# MARKET WATCH

BY DINA EL BEHIRY

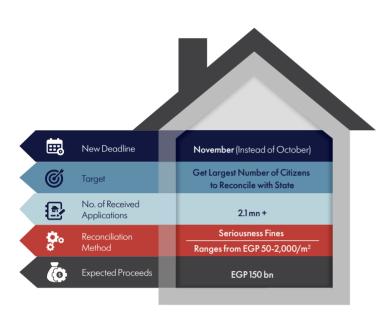


## MARKET WATCH



## PROPERTY MARKET UPDATES

### EXTENSION FOR RECONCILIATION IN BUILDING VIOLATIONS



#### ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PROJECTS



### INAUGURATION OF KING SALMAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (KSIU)

Location	•	Sharm El Sheikh	
Inauguration Date	•	Before November	
Inaugurated by	•	President Abdel Fattah El Sisi & Prince Fahd bin Sultan	
Branches	•	<b>3</b> Tur Sinai, Ras Sudr & Sharm El Sheikh	
No. of Faculties	•	10+	
No. of Students	•	30,000	
Total Investments	•	eGP 14 bn	
Target	•	Cooperation Between Egypt & KSA	
	•	Sinai Development	

#### EXPORTS OF BUILDING MATERIALS (USD BN)



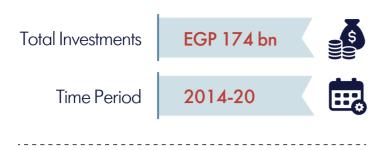
#### CAIRO'S POPULATION HIKE



Sources: Cabinet, Ministry of Housing, Utilities & Urban Communities, Spokesman of Egyptian Presidency, Export Council for Building Materials, Refractory and Metallurgy Industries (ECBM) & HSBC's Report.

2

#### EGYPT'S POTABLE WATER & SANITATION SECTOR

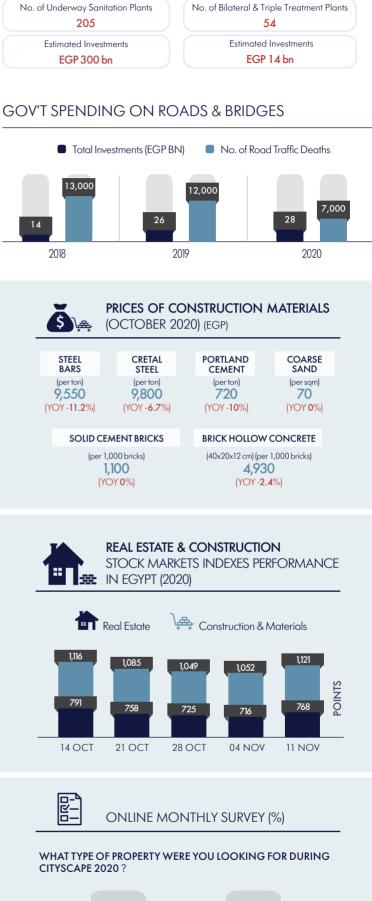


DRINKING WATER & SEWERAGE TREATMENT PROJECTS

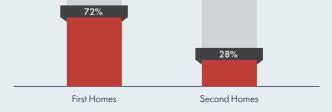


REPLACEMENT & RENEWAL PROJECTS





FY 2020/21 PLAN



Sources: Ministry of Housing, Utilities & Urban Communities, Ministry of Planning & Economic Development (MPED), Egyptian Exchange (EGX) & Invest-Gate R&A.

## **NEW CITIES UPDATE**

#### NUCA ALLOCATES MIXED-USE PLOTS

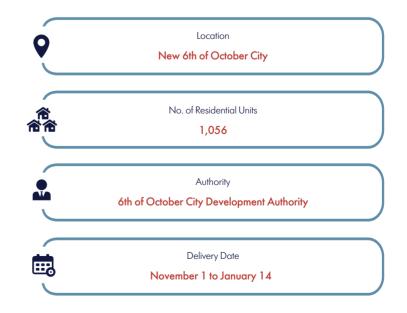


#### LAND DELIVERY

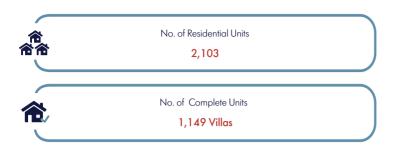


Source: Ministry of Housing, Utilities & Urban Communities & NUCA.

#### SAKAN MISR (PHASE II)



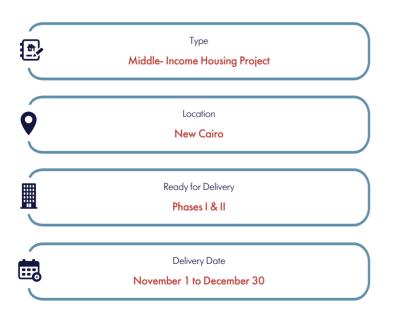
#### UPDATES ON NEW MANSOURA



#### OFFERING OF NEW SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS



#### DELIVERY OF SAKAN MISR'S NEW BATCH



#### IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS



#### ADMINISTRATIVE ATTACHÉ OF ARAB NATIONS LEAGUE

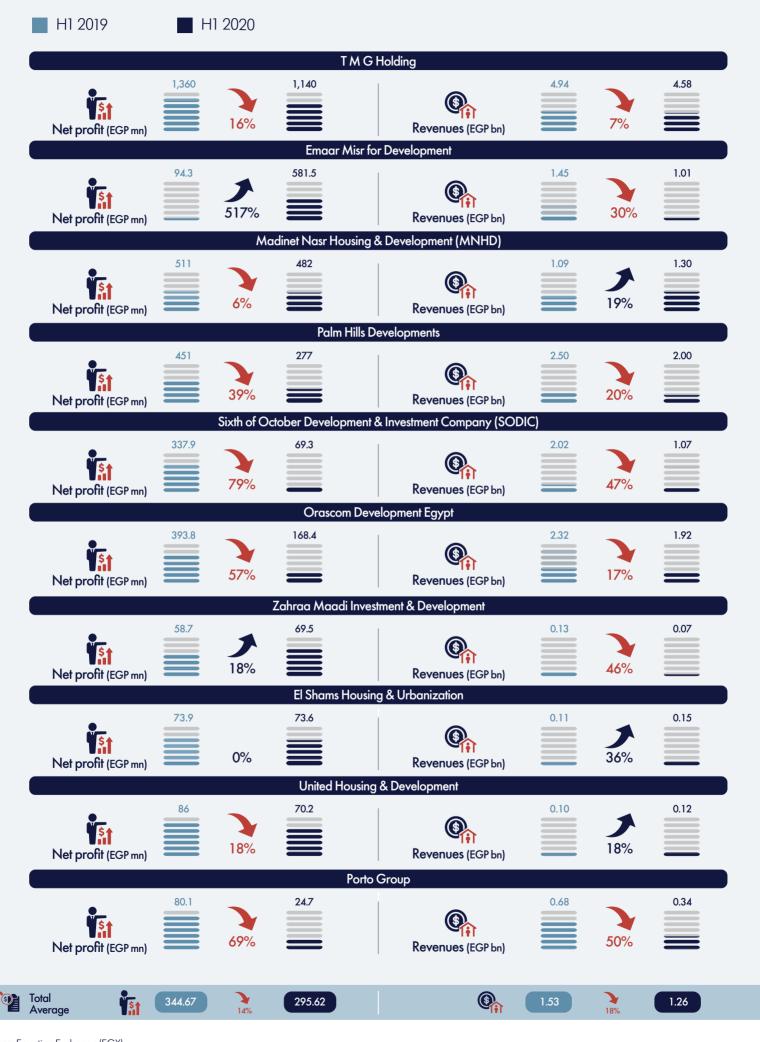


#### SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT



Source: Ministry of Housing, Utilities & Urban Communities, NUCA, Social Housing and Mortgage Finance Fund (SHMFF) & New Damietta City Development Authority.

## DEVELOPERS FINANCIAL STATUS (H1 2020 VS H1 2019)



## PRIVATE REAL ESTATE PROJECTS UPDATE



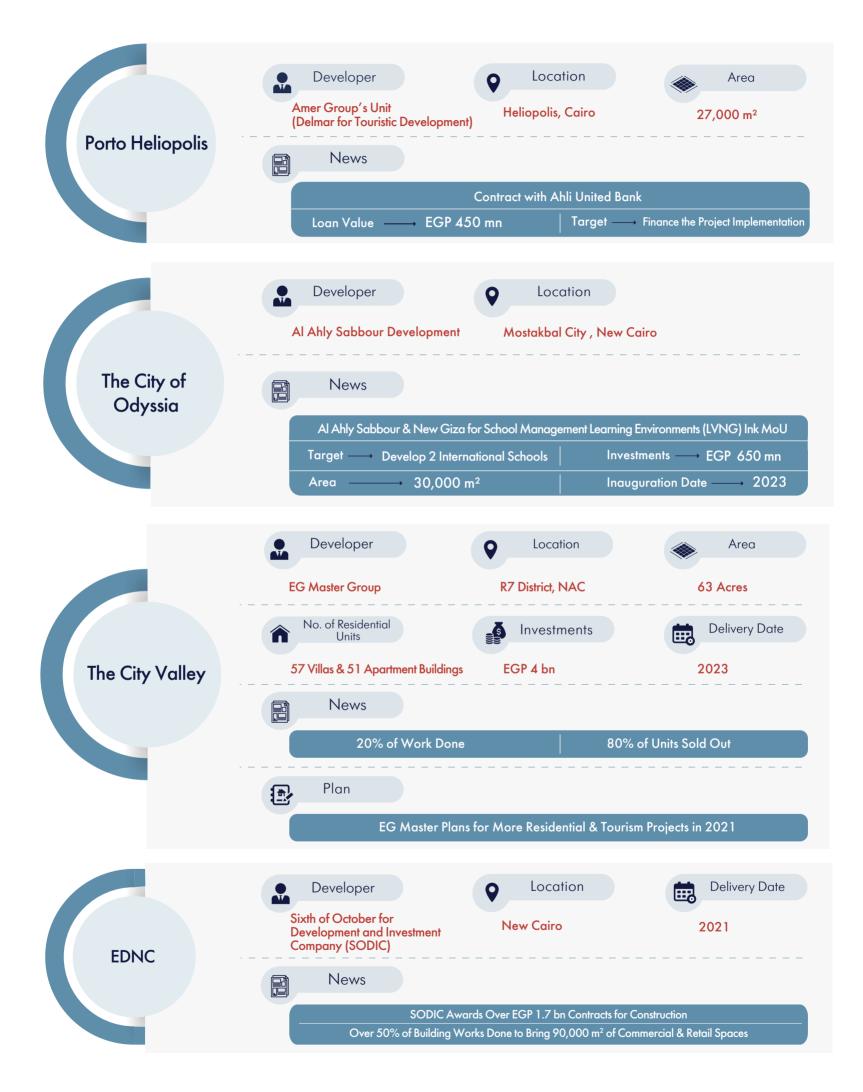




Source: Developers' Official Statements

The Curve	New Deals Sealed v	Location R8 District, NAC   Obtains Ministerial Approval   vith Contracting & Building Mate   Works To Commence on-Site Before	
Beta Greens	Developer Beta Egypt for Urban Development No. of Residential Units 730 News 65% of Work Done Phase I Set for Delivery in Q2 2 Relea Supply Volume of Family Villa 1 Ground Floor	2021   Last Phase ase of New "Family Villa" Phase	Area 25 Acres 25 Acres Delivery Date 2023
Downtown Azha		♦ Location Ain Sokhna nternational for Project Designs, nvestments → EGP 2 bn	Part of Azha Compound

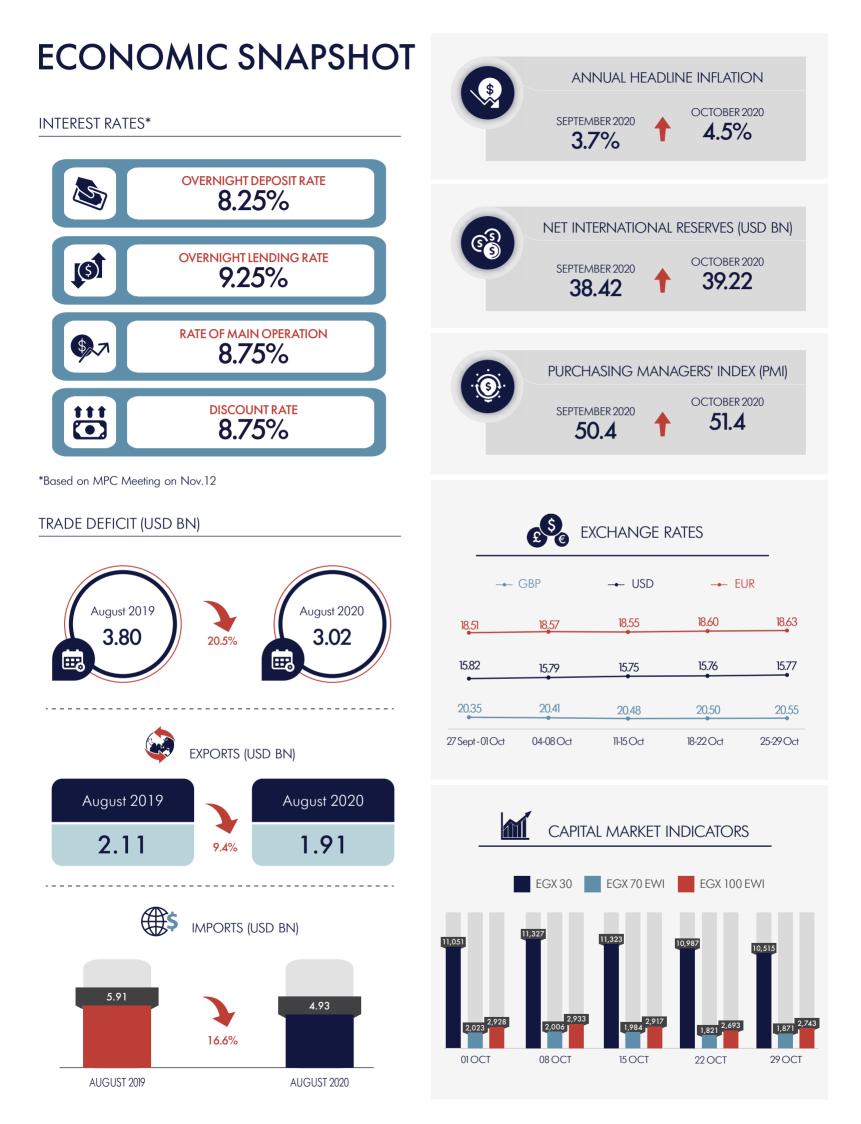
Source: Developers' Official Statements



Source: Developers' Official Statements



Source: Developers' Official Statements



Source: Central Bank of Egypt (CBE), Central Agency for Public Mobilization & Statistics (CAPMAS), IHS Markit & EGX.

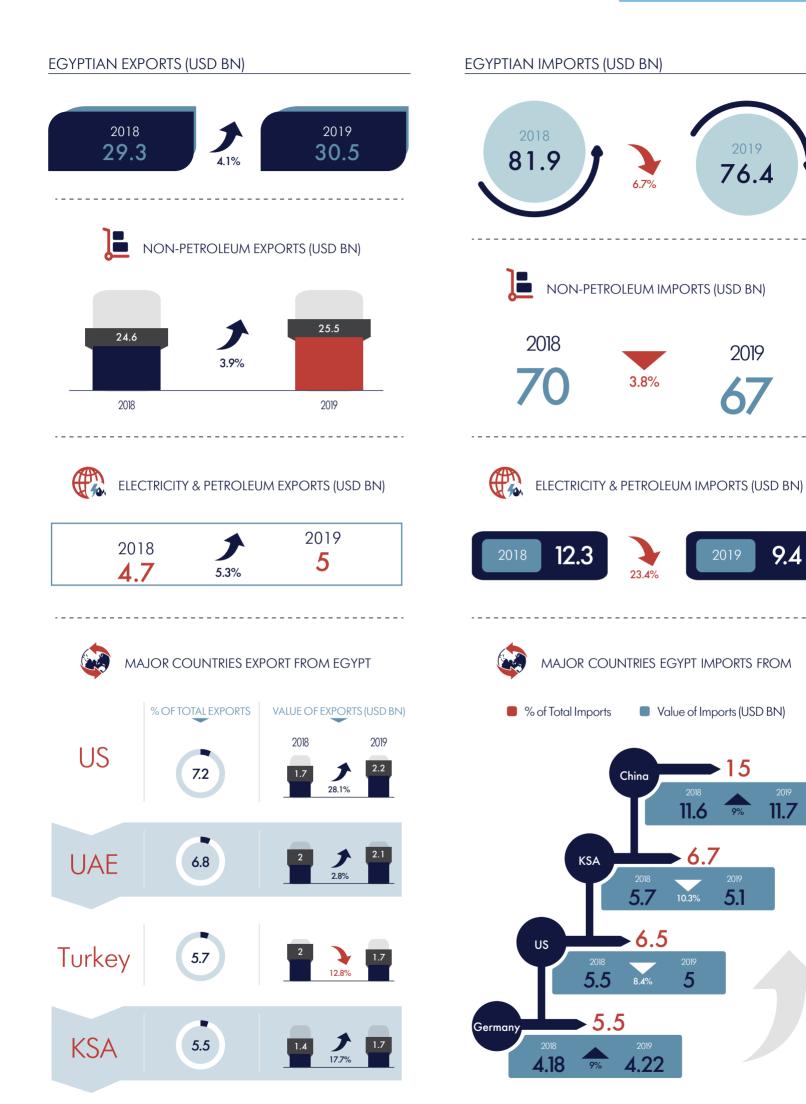
2019

76.4

2019

9.4

11.7



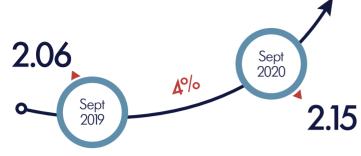
#### Source: CAPMAS.

- THE VOICE OF REAL ESTATE 13

▶15

5.1

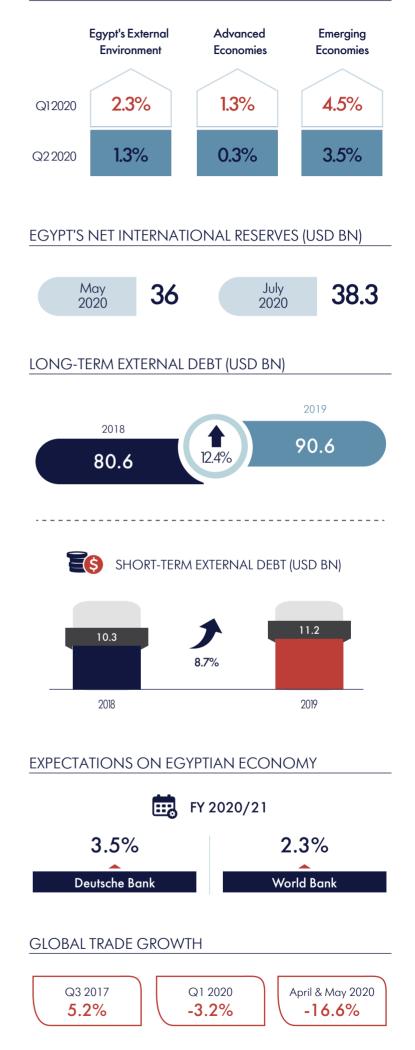




#### CONTRACTION IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

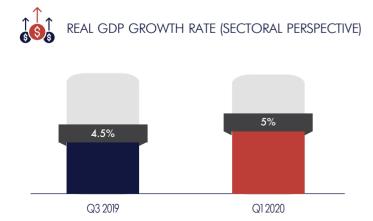
	Q4 2019	Q12020
Egypt's External Environment	2.1%	-2.2%
Advanced Economies	1.2%	-2.3%
Emerging Economies	4.1%	-2%

#### ANNUAL HEADLINE INFLATION



EGYPT'S REAL GDP GROWTH RATE





Source: General Organization for Export & Import Control (GOEIC), CBE, World Bank & Ministry of Planning & Economic Development (MPED).

## FULL ANALYSIS **FACTS** & FIGURES

## EGYPT'S PROPERTY MARKET RALLIES & LIFTS RECOVERY HOPES

BY DINA EL BEHIRY

As the year-end approaches, it is essential to put the spotlight on various government-related activities and efforts, in an attempt to support the flattering recovery plans and set the balls alight to mark the new year.

One positive spillover is extending the deadline for reconciliation in building violations to November-end, instead of October. This move aims at allowing the largest number of citizens to reconcile with the state. So far, over 2.1 mn requests were submitted to the government, indicating public keenness to abide by regulations. According to Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly, reconciliations will bankroll the public treasury with around EGP 150 bn.

In parallel, the government spares no effort to construct new development projects in line with the strategic plans for urban development. Minister of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities Assem El Gazzar has earlier unveiled the execution of 40 different service and development projects in South Sinai by the Central Agency for Reconstruction, at a total cost of almost EGP 1.7 bn, aiming to improve the livelihood of the city's inhabitants.

Looking at the educational component, President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi has inaugurated the King Salman International University (KSIU) in Sharm El Sheikh, in the attendance of Prince Fahd bin Sultan. Coming with investments worth EGP 14 bn, KSIU is a nonprofit university that includes more than 10 faculties, with a capacity of 30,000 students. It has three branches in Sharm El Sheikh, Al Tur, and Ras Sudr, marking the fruitful cooperation between Egypt and Saudi Arabia, on top of a novel approach to the Sinai Peninsula development.

Meanwhile, the country's potable water and sanitation sector saw almost EGP 174 bn worth of investments pumped throughout the last six years. From 2014 to date, 1,131 drinking water and sewerage treatment projects have been implemented across various cities and rural areas, at a total cost of EGP 124 bn, providing a full capacity of 10,793 cubic meters of clean water per day and serving more than 45 mn people nationwide, El Gazzar confirmed.

According to the minister, this is besides undertaking 5,792 replacement and renewal developments nationwide, with combined EGP 9 bn costs. He also pointed to installing 176,424 house connections to piped water, at a total cost of EGP 600 mn, amongst other industry-related projects, adding that the country produces a total of 33.6 mn cubic meters of potable water in total per day.

The news came on the sidelines of the presidential opening of several national projects in Alexandria, when FI Gazzar revealed work on 205 sanitation plants across multiple rural areas, with investments estimated at EGP 300 bn. Moreover, he indicated the execution of 54 bilateral and triple treatment plants in Upper Egypt, at a total cost of EGP 14 bn, all coming as part of the state FY 2020/21 plan.

During his keynote speech, the minister also uncovered the Egyptian government's 2020-2050 strategic plan, which stipulates the allocation of merely EGP 134.2 bn for the potable water and sanitation sector, paired with plans for almost EGP 30.4 bn in spending for the same industry during the next five years.

With an eye on developing the country's infrastructure network, Minister of Planning and Economic Development Hala El Saeed formerly stated that Egypt's tendency to increase spending on roads and bridges for the past two years contributed to lowering the number of deaths due to road accidents in 2020.

El Saeed stressed that investment in establishing and maintaining roads and bridges for the past four years is evident. She explained that public investments on roads and bridges are estimated at EGP 14 bn in 2018, thereby rising to EGP 26 bn in the year after to reach almost EGP 28 bn in 2020. Road accident deaths dropped 5% in FY 2018/19 and, most importantly, decreased by 44% in FY 2019/20.

In the same vein, Egypt is currently implementing phase III of the National Roads Project, with costs estimated at EGP 35 bn, including the construction of 17 projects that extend a total length of 1,300 kilometers, Transport Minister Kamel El Wazir announced last July.

The government is also paying a great deal of attention to new cities' development. Recently, the New Urban Communities Authority (NUCA) has approved the allocation of 53 mixed-use plots in 22 new cities. These lands will comprise various integrated urban projects, including schools, factories, hotels, hospitals, shopping malls, office spaces, recreational/tourism projects, among others, reflecting the state's commitment to ensure sustainable urban planning and design.

The breakdown of plots is 12 parcels in New Cairo and four others in each of Sadat City and Badr City, separately. That is in addition to three others in each of the 6th of October City, Obour City, New Nubaria, New Borg El Arab, New Assiut, and New Sohag.

Further, each of the New Administrative Capital (NAC), Shorouk City, 10th of Ramadan City, 15th of May City, West Assiut's Nasser City, New Obour, New Alamein, New Salhia, New Qena, New Fayoum, New Minya, and New Beni Suef will see the allotment of one single plot, Minister of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities Assem El Gazzar confirmed.

On a similar note, the New Obour City Development Authority has announced the handover of several land plots, such as the "most distinguished" social housing plots and Beit El Watan plots from November 11 to December 17.

As for the implementation of new residences, Madbouly has followed up on work on 250,000 new social housing units, as part of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi's initiative, called "Housing for all Egyptians," which aims to provide decent housing for every citizen.

Earlier, El Gazzar affirmed the reservation of the first 125,000 homes across Badr City, Capital Gardens, October Gardens, New October, New Obour, Sadat, New Sohag, New Aswan, New Minya, New Qena, and 10<sup>th</sup> of Ramadan City. Unit areas range between 75 and 90 square meters, directed explicitly to applicants whose income does not exceed FGP 6 000

More than that, the minister noted that 29,496 housing units (1,194 buildings) are complete as part of the social housing project in NAC, located in the Capital Gardens district. He highlighted that the implementation rate for ongoing ones on-site is 47%, although the target rate was to hit 34% by now.

Along the same lines, NUCA is working on delivering some social housing units. New Cairo will witness the handover of a new batch of the Sakan Misr middle-income project's first and second phases from November 1 to December 30. Better yet, from November 11 to January 14, 2021, the New 6<sup>th</sup> of October Development Authority will deliver 1,056 Sakan Misr units as part of the middle-income housing project's phase II.

#### Private Sector Promises Not to Fall

Over nine months into the pandemic, Egypt's private real estate developers still prove resilient in the face of the Coronavirus woes, taking the plunge to timely finalize planned development projects across the various newly-introduced cities.

Beta Egypt for Urban Development, for example, plans to hand over the first phase of its Beta Greens New Cairo project, located in east Cairo's Mostakbal City, during the second quarter of 2021. Work on Beta Greens New Cairo is 65% done, in an attempt for full delivery by 2023, or one year ahead of the scheduled deadline.

EG Master Developments has also finalized 20% of work on its first gated community in NAC, called "The City Valley," after selling 80% of total units. The EGP 4 bn compound will incorporate 57 villas and 51 apartment buildings. Beyond that, Sixth of October for Development and Investment Company (SODIC) has unveiled plans to deliver its newest commercial project in New Cairo, dubbed "EDNC," in the coming year, after awarding over EGP 1.7 bn contracts for construction.

On another note, Madaar Developments has appointed international architecture firm Benoy International to design the Downtown Azha project in Ain Sokhna. Downtown Azha is the commercial component of the 1.6-mn-square-meter Azha, Madaar's flagship waterfront development on the Red Sea coast. Likewise, IGI Real Estate has awarded an EGP 60 mn contract for LMS Construction to carry out building work of phase I of the latter Egypt-based developer's integrated urban development in west Cairo, named "Ashgar City."

Many developers are pursuing impressive progress on their recentlyreleased projects. Case in point: Cornerstone Development has created a buzz around its first home project in NAC, dubbed "The Curve," after sealing contracts with first-rate contracting and building materials companies to carry out on-site construction. Similarly, ARDIC for Real Estate Development and Investments has rolled out a new



phase of its Mostakbal City flagship project, or "Zizinia El Mostakbal," with phase I, which incorporates 800 residential units, scheduled for delivery in June 2022. In contrast, the entire compound is planned for completion by 2023.

A few others, in tandem, are further expanding by introducing brandnew ventures to the market. For instance, Taj Misr Developments has launched a 23-acre mixed-use development in NAC. With construction set for completion in three years, "DE JOYA 1" will encompass 32 residential buildings, alongside a 15,000-squaremeter shopping mall.

Besides, ARDIC for Real Estate Development and Investments has rolled out a new phase of its Mostakbal City, named "Zizinia El Mostakbal." Meanwhile, the project's phase I, which incorporates 800 residential units, is set for delivery in June 2022, while the entire project is planned for completion by 2023.

As for new commercial projects, EG Master Developments is currently undertaking a 3,000-square-meter commercial project in NAC, with investments estimated at EGP 1 bn. Encompassing 72 units, "Asgard Mall" will be finalized within 18 months.

Moreover, IC Group has announced plans to launch an EGP 900 mn mixed-use complex in NAC, called "the office." The 8,200-squaremeter project will offer 270 office spaces fully equipped with integrated services and suite offices, along with an array of commercial and medical units.

Taj Misr also intends to roll out a 6,500-square-meter commercial center in NAC's Downtown District. Coming at a total cost of EGP 1 bn, "Ezdan" will comprise merely 200 properties, with work due to commence in 2021.

Despite the global recession that followed the COVID-19 shock, some international and regional giants still see the North African country as the ultimate investment destination. UAE-based business conglomerate AI Habtoor Group (AHG), for example, will set foot in Egypt after the inauguration of its first-ever Cairo office by yearend. The new headquarters, located in the Heliopolis area, will act as a liaison unit between Egypt and AHG's Emirati and international operations.

#### **Economic Snapshot**

Even though it may look like Egypt is battling to contain the COVIDinduced slump, the North African country seems to be winning the fight and adapting to the current severe, challenging market conditions. With intense efforts showing some promising results, net international reserves rose for the fifth consecutive month, hitting USD 39.22 bn (EGP 611.8 bn) in October, up from USD 38.42 bn (EGP 599.3 bn) in the previous month. On the other hand, the annual inflation rate increased to 4.5% last month, up from 3.7% in September. That is the highest rate reached since July's 4.2%, owing to the new academic year's postponement, as the education sector witnessed a monthly gain of 29.7%, in addition to a 56.6% MoM uptick in the high school segment.

Speaking of the non-oil business activity, according to IHS Markit, economic conditions relieved a sigh, as the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) reached 51.4 in October, up from 50.4 a month earlier. That means that the non-oil economy sees a modest turnaround after the devastating impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. However, according to the report, companies should exert more effort to shrink the gap between pre- and post-pandemic levels.

In a bid to further reinforce the economy, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided on its meeting on November 12 to lower the overnight deposit rate, overnight lending rate, and the rate of the main operation by 50 basis points to 8.25%, 9.25%, and 8.75%, respectively. Fifty basis points also cut the discount rate to 8.75%.

Correspondingly, the trade deficit shrank by 20.5% last August to hit USD 3.02 bn (EGP 47.1 bn), compared to the year-ago period. Such a drop is attributed to exports going down 9.4% YoY in August, whereas imports were decelerating 16.6% YoY.

When rewinding to 2019, Egypt's exports grew 4.1% to reach USD 30.5 bn (EGP 475.7 bn) versus USD 29.3 bn (EGP 457 bn) a year earlier. This increase owes to a 3.9% rise in non-petroleum exports, paired with a 5.3% upsurge in electricity and petroleum exports. It is worth highlighting that the US ranks first when it comes to significant trading from Egypt, representing 7.2% of its total exports.

On the other hand, imports declined 6.7% to register USD 76.4 bn (EGP 1.2 trn) in 2019, down from USD 81.9 bn (EGP 1.3 trn) in the prior year. This shrink's main reason is a 3.8% decrease in non-petroleum imports, on top of another 23.4% drop in electricity and petroleum imports. China marks the biggest recipient for standing first in place with 15% of total Egyptian imports.

More indicators have been released by the MPC, with a cut off date for data on August 13. According to the report, there is a contraction in the global economic activity, with both trade growth and inflation rates descending. However, the World Bank and Deutsche Bank assume Egypt to achieve positive economic growth of 2.3% and 3.5%, respectively, in FY 2020/21.

Based on the aforementioned indicators and briefings, and despite all the odds wrought by the COVID-19 havoc, Invest-Gate concludes that Egypt is proceeding on the right track to combat the continuing outbreak, revive the local economy, and reposition the North African country on the global investment map.



#### www.invest-gate.me/reports

Copyright © Invest-Gate 2020 All rights reserved