INVESTIGATE RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

MARKET WARCH

BY DINA EL BEHIRY



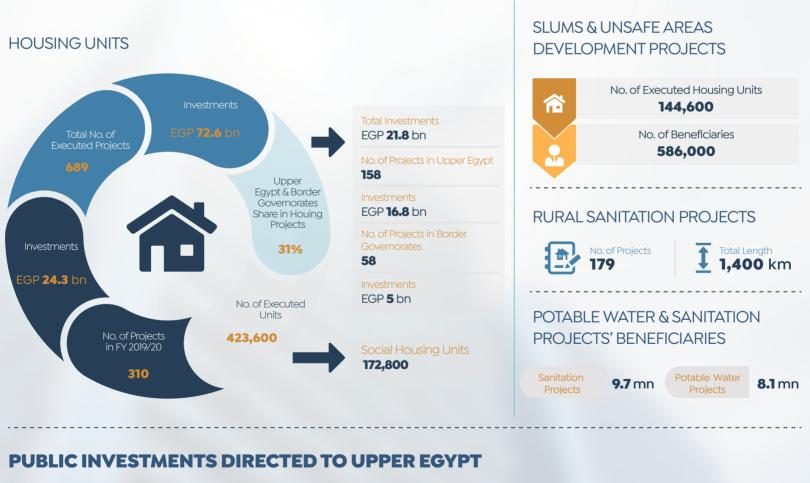
GOVT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN PROPERTY MARKET

GOV'T ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN PROPERTY MARKET

GOV'T ACHIEVEMENTS IN HOUSING SECTOR

Time Period FY 2018/19-2019/20

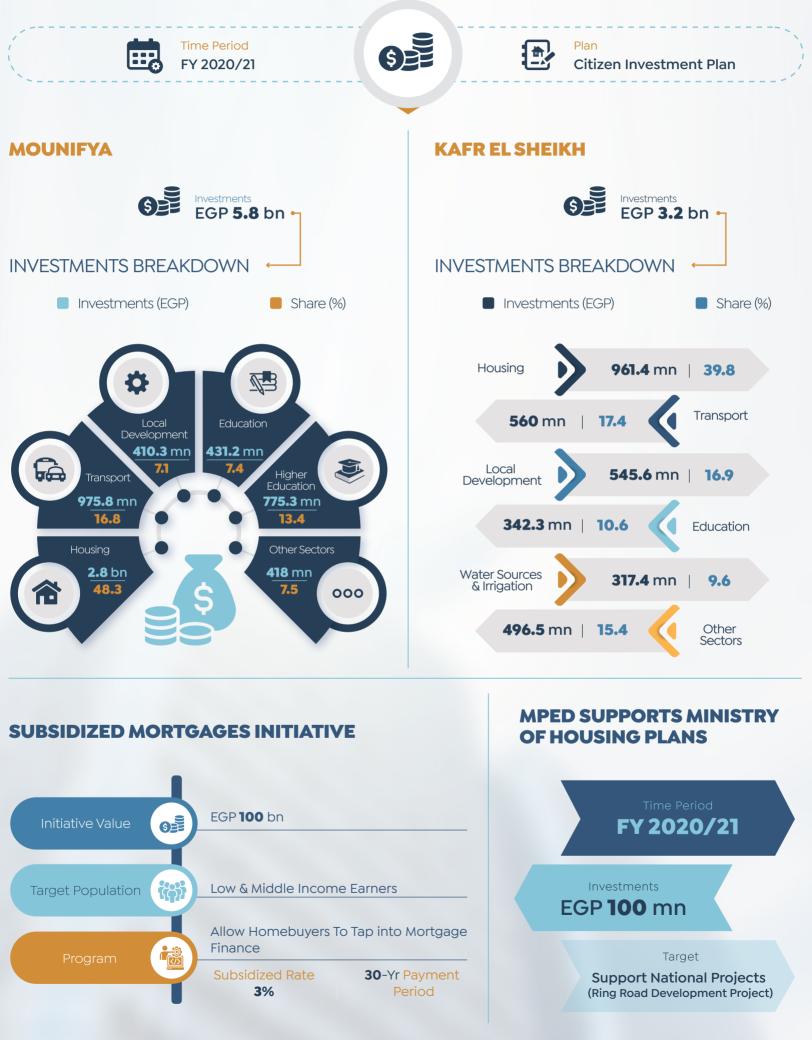






Source: Ministry of Planning & Economic Development (MPED).

PUBLIC INVESTMENTS



Source: MPED & Spokesman of The Egyptian Presidency.



REAL ESTATE SECTOR'S CAPITAL



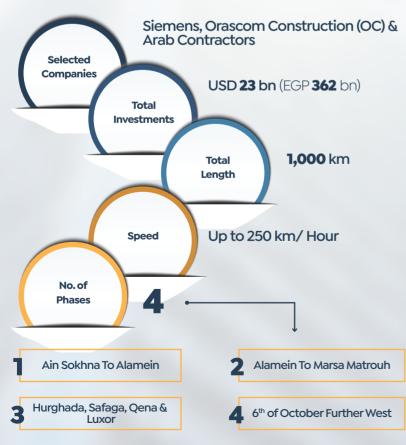
Real estate sector ranks at **3**rd place in terms of capital among other sectors in 2020, with **10.7%**

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

PROMOTE PLANS OF ROADS & BRIDGES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



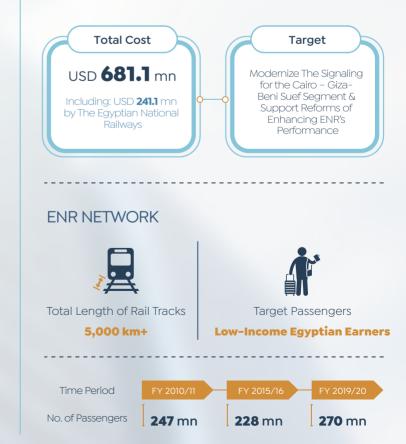
HIGH-SPEED NATIONAL ELECTRIC RAIL NETWORK



ENHANCING SERVICE QUALITY OF EGYPT'S RAILWAY



THE RAILWAY IMPROVEMENT & SAFETY FOR EGYPT (RISE) PROJECT



Source: Egyptian Exchange (EGX), MPED, World Bank & Cabinet.

TOURISM UPDATES

TOURISM REVENUES (USD BN)



USD **4.2** bn USD **0.8** bn

NUMBER OF EGYPT'S TRAVELERS (MN)



LAUNCH A CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE DOMESTIC WINTER TOURISM

6,800



21-Feb

28-Feb

07-Mar

14-Mar

Hurghada 25

ONLINE MONTHLY SURVEY (%)

2020

15

24

19

To what extent does the coronavirus second wave affect the progress of real estate projects underway?



Source: Cabinet, Ministry of Tourism, Colliers International Report, Central Bank of Egypt (CBE), Ministry of Housing, Utilities & Urban Communities, EGX & Invest-Gate R&A.

873

866

857

853

1,559

1,522

1,523

1.437

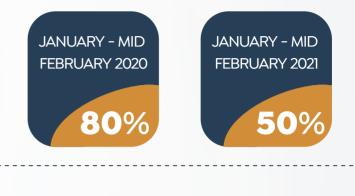
POINTS

APRIL 2021

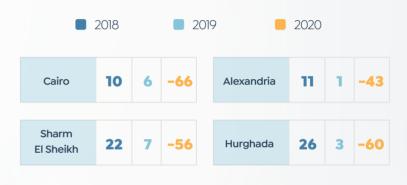
6

1,050

HOTELS' OCCUPANCY RATE



FLUCTUATIONS OF HOTELS' OCCUPANCY RATES (%)



AVERAGE DAILY CHANGE RATE IN HOTEL ROOMS PRICES (%)

NEW CITIES UPDATE

NEW CITIES UPDATE

UPDATES ON NAC PROJECTS



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



Source: Cabinet, Ministry of Housing, Utilities & Urban Communities & Ministry of Transport.

UPDATES ON NEW ALAMEIN



End of **2021**

DELIVERY DATE OF PHASE I UNITS

STATUS The City is Nearly Complete

Arab Academy for Science, Technology Maritime Transport To Host **3,000** Undergraduate Students - Target: **7,000** Students by Next Fall Downtown: **50%** Complete

The City is The New North Coast's Commercial Hub

UPDATES ON NEW MANSOURA



_____ ₩___ Phase I is Complete STATUS

1,149 Villas & **2,103** Units NO. OF UNDERWAY RESIDENTIAL UNITS

SAKAN MISR



兪

4,704 (196 Buildings) NO. OF EXECUTED RESIDENTIAL UNITS

94% IMPLEMENTATION RATE

JANNA



兪

11,232 (468 Buildings) NO. OF EXECUTED RESIDENTIAL UNITS

.

91% IMPLEMENTATION RATE

COASTAL DISTINGUISHED HOUSING UNITS



合

1,392 (58 Buildings) NO. OF EXECUTED RESIDENTIAL UNITS

76% IMPLEMENTATION RATE

NEW MANSOURA UNIVERSITY



SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECT



New Assiut LOCATION



696 NO. OF HOUSING UNITS



EGP 94 mn INVESTMENTS



FY 2018/19- 2019/20 TIME PERIOD

HOUSING FOR ALL EGYPTIANS INITIATIVE



6th of October City LOCATION

24,888 (1,037 Buildings) NO. OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS



55% COMPLETION RATE

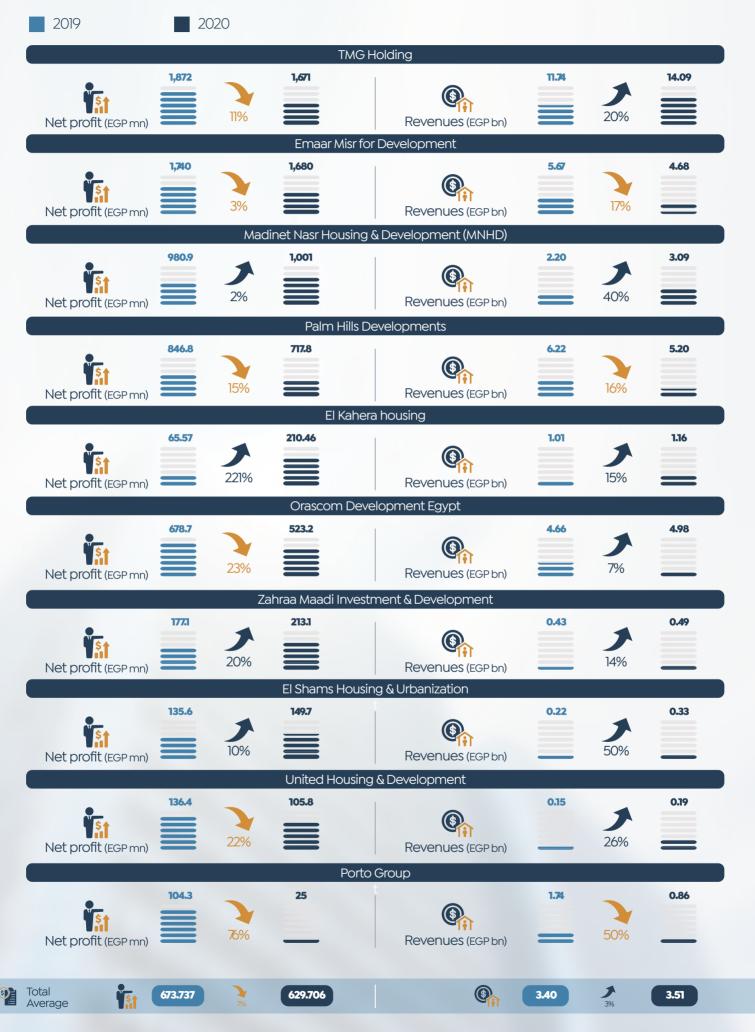


EGP **5.6** bn INVESTMENTS



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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2020 VS 2019



Source: EGX

PRIVATEPRIVATEPRIVATEPRIVATE

PRIVATE REAL ESTATE PROJECTS UPDATE

NEW RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

IL BOSCO (NEW PHASE: THE PARK)

Developer: Misr Italia Properties (MIP)



IL BOSCO (NEW PHASE: THE CLIFF)

Developer: Misr Italia Properties (MIP)





5% Upfront Up to 9-Yr Payment Plans

SUPPLY VOLUME

Villas with Higher Ground	Level of 6 m	Town Houses
Twinhouses	Standalone Villas	Creek Villas
Cliff Villas	Villas Area: 2	58 - 638 m ²

LAKE WEST (PHASE II) Developer: Cairo Capital Development



D-BAY

Developer: Tatweer Misr & Kayan for Real Estate Development



NETFLAT (LATEST INNOVATION IN KINDA COMPOUND)

Developer: Minka Real Estate Company



ECOWEST Developer: New City Developments

LOCATION 6 th of October City	CONSTRUCTION DATE Start: H2 2021	DELIVERY DATE 2025	TARGET POPULATION Middle & Low Income Earners
BELLA VEN	ΤΟ		
eveloper: Man	ara Developm	ents	
9	*		ET
LOCATION Galala, Ain Sokhna	AREA 65 Acres	INVESTMENTS EGP 4 bn	DELIVERY DATE (PHASE Late 2022
UPPLY VOLUME			
No. of Comp	lete Residential Units: –	→ 1,100	Cottages & Villas
Unit Areas: —	→ 100- 220 m ²	Average Price: —	EGP 18,500 /m ²
400m Beach Fror	nt Tourist Hotel	Social Club	Entertainment Areas
Commercial Areas	Green Space	s & Landscaping	Schools & Universities
Administrativ	e Institutions	Hotels Othe	r Industrial Projects

Developer: Mabany Edris for Real Estate Development

9		
LOCATION 6 th of October City	AREA 12 Acres	INVESTMENTS EGP 1 bn
SUPPLY VOLUME		
No. of Complete Residential	Units: 355	Unit Areas: 110–250 m ²
Green Areas	Social Club with Swimmi	ng Pool Court
Social Building Lar	nes for Athletics Kids A	Area Underground Garage
	Maintenance & Security Serv	rices



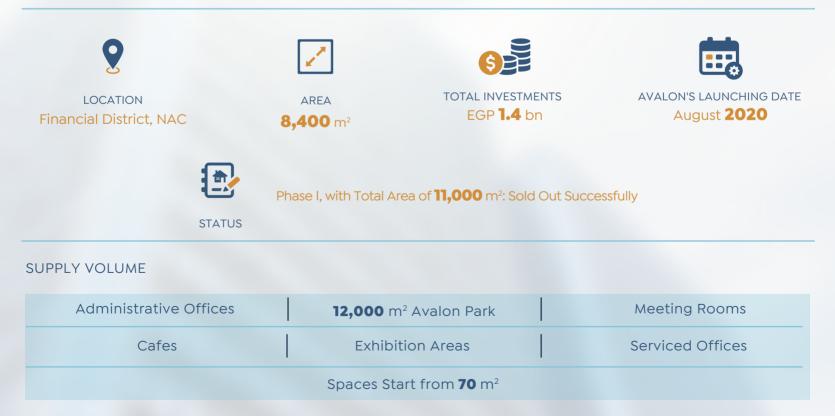
ORIENT BUSINESS COMPLEX

Developer: Watan Developments



AVALON (PHASE II)

Developer: W ASSETS



16

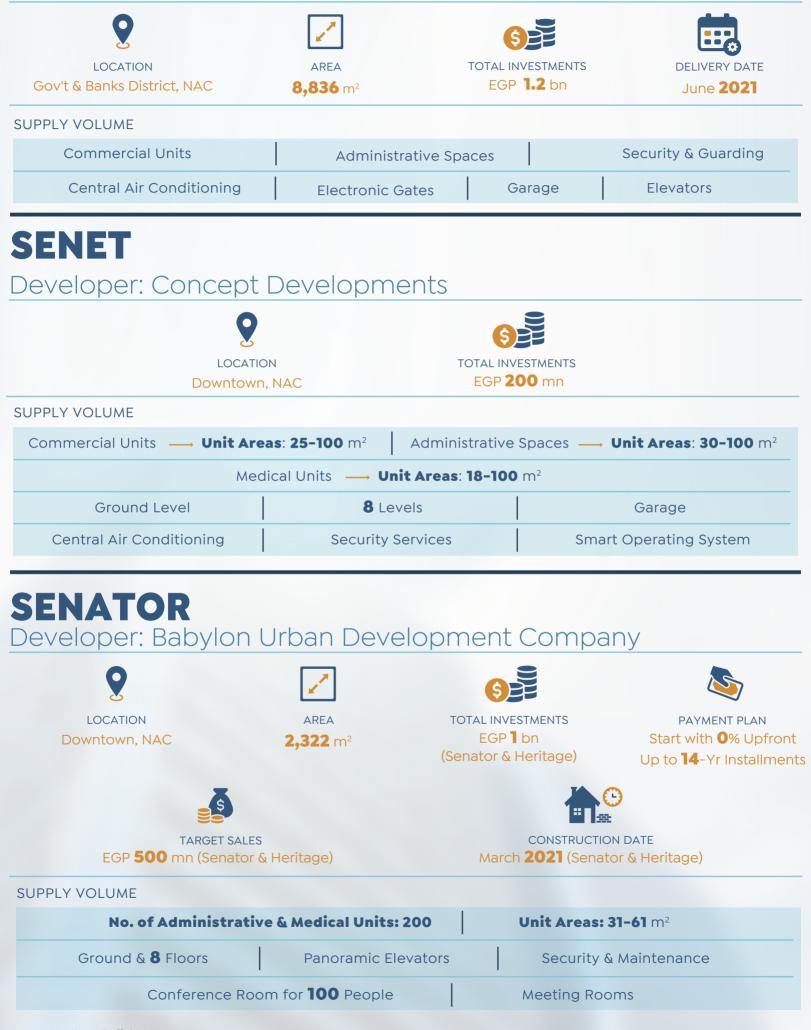
RADIX AGILE

Developer: Radix Developments



PROMARK

Developer: MG Developments



HERITAGE

Developer: Babylon Urban Development Company



Up to **14**-Yr Installments

SUPPLY VOLUME

No. c	of Administrative & Medical Un	its: 70
Unit Areas: 61- 85 m² (Specia	Il Units with an Area of 600 m ²)	8 Floors
IKEA (2 ND STOP	DE)	
-	-	n Componies
Developer: IKEA, One	OF AFFULLAITTI GIOL	ip companies
0		
8		
LOCATION	AREA	TARGET COMMUNITIES

TARGET COMMUNITIES West Cairo & its Nearby Neighborhood such as Sheikh Zayed, Dokki, Mohandesin, Zamalek, Haram & Giza



19,500 m²

SUPPLY VOLUME

7,500+ Products for Immediate Purchase

1,600+ Products with New Lower Prices

1,400 New Products for All Tastes

Source: Developers' Official Statements

Mall of Arabia,

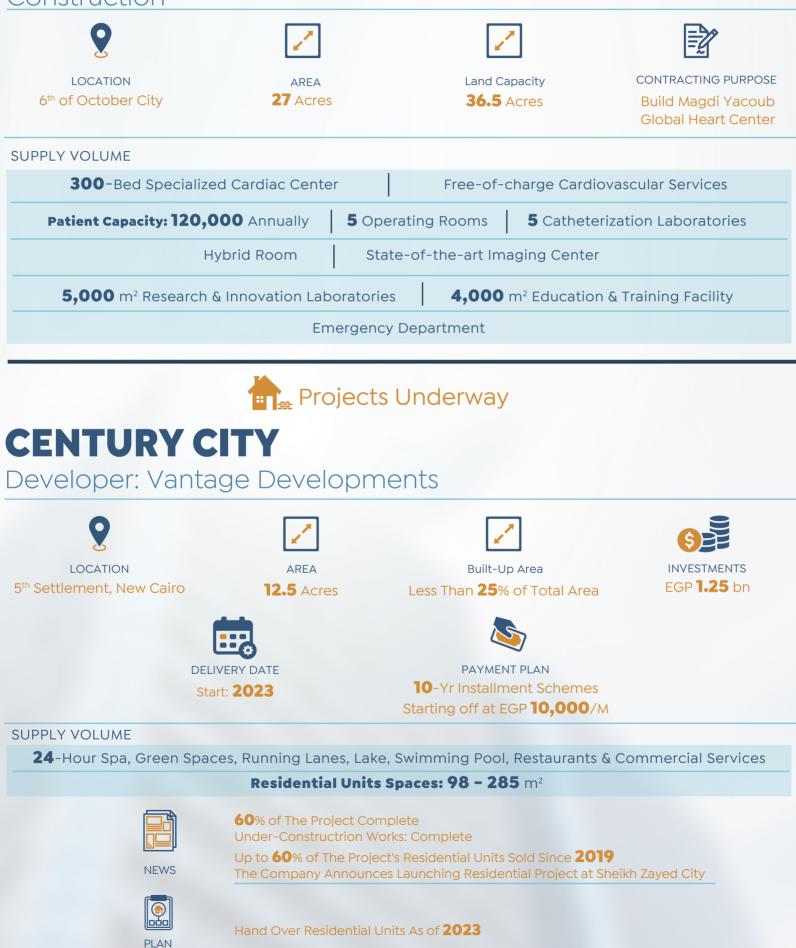
6th of October City



MAGDI YACOUB GLOBAL HEART CENTER

Developer: Magdi Yacoub Heart Foundation & Orascom

Construction



ATRIO, NINE YARDS & E-PLAZA

Developer: Iwan Developments



Provide Home Automation technologies

JNOUB Developer: Oriental Urban Development (OUD)



SUPPLY VOLUME

Residential Units Ranging from Apartments, Villas & Townhouses



Injection of Up to EGP **900** mn Investments in The Project's Construction Works in **2021** OUD Appoints Moharram Barhoum As The Project's General Consultant

SERRANO

Developer: New Plan Development



GRANVIA MALL Developer: New Plan Development





50% of The Project Sold Out

ELEVEN Developer: New Plan Development

LOCATION Financial & Business District, NAC





60% of Units Sold Out

Implementation Rate: Exceeds 30%

ECLA (PHASE I)

Developer: New Plan Development & Port Said Governorate



ATIKA Developer: New Plan Development



MOSTAKBAL CITY

Developer: Mostakbal Urban Developments

	8		
	LOCATION New Cairo	AREA 11,000 Acres	
	The Company Inks Agreement with Coldwell Banker		
	Target: Promote Investment Opportunities for The Mixed-Use, Boulevard		
NEWS	Delivery Date (Phase I): Start At The Beginning of 2021		

BAYMOUNT Developer: MAVEN Developments



LAFAYETTE MEGA MALL

Developer: Home Town Real Estate Development



ZAHA PARK Developer: Home Town Real Estate Development





SUPPLY VOLUME 2 Phases & 10 Floors Phase I: 3 Commercial Floors with an Area of 6,400 m² Unit Areas: 35–200 m² (30 Shops/Floor) PhaseII: 7 Medical & Administrative Floors with an Area of 17,000 m² Unit Areas: 32–200 m²



The Company Partners with Hassan Allam Property Management Target: Supervise The Project

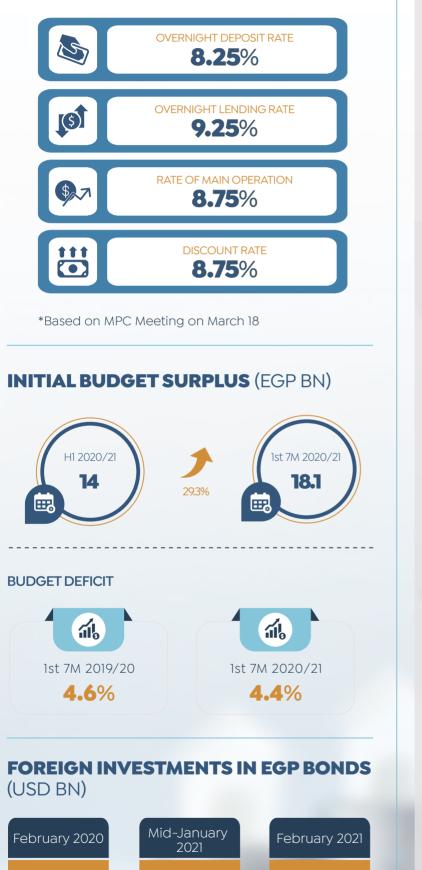
UNI-TOWER Developer: UC Real Estate Development



ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

INTEREST RATES



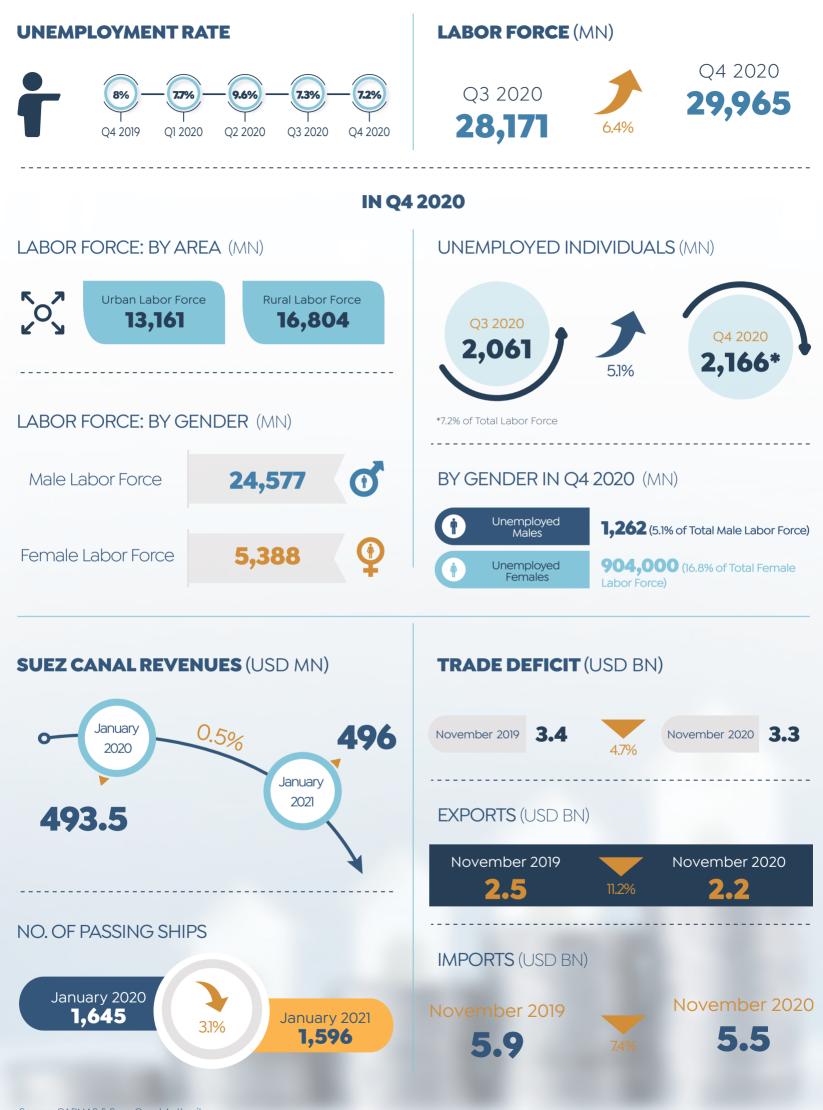
26



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

29

27.8





Source: CAPMAS, MPED, Cabinet & African Development Bank (AfDB) 2021 Economic Outlook report.

FACTS & FIGURES

GOV'T ACCELERATES EFFORTS TO PROMPT REAL ESTATE SECTOR

BY DINA EL BEHIRY

Before the Coronavirus hit triggers severe upheaval worldwide and exposes the existing cracks in the global economy, the Egyptian government manages to execute a series of national projects.

Gov't Accomplishments During Fiscal Years (FY) 2018/19-2019/20

According to a report issued by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MPED), around 689 projects are executed in the housing sector, with total investments of about EGP 72.6 bn across all governorates. Out of the 689 projects, around 310 projects are implemented in FY 2019/20 and are worth approximately EGP 24.3 bn.

Additionally, 31% of total projects are executed in Upper Egypt and other border governorates, with a total investment cost of around EGP 21.8 bn. Accordingly, Upper Egypt witnesses 158 housing projects worth EGP 16.8 bn, and 58 projects are in border governorates with a cost of EGP 5 bn. It is worth highlighting that the public investments allocated to Upper Egypt in FY 2018/19- 2020/21 are around EGP 104 bn.

Furthermore, the MPED report claims that 423,600 housing units were completed during the past two years, 172,800 of which are part of the social housing units. Besides, the government pays a great deal of attention to the development of slums and unsafe areas by establishing around 144,600 housing units, benefiting 586,000 citizens.

Geographically speaking, the report shows that Cairo topped other governorates when it comes to investments, as around 104 housing projects are accomplished with an investment cost of EGP 14.8 bn. Giza comes in second place with around EGP 10.7 bn for 44 projects, then comes Assiut with 26 projects for EGP 6.2 bn.

Public Investments in FY 2020/21

A manifold of initiatives is being taken to stem the virus tumult and reinforce the property market to bounce back; this is witnessed through implementing the Citizen Investment Plan in all Egyptian governorates. Adding to the governorates we clarified in our previous issues, the MPED has remarked that the government has allocated around EGP 5.8 bn to Monufiya. Out of this amount, EGP 2.8 bn (48.3%) is allocated to the housing sector. As for the Kafr Sheikh development, around EGP 3.2 bn is directed, of which about EGP 961.4 mn (39.8%) goes to the housing sector. Nevertheless, the MPED has approved the allocation of EGP 100 mn to reinforce the strategies of the Ministry of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities to support national projects executed including the ring road development projects.

More moves to revive the property market are directed, based on the directives of the Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi, with around EGP 100 bn of subsidized mortgages to support would-be homeowners at a subsidized rate of 3% and a 30-year repayment period.

Infrastructure Sector Updates

It is quite obvious that the government spares no effort in reshaping Egypt's masterplan of roads and bridges. Consequently, the MPED has approved reinforcing the strategy of the General Authority for Roads, Bridges, and Land Transport by allocating EGP 450 mn during FY 2020/21. This comes under the ministry's framework to remove all the barriers of the projects' execution.

Besides, the World Bank has approved the allocation of a USD 440 mn loan to support Egypt's initiatives to enhance the safety and service quality of the country's railways. According to the World Bank's press release on March 5, 2021, the Railway Improvement and Safety for Egypt (RISE) project costs USD 681.1 mn, including USD 241.1 mn in a contribution by the Egyptian National Railways (ENR).

The ENR network comprises of over 5,000 km of rail tracks and primarily offers passenger services for low-income Egyptians. About 270 mn passengers took trains in FY 2019, up from 228 mn in FY 2015 and 247 mn in FY 2010.

Moreover, Siemens and the Ministry of Transport ink a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to execute the USD 23 bn high-speed electric rail network, according to the Cabinet on January 14. Additionally, Orascom Construction (OC) and Arab Contractors will contribute to the project's execution after the consortium signed an MoU with the National Authority for Tunnels.

The network will span over 1,000 km, with around 460 km to be the project's Phase I connecting Ain Sokhna to Alamein via the New Administrative Capital (NAC). It is worth highlighting that the network will be executed over four phases; one connecting Ain Sokhna and Alamein, a second from Alamein to Marsa Matrouh, a third between Hurghada, Safaga, Qena, and Luxor, and a fourth running from the 6th of October further west.

Reviving Tourism Sector

The tourism sector is one of the most affected sectors by the virus as worldwide countries have banned travel and followed severe lockdown measures to combat the Coronavirus outbreak. That is why the number of tourists visiting Egypt dropped by 75% as around 3.7 mn visited Egypt in 2020, down from 13 mn in 2019.

Accordingly, tourism sector revenues registered around USD 4 bn in 2020, down by 69% compared to USD 13 bn in 2019. Quarterly, it was around USD 0.8 bn in Q1 2020/21, down from USD 4.2 bn in Q1 2019/20.

To promote domestic tourism, the cabinet approves launching a new initiative to promote winter tourism. Under this initiative, EgyptAir will cut the flight tickets' prices from Cairo and Alexandria to Luxor, Aswan, Sharm El Sheikh, Taba, Hurghada, and Marsa Alam. Not only that, but hotels will also participate in this initiative. It is important to underpin that this initiative was effective from January 15 to February 28.

Moreover, the hotels' occupancy rate under the current havoc reached 50% in January-February 2021, compared to 80% in the same period last year. However, Egypt plans to add 10,000 hotel rooms before the end of 2021 as the developers managed to add around 4,000 rooms which are supposed to open after lifting lockdown measures and open borders among countries. Additionally, according to a Colliers International report, Egypt will add another 7,000 hotel rooms by 2023.

New Cities Update

In a bid to further support the real estate sector, the government is accelerating the pace to inaugurate NAC by the end of the year. Thus, Prime Minister Mostafa Mabdouly holds a meeting on March 8 to discuss the inauguration arrangements and activities.

The meeting reviews the inauguration proposed scenarios, under the directives of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, where Madbouly stresses that this opening should be at the highest level of organization.

During the meeting, the prime minister indicated that a tour will be implemented inside the new capital. The administrative department is yet to determine the best place for the ceremony, before presenting these ideas to the president.

Madbouly adds that starting next August, the trial operation of government buildings will be rolled out and several employees will be transferred successively.

From his side, Minister of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities Assem El Gazzar presents a report on the executive position of the housing projects in NAC, including R3, R5, the central business district, the Green River, and other utility projects. Concerning the government district, El Gazzar explains that the ministries' area has been connected to water, electricity, and a sewage and drainage system. According to the Cabinet's statement on March 9, the governmental district includes 10 ministerial complexes, with a total of 34 ministerial buildings to accommodate about 51,500 employees, in addition to the two buildings of the Cabinet and House of Representatives, on a total area of 430 acres, of which the facilities include an area of 60 acres.

Private Sector Updates

Following the government's footsteps in urban development, Egypt-based real estate developers are still pursuing their medium- and long-term plans, despite the pandemic woes.

Residential Segment

Misr Italia Properties (MIP), the first developer to deliver its project IL BOSCO at NAC ahead of schedule, announces the launch of IL BOSCO's two new phases: The Park and The Cliff.

The Park includes 12 buildings equipped with smart technologies. As for available unit types at this stage, there are Sky Villa, Garden Villa, and Garden Terrace units. Their areas range from 161 to 315 m². The Park also includes two and three-bedroom apartments with areas ranging from 122 to 185 m². This phase is expected to be delivered by the end of 2024.

As for The Cliff, it comprises distinctive villas situated away from the residential area, with a higher ground level of 6 m. The units in this stage vary between townhouses, twin houses, standalone villas, creek villas, and cliff villas. The available areas for villas in the Cliff range from 258 to 638 m².

Cairo Capital Development announces the launch of the second phase of the Lake West project in Sheikh Zayed. The project's completion rates have reached 30% so far, and it is intended to start delivering units in 2022.

The project spans over 43 acres and includes a distinguished group of 250 villas, with prices starting from EGP 3.5 mn and installment periods of up to eight years. Additionally, it has two shopping malls, a hospital with a construction percentage that does not exceed 15%, and the rest is green areas.

In another front, Minka Real Estate Company unveils NETFLAT, which provides residential units located on an area of 27 acres in New Cairo. The project is to be implemented within four years.

During a limited period, the company offers 50 units of NETFLAT apartments out of a total of 800 units, which constitute the Kinda-project.

The project includes a huge social service building providing essentials of the project and residents' fully-integrated life. The project also includes multi-story garages to accommodate all residents' cars.

New City Developments also launches a new residential project Eco West on the 6th of October City, targeting middleand low-income earners. Incorporating plenty of green areas into the new residential condo is a big focus for New City Developments, thus, green spaces will constitute 60% of the total project area.

The company also says that construction will likely start during H2 2021 and that apartments will be move-in ready by 2025.

Furthermore, Mabany Edris for Real Estate Development launches Green 6 compound in the 6th of October City, with investments of EGP 1 bn.

Green 6 is set to be built over 12 acres and to includes 355 residential units with spaces ranging from 110 to 250 m², together with myriad services including, vast green areas, a social club with a swimming pool, a court, a social building, lanes for athletics, kids' area, underground garage, 24-hours maintenance and security services.

Speaking of coastal projects, Tatweer Misr reveals its new project D-Bay, with initial investments exceeding EGP 7 bn in partnership with Kayan for Real Estate Development.

D-Bay features more than 1,800 units ranging from chalets, villas, and serviced apartments. The company targets to develop the project over six years.

Meanwhile, Manara Developments announces the launch of the Bella Vento resort over 65 acres in Ain Sokhna's Galala with EGP 4 bn investments. The first phase of the project is scheduled to be delivered in late 2022.

Bella Vento consists of 1,100 completed units, divided into cottages and villas ranging from 100- 220 m², with an average price of 18,500 EGP per m². The project also has a 400m beachfront. It contains a tourist hotel, a social club, entertainment, and commercial services, along with green spaces and landscaping.

Commercial Segment

Watan Developments announces the launch of Orient Business Complex at NAC, with EGP 1 bn of investments.

Orient Business Complex is a mixed-use development featuring commercial, administrative, and medical components. The project is constructed on a total area of 2,319 m² and consists of two basement floors, a ground floor, and 10 floors including 300 units.

Watan plans to deliver the project by 2024. Moreover, ACE Moharram Bakhoum will be the construction consultant of the project along with Hafez Consultants as the architectural and engineering consultant of Orient Business Complex.

Likewise, W ASSETS announces the launch of the second phase of the Avalon project in NAC under the management and marketing of Investwell, after the successful sale of the first phase of the project with a total area of 11,000 m². The Avalon has a total area of 8,400 m² with a total investment of EGP 1.4 bn.

The project's second phase includes administrative offices with a view of Avalon Park, which extends over an area of $12,000 \text{ m}^2$ of green spaces.

Radix Developments, an affiliate of the Saudi Holding Group Mowafak, prepares the launch of its first project, Radix Agile, in NAC with investments of EGP 850 mn. The project units, involving administrative, medical, and commercial activities in various areas, are being established.

In the meantime, United Developments launches Capital Square in NAC with investments of EGP 250 mn. The project includes a commercial and administrative tower with 25 floors.

The project covers approximately 8,000 m², and consists of about 200 administrative and commercial units, with areas starting from 30 m.

The first project is scheduled to be completed within three years and offers various credit facility systems to the customer, starting from a 10% down payment and installments of up to eight years.

With investments exceeding EGP 1 bn, Capital Link for Real Estate Development launches Soiano, its third project in NAC.

Soiano is a mixed-use project (commercial, administrative, medical) built on 2,195 acres and consists of ground and eight floors with the prices ranging starting from EGP 10,500 on flexible payment terms of 0% as down payment and up to 12 years of installments.

In addition, MG Developments launches the- administrativeand- commercial- project ProMark in NAC, with investments of EGP 1.2 bn. ProMark project is built on an area of 8,836 m².

The project provides administrative spaces suiting all demands and is equipped with capabilities and technological services. The project as well includes security and guarding, central air conditioning, electronic gates to the building and garage, elevators, and other services.

Concept Developments, on the other hand, unveils the company's new project NAC, "SENET", with total investments of EGP 200 mn.

The project will be ready within 36 months, from the date of obtaining the project license. The medical, administrative, and commercial project includes a ground level, eight floors, and a garage.

The units' areas are designated for commercial activity, with a range from 25 to 100 meters, and medical units start from 18 meters up to 100 meters. The administrative units stretch between 30 and 100 meters.

Babylon Urban Development Company reveals the launch of its first projects in the real estate market, Senator and Heritage at NAC. Senator extends over an area of 2,322 m, consisting of ground and eight floors, and includes nearly 200 administrative and medical units with spaces starting from 31 to 61 m² per unit.

The Heritage spans over an area of 1,250 m with eight floors and includes about 70 units with an area ranging from 61- 85m. It offers a distinguished product, where the customer can have an administrative or medical unit with an area of 600 m^2 . IKEA, the region's leading Swedish home furnishing retailer and a member of Al-Futtaim Group of companies, has successfully opened doors to its second store in Egypt at Mall of Arabia, expecting to receive up to three million visitors in the first year.

The new branch spans over 19,500 m² and is located on the 6th of October city. The store targets the communities of West Cairo and its nearby neighborhood such as Sheikh Zayed, Dokki, Mohandesin, Zamalek, Haram, Giza, and more.

Economic Snapshot

It is safe to say that Egypt's economy is working in full swing to keep the Coronavirus tumult under control. Looking at the headline inflation rate, it resurges again to reach 4.9% in February, after hitting 4.3% in January.

Besides, the net international reserves rise again in February, standing at around USD 40.2 bn, after recording USD 40.1 bn in January. This hike is deemed a good omen as foreign reserves went down by USD 10 bn because of the pandemic woes, after registering USD 45.5 bn pre-Coronavirus.

Similarly, the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) of IHS Markit equals 49.3 in February, up from 48.7 in the previous month. According to IHS Markit's report, demand trends have moved closer to stabilization, particularly as export sales picks up at a record pace during the month. Further growth in exports should help to improve overall sales in the future.

The initial budget surplus hits EGP 18.1 bn during the first seven months of the FY 2020/21, up from EGP 14 bn registered in H1 2020/21, according to Mohamed Maait Minister of Finance. Adding to that, the minister clarified that the state's revenues increase by 16% year-on-year (YoY), besides, the budget deficit drops to 4.4% in the first seven months of 2020/21, compared to 4.6% in the same period last year.

Moreover, the unemployment rate witnesses a slight drop in Q4 2020, reaching 7.2%, compared to 7.3% in Q3 2020. It is worth mentioning that the unemployment rate hit its highest level in Q2 2020 hitting 9.6% due to pandemic havoc.

Furthermore, Egypt witnesses a 4.7% drop in its trade deficit to log USD 3.3 bn in November versus USD 3.4 bn during the same month last year, according to the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS). Consequently, in November, exports and imports shrink by 11.2% and 7.4%, respectively, compared with the corresponding period last year.

Focusing on December, the trade deficit decreases by 14% reaching USD 3.28 bn, compared to USD 3.81 bn during the same month the previous year, according to CAPMAS. Thus, exports and imports contract by 0.1% and 8.1%, respectively, compared with the corresponding period last year.

On the other hand, Suez Canal revenues see a slight drop by 0.5% YoY, logging USD 496 mn in January, as the number of passing ships drops by 3.1% YoY reaching 1,596.

As proof that we are on the right side of the track, the Minister of Planning and Economic Development Hala Al Saeed mentions during a Cabinet meeting on March 10 that the Egyptian economy managed to maintain achieving a positive growth rate in Q2 2020/21, reaching 2% versus 1.35% in H1 2020/21. Accordingly, the minister anticipates that the growth rate levels will continue high during Q3 & Q4 of the FY to reach 2.8% & 5.3%, respectively.