

HLA Venture Growth Fund (HLAVGF)

April 2021

Fund Features

1. Investment Objective

The objective of the fund is to achieve higher returns than the general stock market by investing into growth stocks which potentially generate more superior returns.

2. Investment Strategy & Approach

This fund focuses on growth stocks listed in Bursa Malaysia and/or in any foreign stock exchanges that provide potentially higher capital gains.

3. Asset Allocation

The fund may invest up to 95% of its NAV in equities.

4. Target Market

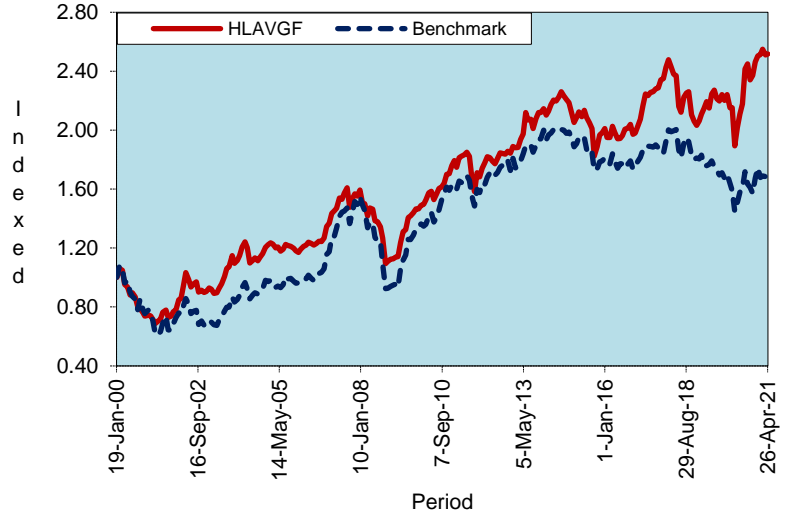
This fund is suitable for investors with moderate to high-risk appetite with a medium to long-term investment horizon.

Fund Details

Unit Price (30/4/2021)	:RM2.5168
Fund Size (30/4/2021)	:RM431.4 mil
Fund Management Fee (effective as at 01/08/2018)	: 1.39% p.a. (capped at 1.50%)
Fund Manager	:Hong Leong Assurance Berhad
Fund Category	:Equity
Fund Inception	:19 Jan 2000
Benchmark	:FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI Index (FBM KLCI)
Frequency of Unit Valuation	:Daily

The Company reserves the right to change the cap of Fund Management Fee (% p.a.) by giving the Policy Owner ninety (90) days prior written notice. The Fund Management Fee will be reviewed monthly and will be revised if the previous month end actual asset allocation deviates by more than ten percent (10%) of the initial asset allocation.

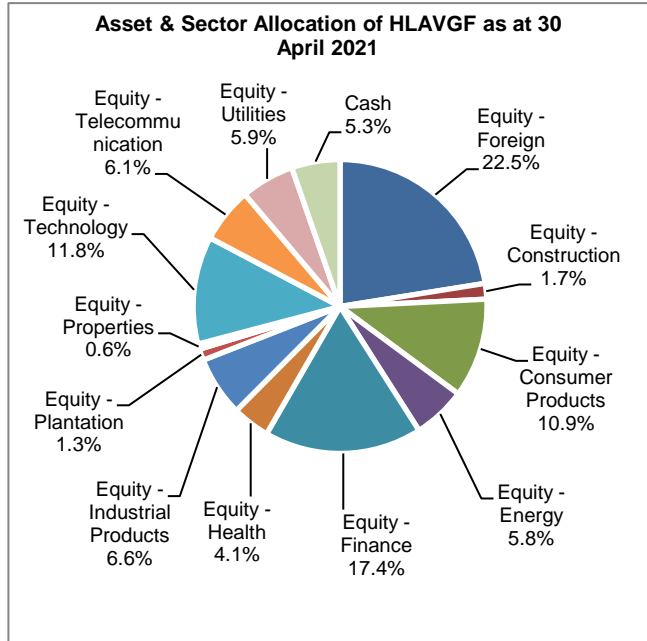
Historical Performance



	YTD	1 month	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years	Since Inception
HLAVGF	0.54%	0.27%	24.79%	6.19%	26.85%	38.05%	151.68%
Benchmark*	-1.57%	1.79%	13.77%	-14.37%	-4.25%	4.35%	71.60%
Relative	2.11%	-1.51%	11.02%	20.56%	31.10%	33.71%	80.08%

*Source: Bloomberg

Notice: Past performance of the fund is not an indication of its future performance.



Top 5 Holdings for HLA VGF as at 30 Apr 2021

	%
1. TENCENT	6.9
2. MAYBANK	6.4
3. CIMB	6.4
4. INARI	5.2
5. TENAGA	5.1
Total Top 5	30.0

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Market Review, Outlook & Strategy

In April, US led the rise in global equities as both the S&P 500 and Nasdaq hit record highs while the Asia-ex Japan markets continued to lag. The strong US market was on the back of earnings optimism and the release of economic data that indicated the recovery was on track. Some of the optimism was mitigated by concerns over President Biden's proposed tax hikes on the rich to fund spending on Social Security and a US\$2.3trn infrastructure spending plan. During the month, global number of Covid 19 daily cases again reached record highs following the surge in infections in India with a new strain. Vaccine rollouts continued to gain momentum in the US and UK while the EU and emerging markets continued to lag. The Fed Chair also maintained that the committee will not act pre-emptively and is unlikely to pull back from their policies until substantial progress towards employment and inflation has been made. Rates are likely to be maintained for the whole of 2021 with potential taper discussions happening only in late 2021 or early 2022. The 10-year US Treasury yield fell 7bps to 1.63% but is expected to resume the uptrend eventually as the global recovery gains traction. In China, there has been more regulatory oversight and noise on the Chinese tech names which have caused the stocks to underperform the market. The combination of tech regulation and fines, share sale/ fund raising and tightening liquidity in China would continue to pose a near-term overhang for the sector.

Domestically in April, the reopening plays took a breather while glove stocks enjoyed a revival. The overall market was lacklustre as the sharp rise in Covid 19 cases coupled with Malaysia's slow dispensation of vaccines have resulted in the government reverting to a tighter lockdown mode (from CMCO to MCO). Top Glove's share price was boosted when it announced that it had resolved its 11 indicators of forced labour which was verified by independent consultant Impactt. The telco sector also saw interest during the month backed by the Celcom-Digi merger talk. Sentiment for construction was lifted on the back of the approval of the MRT3 project in the Klang Valley.

Retailers were net buyers at +RM0.6bn (USD146m) whilst local institutions turned small net buyers at +RM0.1bn (USD24m). Foreign institutions were net sellers at -RM1.1bn (USD268m). Retailers and local institutions accounted for 36.7% and 27.5% of the value traded while foreign institutions accounted for the remaining 15.1%. For the month, the best performing index was the FBM Shariah index which appreciated by 3.3% mom. FBM KLCI increased by 1.8% mom to close at 1,601.65 points. FBMSC and FBM Emas were up by 2.7% mom and 1.6% mom respectively.

Regionally, investors are likely to be following closely the pace of vaccination in the developed markets and the progress of reopening particularly in the US and UK. Bond yields are likely to continue fluctuating while threat of inflation continues to be real given the supply side disruption. Domestically, key events to follow in May are the Monetary Policy Committee meeting where rates are expected to remain status quo, release of 1Q21 GDP numbers for Malaysia and also Jan-Mar quarter's results reporting. Market participants will also be following closely the Covid-19 daily infection curve which has spiked up following the relaxation and reopening of schools. The reimposition of a new round of MCO 3.0 would further delay the return to normalcy and potential economic recovery. As such, markets will remain volatile. We maintain our barbell strategy by investing in both the value and growth sectors, with focus still on the recovery/ reopening theme, reflation beneficiaries and 5G/ technology names..

Over the near term, movement in the UST would likely be influenced by policy measures coupled with relevant economic indicators. Biden's proposed tax bill which aims to double the capital gains tax to 39% for individuals earning north of USD1 million could put pressure on the equity market which would induce risk-off sentiments. The president also unveiled his latest stimulus bill of USD1.8 trillion for education and childcare which could result in an increase in public debt issuance to fund said proposal.

On the domestic front, all eyes will be on the MPC in early May. Close attention will also be directed towards daily infection rates which has been spiking past the 3,000 level as of late. This has resulted in a new movement control order ("MCO") to arrest the high case numbers. Additionally, progress on the nation's vaccination programme will also be monitored to gauge the feasibility of the December 2021 immunisation target. We expect risk off sentiment to kick in with MCO 3.0 and that would provide good opportunity for the fund to take profit and rebalance its position for the second half of the year.

Actual Annual Investment Returns for the Past Ten (10) Calendar Years

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Benchmark	0.8%	10.3%	10.5%	-5.7%	-3.9%	-3.0%	9.5%	-5.9%	-6.0%	2.4%
HLAVGF- Gross	0.5%	10.7%	16.3%	-3.2%	-0.6%	-0.1%	26.0%	-16.1%	12.8%	14.2%
HLAVGF - Net	-0.9%	8.5%	13.6%	-4.4%	-1.9%	-1.5%	22.5%	-16.2%	10.3%	11.7%

Net returns are adjusted for tax and fund management fees.

Those are the actual returns in the past ten (10) years, or since inception if shorter, and are strictly the performance of the investment-linked fund. Thus, the returns are not earned on the actual premium paid of the investment-linked product.

Notice: Past performance of the fund is not an indication of its future performance

Investment Risks

All investments carry risks. Policy Owners must be prepared to accept certain degree of risk associated with this Investment. The following are the non-exhaustive list of risks associated to this fund.

1. Market Risk

Market risk stems from the fact that there are other economy-wide perils, which threaten all businesses. It is mainly caused by uncertainties in the economy, political and social environment.

2. Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the fund invested cannot be readily sold and converted into cash. This may arise when the trading volume is low and/or where there is a lack of demand for the security.

3. Credit Risk

This refers to the possibility that the issuer of a security will not be able to make timely payments of interest or principal repayment on the maturity date. The default may lead to a fall in the value of the funds.

4. Interest Rate Risk

The level of interest rates has an impact on the value of investments. Any increase in rates will lead to a fall in the value of securities, thus affecting the value of the funds.

5. Country Risk

The foreign investment of a fund may be affected by the political & economic conditions of the country which the investments are made.

6. Currency Risk

This risk is associated with investments that are denominated in foreign currencies. Fluctuation in foreign exchange rates will have an impact on the value of the funds.

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Risk Management

The company has in place its Authorized Investment Framework which forms part of the Risk Management process. The authority framework covers the nature and scope of the investment authority that is exercisable by various parties in managing the Company's investments. The potential investment risks that are taken into consideration in managing the fund include economic conditions, liquidity, qualitative and quantitative aspects of the securities. The investment manager(s) have put in place the following controls to reduce the risks through:

- a) having a flexible tactical asset allocation
- b) investing in a wide range of companies across different sectors
- c) setting prudent investment limits on various exposures
- d) taking into account the liquidity factor in selecting securities
- e) engaging in the hedging of foreign currency exposure where appropriate

Basis of Unit Valuation

1. The assets of every fund are to be valued to determine the value at which units of a particular fund can be liquidated or purchased for investment purposes.
2. The unit price of a unit of a fund shall be determined by the Company but in any event shall not be less than the value of fund of the relevant fund (as defined below), divided by the number of units of the given fund in issue on the business day before the valuation date, and the result adjusted to the nearest one hundredth of a cent.
3. The maximum value of any asset of any fund shall not exceed the following price:
 - a) The last transacted market price at which those assets could be purchased or sold on the business day before the valuation date; or
 - b) In the case of securities for which market values are not readily available, the price at which, in our Investment Manager's opinion, the asset may have been purchased on the business day before the valuation date; plus any expenses which would have been incurred in its acquisition.
4. To ensure fair treatment to all unit holders, the cost of acquiring and disposing of assets is recouped by making a transaction cost adjustment to the net asset value per unit.

Exceptional Circumstances

The Company reserves the right to defer the payment of benefits (other than death benefit) under this Policy for a period not exceeding six (6) months from the date the payment would have been normally effected if not for intervening events such as temporary closure of any Stock Exchange in which the fund is invested which the Company, in its discretion, may consider exceptional.

Basis of Calculation of Past Performance

The historical performance of the fund is calculated based on the price difference over the period in consideration compared to the older price of the period in consideration.

$$\frac{\text{Unit Price}_t - \text{Unit Price}_{t-1}}{\text{Unit Price}_{t-1}}$$

Others

HLA Venture Growth Fund is managed by Hong Leong Assurance Berhad (HLA). Any amount invested in this fund is invested by HLA on behalf of Policy Owner in equity, fixed income, collective investment scheme, foreign asset, derivatives and money market instrument/s. If the financial institutions and/or corporations issuing the equity, fixed income, collective investment scheme, foreign asset, derivatives and money market instruments defaults or insolvent, the Policy Owner risks losing part or all of his/her amount that were invested into the instruments on his/her behalf by HLA.

THIS IS AN INSURANCE PRODUCT THAT IS TIED TO THE PERFORMANCE OF THE UNDERLYING ASSETS, AND IS NOT A PURE INVESTMENT PRODUCT SUCH AS UNIT TRUSTS.

Disclaimer:

Policy Owner must evaluate your options carefully and satisfy yourself that the investment-linked fund chosen meets your risk appetite. Past performance of the fund is not an indication of its future performance. The intention of this document is to enable Policy Owner to better understand the fund features and details in order to assist Policy Owner to making an informed decision. This document shall not be construed as professional advice on investment choices.