The South African market rebounded during Q2 as the All Share Index returned 3.92%. While mid- and small-caps returned 1.45% and 1.84%, telecommunications was the best-performing sector returning a whopping 18.65%, followed by Consumer Goods which delivered 5.63%. Again, the worst-performing sector was Healthcare (-8.26%) followed by Industrials (-2.02%).

The SARB left the repo rate unchanged (6.75%), in line with market expectations. The Reserve Bank continues to maintain its accommodative stance with an improving medium-term inflation outlook. Headline inflation rose modestly to 4.5%, slightly ahead of expectation (4.4%). The rand strengthened against most major currencies – 2.72% against the US dollar, 5.37% against the British pound and 1.44% against the euro.

Locally, bond markets delivered decent returns as the ALBI returned 3.70% while inflation-linked instruments added 2.86%. The best-performing fixed income asset class was in the longer-end of the yield curve (7-12 years) which delivered 4.61%. Cash (STeFI) returned 1.80%, underperforming preference shares which returned a healthy 5.50%. Property (ALPI) was positive, adding 1.48%.

Global markets rallied despite signs of slower economic growth, ongoing trade tensions and muted inflation. Markets in almost all regions gained supported by the world’s major central banks, in response to the weak global backdrop, becoming progressively more accommodative.

Emerging market equities lagged their developed market counterparts as US-China trade tensions escalated, raising concern about the global growth slowdown. Developed market equities returned 3.35% in US dollar terms (0.54% in rand) while emerging market equities gave up 0.31% in USD (3.02% in rand). The Fed continued to keep rates unchanged (target range 2.25% - 2.5%) with a possible rate cut expected later this year as it remains “patient” in its approach to policy. The Bank of England continued to hold interest rates at 0.75% as uncertainty around Brexit and concern about trade tensions persist. Similarly, the ECB kept interest rates unchanged at 0% on concerns relating to its inflation outlook and global growth concerns. This was in line with expectations.

The primary objective of the fund is to deliver a stable level of income and preserve capital at low levels of risk. To achieve this the fund will be predominantly invested in cash and fixed income instruments with a maximum exposure of 40% to total equities (local and foreign). The fund uses managers with a proven ability to deliver returns and protect capital in times of market distress. Performance is derived from interest and dividends with a low to medium level of capital growth. The Fund is Regulation 28 compliant.