# MARKET WATCH

BY DINA EL BEHIRY

POWERED BY



## MARKET WATCH



### **GOV'T ACHIEVEMENTS IN REAL ESTATE SINCE 2014**





Sources: Ministry of Housing, Utilities & Urban Communities & State Information Service (SIS)

#### PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPPs) 6 () No. of Projects Total Area Investment Cost 17 19,250 Acres EGP 500 bn 0 ¢Ŧ. Location Plan New Cairo, 6th of October City, Part of the State's Sheikh Zayed, Sheik Zayed **PPP Program Extension & October Gardens**



# NEW ROADS CONSTRUCTION No. of Complete Roads 2,345 km Investment Cost EGP 13 bn o. of Under-Construction Roads 150 km

EGP 3 bn

Part of National Roads Project

PRICES OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS (JUNE 2020) (EGP)									
STEEL BARS         CRETAL STEEL           (per ton)         (per ton)           9,600         9,800           (YOY -19%)         (YOY -21.6%)           SOLID CEMENT BRICKS         (per 1,000 bricks)           1,100         (YOY 3.8%)			PORTLAND CEMENTCOARSE SAND(per ton)(per sqm)75070(YOY -11.8%)(YOY 7.7%)BRICK HOLLOW CONCRETE(40x20x12 cm) (per 1,000 bricks)5,200(YOY 4%)						
REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION STOCK MARKETS INDEXES PERFORMANCE IN EGYPT (2020)									
	Real Estate	Con	struction & N	laterials					
775 586 11 JUN	788 601 17 JUN	840 621 24 JUN	881 644 05 JUL	918 677 08 JUL	POINTS				

WILL MORE CUSTOMERS TEND TO RENT RATHER THAN BUY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES AMID CORONAVIRUS HIT?

**ONLINE MONTHLY SURVEY (%)** 



Sources: Ministry of Housing, Utilities & Urban Communities, State Information Service (SIS), Egyptian Exchange (EGX) & Invest-Gate R&A.

#### **NEW CITIES UPDATE**





Source: Ministry of Housing, Utilities & Urban Communities, Administrative Capital for Urban Development (ACUD), New 6th of October City Development Authority.









Source: Ministry of Housing, Utilities & Urban Communities & New Urban Communities Authority (NUCA) .

#### DEVELOPERS FINANCIAL STATUS Q1 2019 VS. Q1 2020



Source: Egyptian Exchange (EGX)

#### PRIVATE REAL ESTATE PROJECTS UPDATE

	El Mostakbal for Urban Development & Elsewedy Electric's Unit (Elsewedy Electric for Trading & Distribution)	Location     East Cairo		Area 11,000 Acres		
Aostakbal City	Construction Du	uration	<b>_n</b>	Award Value SP 423.3 mn		
	Contracting Purpose	EPC Contract for Electricity & Telecommunications Build Infrastructure of Project's Phase III on Turnkey Basis				
	Supply Volume	Commercial Mall Social Clubs Se	Residences Restaurants rvice & Recreational Area	Gov't Services Schools		
æ PRC	DJECTS UNDERWAY					
5	Developer El Attal Holding	Cocation R7 District, N		Total Area 26 Acres		
ark Lane npoundhood	El Attal Targets Sealing EGP 1.5 bn Deals in 2020	P News		n Phase I -> 15% Done 75% of Target Sales in H1 2020		
	Developer Sixth of October Development & Investment Company (SODIC)	Location New Zayed City, V		Total Area <b>500 Acres</b>		
VYE	Plan SODIC Plans to Sell EGP 43 (bn) Worth of Units in VYE	P News	First Standalone Villas Sold C			
	Developer Misr Italia Properties (MIP)	Location     New Cair		Total Area <b>78,000 m<sup>2</sup></b>		
iro Business Park	P News	Etisalat Misr to Provide IC & Cloud Computing	T Services On-Site (i.e. I + Internet, VPN & IVPN			
Sarai	Madinet Nasr Housing & Development (MNHD)	Location     New Caire		Total Area 5.5 mn m <sup>2</sup>		
	Plan	R News	AAIB Arranges	Long-Term Loan for MNHD		

Source: Developers' official statements

### **ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT**





1,326

18 JUN

1,283

11 JUN

1,221

04 JUN

1,385

25 JUN

1,451

02 JUL

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

13.8



Source: Trading Economics, United Nations Conference on Trade & Development (UNCTAD) & CBE.

# FULL ANALYSIS FACTS & FIGURES

## GOV'T PUSHES FORWARD EGYPT'S REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT WHEEL

BY DINA EL BEHIRY

rom 2014 to date, Egypt's Ministry of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities has managed to achieve a series of successes in real estate. Better yet, while the entire world is being hit hard by the novel Coronavirus, the ministry spares no efforts in pushing the sector's development wheel forward to forge ahead with the Strategic National Plan for Urban Development 2052.

According to Minister of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities Assem El Gazzar, merely 414,000 residential units were completed under the Social Housing Program, with investments estimated at EGP 51 bn, during the six years. Beyond that, around 194,000 units are underway, at a total cost of nearly EGP 37 bn.

Specifically, for the domestic Dar Misr middle-income projects, about 41,424 apartments are finished, with costs totaled at EGP 13 bn, whereas 15,480 others are still under construction with investments worth EGP 4.6 bn. Additionally, Sakan Misr middle-income projects saw investments of EGP 670 mn for the finalization of 2,232 homes, alongside another EGP 20.3 bn for implementing 67,696 others. As for the JANNA luxury housing projects, 4,032 residences, worth EGP 1.6 bn, were done nationwide, while another 36,248 units are underway at a value of EGP 14.5 bn.

In addition to the establishment of several housing projects across the country, the ministry has extended at least 328,000 land plots to carry out different housing projects for Egypt's various segments, El Gazzar pointed out.

Aside from that, the government has also been taking an array of initiatives to rehabilitate unsafe areas, which presently amount to 357 zones (with about 242,905 units) nationwide, in a bid to provide slum dwellers with decent accommodations and enhance their quality of life, he emphasized. It is worth noting that the total cost of slum development is valued at EGP 315 bn. In general, slums located in 13 governorates have successfully been eradicated, endeavoring to make Egypt slum-free by year-end as informal settlements constitute around 40% of the country's urban areas.

10 AUGUST 2020 - ISSUE 41

According to the official, from June 2014 to June 2020, merely 296 unsafe areas were developed, including 175,897 units. Meanwhile, another 54 districts, comprising 65,487 homes, are still under development. In the same vein, unplanned areas currently cover 152,000 acres, of which 4,616 acres (53 neighborhoods) were successfully revamped. Another 6,941 acres, spreading across 79 informal settlements, are in the pipeline.

In the efforts to further reinforce the country's real estate industry, the ministry has been keen on harnessing the local Public-Private Partnership (PPPs) program, aiming to spur private-sector engagement to create an enabling environment for inclusive growth and sustainable development. Accordingly, both parties agreed on around 17 projects thus far, at an investment cost of approximately EGP 500 bn. With the government allocating a total area of almost 19,250 acres, these developments are being established in New Cairo, 6<sup>th</sup> of October City, Sheikh Zayed, Sheik Zayed Extension, and October Gardens.

On the other end of the spectrum, El Gazzar remarked that the state pays a great deal of attention to the improvement of Egypt's road network, coming in line with the National Roads Project. Against this background, no less than 2,345 kilometers of roads have been executed since 2014, whereas another 150 kilometers are still under construction.

As the real estate market heads into a Coronavirus-induced slump, the Ministry of Housing is right on cue when it comes to the development of new cities. In July, it launched multiple new projects in the New Administrative Capital (NAC), with investments worth EGP 121 bn. This includes the Central Park project, which costs EGP 10 bn, in addition to the R3 and R5 Districts, coming with investments valued at EGP 31 bn and EGP 80 bn, separately. Adding to that, Deputy Minister of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities for National Projects Khaled Abbas has announced that the new capital's Iconic Tower – set to be the tallest in Africa – stands at 188 meters long now, out of the planned 400 meters.

Furthermore, the ministry has begun handing over many residential units across different social housing projects in Egypt. At New Cairo's Dar Misr project, for example, 624 houses have been delivered as of June 21. Further, the government has offered 798 social housing units in Minya and Fayoum as temporary isolation houses or wards for COVID-19 patients, providing that these properties are fully-furnished and well-equipped with medical facilities.

#### **Private Sector Follows Suit**

Following the government's footsteps in urban development, Egyptbased real estate developers are still pursuing their medium- and longterm plans, despite the pandemic woes. Construction works at El Attal Holding's Park Lane Compoundhood in NAC, for instance, is in full swing, reaching a 15% completion rate. When it comes to profit-making, Sixth of October Development and Investment Company's (SODIC) VYE project in west Cairo's New Zayed generated sales worth EGP 250 mn, after selling the first batch of standalone villas within 48 hours of going live.

Moreover, El Mostakbal for Urban Development has inked an EGP 423.3 mn engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract with Elsewedy Electric's subsidiary Elsewedy Electric for Trading and Distribution. Under the 22-month agreement, the latter company will carry out the construction of electricity and telecommunications infrastructure for El Mostakbal City's phase III on a turnkey basis. Besides, Misr Italia Properties (MIP) and Etisalat Misr have joined forces to provide Cairo Business Park with various ICT services, including fixed landline and internet services, along with cloud computing, VPN, and IVPN services. It is worth mentioning that the cooperation between property companies and the local banking sector has been enriched. Case in point: Madinet Nasr Housing and Development (MNHD) has arranged a long-term loan from the AAIB. Under the EGP 2.1 bn funding, MNHD will bankroll works on its flagship project in east Cairo Sarai's phases I and II, together with repaying some accumulating debt.

#### **Economic Snapshot**

It is safe to say that the economic sphere was hit hard by the Coronavirus shock; and while being one of the most devastating disasters to date, it caused Egypt's inflation rate to resurge again to reach 5.6% in June, after hitting its lowest value of 4.7% in May. Many analysts, however, see that such an increase was actually predictable amid the outbreak headwinds, anticipating further declines in the coming months.

On the other hand, net international reserves rose again in June, standing at around USD 38.2 bn, after recording USD 36 bn in May. This hike is deemed a good omen as foreign reserves went down by USD 10 bn in the last three months, after registering USD 45.5 bn pre-Coronavirus. Similarly, the Purchasing Managers' Index of IHS Markit equaled 44.6 in June, up from 40.7 in the previous month. According to David Owen, an economist at IHS Markit, this surge means that the Egyptian economy is on its way to stabilization, despite the economic fallout wrought by the pandemic.

When it comes to unemployment rates, it was still high in June, but many indicators suggest a reversal very soon. Even worse, Egypt witnessed a 45% drop in its trade deficit to log USD 2.36 bn in April versus USD 4.28 bn during the same month last year, according to the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS). Consequently, in April, exports and imports shrank by 32.3% and 40.1%, respectively, compared with the corresponding period last year.

In an attempt to strengthen the Egyptian economy, the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) kept the interest rates on hold during their last meeting on June 25. Accordingly, the Overnight Deposit Rate, Overnight Lending Rate, Discount Rate, and Rate of Main Operation registered 9.25%, 10.25%, 9.75%, and 9.75%, appropriately.

Regardless of the havoc wrought by the Coronavirus epoch since late 2019, Africa received USD 46 bn of foreign direct investments (FDIs). Specifically, Egypt was the top recipient of around USD 9 bn, followed by South Africa at USD 4.6 bn, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) 2020 World Investment Report.

Additionally, Egypt was among the top Arab countries to receive FDIs in 2019, ranking second after the UAE which received USD 13.8 bn worth of FDIs. For 2020, UNCTAD foresees Asia to be the top FDI recipient, getting around USD 330-260 bn, whilst Africa to earn USD 35-25 bn.

When assessing the GDP growth rate in light of the current catastrophe, Minister of Finance Mohamed Maait has previously revealed that the growth rate was revised upward to reach 5% in FY 2020/21. For the current fiscal year, the GDP growth rate will close in at 3.54%, down from its target of 6%, according to a recent ministerial statement.

Despite the odds, Egypt will be the only MENA economy to (just barely) see its economy expand in 2020, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicted in an April press release. The fund now projects GDP to grow at a 2% clip this year, before accelerating slightly to 2.8% in 2021.



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