

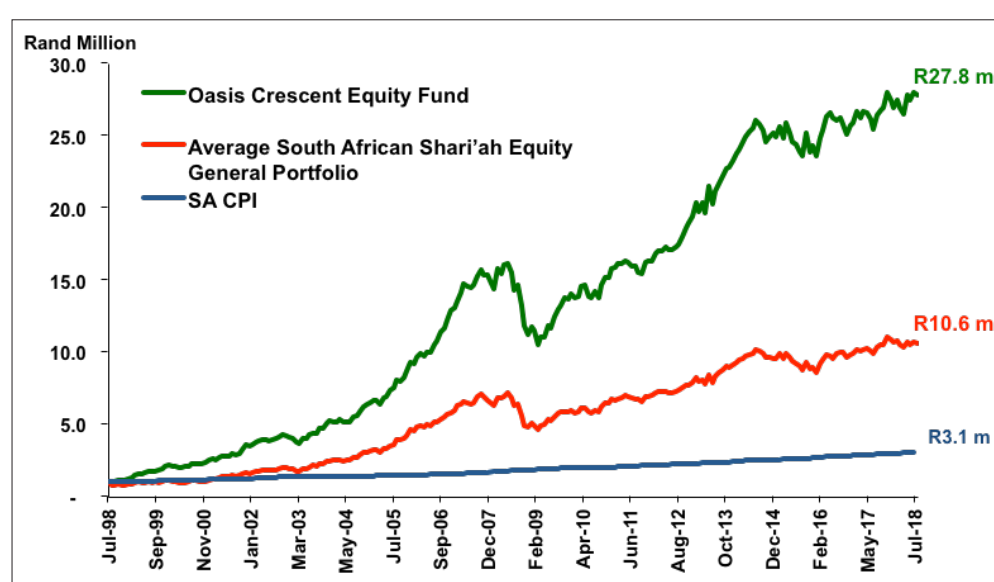
VIEWS FROM OUR CEO



ADAM EBRAHIM

Oasis has been at the forefront of the Shari'ah-compliant investment industry in South Africa, since the launch of the Oasis Crescent Equity Fund (OCEF) in August 1998. The unprecedented success of our first Islamic fund ultimately led to the development of a complete suite of Oasis Shari'ah compliant investment products, ranging from retirement funds, pension-related products, tax free savings funds, unit trusts, Islamic endowments, Sukuk funds and real estate investment trusts. Over time, these products have provided our investors with a unique opportunity to participate in a variety of savings plans that are structured to meet their medium and long-term investment goals in an ethical and socially responsible manner. In this edition of our newsletter, we highlight some of the milestones of the OCEF, as it celebrates its 20th Anniversary.

At inception with just over R1 million in its portfolio, the fund has proven to be a consistent performer currently holding assets in excess of R5.8 Billion, making it the largest Shari'ah-compliant fund in South Africa. Underpinned by Oasis investment philosophy, that focuses on delivering value and real wealth creation, the OCEF has achieved an annualised return of 18.1%, over a twenty year period. This compares extremely favourably with the average Shari'ah-compliant fund, which has provided a return of 12.5% per annum. We believe that the solid performance of the OCEF is largely the result of our commitment to making sound long-term investment decisions and our ability to identify companies that trade at significant discounts to their underlying value.



The graph illustrates the cumulative returns provided by the OCEF since it began. An individual who invested a lump-sum of R1 Million on 1 August 1998 would have a total portfolio worth R27.8 Million today. By comparison, the same initial lump-sum investment would have grown to R10.6 Million if it was invested in the average Shari'ah-compliant fund over the same period.

The ability of the OCEF to outperform its peers over an extended period has led to it being a preferred fund of choice amongst investors. Many of our clients have recounted their experiences of an improved standard of living, which in an industry driven by rank, is undoubtedly the most satisfying of rewards we receive in our role as an active fund manager. Our approach of ensuring downside capital protection, a hallmark of all of our portfolios, has resulted in the OCEF being able to minimise its losses when markets are weak and/or volatile which is particularly relevant to long term portfolios that are designed to nurture a degree of consistency in its performance over time.

Delivering sustainable and consistent returns has also resulted in the OCEF garnering a number of accolades on both the domestic and international front. In 2003, showing just five years of performance, the fund received the coveted Raging Bull award, for being the best risk adjusted return over a three year period in the domestic equity general fund category. In the same year, Standard and Poor's (S&P), recognised OCEF as the Best Domestic General Equity Fund in South Africa, for its absolute performance over three years. In the years that followed, OCEF received additional accolades at the Raging Bull and S&P Fund Awards, where its sound performance established it as a true market leader. The OCEF also received accolades from other parts of the world. In 2008, the OCEF was noted as the Best South African Equity Fund at the Falaika Islamic Fund Awards. Between 2010 and 2011, the OCEF accumulated an additional five Falaika Awards, for its performance in the 3, 5, 7 and 10 year categories. The subsequent design of all investment products, largely influenced by OCEF have been equally rewarded within the industry. The most recent being the Oasis Crescent Global Equity Fund; rated at the Global Islamic Fund Awards in the best fund category during 2017. In addition, the Oasis Crescent Global Low Equity Balanced Fund, received the highly lauded Thompson Reuters Lipper Fund Award in 2016 for its performance over three years in its category.

Against the current market setting, the threat of rising interest rates, significant withdrawals of liquidity and fears of trade wars impacting on equities in all emerging markets, including South Africa; our investment team remains cautiously optimistic. While we are closely monitoring all risk factors to our portfolios; we believe that the OCEF is well positioned to continue delivering solid returns in this environment. The past 20 years has given us further perspective on our investment strategies and as active value managers we look forward to continuing delivering on our mandates and espousing our investment objectives; centred on ensuring that we make a tangible difference to the lives of our investors.

FINANCIAL ADVISORY

Remaining Invested through the cycle

The temptation to focus on instant gratification has become increasing prevalent, given our environment of convenience and speedy service delivery. However, when it comes to investments and your financial well-being, instantaneous outcomes and expectations are unrealistic and can lead to detrimental outcomes. When it comes to investing; there is no quick fix. The same adage, spending time in the market is far more beneficial for your long term well-being than timing the market.

Equity markets are often categorised by short-term volatility, but in order to maximise the benefits of an underlying equity investment, you need to remain invested and committed to this decision over a long term. By staying invested in the market, your portfolio is able to rebalance itself; smoothing out the effects of volatility over time, so that you are better positioned to benefit from the effects of compounding. Contrary to this approach is trying to time the market, which in itself is difficult, and leads to impulsive and often emotional decisions that compromises your wealth in the short, medium and long term.

Remaining invested throughout the market cycle, means that you will experience times of expansion as well as contraction. Never be fearful of downward cycles nor make decisions on the basis of being scared. It is always advisable to speak with your investment manager or financial advisor first as we have witnessed cases where investors move their money to a bank during a downward cycle only to realise that the market does recover but their money was not given an opportunity to recover resulting in a loss of capital. By way of example, if you had sold your investment in the OCEF after the Asian financial crisis of 1998, you would have missed the opportunity to grow your wealth by 198% in the three years that followed. Similarly, if you retained your investment in the OCEF, following the start of the US-Iraqi war, your wealth would have grown by 238% in the four years that followed. More recently, by staying invested in the OCEF throughout the Global Financial Crisis, your wealth would have grown by a further 50%.

Staying invested throughout the market cycle can prove to be one of the most effective ways of improving your standard of living over time and we invite you to contact us to assist you with your investment decisions.

OCAS TRAVEL (SA)

Our Oasis Financial Advisors travel throughout the country on a monthly basis. During the month of September, our Financial Advisors will be travelling to the following areas:

DATE	AREA
17th – 21st	Potchefstroom, Rustenburg, Klerksdorp, Orkney, Mafikeng, Brits, Zeerust, Carletonville, Slurry, Koster Johannesburg, Woodmead, Pretoria, Benoni, Gillview, Lenasia, Bosmont, Roodepoort, Krugersdorp, Sandton, Laudium, Mayfair, Eldorado Park, Benoni, Florida, Greenside, Fordsburg, Vereeniging, Auckland Park, Emmarentia, Crown Mines
24th – 28th	Newcastle, Dundee, Glencoe, Dannhauser, Pietermaritzburg, Shallcross, Chatsworth, Overport, Phoenix, Verulam, Westville, Reservoir Hills, Parlock, Tongaat, North Beach, Durban Central

Financial planning is an ongoing process and it is crucial to liaise with your Financial Advisor should your circumstances change. This would ensure that your long term financial goals will be achieved. Should you wish to schedule an appointment with your Financial Advisor, do not hesitate to contact us.

OASIS CRESCENT EQUITY 20TH ANNIVERSARY



Oasis Executive Directors, celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Oasis Crescent Equity Fund

