Bank of Alexandria Mutual Fund No. 1

Quarterly Report
4Q 2019

Investment Objective

The principal investment objective of the fund is long term capital appreciation through achieving the highest possible risk-adjusted returns.

Investment Universe

- The fund invests mainly in securities of companies listed on the Egyptian Stock Exchange
- The fund can also invest in treasury bills, treasury bonds, corporate bonds, securitization bonds and time deposits.

Subscription/Redemption

- The fund offers weekly liquidity to investors
- The valuation day for the fund is the last business day of every week
- Minimum initial investment is 10 IC's
- Maximum investment is 50,000 IC's

Fund Details

Type of scheme	Open Ended
Inception date	December 1994
IC price	366.67 EGP
Dividend Since Inception	312 EGP
Bloomberg Ticker	EFGALXA
ISIN	65077561

Fund Manager

Management Company	Hermes Fund Management
Fund Manager	Nabil Moussa

Contact Details

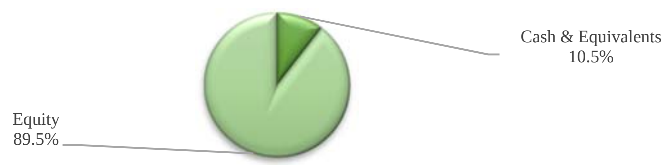
Bank of Alexandria	
Telephone	19033
Website	https://www.alexbank.com/En

Portfolio

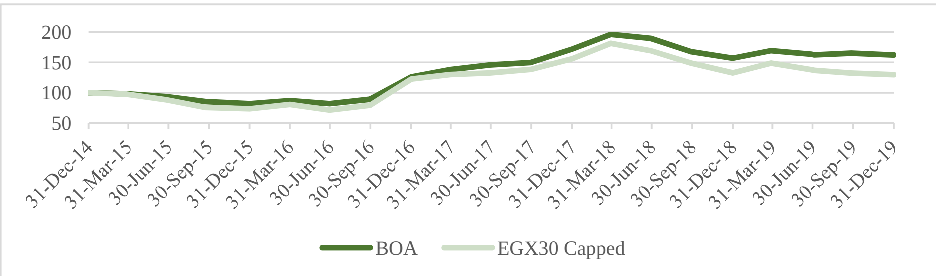
Performance Figures

Date	Return
Q4 2019	-1.6%
YTD	3.5%
2018	-8.6%
5-YTD	62.5%
Since Inception	1254.9%

Allocation



Relative Performance



Market Outlook

Market Commentary & Strategy

The Egyptian market main index EGX30 increased by 7.1% in 2019, while EGX30 Cap ended the year on a negative note down 2.3%. The variance in the performance of both indices is mainly a reflection of the CIB outstanding performance in 2019 increasing 41.8%. We highlight that the CIB started the year with a 32.1% weight in the index and ended the year with a weight of 42.0%, while the weight of the CIB in the EGX30 Cap was maintained at a maximum of 15% as per the index rules. We believe that the market acted rationally in 2019 rewarding companies with strong balance sheet and positive cash flow in addition to high profile growth. On the other hand, commodity and industrial players were severely harmed due to drop in commodity prices leading to lower revenues, while cost were increasing given the country's strategy to liberalize energy prices in addition to some high leverage.

We highlight that emerging markets volatility along with socio political escalations are negatively impacting the Egyptian market, yet we believe that once this volatility is absorbed, Egypt will resume its upward trend on the back of the following: 1) Continuous improvement in economic indicators with Egypt achieving primary budget surplus, along with narrowing the current account deficit, and expecting GDP growth in the range of 5.5 – 6.0% in the next fiscal year., 2) the CBE easing cycle cutting rates by 6.5% over 2018 and 2019 along with new initiatives taken by the CBE and government should support private sector growth, 3) Weak inflation figures along with falling interest rates should boost private consumption, which will be reflected on corporates profitability, and 4) Strong foreign interest in Egypt's debt market with foreigners investing around USD17 billion in local treasuries despite of the interest rate cuts and the 11.5% EGP appreciation that occurred in 2019.

We believe that the market is lucrative in terms of valuation currently trading at historic low P/E multiple of 8.0x for 2020 implying a 39.0% discount to MSCI EM P/E (20e) of 13.2x. We note that historically speaking when EGX traded at P/E valuation of around 8.0x, the subsequent 12 months were never negative based on a number of observations with the minimum yield was 17%, while the maximum yield was 93%, and the average yield was 54%.

Economic Update

- Egypt's Ministry of Planning announced that GDP grew by 5.6% in 1Q19/20 compared to a growth of 5.3% in the corresponding quarter of the fiscal year 2018/2019. We highlight that the government is targeting 6.0% GDP growth for the full fiscal year 2019/2020.
- The CBE Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decreased overnight deposit and lending rates by 100 bps to 12.25% and 13.25% respectively implying total cuts of 450 bps in 2019, and 650 bps since the beginning of the easing cycle in February 2018. The CBE stated that continuous moderation of inflationary pressures is the main reason of its decision, and that future policy rates adjustments will remain a function of inflation expectations.
- The CBE announced increasing retail clients debt burden ratio to 50% of monthly salary up from 35% previously set in January 2016. The debt burden ratio implies for personal loans, credit card payments, and car loans, while housing loans burden ratio remains unchanged at 40%.
- Fitch affirmed Egypt's rating at 'B+' with a stable outlook. The credit agency indicated that its rating is a reflection of the improvement in macroeconomic stability and external finances yet the relatively weak governance along with security risks still weigh on the overall rating.
- Unemployment rate dropped to 7.8% in 3Q19 down from 10.0% in 3Q18, yet inched higher from the 7.5% recorded in 2Q19. The overall employment force increased by 0.34 million to 28.4 million people with unemployment limited to 2.2 million people out of Egypt's total work force.
- Egypt's Net International Reserves inched upwards from USD45.35 billion to USD45.40 billion thus maintaining import coverage ratio at 8 months.
- Inflation accelerated reaching 7.1% in December up from 3.6% in November. This increase in inflation rates was expected given the fading away of the high base effect in 2018.