# MARKET WATCH

BY DINA EL BEHIRY

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# GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT SOCIAL HOUSING



Sources: Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Finance, World Bank & Social Housing & Mortgage Finance Fund



Sources: NUCA, Ministry of Housing, Egyptian Exchange (EGX) & Invest-Gate R&A

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New Alamein

October Gardens

New Minya

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new compound

social club

#### **NEW CITIES' UPDATES**



Source: Cabinet, Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities & NUCA

### UPDATES ON DEVELOPERS' PROJECTS



Source: Developers' Official Statements

### **DEVELOPERS PROJECTS**



Source: Developers' official statements





Source: Developers' official statements

## ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT



Sources: Egyptian Exchange (EGX), Central Bank of Egypt (CBE), Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), Ministry of Finance & IHS Markit

#### BUDGET DRAFT FOR FY 2020/21



Source: Ministry of Finance

# FULL ANALYSIS **FACTS** & FIGURES



## GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT SOCIAL HOUSING

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Amid the current circumstances of facing the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, the governmental institutions, as well as the international ones are working hard to safeguard the real estate sector from damages.

On that note, the Egyptian Ministry of Finance has allocated EGP 5.7 bn in the FY 2020/21 budget draft. This fund will help support the social housing program and benefit more citizens of low- and medium-income levels. In conjunction with this initiative, the Egyptian government has planned to direct around EGP 5 bn in the FY 2020/21 budget draft to invest in 13 industrial zones. These zones are located in Assiut, Luxor, Beheira, Gharbia, Fayoum, and other governorates. Not only that but also allocating EGP 6.4 bn to finance 300,000 small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

As a matter of fact, the Social Housing and Mortgage Finance Fund (SHMFF) has been working on supporting the sector as well. It targets allocating around EGP 30 bn in the FY 2020/21 budget draft. The SHMFF has managed to achieve many steps forward to back up the social housing program, finalize many units, and deliver others. For the real estate financing initiative for middle-income citizens, the Fund raised the funds to EGP 29.7 bn, in addition to EGP 28.1 bn from 20 various banks.

Apart from that, the SHMFF has been working on compensating the slackened construction companies due to the economic reform decisions. This compensation reached around EGP 7 bn.

Speaking of international support, the world bank has levitated its support to the Egyptian social housing program by releasing an additional USD 500 mn, bringing the total amount of loan reached USD 1.3 bn. This additional loan aims to improve the affordability of formal housing for low-income households and strengthen the capacity of the Social Housing and Mortgage Finance Fund to design policies and coordinate social housing programs.

With an eye on new cities, Prime Minister Moustafa Madbouly held a meeting at the beginning of March to follow up on the updates of projects' execution at the New Administrative Capital (NAC). During which, Madbouly was informed that the Cabinet building is accomplished by 92%, three power stations were executed by 99%, the first phase of roads and bridges is fully executed, and 97% of the first phase of tunnels is accomplished. Another achievement is finalizing the skeleton structure of CO3 Skyscraper, which is the first one out of 20 skyscrapers will be established at NAC.

#### **Private Sector**

On the flip side comes the private sector which is doing its best to continue its projects. Mostakbal Urban Developments, the owner of Mostakbal City, pumped EGP 5.7 bn to execute the infrastructure network of the city's first phase. In addition to that, the company plans to direct EGP 3 bn to the infrastructure network of the city's phase three.

Moreover, many developers announced some updates on the status of their projects, including Misr Italia Properties' IL Bosco City and Cairo Business Park, as well as AKAM Developments' Scenario New Capital City.

Amid the sector's peaks and troughs, several developers have begun launching projects whether they are residential, commercial, or hospitality projects. From this perspective, AI Ahly Sabbour Developments in partnership with the New Urban Community Authority (NUCA) launched KEEVA project with investments of around EGP 5 bn. TATWEER MISR launched a new phase of the VUES at Bloomfields' Mostakbal City. The VUES includes more than 1,000 units. Moreover, MBG Developments has planned to launch PUKKA-2 at NAC during H2 2020, with investments reached EGP 10 bn. And with investments of around EGP 1.5 bn, Better Home began the skeleton construction of MIDTOWN CONDO.

For the commercial projects, Misr Italia Properties plans to inaugurate its Garden 8 in June. With investments of around EGP 500 mn, Garden 8 will include 58 units for clothes shops, restaurants, and coffee shops.

Adding to that, many developers paid a great deal of attention to hospitality projects. Jdar Group has prepared to launch the second phase of Sea View at Sahl Hasheesh with investments reached EGP 2.5 bn, in addition to launching many other projects.

#### **Economic Status**

Amongst the uncertainty sphere because of the Coronavirus outbreak, Egypt's economy has proved its resilience in dealing with the ramifications of the Coronavirus pandemic. The headline inflation rate eased to 5.1% in March, down from 5.3% in February. This makes the predictions of inflation remain within the specified range (+/- 3%) by the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE). The CBE's net international reserves recorded USD 40.1 bn in March, down from USD 45.5 bn in February. The drop in the reserves happened as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak. Not only that but the non-oil private sector was affected by the virus spread as well. The IHS Markit Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) dropped to 44.2 in March, compared to 47.1 in February, indicating the deterioration in business conditions.

With an eye on H1 2019/20, the current account deficit shrank by 13%, recording USD 4.6 bn, down from USD 5.3 bn in H1 2018/19. Accordingly, the Balance of Payment achieved a surplus of USD 410.9 mn in H1 2019/20, compared to the deficit of USD 1.8 bn in H1 2019/18.

Beyond that, the net foreign direct investments jumped by 20% in H1 2019/20 recording USD 5 bn, up from USD 4.2 bn in H1 2018/19. This was mainly backed by increasing the investments of establishing new companies or boosting the capital of the existing ones. Moreover, Suez Canal revenues increased by USD 103.8 mn to reach USD 3 bn in H1 2019/20.

Looking ahead, the Ministry of Finance has issued the budget draft of FY 2020/21. In which, the budget deficit is projected to reach 6.3%, down from the 7.2% of the FY 2019/20. Furthermore, the budget has allocated around EGP 1.71 trn and EGP 1.3 trn for expenditure and revenues. In addition to that, it increased the allocations of health and education by 45% and 14.8% respectively. Moreover, it raised the wages allocations by EGP 34 bn. When it comes to government investments, the budget draft boosted it to reach EGP 280.7 bn.



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