expectations are further aided by a much improved inflation and interest rate outlook over the last year due to a recovery in the currency. However, it is clear that a more meaningful improvement will need increased private sector confidence and investment. This is unlikely, due to high policy uncertainty and lack of meaningful growth enabling reforms.

The dramatic events of late March, in particular the very negative leadership changes within the National Treasury, have added significantly to policy uncertainty and have materially eroded the previously high levels of investor confidence in this key institution. The subsequent foreign currency rating downgrades were therefore to be expected and further downgrades are likely if the economy continues to be weak.

These political events will, in the short term, further negatively affect business and consumer confidence. Any further currency weakness from this point is likely to negatively impact the inflation and interest rate outlook. More importantly, the medium-term economic outlook depends critically on political developments - in particular the leadership battles within the ruling party.

Market review

Extreme unconventional monetary stimulus in the form of price agnostic asset purchases has distorted asset prices across the globe for a number of years. Bond yields remain very low, and equity prices are generally high, especially in sectors where stable cashflows are generated, such as consumer staples. Global bond rates have risen somewhat since the second of half of 2016 from record low levels, accompanied by a welcome rise in inflation expectations. These changes in trends, accompanied by increased event-driven market volatility (internationally and locally) is causing welcome increased dispersion across equities, as well as across asset classes - a better environment for stock pickers.

Over the quarter, developed equity markets were strong across the board in dollar terms. Hong Kong (up 9.9%), Germany (up 8.8%) and the French market (up 7.1%) were the outperformers. Emerging markets were also very strong (up 11.5% in dollar terms).

The local equity market gained 3.8% over the quarter resulting in a one year return of just 2.5%. Industrials (up 7.1%) outperformed this quarter, with material contributions from index heavyweights (Richemont up 16.8%, British American Tobacco up 15.8%, and Naspers up 14.9%). Food producers were strong (RCL foods up 18.1% and Pioneer foods up 16.5%), as were most of the retailers (Shoprite up 13.9%, Clicks up 12.7%). The healthcare sector (hospital groups and pharmaceutical stocks) came under pressure (healthcare sector was down 7%).

The basic materials sector was positive this quarter (up 2.7%). Outperformers were Exxaro (up 31.7%), Kumba Iron Ore (up 27.6%) and Northam Platinum (up 26.9%). AECI (up 13.7%) and Mondi (up 15.5%) were also positive, while the diversified miners were moderately weaker.

Financials (down 1.9%) underperformed. Bank stock performances were unusually dispersed, with Barclays Africa down 17.3%, FirstRand down 10.7%, Standard Bank down 2.5% and Nedbank up 1.4%. Insurers were generally positive, with standout performances from Sanlam (up 7.1%) and Discovery (up 13.2%).

Fund performance and positioning

Strong contributors this quarter were Naspers, our global stocks, and a number of our high conviction mid-cap stocks (Northam Platinum, AECI, Master Drilling and Metair).

Key detractors were FirstRand and Sun International, as well as African Rainbow Minerals and Tongaat Hulett (both of which were strong performers in 2016).

Very strong contributions from our holdings in low cost platinum miners Northam Platinum and Anglo Platinum featured strongly this quarter. Northam in particular has significantly outperformed the peer group due to astute opportunistic deal making at a low point of the cycle, and from a strong competitive advantage in chrome pricing (most of the industry in not benefitting from the current boom in chrome prices due to unfavourable long-term pricing contracts).

The strong rise in global stock markets, together with stock selection meant a meaningfully positive contribution from our global holdings. Strong contributors included insurer Esure and related price comparison company Gocompare.com, as well as Chinese ecommerce company JD.com.

Against a global backdrop of gradually improving global economic growth indicators, high asset prices, rising political uncertainty in many countries, and a potentially disruptive Chinese economic rebalancing, we are guarded on the outlook for financial markets. However, we are cautiously optimistic that financial conditions may have now begun to normalise (in particular higher real rates, inflation and levels of risk-taking), and that there are attractive stock picking opportunities. The outlook for the South African economy is negatively skewed both in the short and medium term and we are appropriately positioned. We retain very high exposure to global holdings, local mid-cap stocks where we see compelling stock specific drivers and low market valuations. We continue to hold positions in the low-cost PGM miners and certain PGM ETFs.