# Using Absa component ETFs in portfolio construction

**BARCLAYS** 

Dr Vladimir Nedeljkovic – Absa CIB

# Agenda

- Who we are
- On costs
- Long-term investments
- Multi-asset investments
  - Core Retirement Annuity
  - MAPPS<sup>TM</sup> ETFs
- How to invest in Absa's ETFs



## Who we are – in numbers

R42.7bn	Total Assets under Management	57%	of ETF assets in SA are ours (R42.7bn out of R75.1bn)
21	ETFs and ETNs listed	36%	of ETFs in listed in SA are ours (16 out of 44)
5	Countries in Africa where our ETFs are listed	7	Asset classes covered - the widest in SA

Source: Absa CIB, ETF issuer websites, Bloomberg. Asset data as of July 4, 2014



# Highlights

+87%	% increase in AUM over last 12 m (R22.4bn to R41.8 bn)	Best	Performing non-sector equity ETF – 5y- NewSA
#1	Platinum ETF in the world	4th	year in a row - Risk SA award for ETFs and RSPs
1st	ever Morningstar award for an ETF - ours	1st	ETFs in Mauritius – NewGold and NewPlat



# Our ETF offering

	ETF name	Underlying index / asset	Listed	Issuer	NAV	TER
	NewGold ETF	Gold bullion	SA: Nov 2, 2004, Botswana: Jul 14, 2010, Nigeria: Dec 19, 2011 Ghana: Aug 23, 2012, Mauritius: July 26, 2013	NewGold Issuer Ltd	R19,100,951,320	0.40%
	NewPlat ETF	Platinum bullion	SA: April 26, 2013, Mauritius: Feb 24, 2014	NewGold Issuer Ltd	R 19,073,340,000	0.40%
	NewPalladium ETF	Palladium bullion	March 27, 2014	NewGold Issuer Ltd	R 3,916,612,233	0.40%
	eRAFI™ Overall ETF	eRAFI™ Overall Index	June 23, 2008	NewFunds CIS	R 151,145,303	0.10%
	eRAFI™ Financial 15 ETF	eRAFI™ Financial 15 Index	June 15, 2009	NewFunds CIS	R 14,535,164	0.12%
	eRAFI™ Industrial 25 ETF	eRAFI™ Industrial 25 Index	June 15, 2009	NewFunds CIS	R 14,384,183	0.12%
	eRAFI™ Resource 20 ETF	eRAFI™ Resource 20 Index	June 15, 2009	NewFunds CIS	R 10,456,918	0.13%
	NewSA ETF	NewSA Index	Dec 1, 2008	NewFunds CIS	R 66,830,737	0.57%
	Shari'ah 40 ETF	FTSE/JSE Shari'ah 40 Index	Apr 6, 2009	NewFunds CIS	R 32,761,737	0.30%
⋨	Equity Momentum ETF	Equity Momentum Index	Jan 26, 2012	NewFunds CIS	R 25,550,000	0.35%
Equity	SWIX 40 ETF	FTSE/JSE SWIX 40 Index	Jan 26, 2012	NewFunds CIS	R 14,530,000	0.33%
ع چ	GOVI ETF	GOVI Index	Jan 26, 2012	NewFunds CIS	R 84,892,000	0.27%
Fixed	, ILBI ETF	ILBI Index	Jan 26, 2012	NewFunds CIS	R 58,130,000	0.28%
Cash	TRACI 3m ETF	TRACI 3m Index	Jan 26, 2012	NewFunds CIS	R 88,710,489	0.18%
asset	MAPPS <sup>TM</sup> Growth ETF	SWIX (75%), GOVI (10%), ILBI (10%), Cash (5%)	May 25, 2011	NewFunds CIS	R 25,109,559	0.33%
Multi-asset	MAPPS <sup>™</sup> Protect ETF	SWIX (40%), GOVI (15%), ILBI (35%), Cash (10%)	May 25, 2011	NewFunds CIS	R 33,152,044	0.33%

Source: Absa CIB Data as of July 4, 2014



# SA investment industry - costs

- SA investment industry is expensive
- Three levels of costs:
  - Platform
  - Product
  - Advisory

**Product costs** ~ 0.5% p.a. for passive solutions up to 3% p.a. for active (lower for larger institutional investors

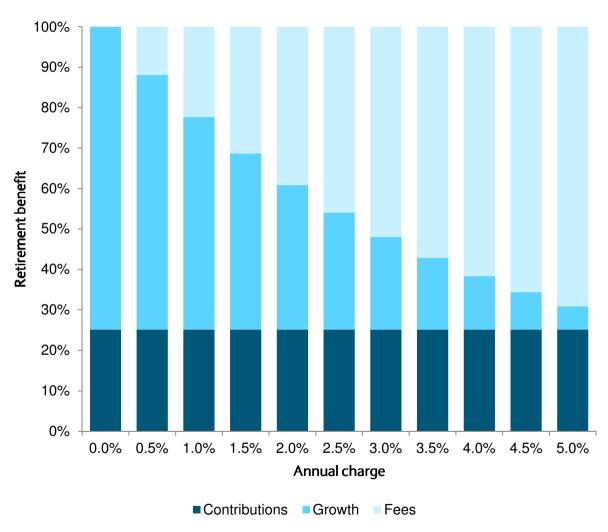
Platform costs – 0% (subsidised by rebates from product providers – 1% p.a.

Advisory costs – up to 3% initial and on average 0.5% p.a. trailing



#### Costs matter

Over a long investment period, the impact of costs on the investment performance is significant.

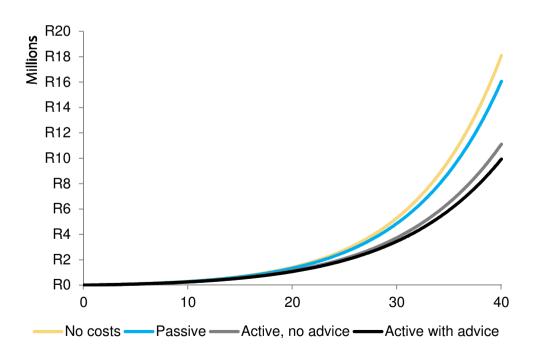


Source: Absa CIB. Assumptions: real rate of return 6% p.a.; investment period: 40 years; monthly contributions inflation adjusted



#### Costs matter – another view

To further emphasize the importance of fees on investment performance, we look at performance of various investment options (investment at no cost, fully passive option at 0.5% p.a., all in fee, active option with no advice (1.5% p.a. asset management fee, 0.6% p.a., platform fee) and active option with advice (as before, plus 0.5% p.a. ongoing advisory fee and no upfront advisory fees). We further assumed R1,000 per month investment escalated by inflation (6% p.a.) over 40 years, and real rate of investment return of 6%.



	No fees	Passive	Active, no advice	Active, with advice
End assets	R18.09m	R16.06m	R11.11m	R9.94m
Fee impact (ZAR)	R0	R2.03m	R6.98m	R8,15m
Fee impact (%)	0%	11.2%	47.39%	57.11%



#### How to reduce costs of investment?

- Product costs
  - Product standardisation / simplification
  - Passive investment strategies
- Platform costs
  - Technology
  - Competition / new entrants
- Advisory
  - Regulatory initiatives
  - Investor empowerment (simple product / investment tools / investor education)

**Product costs** 

Platform costs

**Advisory costs** 



# Reducing product costs

- Simple, well diversified multi-asset investment solutions
- Low cost building blocks passive market trackers
- Static or (better) dynamic (algorithmic) asset allocation / life staging

#### "You get what you pay for" fallacy

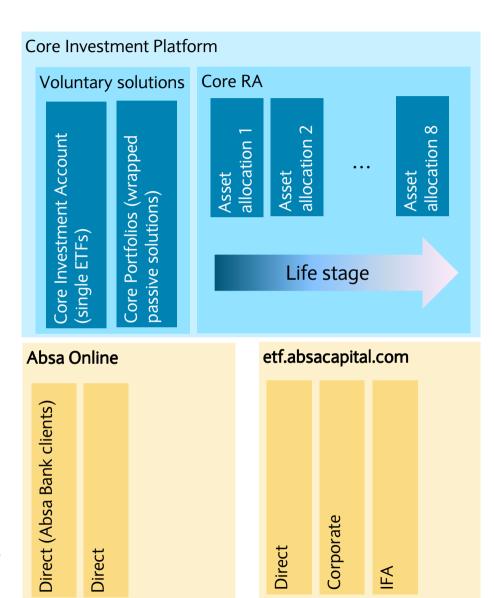
- South African investment market has a bias towards active investment
- The assumption is that active managers add value in excess to extra fees
- This assumption is wrong.
- SA and international research\* demonstrates that
  - majority of active asset managers underperform their market benchmark (the effect is even more significant if the "survivorship bias" is accounted for
  - This underperformance is consistent across asset classes
  - Investment performance is not consistent over time (top quintile performance over the last five years does not tell as anything about the performance over the next five years) – it is hard to predict the best performing asset manager in the future based on past performance

Sources: "Quest for Alpha" – Daniel Wessels DRW Investment Research (2010), "The case for index fund investing" – Vanguard Research (2013)



# Core platform

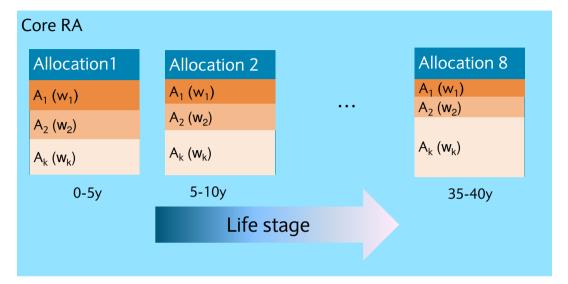
- The platform hosted on and administered by AIMS
- Two groups of products offered:
  - Voluntary investments
    - single component ETFs (Core Investment Account),
    - passive wrapped solutions (portfolios) (Core Portfolios)
  - Retirement products
    - Core RA multi-asset passive solution, managed on a life-stage model basis, with 8 risk "buckets" (described in more detail later).
- Two main interfaces will be offered to investors:
  - Absa Online will offer the full range of products, catering for individual investors (Absa and non-Absa clients)
  - etf.absacapital.com will be geared toward corporate clients, but will offer full product access to direct and IFAs (phase 2)





## Core Retirement Annuity

- The retirement solution structured in a form of a retirement annuity (RA) and designed using a life stage- model:
  - The product consists of 8 different asset allocations corresponding to different life stages (time to retirement)
  - Each asset allocation Regulation 28 compliant (compliance built into the product design and checked by AIMS). SA equity exposure is decomposed into three factor exposures (market, value and momentum).
  - The portfolios are constructed using optimal asset allocation methodology, based on observed asset volatilities. returns and correlations, and rebalanced bi-annually (by running the optimisation process using newly observed market parameters)
- All the portfolio components are passive index tracking products (ETFs)

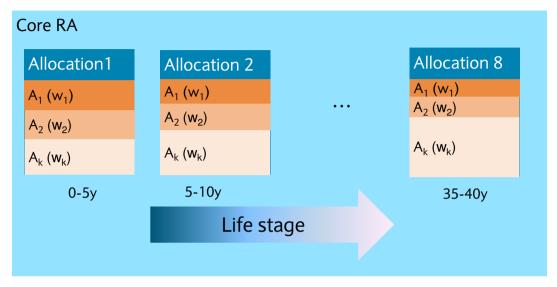






# Core Retirement Annuity (cont.)

- The portfolios currently contain the following exposures:
  - SA equities:
    - NewFunds SWIX40 ETF (market factor)
    - NewFunds eRAFI Overall ETF (value factor)
    - NewFunds SA Momentum ETF (momentum factor
  - SA government bonds and SA inflation bonds
    - NewFunds GOVI ETF
    - NewFunds ILBI ETF
  - International equity: db x-trackers MSCI World Index
  - Property: Stanlib SA Property ETF
  - Money market: NewFunds TRACI 3m ETF
- The weights dynamically determined by the portfolio optimisation process (subject to Reg. 28 constraints)

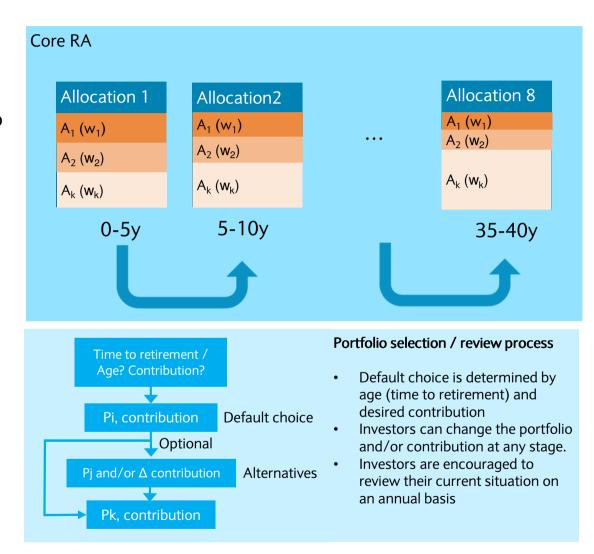






# Core Retirement Annuity (cont.)

- A high level description of the solution implementation:
  - The default portfolio allocation is determined by the investor's age (time to retirement) and desired contribution
  - On an annual basis, investors are encouraged to review their current situation to determine if they would like to make changes to their stipulated retirement age and contribution level.
  - If no action is taken, they will remain in the existing asset allocation until their age bracket changes, whereby they are automatically re-allocated to the next asset allocation category





### MAPPS<sup>TM</sup> ETFs

- SA investors have access to a number of ETFs tracking a variety of market indices, commodities and currencies
- The investors (institutional and retail) have expressed need for products that would provide diversified exposure to multiple asset classes
- To satisfy that need, in 2011, we have launched MAPPS<sup>TM</sup> family of ETFs, the first investments in SA to provide investors with a simple, convenient and cost effective way to access a range of asset classes by purchasing a single share on the ISE.
- MAPPS<sup>TM</sup> innovation
  - Multiple asset class coverage: MAPPS<sup>TM</sup> ETF incorporate exposure to equity, fixed income, inflation linked bonds and cash
  - Tracking industry benchmark indices: each underlying component tracks the performance of an underlying industry benchmark index (e.g. SWIX, GOVI, ILBI)



### MAPPS<sup>TM</sup> ETFs

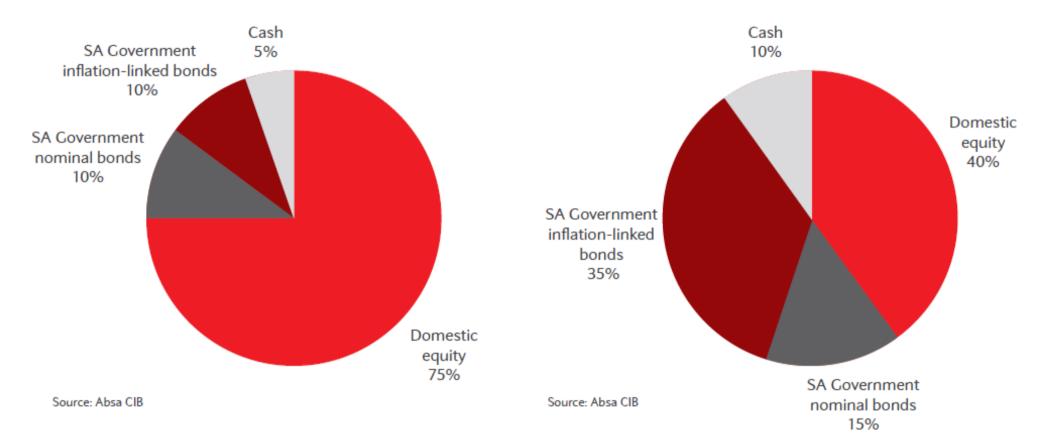
- MAPPS<sup>TM</sup> innovation (cont.):
  - Two strategies covering different risk profiles available: two MAPPS<sup>TM</sup> ETFs initially offered:
    - MAPPS<sup>TM</sup> Growth
    - MAPPS<sup>TM</sup> Protect
  - Both strategies aim to generate capital growth and limit volatility by exploiting the correlations between the asset classes they contain
  - Ideal for an investor wanting a complete investment solution without paying away unnecessary fees.



## MAPPS<sup>TM</sup> ETFs

#### NewFunds MAPPS™ Growth ETF

#### NewFunds MAPPS™ Protect ETF



Annualised return	MAPPS Growth	MAPPS Protect
One year	25.09%	16.94%
Since inception	18.25%	14.25%



# Advantages of investing in MAPPS<sup>TM</sup>

- Simple access to a lifestyle strategy trough a single investment listed on the JSE and traded like a share. Before MAPPS<sup>TM</sup>, an investor wanting to access such life-stage products would pay asset management / multimanager and consulting fees.
- Traded like a share intra-day trading and pricing, full liquidity (market maker)
- <u>Transparency</u> tracks the underlying combination of component indices as its benchmark. The components are fully disclosed, in contrast to most active funds, which tend to disclose their top ten holdings only.
- Diversification and asset allocation exposure to a diversified portfolio of assets in a single transaction; portfolio rebalancing performed automatically - investors spared admin burden; optimal blends of assets for different investor types



# Advantages of investing in MAPPS<sup>TM</sup> (cont.)

- Lower costs as low as 30bps for the full solution
- Easily verifiable / fully transparent: tracking publicly traded indices; index methodology published and easily replicable – the performance of MAPPS can easily be measured against its stated index, the prices can easily be reconciled and verified
- Regulatory / investor protection
  - Issued out of a NewFunds CIS, regulated and managed in terms of the CISCA 45 of 2002 and the JSE ETF regulations
  - Actual underlying securities are physically held in trust on behalf of the investor – no derivatives exposure
- Regulation 28 compliant
  - Designed and managed according to the new Regulation 28 guidelines under the Pension Funds Act



# Why Absa's ETFs?

- Low costs average TER for our ETFs is between 0.1-0.3% per annum, compared to the average TER for SA ETFs or around 0.5% per annum
- Widest choice covering most major asset classes, allowing investors to create well diversified portfolios using only ETFs
- Easy access multiple access points through a stockbroker, through AIMS LISP platform, third-party platforms, Absa online banking
- Focus on solutions, not components we are aware that investors save for a purpose – retirement, children's education, new car. We believe that those needs can be met in a simple, cost-effective and convenient way through different multi-asset products constructed using passive investment components. Available on Absa Online.



#### How to access Absa's ETFs?

# Components Core RA

Exchange traded funds and notes

Retirement products

# Portfolios

Voluntary investment portfolios

JSE

Absa Stockbrokers or any other broker AIMS / AOL

www.absa.co.za etf.absacapital.com

Third party platforms

AOS etfSA etc.

For any information: etf.absacapital.com



#### Disclaimer

This brochure/document/material/report/communication/commentary (this commentary) has been prepared by the corporate and investment banking division of Absa Bank Limited – a registered bank in the Republic of South Africa with company registration number: 1986/004794/06 and with its registered office at: Absa Towers West, 15 Troye Street, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa (Absa). Absa is regulated by the South African Reserve Bank. Absa has issued this commentary for information purposes only and You must not regard this as a prospectus for any security or financial Product or transaction. Absa does not expressly, tacitly or by implication represent, recommend or propose that the securities and/or financial or investment Products or services (the Products) referred to in this commentary are appropriate and/or suitable for Your particular investment objectives or financial situation or needs. This commentary is not, nor is it intended to be, advice as defined and/or contemplated in Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act, 37 of 2002, (FAIS Act) or any other financial, investment, trading, tax, legal, accounting, retirement, actuarial or other professional advice or service whatsoever (advice). You have to obtain Your own advice prior to making any decision or taking any action whatsoever based hereon and Absa disclaims any liability for any direct, indirect or consequential damage or losses that You may suffer from using or relying on the information contained herein even if notified of the possibility of such damage or loss and irrespective of whether or not You have obtained independent advice. This commentary is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy any of the Products, which shall always be subject to Absa's internal approvals and a formal agreement between You and Absa. Any pricing included in this commentary is only indicative and is not binding as such on Absa. All the risks and significant issues related to or associated with the Products are not disclosed and therefore, prior to investing or transacting. You should fully understand the Products and any risks and significant issues related to or associated with them. The Products may involve a high degree of risk including, but not limited to, the risk of (a) low or no investment returns, (b) capital loss, (c) counterparty or issuer default, (d) adverse or unanticipated financial market fluctuations, (e) inflation and (f) currency exchange. The value of any Product may fluctuate daily as a result of these risks. Absa does not predict actual results, performances and/or financial returns and no assurances, warranties or guarantees are given in this regard. The indicative summaries of the Products provided herein may be amended, superseded or replaced by subsequent summaries without notice. The information, views and opinions expressed herein are compiled from or based on trade and statistical services or other third party sources believed by Absa to be reliable and are therefore provided and expressed in good faith. Absa gives no recommendation, guide, warranty, representation, undertaking or guarantee concerning the accuracy, adequacy and/or completeness of the information or any view or opinion provided or expressed herein. Any information on past financial returns, modeling or back-testing is no indication of future returns. Absa makes no representation on the reasonableness of the assumptions made within or the accuracy or completeness of any modeling or back-testing. All opinions, views and estimates are given as of the date hereof and are subject to change without notice. Absa expressly disclaims any liability for any damage or loss as a result of errors or omissions in the information, data or views contained or expressed herein even if notified of the possibility of such damage or loss. Absa does not warrant or guarantee merchantability. non-infringement of third party rights or fitness for a particular use and/or purpose. Absa, its affiliates and individuals associated with them may (in various capacities) have positions or deal in securities (or related derivative securities), financial Products or investments identical or similar to the Products. Absa intends to make this commentary available in South Africa to persons who are financial services providers as defined in the FAIS Act, as well as to other investment and financial professionals who have professional experience in financial and investment matters. You should contract and execute transactions through an Absa Bank Limited branch or affiliate in Your home jurisdiction unless local regulations permit otherwise. Absa Bank Limited is a licensed Financial Services Provider. Absa has taken no action that would permit a public offering of the Products in any jurisdiction in which action for that purpose is required. The Products shall only be offered and the offering material shall only be distributed in or from any jurisdiction in circumstances which will result in compliance with any applicable laws and regulations and which will not impose any obligation on Absa or any of its affiliates. In this commentary reference is made to various indices. The publishers and sponsors of those indices (the publishers and sponsors) do not endorse, sponsor or promote the Products and make no warranty, guarantee, representation or other assurance (express, tacit or implied) relating to the indices. The publishers and sponsors make no warranties (including merchantability and fitness for purpose). The publishers and sponsors shall not incur any liability in respect of any damage or loss that You may suffer as a result of investing in a Product even if notified of the possibility of such damage or loss. The publishers and sponsors may amend the composition or calculation of indices and have no obligation to have regard to Your or Absa's need in this regard. The information and views contained in this commentary are proprietary to Absa and are protected by copyright under the Berne Convention. In terms of the Copyright Act, 98 of 1978, as amended, no part of this commentary may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, electronic scanning, recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, without the prior permission in writing from Absa. The illegal or attempted illegal copying or use of this information or views may result in criminal or civil legal liability.

Absa Capital, a division of Absa Bank Limited, Reg. No. 1986/004794/06. Authorised Financial Services Provider. Registered Credit Provider, Reg. No. NCRCP7.

