

# Melville Douglas STANLIB Bond Fund

Fund information update at 30 June 2025

## What is the fund's objective?

The objective of the fund is to achieve capital preservation and income generation by investing in long-term fixed interest securities. This fund is an actively managed, unconstrained, South African fixed-income strategy that aims to generate consistent and predictable long term returns through investments in high quality income-yielding debt securities.

## What does the fund invest in?

Securities will normally consist of a spread of gilts, semi-gilts, loan stock, debentures, debenture bonds, approved securities, notes and liquid assets and any other securities which are consistent with the fund's investment policy.

## What possible risks are associated with this fund?

General market risks include a rise or volatility in bond yields, rising interest rates, economic and political risk, inflation uncertainty and duration risk. Where foreign securities are included in the portfolio there may be additional risks, such as potential constraints on liquidity and the repatriation of funds, macro-economic risks, political risks, tax risks, settlement risks, and potential limitations on the availability of market information.

### Risk rating

Conservative	Moderately conservative	Moderate	Moderately aggressive	Aggressive
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## What is the suggested investment period for this fund?

### Minimum period

1 Month	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	7 Years
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## Who should consider investing in this fund?

This fund suits investors that are looking for stable income and reasonable capital growth over the longer term.

## Income

**Distribution** Net income is calculated and accrued daily and is declared and distributed quarterly.

**Declaration** 31 March, 30 June, 30 September, 31 December

## General fund information

**Manager(s)** Mzimasi Mabece, Paolo Senatore and Bernard Drotschie

**Size (NAV)** R 2.86 billion

**Classification** South African - Interest Bearing - Variable Term

**Benchmark** FTSE/JSE All Bond Index

**Regulation 28** Complies

Regulation 28 of the Pension Funds Act sets the limits in terms of the maximum exposure the retirement fund and the individual retirement fund member's savings (i.e. your savings) may have to various asset classes. For more information please refer to the Regulation 28 Guidelines available on our website ([www.stanlib.com](http://www.stanlib.com)). This Fund complies with this Regulation.

### Class A

**Launch** 01 July 2014

**ISIN number** ZAE000191763

**JSE code** MDBFA

### Minimum investment requirements -

**Lump sum** R 50,000

**Monthly** R 1,000

## What are the costs to invest in this fund?

### Maximum charges including VAT

	Class A
<b>Initial fee (manager)</b>	0.000%
<b>Initial fee (adviser)</b>	3.450%
<b>Annual fee (manager)</b>	0.863%
<b>Annual fee (adviser)</b>	0.000%
<b>Performance fee</b>	N/A

**Annual fee (manager)** – this is a service charge (% based) applicable to each class of a fund, that is levied on the value of your portfolio and includes the **Annual fee (adviser)** fee (where applicable). Annual fees are calculated and accrued daily and recovered monthly from the income awaiting distribution in the fund.

### Cost ratios (annual) including VAT as at 31 March 2025

	Class A
<b>Based on period from:</b>	01/04/2022
<b>Total Expense</b>	0.87%
<b>Performance Fee</b>	0.00%
<b>Transaction Costs</b>	0.00%
<b>Total Investment Charge</b>	0.87%
<b>1 Year Total Expense</b>	0.87%

**Total Expense (TER):** This ratio shows the charges, levies and fees relating to the management of the portfolio and is expressed as a percentage of the average net asset value of the portfolio, calculated over the period shown and annualised to the most recently completed quarter. A higher TER does not necessarily imply a poor return, nor does a low TER imply a good return. The current TER should not be regarded as an indication of future TERs.

**Transaction Costs (TC):** This ratio shows the percentage of the value of the fund incurred as costs relating to the buying and selling of the fund's underlying assets. TC are a necessary cost in administering the fund and impacts fund returns. It should not be considered in isolation as returns may be impacted by many other factors over time including market returns, the type of fund, investment decisions of the investment manager and the TER.

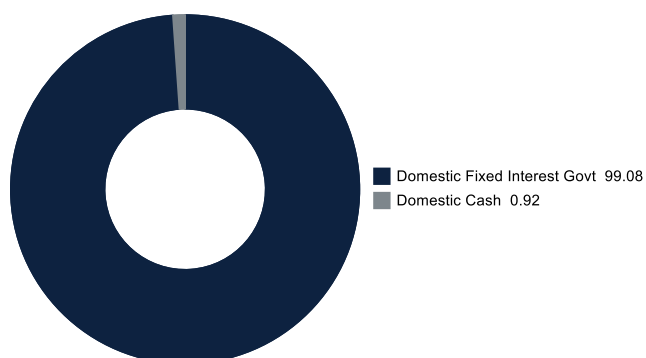
**Total Investment Charges (TIC):** This ratio is simply the sum of the TER and TC, showing the percentage of the value of the fund incurred as costs relating to the investment of the fund. It should be noted that performance figures account for all costs included in the TIC ratio, so you should not deduct the TIC from performance figures, the performance is already net of the TIC.

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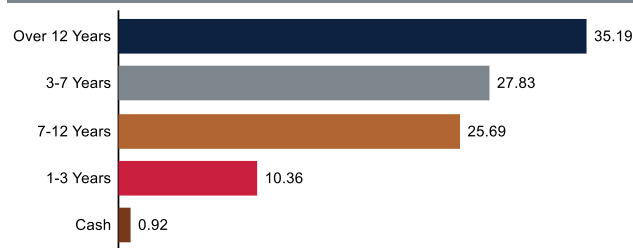
Monthly update at 30 June 2025

## Holdings

### Asset allocation (%)



### Fixed Interest allocation (%)



### Fixed Interest Top 10 Issuer exposure (%)



## Performance and Income

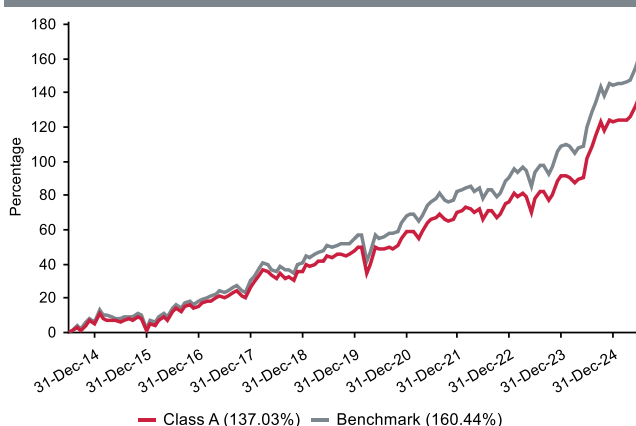
Class A Launch: 01 July 2014

Benchmark: FTSE/JSE All Bond Index

Returns (%)	1yr	3yrs	5yrs	7yrs	10yrs
<b>Class A</b>					
Class	17.56	12.52	9.81	8.77	8.33
Rank/Out of	30/48	29/44	26/31	22/27	17/19
Sector Average	16.82	12.17	10.31	8.99	8.58
Benchmark	18.36	13.37	10.89	9.79	9.18

Returns (%) shown are cumulative for all periods shorter than or equal to 1 year and annualised for all periods greater than 1 year.

### Cumulative performance (%) from Launch



Statistics (%)	1yr	3yrs	5yrs	7yrs	10yrs
<b>Class A</b>					
Positive Months	10	26	41	58	81
Max Gain	17.56	42.46	59.69	82.04	134.34
Max Drawdown	-2.29	-5.81	-5.81	-10.44	-10.44
Highest	25.95	25.95	25.95	25.95	25.95
Lowest	14.61	-0.74	-0.74	-4.09	-5.81

Highest – this reflects the highest 12 month return during the period.

Lowest - this reflects the lowest 12 month return during the period.

### Amount declared (cents per unit)

	<b>Class A</b>
<b>30 September 24</b>	2.20
<b>31 December 24</b>	2.16
<b>31 March 25</b>	2.10
<b>30 June 25</b>	2.14
<b>In last 12 months</b>	8.61
<b>In 2024</b>	8.54

# Melville Douglas STANLIB Bond Fund

Quarterly update at 30 June 2025

## Who are the investment managers?

Since 1983 Melville Douglas has been delivering superior investment returns across a number of asset classes. As a global boutique investment management company within the Standard Bank Group, we are uniquely positioned to offer domestic and offshore investment solutions. What truly sets Melville Douglas apart is our experienced investment team and our approach to investing – driven by balance, a long-term view and a commitment to fundamental research – which informs our investment decisions across the board.



**Mzimasi Mabece**

BSc

Head of Fixed Income: South Africa

Mzimasi has more than 14 years financial market experience spanning both quantitative analysis as well as portfolio management and has managed both fixed income and equity funds. Prior to joining Melville Douglas, he was Head of Fixed Income at Mvunonala Asset Managers. He previously held Portfolio Manager roles at Prowess Investment Managers and Old Mutual Investment Group (OMIGSA) and also worked at Sanlam Investments as a fixed income Quantitative Analyst. Mzimasi holds a BSc degree.



**Paolo Senatore**

MSc (Mechanical Engineering)

Strategist

Paolo joined Melville Douglas in 2018 as a strategist and co-manages the Melville Douglas STANLIB High Alpha Fund. From 1995 he was with the FirstRand Group, gaining over 20 years' financial market experience. In 2000, he became CIO of RMB Private Bank Portfolio Management with the responsibility of growing the specialised institutional business. He was CIO for Ashburton Investments, FirstRand's asset management initiative, from its inception, and was instrumental in consolidating asset management businesses and investment processes. He holds an MSc (Mechanical Engineering).



**Bernard Drotschie**

BCom (Hons), CFA®, CFPTM

Chief Investment Officer

Bernard joined Melville Douglas in 2002 as a portfolio manager and analyst, prior to which he worked for Absa Asset Management. He is the lead manager on the Melville Douglas Global Growth Fund (USD) and co-manages the Melville Douglas Balanced Fund (USD) and the Melville Douglas Income Funds. He holds a BCom (Hons) degree in Econometrics, is a CFA® Charterholder and a Certified Financial Planner™ professional.

## Fund review

The fund did well for the first half of the year and performed slightly ahead of our peers and the benchmark during the period. On a rolling 12 months basis our strategy outperformed the peers and were slightly behind the benchmark but still gave handsome returns, above 18% per annum.

These returns are due to our prudent management of the fund where we did not take excessive bets against the benchmark, given the volatility that characterised the first half of the year. We were, however, agile enough to take advantage of the entry points in the market where we were able to lengthen the duration of the fund at opportune moments.

## Market overview

The second quarter of 2025 was marked by volatility sparked by the 2nd April 2025 announcements by President Donald Trump, heightened geopolitics, policy rate actions by global central banks as well as domestic politics. On 2nd April, in what he termed "liberation day" for Americans, President Trump announced wide ranging tariffs on various countries including South Africa. South Africa was slapped with 31% tariffs and as was the case with other countries, these were subsequently suspended for 90 days, for countries to negotiate trading terms with the US administration. That suspension period will expire on 9th July 2025. Consequently, financial markets were spooked and initially sold off, but at the announcement of the 90-day period they breathed a sigh of relief and subsequently rallied. The rand and bond yields initially sold off, reaching R19,76/\$ and 11,11% respectively. Had the currency traded at R20,00/\$, this would have been historical lows for the rand.

Whilst tariff uncertainty was playing itself out, local politics resurfaced with the Minister of Finance struggling to pass the national budget. The minister's plans to increase value added tax by 1% over two financial years was dealt a blow, after the Western Cape high court declared the decision unconstitutional. The court's decision emphasised that any future changes to the VAT rate must go through the proper parliamentary process, including the tabling of legislation, and cannot be implemented based on a minister's announcement. Significantly this court application was logged by the Democratic Alliance (DA), a significant partner of the Government of National Unity (GNU). This heightened tensions between the DA and the African National Congress, the two big parties in the GNU. These political tensions contributed to volatility experienced by local currency and financial markets, with markets concerned about the breakup of the GNU. After all the political wrangling, the national budget was finally tabled on 21st May and subsequently passed with the support of all GNU partners. This event assuaged the markets and reduced the political and fiscal risk brought by these events.

Whilst the above uncertainties were playing themselves out, inflation continued to surprise on the downside. At the end of May, inflation print was 2,8% y/y and this was the third month in a row where inflation printed below 3,0%, which is the lower level of the 3,0% - 6,0% range that the central bank targets. It therefore came as no surprise when, in its May meeting, the monetary policy committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank cut rates by 25 basis point to 7,25%. What came as a surprise though was the dovish nature of the statement with Governor Lesetja Kganyago, in a post meeting briefing, mentioning that one member of the MPC had favoured an even deeper cut. This stance was a positive capitulation by the central bank, given its cautious approach to policy rates whilst the tariff uncertainty plays itself out. In the briefing, Mr Kganyago also mentioned that all members of the committee were in favour of the mooted moves to lower the inflation target. This is in line with National Treasury thinking, with Dr David Masondo, the deputy minister, confirming the department's thinking. The intended purpose by this move would be to anchor expected inflation to a lower point and bring South Africa's inflation regime in line with its peers.

## Looking ahead

With benign inflation, the Reserve Bank has room to cut rates further, however we believe the bank will continue with its cautious approach given the prevailing uncertain environment. We believe that in the second half of this year the bank will cut rates by a further 25 basis points to 7,0% before pausing. We see inflation drifting higher from current levels towards 4,0% by end of the year. Our view is based on elevated oil prices due to heightened tensions in the Middle East and reversal in food inflation trends, with general food inflation ticking higher. Benign inflation and lower interest rate expectations are supportive of both domestic currency and bond yields, and we believe this will anchor bond yields around 10,0% and the rand in a R17,50/\$ to R18,00/\$ trading range.

The commentary gives the views of the portfolio manager at the time of writing. Any forecasts or commentary included in this document are not guaranteed to occur.

## Change in allocation of the fund over the quarter

Asset type	Q2 2025	Q1 2025	Change
Domestic Cash	0.92	0.79	0.13
Domestic Fixed Interest Govt	99.08	99.21	-0.13

The portfolio adhered to its portfolio objective over the quarter.

## Fund classes

Class	Type	Price (cpu)	Units	NAV (Rand)
A	Retail	97.10	5,523,988.10	5,363,769.24

All data as at 30 June 2025.

Units – amount of participatory interests (units) in issue in relevant class.

STANLIB

# Melville Douglas STANLIB Bond Fund

Important information update at 30 June 2025

## Disclosures

Collective Investment Schemes in Securities (CIS) are generally medium to long term investments. The value of participatory interests may go down as well as up and past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. CIS are traded at ruling prices and can engage in borrowing and scrip lending.

The Melville Douglas STANLIB Bond Fund is a portfolio of the STANLIB Collective Investment Scheme (the Scheme).

The manager of the Scheme is STANLIB Collective Investments (RF) (Pty) Limited (the Manager). The Manager is authorised in terms of the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act, No. 45 of 2002 (CISCA) to administer Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) in Securities. Liberty is a full member of the Association for Savings and Investments of South Africa (ASISA). The Manager is a member of the Liberty Group of Companies. The manager has a right to close a portfolio to new investors in order to manage the portfolio more efficiently in accordance with its mandate. The Manager does not provide any guarantee either with respect to the capital or the return of a CIS portfolio. A schedule of fees and charges and maximum commissions is available on request from the Manager.

The trustee of the Scheme is Standard Chartered Bank.

The investments of this portfolio are managed, on behalf of the Manager, by Melville Douglas Investment Management (Pty) Ltd, an authorised financial services provider (FSP), FSP No. 595, under the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act (FAIS), Act No. 37 of 2002.

Prices are calculated and published on each working day, these prices are available on the Manager's website ([www.stanlib.com](http://www.stanlib.com)) and in South African printed news media. This portfolio is valued at 15h00. Forward pricing is used. Investments and repurchases will receive the price of the same day if received prior to 15h00.

This portfolio is permitted to invest in foreign securities. Should the portfolio include any foreign securities these could expose the portfolio to any of the following risks: potential constraints on liquidity and the repatriation of funds; macroeconomic risks; political risks; foreign exchange risks; tax risks; settlement risks; and potential limitations on the availability of market information.

This is a portfolio that derives its income primarily from interest-bearing instruments. The yield (if shown) is a current effective yield calculated daily.

This portfolio is a third party named, co-named portfolio. The Manager retains full legal responsibility for this portfolio. A third party named, co-named portfolio is a portfolio bearing the name of both the Manager and the financial services provider (FSP) where the FSP, under an agreement with the Manager, undertakes financial services of a discretionary nature, as contemplated in the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act, Act No. 37 of 2002 (FAIS), in relation to the assets of the portfolio. Melville Douglas Investment Management (Pty) Ltd, an authorised FSP, FSP No. 595, FAIS, is the third party manager of this portfolio.

The FSP is a related party to the Manager, the FSP may earn additional fees other than those charged by the Manager. It is the responsibility of the FSP to disclose additional fees to the investor. This document is not advice, as defined under FAIS. Please be advised that there may be representatives acting under supervision.

All performance returns and ranking figures quoted are shown in ZAR and are based on data sourced from Morningstar or Statpro and are as at 30 June 2025.

Annualised return figures are the compound annualised growth rate (CAGR) calculated from the cumulative return for the period being measured. These annualised returns provide an indication of the annual return achieved over the period had an investment been held for the entire period. Actual annual figures are available on request from the Manager.

Portfolio performance figures are calculated for the relevant class of the portfolio, for a lump sum investment, on a NAV-NAV basis, with income reinvested on the ex-dividend date. Individual investor performance may differ due to initial fees, actual investment date, date of reinvestment of income and dividend withholding tax. Portfolio performance accounts for all costs that contribute to the calculation of the cost ratios quoted, all returns quoted are after these costs have been accounted for.

Statistics - Positive Months: the number of individual 1 month periods during the specified time period where the return was not negative; Max Gain: the maximum gain in a trough-to-peak incline before a new trough is attained, quoted as the percentage between the trough and the peak. It is an indicator of upside risk over a specified time period (quoted for all periods of 1 year or longer); Max Drawdown: the maximum loss in a peak-to-trough decline before a new peak is attained, quoted as the percentage between the peak and the trough. It is an indicator of downside risk over a specified time period (quoted for periods of 1 year or longer, where no value is shown no loss was experienced); Highest and Lowest: the highest and the lowest 1 year return (%) that occurred during the specified time period (quoted for all relevant classes launched 1 year or more prior to current month end date).

Additional information about this product including, but not limited to, brochures, application forms and annual or quarterly reports, can be obtained free of charge, from the Manager and from the Manager's website ([www.stanlib.com](http://www.stanlib.com)).

## Contact details

### Manager

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Website: [www.stanlib.com](http://www.stanlib.com)

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### Third Party Manager

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