

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Manulife Philippines Celebrates Peso Smart Graduation, Empowering Young Learners with Financial Literacy

BACOLOD, Philippines – Manulife Philippines, the local arm of international financial services provider Manulife, in partnership with the Corazon S. Atayde Memorial Foundation (CSAMF), celebrated the graduation of scholars at the Peso Smart Graduation and Fair in Catabla Baybay Elementary School (CBES) in Talisay City, Bacolod.

Across Asia—especially in the Philippines—nearly 40% of adults face financial insecurity in later life. Building wealth early, managing it wisely, and drawing it down sustainably are essential to long-term quality of life. Peso Smart brings this belief to life through Manulife Philippines' financial education program, equipping young learners with practical money skills and the confidence to navigate an increasingly long and complex financial future. Since its launch in 2017, Peso Smart has reached 4,000 learners across 18 public elementary schools nationwide.

The Peso Smart Graduation and Fair recognized 50 students from Grades 5 and 6 who completed Manulife's award-winning financial literacy program, designed to support youth and underserved communities with essential financial knowledge and skills. The event also included interactive booths, games centered around real-world financial concepts, and career awareness activities, with the aim of reinforcing the learnings from the program.

"We are proud to celebrate our Peso Smart graduates who have shown remarkable progress in their financial learning journey. We're happy to see their enthusiasm in building sound money management skills, even at this early age," said **Sonali Verma, Chief Marketing Officer, Manulife Philippines**.

Verma added, "Financial literacy is a lifelong advantage, and by nurturing it now, we help young Filipinos build the confidence to make informed decisions about their future. Aligned with the Manulife Impact Agenda, we are committed to supporting financial resilience by expanding access to financial education and guiding the next generation toward lasting financial empowerment."

Present at the graduation were: **Hon. Atty. Rowena Lizares, Mayor of the City of Talisay; Department of Education (DepEd) Schools Division Superintendents Gladys Amylaine Sales (Division of Negros Occidental) and Jen-Ann V. Rosal (Division of Talisay City); and Candy Suarez, Chief Risk Officer, Manulife Philippines**. Principals and teachers who led the Peso Smart program in their respective schools also attended, underscoring the shared commitment across the public, educational, and private sectors to invest in youth development and financial empowerment.



About Manulife Peso Smart

Peso Smart is Manulife Philippines' award-winning financial literacy program, advancing its mission to drive inclusive economic opportunities. It is delivered in collaboration with community investment partner CSAMF, a non-profit organization that seeks to eradicate illiteracy and create learning opportunities for underserved communities.

The program supports DepEd's initiatives to strengthen financial education within the K-12 curriculum, equipping elementary students with money management skills through age-appropriate lessons on saving, budgeting, and responsible decision-making. The initiative also provides early exposure to career pathways, helping young learners connect financial concepts with future aspirations.

For more information about Manulife's Peso Smart and other Impact Agenda initiatives, visit manulife.com.ph.

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About Manulife Philippines

The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company opened its doors for business in the Philippines in 1907. Since then, Manulife's Philippine Branch and later The Manufacturers Life Insurance Co. (Phils.), Inc. (Manulife Philippines) has grown to become one of the country's leading life insurance companies. Manulife Philippines is a wholly owned domestic subsidiary of Manulife Financial Corporation, among the world's largest life insurance companies by market capitalization. Learn more about Manulife Philippines by visiting their website manulife.com.ph and following them on Facebook (facebook.com/ManulifePH), Instagram (@manulifePH), and LinkedIn (Manulife Philippines).

About Manulife

Manulife Financial Corporation is a leading international financial services provider, helping our customers make their decisions easier and lives better. With our global headquarters in Toronto, Canada, we operate as Manulife across Canada, Asia, and Europe, and primarily as John Hancock in the United States, providing financial advice and insurance for individuals, groups and businesses. Through Manulife Wealth & Asset Management, we offer global investment, financial advice, and retirement plan services to individuals, institutions, and retirement plan members worldwide. At the end of 2024, we had more than 37,000 employees, over 109,000 agents, and thousands of distribution partners, serving over 36 million customers. We trade as 'MFC' on the Toronto, New York, and the Philippine stock exchanges, and under '945' in Hong Kong.

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