



LABUAN MUTUAL FUND

Guidelines on establishment of Labuan mutual funds including Islamic mutual funds were issued and revised by the Labuan Financial Services Authority (“Labuan FSA”) on 1 January 2014 (the “Guidelines”).

The mutual fund or fund sector in Labuan is allowed to be structured as a Labuan company, partnership, protected cell company (“PCC”), or unit trust. You may also set up Labuan Islamic mutual funds operating in compliance with Shariah principles.

Definition

Mutual fund activities mean:

- (a) collect and pool funds for the purpose of collective investment with the aim of spreading investment risk; and
- (b) issue interests in a mutual fund which entitles the holder to redeem his investments that is agreed upon by the parties and receive an amount computed by reference to the value of a proportionate interest in the whole or part of the net assets of the aforesaid types of entities, as the case may be,

and include an umbrella fund which interests in a mutual fund or units are split into a number of different class funds or sub-funds and whose participants are entitled to exchange rights in one part for rights in another.

Types of mutual fund

- > PRIVATE FUND
- > PUBLIC FUND

Labuan Private Fund

- > **MAXIMUM 50 INVESTORS**
First time investment by each investor is NOT LESS than RM250,000 (equivalent in Non-Ringgit);
OR
UNLIMITED NUMBER OF INVESTORS
First time investment by each investor is NOT LESS than RM500,000 (equivalent in Non-Ringgit)
- > Not offered to the general public
- > Fund manager need not be licenced
- > No approval required from Labuan FSA
- > Notification to Labuan FSA prior to launching of fund by submission of fund offering documents

Labuan Public Fund

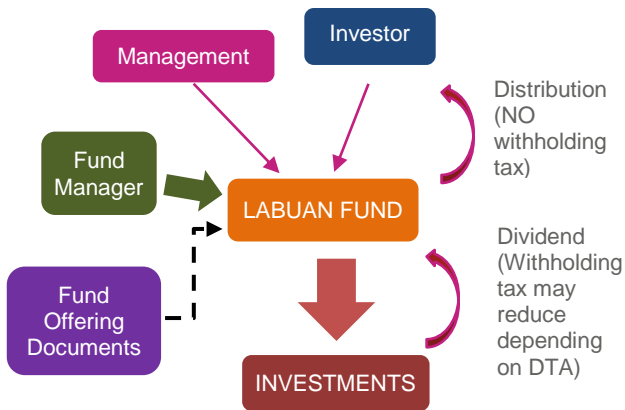
- > Offered to any member of the general public
- > Need prior approval from Labuan FSA
- > Funds must be registered with Labuan FSA before commencement of business
- > Prospectus of the Labuan Public Fund must be approved by Labuan FSA prior to launching of the fund.
- > Must appoint fund manager, trustee, administrator and custodian that are approved by Labuan FSA
- > Appoint approved auditor in Labuan.

Common types of fund vehicles

- > **COMPANIES**
Ordinary shareholder & Preference shareholder(s)
- > **LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS**
General Partner & Limited Partner(s)
- > **UNIT TRUSTS**
Trustee & Unitholder(s)



Example of mutual fund structure



Labuan IBFC tax system

- > Labuan Business Activity Tax Act 1990 (“LBATA”) governs the imposition, assessment and collection of tax on a Labuan business activity carried on in, from or through Labuan.
- > Labuan entities that carry on a **non-Labuan business activity** are subject to the provisions of the Malaysian Income Tax Act, 1967 (ITA).
- > “Labuan business activity” means:
 - > a Labuan trading or a Labuan non-trading activity carried on in, from or through Labuan,
 - > excluding any activity which is an offence under any written law.
- > Pursuant to the Labuan Business Activity Tax (Requirements for Labuan Business Activity) Regulations 2021:
 - > Labuan trading activity has been restricted to licensed business activities and other trading activities only. Please refer to the above Regulations 2021.
 - > Labuan non-trading activity has been categorised to 2 types of holding activities, namely Pure Equity Holding and Non-Pure Equity Holding.

Substance Requirement under LBATA

- > Pursuant to section 2B(1) (b) of LBATA, the Labuan entities shall, for the purpose of the Labuan business activity, have :-
 - (i) an adequate number of full time employees in Labuan; and
 - (ii) an adequate amount of annual operating expenditure in Labuan, as prescribed by the Minister by regulations made under this Act.
- > Section 2B (1A) of LBATA provides that a Labuan entity carrying on a Labuan business activity which fails to comply with the substance requirement for a basis period for a year of assessment shall be charged to tax at the rate of twenty four per cent (24%) upon its chargeable profits for that year of assessment.

As the business activity of a Fund is generally involved in either Pure Equity Holding or Non Pure Equity Holding, the Substance Requirements are as follows:

Pure Equity Holding

To comply with management and control requirement in Labuan, that includes holding of at least a minimum of one board meeting in Labuan for each calendar year and incur a minimum annual operating expenditure of RM20,000 per annum in Labuan.

Non Pure Equity Holding

To comply with minimum of one (1) full time employee in Labuan and a minimum annual operating expenditure of RM20,000 per annum in Labuan.

Labuan FSA's fee

- i) **Labuan Private Fund**
 - > Lodgement fee to Labuan FSA for each information memorandum is USD600
- ii) **Labuan Public Fund**
 - > Registration fee to Labuan FSA for each prospectus is USD600
 - > Annual license fee of USD600
 - > Subsequent payment of annual license fee is payable by 15 January of each year.

Dealings with resident Malaysia

Offerings of securities (including Labuan Funds) to residents directly and not via a Labuan Entity are subject to the provisions of the Capital Markets and Services Act 2007.

Hence, before any offering of securities is made to any residents, it is advisable to seek approval and recognition from the Securities Commissions of Malaysia.

Key benefits of mutual funds in Labuan

- > Flexible structure – in the form of Labuan Company, partnership, protected cell company or unit trust.
- > Support multiclass fund – multi currency / asset class.
- > Hassle free private fund set-up – no approval required, only notification with offering / information memorandum needs to be submitted Labuan FSA.
- > Fund manager need not be licensed for Labuan Private Fund.
- > Simple tax structure.
- > ZERO withholding tax on payments to non-residents.
- > No foreign exchange controls.
- > No capital gain tax / inheritance tax.
- > Strategically situated in the Asia Pacific region and sharing a common time zone with many large Asian cities.
- > Double Tax Agreements between Malaysia and over 70 countries.



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