



# **STATE INFORMATION SERVICE**

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## **Finance Minister hails S&P's fixing Egypt's credit rating at B with stable outlook**

Minister of Finance Mohamed Maait said that a report published by Standard & Poor's Global Ratings on fixing Egypt's sovereign credit rating at B with a stable outlook represents an important evidence on the success of the Egyptian economic reform program and the improvement of the country's economic indices.

In a statement, the minister said that a report that was published on Friday night by the S&P will contribute to raising the confidence of the global institutions and the international investment community in the Egyptian economy, a move that will lure more investments.

The minister asserted that the improvement of the Egyptian credit rating, a few days after Cairo and the International Monetary Fund have reached a staff-level agreement on the fifth revision for Egypt's economic reform program, shows that the international community is clearly noticing that the path of the economic reforms in Egypt is moving forward.

In its report, the S&P hailed the capability of the Egyptian government and authorities of implementing major reform measures, Maait noted.

For his part, Deputy Minister of Finance for Financial Policies Ahmed Kouchouk said that the S&P upgraded its outlook on Egypt's future growth rates to 5.4% during the period 2018 to 2021 in light of the improved economic indices which were driven



upward by the achievements recorded in the natural gas, tourism, manufacturing industries and construction sectors.

### **CBE: Annual inflation rate up to 8.9 percent in October**

The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) announced that Egypt's inflation rate upped to 8.9 percent in October from 8.6 percent in September 2018.

On a monthly basis, core inflation recorded 1 percent in October, compared to 0.1 percent in September.

### **Sisi orders taking needed measures to implement economic reform program**

President Abdel Fattah El Sisi gave directives to continue taking all needed measures to grant successful all steps taken for the implementation of the economic reform program.

This remark came during Sisi's meeting with the Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) Tarek Amer and his deputies Gamal Negm and Lobna Hilal.

The get-together took up the indicators of the balance of payments during the fiscal year 2017/2018 which achieved an overall surplus of about \$12.8 billion reflecting the ongoing positive consequences of the decision to liberalize the Egyptian pound's exchange rate, said presidential spokesman Bassam Rady.

The meeting tackled also the country's monetary policies besides the measures taken by the CBE to help in implementing structural



reforms and maintaining monetary and financial stability, the spokesman also said.

They pointed out to the agreement which was reached during a meeting at the level of experts held between the Egyptian government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the fourth review of Egypt's IMF-supported economic reform program.

The IMF review was conducted in preparation for submitting its outcome to the fund's board of directors in December and giving Egypt the fifth portion of an IMF loan.

Amer reviewed the CBE latest activities including means of implementing the funding initiatives of the small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the financial inclusion initiative and Aman Certificate.

The meeting took up also draft amendments to some laws on the work of the CBE and the banking apparatus in order to cope with the developments witnessed in the banking arena and enhance the role played by the CBE in maintaining financial stability, the spokesman asserted.

President Sisi gave directives to enhance coordination between the cabinet and the CBE to take needed measures in order to reduce the public debt, increase exports, decrease imports and curb inflation via offering basic commodities to citizens at affordable prices.



The president ordered also promoting the existing cooperation between the CBE and its African counterparts especially after Amer won the presidency of the Association of African Central Banks (AACB) at the same timing of Egypt's chairmanship to the African Union (AU) in 2019, the spokesman said.

He pointed out that Egyptian-African cooperation aims at backing the efforts targeting monetary and financial stability and providing training courses to the banking cadres in the African continent.

### **CBE keeps interest rates unchanged**

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) kept interest rates on hold on Thursday, Nov. 15 for the fifth time this year, meeting the expectations of experts and investment banks.

MPC set the overnight deposit rate and the overnight lending rate at 16.75 percent and 17.75 percent, respectively.

During the meetings of September, August, June and May, MPC also kept the interest rates unchanged after lowering them twice earlier this year by 1 percent each time.

### **Egypt's bourse gains EGP 6.7 billion**

The Egyptian Exchange (EGX) indexes showed mixed performance at the close of the week-long trading on Thursday amid purchases by Egyptian and foreign institutions and investment funds and selling operations by Arab investors.

The market capital gained 6.7 billion pounds to stand at 779.6 billion pounds amid transactions worth EGP 1.28 billion.



The EGX 30 benchmark index went up by 1.44% to close at 13,681.76 points.

The broader EGX 70 index of the leading smaller and mid cap enterprises (SME) decreased by 0.6% to 695,64 points, while the broader index EGX-100 increased by 0.12 percent to reach 1,737.97 points.

### **Sisi follows up govt's plan to make use of State's untapped resources**

President Abdel Fattah El Sisi followed up the government's plan to make use of the State's untapped resources in addition to work progress at new cities across the country, particularly the New Alamein City.

This took place during Sisi's meeting with Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouli, Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform Hala el Saeed and head of the General Intelligence Service Abbas Kamel.

On that score, the president issued directives to promptly finalize construction works in New Alamein City in accordance with the timeline set.

The directives come within the framework of the State's efforts to spur urban development and upgrade the country's slums to absorb the annual population growth, generate more jobs and serve population redistribution plans, Presidential Spokesman Bassam Rady said in statement.

Meanwhile, the premier reviewed the current status of New Alamein City project in addition to the 'Maspero Triangle' development project.



The meeting also tackled the latest developments with regard to setting up Egypt's sovereign wealth fund, with President Sisi urging the continuity of efforts to finalize the fund's establishment, said the spokesman.

The planning minister reviewed the developments of Egypt's economic performance, including the economic growth rate that hit 5.3 percent during the 2017/2018 fiscal year and the unemployment rate that fell to 9.9 percent in the same period.

Saeed also revealed that the country's net foreign currency reserves have surged to \$44.4 billion.

In this regard, President Sisi issued directives to proceed with the country's comprehensive economic and social reform program.

### **PM, Japan's 'Toyota Tsusho' delegation mull expanding company's activities in Egypt**

Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouli asserted that the government is ready to remove obstacles that may face the Japanese investments in Egypt, hailing the valuable development assistance that Tokyo offers to Cairo.

The prime minister made the remarks during a meeting he held with a delegation of Japan's "Toyota Tsusho " company to review the company's activities in Egypt and means of expanding them.

The meeting was attended by the minister of trade and industry along with the Japanese ambassador in Cairo.

The prime minister expressed Egypt's appreciation for the current cooperation with the Japanese company in various fields, calling on the company to pump further investments in the coming period to benefit from the encouraging investment climate in Egypt.



For their part, the representatives of Toyota Tsusho reviewed the company's current activities in Egypt, mainly in the fields of infrastructure, generating electricity from the wind, auto industry and commodity trade.

The Japanese ambassador to Egypt praised the achievements of the Egyptian government in light of implementing the economic and social reform program in addition to the remarkable improvement of the economic performance.

### **Minister: Egyptian-Chinese Investment Exhibition is opportunity for boosting joint cooperation**

Trade and Industry Minister Amr Nassar said the Egyptian-Chinese Trade and Investment Exhibition and Conference represents a real opportunity for boosting joint cooperation between Cairo and Beijing at trade and investment levels.

The exhibition backs the strategic dimension of bilateral relations and reflects the recognizable economic development of the joint Egyptian-Chinese relations at bilateral and regional levels.

Nassar said the economic cooperation between both countries represents the key pillar of joint cooperation, highlighting that China is Egypt's first trade partner in the world and the fourth on the level of the African continent.

This came in the minister's speech while inaugurating the two-day exhibition that is currently held in Cairo on the behalf of Egypt's Prime Minister Moustafa Madbouli.

The past four years have witnessed a great leap with respect to the development of Egyptian-Chinese relations, Nassar asserted.

Nassar pointed out that the volume of trade exchange between both countries hit about 11 billion dollars in 2017, citing that 1,079





Chinese companies are working in Egypt in various fields and investment sectors.

The exhibition groups huge numbers of the major Chinese companies operating in the Egyptian market, Nassar said, adding that it represents a forum for the major Chinese firms to get aware of the benefits that the Egyptian market offers in various industrial domains.

He called on the Chinese companies to enter the Egyptian market and make use of the benefits it offers.

He thanked the Egyptian Chinese Trade Center for organizing this important exhibition which reflects the keenness of the Chinese side on promoting the joint trade and economic frameworks.

He highlighted that the event is consistent with what President Abdel Fattah El Sisi agreed on with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping during September summit talks.