

Peso Growth Fund

An investment fund option for variable life insurance products of **The Manufacturers Life Insurance Co., (Phils), Inc.**

Investment Objective

The Fund seeks to achieve long-term capital appreciation by investing in stocks listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange, government securities and/or pooled fund/s that invest in these securities and other liquid instruments.

Fund Information

Inception Date April 2009	Fund Size PHP 15.76 billion	Fund Currency Philippine peso	Dealing/Valuation Daily
Price (NAV/unit) PHP 2.806	Management Fee 2.25% per annum	Bloomberg Ticker MPPHGRW	

Performance Return (February 28, 2021)

Peso Growth Fund (net of management fee)	1 Month	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Inception
Absolute	2.30%	-5.49%	-3.21%	-23.35%	-4.00%	181.73%
Annualized	n.a.	n.a.	-3.21%	-8.48%	-0.81%	9.11%

Past performance is not an indication of future results. Information about the portfolio's holdings, asset allocation, or country diversification is historical and is not an indication of future portfolio composition, which will vary.

Monthly Net Asset Value per Unit



Top Five Holdings

SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION	14.46%
Manulife Equity Wealth Fund Class I	10.58%
SM PRIME HOLDINGS INC	10.03%
AYALA LAND INC	9.16%
AYALA CORPORATION	6.77%

Monthly Performance



*Market Indicator = 100% Philippine Stock Exchange Index

Portfolio Breakdown

Asset Allocation (at Market Value)



As per the fund's Investment Policy Statement, initial subscriptions are invested in fixed 100% Equity Pool. The investments of the Equity Pool consist of stocks listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange and term deposits.

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Market Review

The PSEI was up 2.8% MoM to 6,794.86 in February after posting a 7.4% MoM decline in January 2021. Most of the gains were in the earlier part of the month and was pared down by continued delayed in vaccine deliveries and steadily rising Covid-19 cases.

We continued to see foreign outflows in February with net outflow of \$193Mn. Foreign participation remained low at 26% in February, flattish compared to around 25% in January and below 40% of total market turnover last year.

In last week of February, the average daily new Covid Cases reached 2,000, around 20% higher compared to earlier part of February. Meanwhile, Metro Manila remained under General Community Quarantine in February. Initially, Metro Manila mayors were inclined to let teenagers between 15 to 17 years old to go outside their homes. However, with the recent surge in new cases, this was retracted in March. According to the government, they were considering moving Metro Manila into Modified General Community Quarantine by April if the country in light of the scheduled vaccine delivery in March. However, the move towards MGCQ is unlikely if the country is unable to curb the current surge and encounter issues on vaccine deployment.

The country's inflation rate accelerated to 4.7% last February from 4.2% in January (and 3.5% in December 2020). The uptick was mostly due to select food items such as meat which prices were elevated due to supply constraints brought by the African Swine Fever. Note that prices of vegetables and fruits were also up from last year. Meanwhile, fish prices trended higher due to the reduced supply with the end of the fishing season. Higher input prices could have a negative effect on margins especially for the consumer companies focused on food.

Outlook

Our thesis for a recovery this year remains unchanged, barring a sustained surge in COVID-19 cases. Although mobility remains restricted given that Metro Manila remains in a General Community Quarantine, the delivery and administration of vaccines could help not only curb the spread but also help further reopen more industries. Note that the PSEI is lagging its peers in the region, down 5.4% YTD while other markets such as Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia are all up in the same period.

We continue to prefer for cyclical sectors that would be beneficiaries of the economic recovery expected this year as the country continues to reopen. These include banks and property stocks, as well as consumer discretionary plays. Small cap names are also looking to be attractive once more should investors shift their preference to growth stocks as risks related to COVID dissipate.

The investment fund option for The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company's variable life insurance product is managed by Manulife Asset Management and Trust Corporation.

The Fund mentioned in this document is specific to variable life insurance contracts and is not considered a mutual fund. Yields depend on interest and foreign exchange rate levels, both of which may fluctuate. Other factors that affect yield include changes in the credit standing of the issuers and changes in the value of the stocks and dividends received. Further, investments of the Fund may provide that their values be determined based on prices or yields of other securities, instruments or foreign currencies, and such provisions may result in negative fluctuations in the value of these investments and, in turn, the Fund's yields. Thus, the performance of the separate account(s) is not guaranteed and the value of the policy could be less than the capital invested. THE VARIABLE LIFE POLICYHOLDER SHALL BEAR ALL INVESTMENT RISKS. Past performance of the Fund is not necessarily indicative of future performance. Yields are not guaranteed.

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