

## THE DAWN OF RESURGENCE

JANUARY 2024



Top Themes for FY24: Currency Stabilization, Advent of SIFC, Tapping Agriculture Potential, & Recovery in FDI | Commodity Prices: Bearish trends owing to weaker than expected global growth | Economy: The Dawn of Resurgence | Politics - Holding of General Elections to provide much-needed calm | Equity: Turning Tides: Unravelling the Phenomenal Bull Run of PSX in Fiscal Year 2024 | Fixed income: Volatile yet stable | Gold - 2023 & beyond... | Meezan Pakistan ETF: Pokistan's first & only Shariah Compliant ETF | Marketing Highlights | New Product Launches















Download Al Meezan Investments Mobile Application Now!





#### **Table of Contents:**

in FDI	Page 03
The apparent nascent stage of Pakistan's economic revival can be seen surrounded by a stabilizing PKR, launch of the ambitious SIFC, enhanced efforts to capitalize on Pakistan's Agriculture potential, and a recovery in FDI.	
Commodity Prices – Bearish trends owing to weaker than expected global growth	Page 05
Commodity prices experienced a modest rebound in the second half of the calendar year 2023, driven by a slight uptick in economic activity. However, the general trajectory remained bearish. The future outlook is highly uncertain, primarily due to increased geopolitical risks, which have the potential to cause disruptions in the supply chain, particularly in energy markets.	
Economy – The Dawn of Resurgence	Page 08
Supported by IMF's funds and administrative measures, Pakistan's economy is beginning to show early signs of recovery in addition to some clarity on the political front. A wide range of indicators are showing signs of improvement both on the domestic as well as external front.	
Politics – Holding of General Elections to provide much-needed calm	Page 11
While the election date has cleared the air a bit, the political situation is still fluid and subject to change. Any clarity in the country's political landscape is likely to be taken positively by the capital markets as it would pave the way for the new government with a full five-year term to take tough decisions which are needed to put the country on the path of economic recovery.	
Equity – Turning Tides: Unravelling the Phenomenal Bull Run of PSX in Fiscal Year 2024	Page 12
In FY24, Pakistan's financial landscape saw a surprising change. An unexpected surge in stock prices, triggered by a USD 3Bn IMF loan, ended a prolonged economic standoff. Record corporate profits contrasted with historic market lows, reflecting a resilient economy. Euro Bonds soared post-default speculation, ending the year with a 69.49% rally.	
Fixed income – Volatile yet stable	Page 19
The policy rate has peaked out at 22% and we may see a reversal in near future.	
<b>Gold</b> – 2023 & beyond	Page 22
Current year 2023 turned out to be glamorous for the yellow metal.	
Meezan Pakistan ETF – Pakistan's first & only Shariah Compliant ETF	Page 23
ETF - MP-ETF provides investors with a diversified exposure to key sectors of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) such as Cement, Oil & Gas Exploration (E&Ps), Fertilizer, Oil & Gas Marketing (OMCs) and Pharmaceuticals etc.	
Marketing Highlights	Page 25
New Product Launches	Page 31
Risk Profile of Collective Investment Scheme/Plans	Page 34



## Top Themes for FY24: Currency Stabilization, Advent of SIFC, Tapping Agriculture Potential, & Recovery in FDI

#### Crackdown pulling brakes on PKR's free fall - Currency Stabilization

The caretaker government's decision of a crackdown on currency smuggling and illegal trade conducted in grey and black markets has proven to be a success in terms of pulling brakes on what had started to seem like a free fall of the Pakistani Rupee (PKR). After the Rupee plummeted to a record low of 307.10 against the dollar on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023, the State Bank of Pakistan and law enforcement agencies sprang into action against dollar smuggling and trade in black markets, leading to a sharp recovery of around 6% to 287.74 by the end of the same month. With the overall sentiment being further supported by the successful completion of Staff-Level Agreement with the IMF on the first review of Pakistan's Stand-By Arrangement (SBA), the Rupee has observed a period of relative stability and strength in the last two months, closing off CY23 at 281.86 against the greenback.



#### The Advent of SIFC – Heightened Focus on Attracting Investments

Government of Pakistan has formed the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to function as a 'One-Window' platform to fast-track decision-making and promote as well as facilitate Foreign Direct Investment in the country, currently focusing on five areas; Defense, Agriculture, Minerals, Information Technology & Telecommunication, and Energy. Recent announcements related to Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) having signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth multi-billion dollars to boost economic, regional, and strategic cooperation, ongoing Iron ore and Salt mining projects in Punjab and Balochistan, enhanced incentives for IT sector such as repatriation of forex, workspaces for freelancers, resolution of a longstanding case concerning hundreds of Megahertz spectrum in the Telecom space, energy sector initiatives such as determination of solar tariffs, gas price hikes, etc., are steps in the right direction taken under the SIFC's umbrella.





#### **Tapping Pakistan's Agriculture Potential**

It has been a longstanding admission that Pakistan has remained unsuccessful in exploiting the true potential of its agriculture sector till now. However, recently, we have observed rejuvenated vigour from the government in this regard. The launch of "Green Pakistan Initiative" falls under the same vision. It focuses on water conservation, sustainable farming, Research & Development, Land Information and Management System Center of Excellence ((LIMS-CoE), etc. It has been reported that Pakistan is seeking up to \$6 billion investment from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar and Bahrain over the next three to five years for corporate farming, with the aim of cultivating 1.5 million acres of previously unfarmed land and mechanizing existing 50 million acres of agricultural lands across the country to upscale output levels. The caretaker Sindh government has also approved the allocation of over 52,000 acres of state land for corporate agriculture farming whereas its counterpart in Punjab has sought a plan for establishment of nine model agriculture centers in the province. Additionally, efforts to modernize farming practices and seed development are expected to boost production yields.

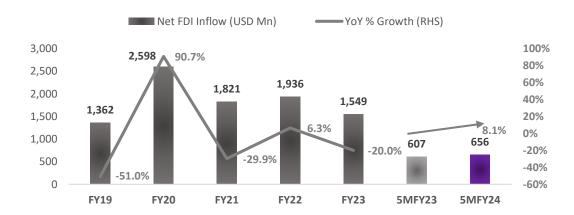


Source: Unsplash

#### Recovery in FDI

After a 20% contraction in the previous fiscal year, Net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has staged a rebound of 8% YoY in the 5MFY24 period as compared to the corresponding period last year. This indicates to improvement in foreign investors' confidence in Pakistan's economic landscape amidst ongoing reforms and efforts to counter macro challenges. Moving forward, approval of first review of SBA by IMF's Executive Board, stability of PKR and continuation of required structural and policy measures can be expected to lead to further boost to the FDI inflows.

#### Net FDI Inflow (USD Mn)



Source: SBP



## **Commodity Prices:** Bearish trends owing to weaker than expected global growth

Commodity prices showed short-lived recovery in second half of 2023 due to a moderate recovery in economic activity. The latest conflict in the Middle East has introduced significant uncertainty into commodity markets which have been coping with the effects of an extraordinary series of shocks (Covid-19 & Russia War) in recent years. Although commodity prices are projected to continue moderating on the back of softer global demand and adequate supplies, the outlook remains highly uncertain due to elevated geopolitical risks which could lead to supply disruptions and intensify price volatility, especially in energy markets.

#### Oil - Used in: Energy, Chemical and Transport industry

Oil prices continued their downward trajectory and traded at an average level of USD 77/bbl. in 4QCY23 vs USD86/bbl. in the previous quarter. This was mainly due to a supply glut owing to sluggish demand. Voluntary production cuts by OPEC members kept prices afloat. OPEC+ has agreed to cut oil production by 1mn barrels per day (bpd) starting in January 2024 as non-OPEC production, led by the US, continued to increase. However, oil markets have been reacting to geopolitical risk, with disruptions in the Red Sea pushing Brent up towards \$79 vs low of USD73/bbl in Dec'23.

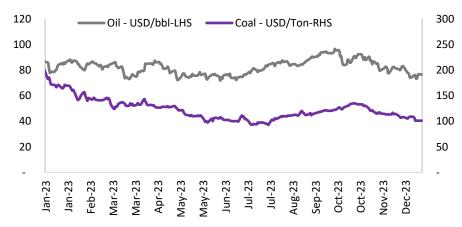
During CY23, major demand and supply determinants were the reopening of China's economy, disruptions in global trade and supply constraints due to ongoing wars (Russia-Ukraine & Hamas-Israel). The World Bank predicts oil prices to average \$81/bbl in 2024 in response to slowing demand and improved non-OPEC supplies and stay around this level in 2025.

#### Coal - Used in: Cement, Chemicals and Power Generation

Although prices showed some recovery during 3QCY23 mainly due to reduced supply levels on back of operation of coal mines being adversely affected by extreme weather conditions and increased sanctions because of environmental concerns, coal prices witnessed substantial overall reduction during CY23 with Richard Bay coal trading at USD 100/MT as on 26th Dec 2023; a decline of 45% since the start of year due to lower demand, the effects of depreciating currency amid the feebly performing economies, and a growing tilt towards cleaner energy sources.

Going forward, the price of coal is expected to remain under pressure due to reduced demand from the electricity sector in the short run coupled with increased stockpiling by China. However, global trading sentiments and stronger than expected recovery in India seem to be working in favor of the northward movement of coal prices. The World bank expects coal prices to fall by 26/15% in CY24/25.

#### Oil (LHS) and Coal (RHS): reduced effect of Russian war disruption



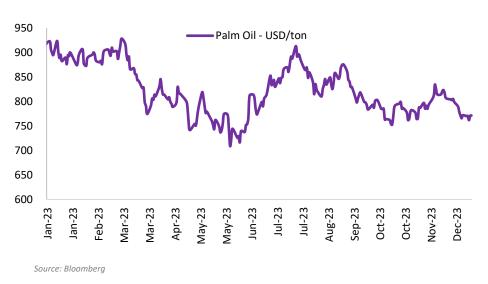
Source: Bloomberg



#### Palm Oil - Used in: Food industry

Palm oil prices declined further in CY23, trading at USD797/ton as on 26th December 2023, down 2% since the start of FY24 and down 13% CY23TD mainly due to weak demand, particularly in China. Moreover, surge in production in Oct-Dec 2023 by Malaysia to regain its lost market share kept the prices under pressure. However, in CY24, average price level is expected to rise due to unfavorable weather patterns which lowers crop yield, rising biodiesel demand, robust food demand and stagnating production growth. In addition, Indonesia plans to raise its mandatory palm oil-based biodiesel blending to 40% in the next few years, which could further uplift prices. Furthermore, geopolitics, fossil fuel prices and the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East loom large in terms of drivers of prices.

Palm oil: volatile prices amidst stagnating production growth & soaring demand coupled with shrinking crop yields



#### Steel scrap - Used in: Construction industry

The market of steel scrap faced a decline in the second quarter of CY23 due to weak demand from global industries. During 2HCY23, prices were supported by the muted revival of construction activities. The last quarter saw average price level rising to USD 423/MT in Dec'23, up 15% from USD 369/MT in Jul'23. Steel scrap traded between USD 353/ton and USD 468/ton during CY23 and was last seen trading at USD424/MT as on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Going forward, a restrained global economic growth outlook is expected to keep steel scrap prices under check.

Steel scrap: Construction slowdown weight on prices



Source: Bloomberg



#### **PVC** - Used in: Construction industry

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) prices had a downward trend in the first half of 2023. After an almost stagnant start, prices declined from USD 910/MT in February'23 to USD800/MT in July'23, mainly due to low demand from packaging and construction industries. Although the PVC market observed an upsurge in prices throughout 3QCY23, the rally was short-lived due to lower than expected recovery in demand. The monthly average spot price declined from USD 890/MT in August to USD 787/MT (down 12%) in December 2023. Meanwhile, ethylene prices also went up which kept the PVC-Ethylene margins on the lower side. Going forward, PVC prices are expected to stay soft in CY24 given global macro-economic demand pressures. However, higher than expected recovery in China and India could drive the prices upwards in the medium-term.

1100 PVC (USD/MT) Ethlyene (USD/MT) 1000 900 800 700 600 Jan-23 Jan-23 May-23 Jun-23 Jun-23 Mar-23 Apr-23 Jul-23 Aug-23 Aug-23 Sep-23 Oct-23 Var-23

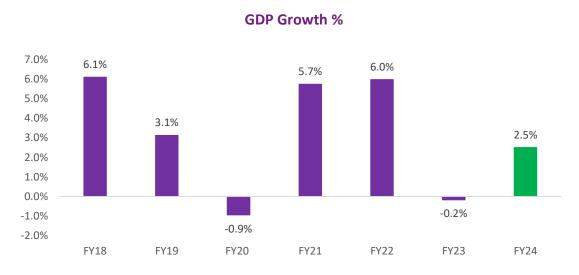
PVC: Supply glut amid lower demand kept margins in check

Source: Bloomberg



### **Economy: The Dawn of Resurgence**

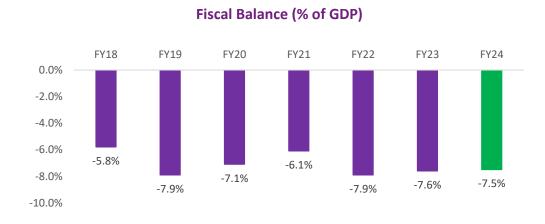
Backed by IMF's funds and administrative measures, Pakistan's economy is beginning to show early signs of recovery in addition to some clarity on the political front. A wide range of indicators are showing signs of improvement both on the domestic as well as external front. Pakistan also managed to clear the 1QFY24 review of the IMF, paving way for the second tranche of USD700mn, which is scheduled to be approved by IMF's board in January. Moreover, Election Commission has completed the delimitation and announced the schedule for elections which are to be held on 8th February 2024. However, controlling inflation remains a challenge amid increase in prices of energy goods such as electricity and gas. Both IMF and State Bank of Pakistan have projected a growth rate of 2.5% for Pakistan in FY24.



Source: Economic Survey

#### **Fiscal Deficit:**

Imposition of petroleum levy, continuation of super tax and higher SBP profits backed with austerity measures of the Government have so far proven to be beneficial as Pakistan posted a primary surplus of 0.4% of GDP and a budget deficit of 0.9% of GDP in 1QFY24. Moreover, Federal Board of Revenue's 1HFY24 tax collection has exceeded its target and is up 30% YoY to PKR 4,468 Bn from PKR 3,428 Bn in 1HFY23. IMF has projected a primary surplus of 0.4% of GDP and a budget deficit of 7.5% of GDP for Pakistan in FY24.



Source: Economic Survey/Budget FY24



#### **Current Account Deficit (CAD):**

The Current Account Deficit continued its downward trajectory as 5MFY24 CAD clocked in at USD 1.16 Bn, down 64% YoY from USD 3.26 Bn in 5MFY23. Slight improvement in exports coupled with a visible decline in imports were the key reasons for the contraction. Trade Deficit stood at USD 8.8 Bn in 5MFY24, down 35% from USD 13.4 Bn in the same period last year. IMF expects the Current Account deficit to arrive at 1.8% of GDP for FY24.

#### **Current Account Balance (% of GDP)**

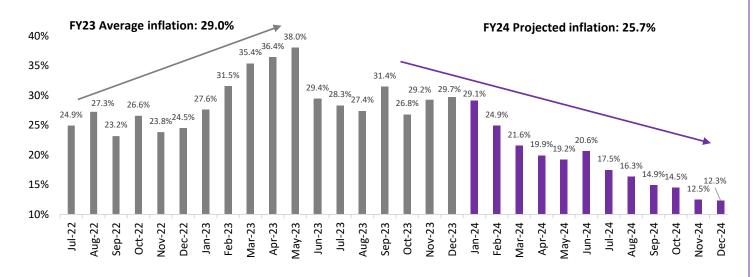


Source: SBP/Internal

#### Monetary Easing: Now a question of when, not if

Inflation averaged 28.8% in 1HFY24 as compared to 25.0% in the same period last year; which has delayed the monetary easing plan of the SBP. The policy rate is still currently at its historic high of 22%. Key driving factors of higher inflation are rising food prices, administrative changes in power and gas tariff, higher GST and second-round effects of PKR devaluation. However, with subsequent months expected to see a cooling off in inflation and FY24 average to land at 25.7% against 29.0% in FY23, monetary easing is very much on the cards.

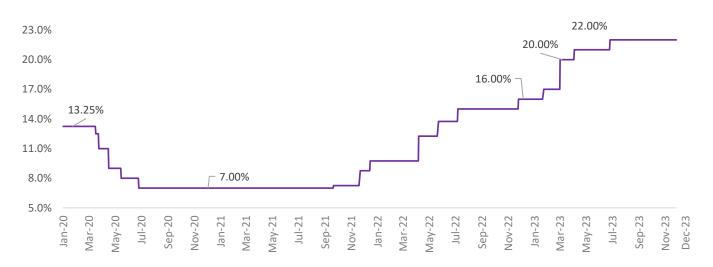
#### Inflation to fall in 2HFY24



Source: PBS



#### **Policy Rate**



Source: SBP



## **Politics** – Holding of General Elections to provide much-needed calm

Pakistan's political landscape has remained in a state of uncertainty following the removal of Imran Khan from power, repeated delays in holding of provincial elections, arrest of Imran Khan, and subsequent delays in holding of general elections.

Political uncertainty ensued after Imran Khan's ouster in Apr-22 through a parliamentary vote of no-confidence, following which the PTI started pressuring for early general elections. On the other hand, the incumbent government remained adamant on holding both the provincial and general elections together in Oct-23. The political climate changed considerably after Imran Khan's arrest in May-23, which led to violent protests across the country. Consequently, the incumbent government and law enforcement agencies came down hard against PTI, whereby several of its party workers (including many of its senior leaders) were arrested. This was followed by a round of resignations from a number of party members, several of whom either left politics or joined other parties.

Some clarity emerged in Aug-23, when President Arif Alvi dissolved the National Assembly, marking an end to the government's tenure and paving the way for the next general elections. The national elections were supposed to have taken place within 90 days of Parliament's dissolution; however, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) informed that it needed time for the delimitation process after the latest census, and announced that the general elections will be held on 08-Feb-2024.

In another important development, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif returned to Pakistan in Oct-23, after a four-year self-imposed exile to lead his party in the upcoming elections. According to news, he is gearing up to contest the 2024 elections from Lahore (Punjab) and Mansehra (KPK).

While the announcement of the election date has cleared the air a bit, the political situation is still fluid and subject to change. Nawaz Sharif's path to premiership has been eased by his acquittal in a major corruption case (Avenfield); however, other court cases against him still remain, which may yet thwart his ambitions. On the other hand, while Imran Khan still does enjoy a significant degree of public support as per recent opinion surveys and hopes to be re-elected with a larger mandate; he is in jail and disqualified from contesting the elections. Any clarity in the political landscape is likely to be taken positively by the capital markets as it would pave the way for the new government with a full five-year term to take tough decisions which are needed to accelerate the country's journey of economic recovery.

**Disclaimer:** This publication is for informational purposes only and nothing herein should be construed as a solicitation, recommendation or an offer to buy or sell any Fund.



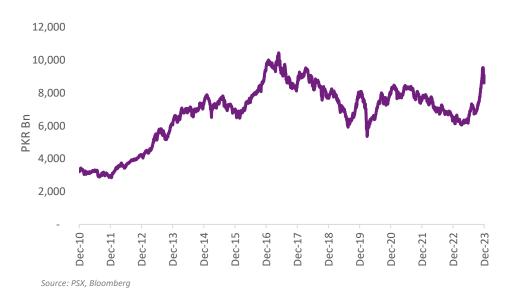
## **Equity:** Turning Tides: Unravelling the Phenomenal Bull Run of PSX in Fiscal Year 2024

The first half of FY24 witnessed an exceptional bull run that eclipsed a prior multi-year decline in the PSX. The benchmark KSE-100 index staged an impressive 50.66% return since June 2023, taking the index past its previous all-time highs registered in 2017. This exceptional return was on back of positively changing macro drivers, initiated with the signing of USD 3 Bn short-term IMF loan (SBA) at the end of June 2023 and supported by the subsequent staff-level agreement with IMF on its first review. The approval of the program led to much needed structural improvements across the economy such as gas circular debt resolution and provided stability to the exchange rate, hence further fueling the rally in stock prices. Later part of the rally was marked by the return of foreign investors to the PSX, as exhibited by the FIPI inflows clocking in at an 8-year high, marking a much-needed end to record outflows witnessed in the past years.

The eleventh-hour approval of IMF program was hailed as a 'breathing space for embattled economy' by many experts, hence, which bought to an end many months of standoff between the government and the IMF staff. The lending agency finally signed off a short-term loan of \$3 Bn loan structured over a 9-month period. The loan was given under the IMF Stand-by arrangement (SBA) rather than against the completion of the Ninth Review of the existing Extended Funds Facility (EFF) which would have originally unlocked a \$1.2Bn tranche. The SBA was signed after negotiations remained in a deadlock in the Ninth Review of EFF for past eight months. The resolution of this impasse ignited a record bull run that has remained undisrupted till the end of Dec 2023.

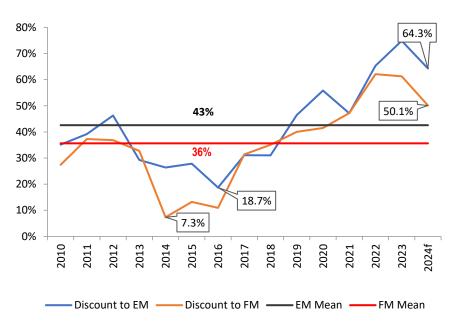
The market capitalization, prior to IMF loan approval, had reached a multi decade low exhibiting low confidence of investors in the future direction of Pakistan. Continuous liquidation by foreign corporates and local participants alike pushed the stock values to record lows on the PSX. This persistent selloff reflected subdued confidence of investors in the ability of the government to curb the continuous bleeding in foreign reserves which neared to a month of imports at its lows. Additionally, the prolonged deadlock in the Ninth review with IMF had further dented sentiments and fueled speculations of a possible sovereign default. Combination of these factors adversely affected the PSX, as exhibited by the KSE-100 index forward PE which registered a multi-year low, expanding its discount to MSCI FM and EM to highest in 14 years.

#### **Total Market Capitalization still below 2017 peak**





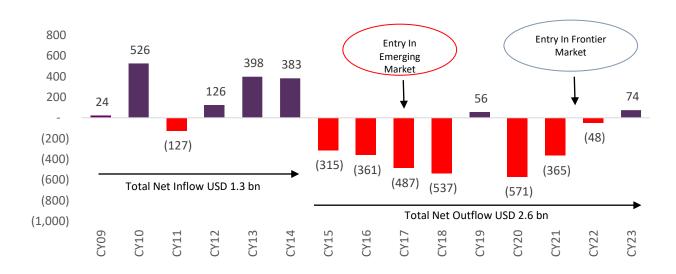
#### Discount to EM and FM still higher than historical norms



Source: Al Meezan Research, Bloomberg

The lows in market cap have been on contrast to the ever-rising corporate profitability of the companies in the PSX. The year 2023 marked one of the highest levels of corporate profits mainly supported by rapid increases in bank sector and oil exploration and production sector profitability. The main drivers of this rise in profitability were record high interest rates, steep local currency devaluation of 20%+ and rise in international oil prices. The interaction of low market cap and high profits is reflected in the depressed forward PE of the PSX.

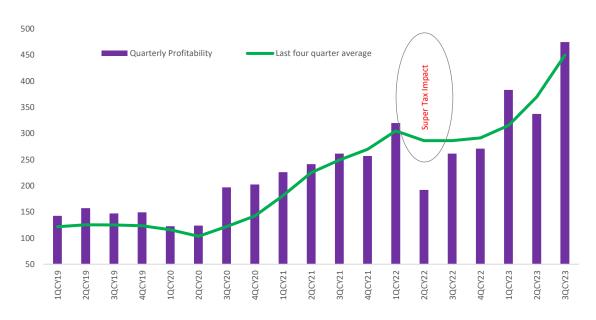
Foreigners' Net inflow at the PSX in CY23 was highest in 9 years (USD Mn)



Source: NCCPL



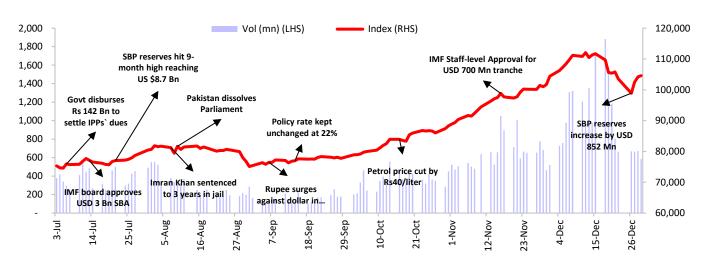
#### Corporate profits continue to remain strong (Rs. Bn)



Source: Al Meezan Research

Tracing the key events that influenced the rally in stock prices reveals a series of frequent positive triggers that kept the momentum alive. The run started off with the nod from IMF and positive government actions to address key problem areas continued to support the rally during the period. Government's resolve to address the burgeoning circular debt through 170%+ gas price increases and electricity tariff hikes was taken positively by index heavy weights in the exploration and production sector. To recall, inability of past governments to raise consumer prices of key utilities had strained financials of these companies, hence, increase in the rates for these utilities provided a much-needed relief. Additionally, SBP's decision to keep interest rates unchanged also provided investors more reasons to shift into equities in anticipation of a possible decline in interest rates in the future. Much needed stability in the PKR finally bought back the foreign investors who remained net sellers for most of the past 8 years.

#### **Event Chart**



Source: Al Meezan Research



#### Looking ahead in to the future...

The impressive run in the PSX in 1HFY24 has been mainly on the back of record corporate buy backs, institutional buying, foreign participation, and leverage. We believe that the rally still has legs despite the political environment still being unsupportive. Looking ahead, we believe that 1) monetary easing, 2) continued foreign interest in PSX, 3) stability in exchange rate and 4) local liquidity looking to find a new home as interest rates decline will collectively propel the stock prices higher.

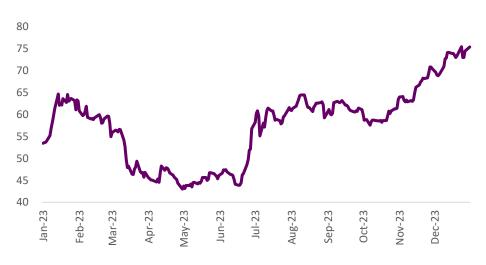
As we look ahead into the future, particularly considering FY24 and beyond, our outlook for equities remains optimistic, supported by robust earnings growth, appealing valuations, and ongoing structural adjustments. Valuations persist at historically favourable levels, with the market displaying a forward P/E ratio of approximately 5.0x, compared to its long-term average P/E of 8.0x. Additionally, a promising dividend yield of 6.3% is anticipated, with selected blue-chip stocks offering even higher yields exceeding 15%. Despite interest rates reaching multi-decade highs, the equity market continues to be attractive relative to fixed-income securities, trading at lower multiples than during the FY09 crisis.



#### The record Bull Run in the Euro Bonds

To recall our last edition of this publication in June 2023 carried a piece on our analysis of the Pakistani Euro-Bonds. We assessed that despite no default by Pakistan government, the Euro Bonds were pricing in a default scenario and any investor looking to take exposure then would experience substantial gains if default was somehow evaded. This expectation materialized with the approval of SBA at June-end 2023 and therefore prices of these bonds retraced rapidly. Since then the Euro Bonds staged a massive rally to end the year on a high note, with the Sukuk maturing in 2029 posting an overall return of 69.49% just in price gains since June 2023.

#### **Price Trend of International Sukuk Maturing in 2029**



Source: Al Meezan Research, Bloomberg

Investors continue to expect a positive run in the bonds assuming that Pakistan remains committed to reforms suggested by the IMF. The yield on the international sukuk is currently hovering at around 15% implying reduced concerns amongst investors of any possible credit event. At this time, it might be difficult for the yields to go back to lows witnessed in 2022 of around 7.5% unless global central banks embark on a coordinated easing spree. However, the yields are still better Sri Lankan Bond of similar maturities that are currently trading at around 24% with the government having experienced a credit event.

Going forward, the favourable pricing of the international sukuk opens up a much-needed avenue for Pakistan to tap international bond markets for financing that was largely shut off due to abnormally elevated yields. If things go as per plan, we might see the government raising more funds from this avenue as international investors express their approval of governments actions through these

**Disclaimer:** All investments in mutual fund are subject to market risks. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of the future results. Please read the Offering Document to understand the investment policies and the risks involved.



#### **Asset Class Returns**

#### Equity has historically outperformed all other major asset classes (except gold) in the long run.

Investment Avenues – Last 20 Years (% Returns)										
Period	Equity	Gold	Defense Saving	10 Year Govt. Bonds	Inflation	6-month T-bill	Bank Deposits	Dollar (USD)		
CY04	39	9	8	7	7	3	3	4		
CY05	54	19	9	9	9	8	7	1		
CY06	5	25	10	10	8	9	9	2		
CY07	40	33	10	10	8	9	9	2		
CY08	(58)	35	11	14	20	12	11	22		
CY09	60	32	11	13	14	13	12	6		
CY10	28	32	12	13	15	13	12	2		
CY11	(6)	16	13	14	12	13	13	5		
CY12	49	16	12	13	10	11	11	8		
CY13	49	(22)	11	12	8	7	9	8		
CY14	27	(7)	12	13	7	10	10	(5)		
CY15	2	(6)	9	9	3	7	7	4		
CY16	46	9	8	8	4	6	6	0		
CY17	(15)	19	7	8	4	6	6	5		
CY18	(8)	24	9	10	5	8	7	21		
CY19	10	32	12	13	10	12	10	11		
CY20	7	29	9	10	10	9	6	3		
CY21	2	7	9	10	9	8	7	10		
CY22	(9)	28	11	12	20	14	11	22		
CY23	55	41	15	15	31	21	18	20		
CAGR	14.1	17.3	10.4	11.1	10.5	10.0	9.1	7.3		

Source: Al Meezan Research, PSX, Bloomberg, SBP, PBS

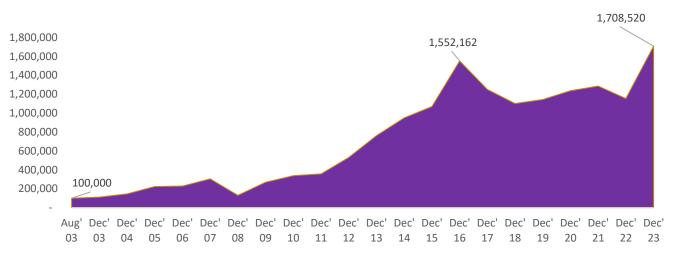
#### Investment Avenues – 20-Year CAGR



Source: Al Meezan Research, PSX, Bloomberg, SBP, PBS



#### **MIF Investment Growth**



MIF: Meezan Islamic Fund, Source: Al Meezan Research

**Disclaimer:** This publication is for informational purpose only and nothing herein should be construed as a solicitation, recommendation or an offer to buy or sell any fund. All investments in mutual funds and pension fund are subject to market risk. The NAV based prices of units and any dividends/returns thereon are dependent on force and factors affecting the capital markets. These may go up or down based on market conditions. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results. Performance data does not include cost incurred by investor in the form of sales-load etc. Please read the offering document to understand the investment policies and risks involved.



### **Fixed Income: Volatile yet stable**

In the ongoing fiscal year 2024, the central bank has maintained the policy rate at 22% till date (as of end of Dec'2023) to control inflationary pressures. The central bank has persisted with the policy rate of 22% in its last four monetary policy meetings after hiking the rate by 100 bps to 22% in June 2023. During the first quarter of FY24, yields of government securities rose sharply, however, once the interest rate hike expectations of the market participants tamed down, the yields also showed a downward trend after making highs of more than 24%. T-bill yields declined in the range of 137bps to 161bps and by the end of 1HFY24, 3, 6, and 12 months T-bill closed at 21.28%, 21.37% and 21.32% respectively, while PIB yields stood at 16.54% (3 Years), 15.90% (5 Years), and 14.91% (10 Years). Long-term PIB yields showed a downward trend in the range of 18bps to 41bps. KIBOR rates also witnessed a decline in the range of 145bps to 156bps, whereby 3-month, 6-month, and 12-month KIBOR rates were down by 145bps, 148bps & 156bps, clocking in at 21.46%, 21.49%, and 21.71%, respectively.

On the liquidity front, the money market remained stable due to regular short- and medium-term Open Market operations (OMO) from SBP, which ensured that the overnight rates remain close to the policy rate.

In the FX market, the rupee has appreciated during the ongoing fiscal year after having started off at PKR 285.99/USD. The rupee made a low of PKR 307.10 on September 5th in the interbank and finally closed at PKR 281.86 at end of December 2023.

#### **Secondary Market Yields Snapshot:**

	30-Jun-23	29-Dec-23	Difference from June 2023
SBP Policy Rate	22.00%	22.00%	0.00%
GoP Securities			
6- Months T-Bills	22.87%	21.37%	-1.50%
10-Year Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIBs)	15.32%	14.91%	-0.41%
Ijarah Sukuk	20.21%	19.85%	-0.36%
Corporate Instruments			
TFCs (AA rated and above)	22.46%	22.60%	0.14%
Corporate Sukuk	22.62%	22.21%	-0.41%

Source: MUFAP

Highest and Lowest Yields for the Period June 2023 to Dec 2023						
T-bills	High	Low				
T-Bill 3 Months	23.78%	20.94%				
T-Bill 6 Months	24.51%	20.92%				
T-Bill 12 Months	24.73%	20.85%				
PIBs	High	Low				
PIB 3 Year	21.16%	16.42%				
PIB 5 Year	17.93%	15.44%				
PIB 10 Year	16.61%	14.87%				

#### **Shariah Compliant end of the Money Market**

Source: MUFAP

The central bank continued to conduct GOP Ijarah Sukuk auctions during the year and new assets were also added to tap excess liquidity from the market. During the period under review, the central bank borrowed a total of Rs. 1.2 trillion from Islamic participants. SBP raised Rs 366.39 billion through the auction of 3-year Ijarah while Rs. 382.86 billion were raised in the 1-year tenor. The Ministry of Finance also achieved a milestone by introducing 1-year FRR (fixed rental rate) Ijarah sukuk through PSX. This will contribute in the diversification of govt. funding sources, in developing a shariah



compliant capital market and in boosting Islamic finance. The corporate sector continued facing challenges in raising money through long-tenor Sukuk; however, an increase in the issuance of shorter-tenor instruments was witnessed during the year. Details of available Ijarah Sukuk are as follows:

#### **Floating Rate Ijarah Sukuk**

Ijarah	Tuno	Course	Remaining Life	Novt Boset	Jasua Siza (hm)	Issue Date	Maturity		Reval		Change
ijaran	Type	Coupon	Kemaining Life	Next Reset	issue size (bii)	issue Date	iviaturity	27-Jun-23	29-Dec-23	YTM	Change
XX	Floater - 5 years	21.14%	1.34	30-Apr-24	76.39	30-Apr-20	30-Apr-25	96.42	99.49	20.65%	3.07
XXI	Floater - 5 years	21.82%	1.42	29-May-24	74.62	29-May-20	29-May-25	99.36	99.65	21.79%	0.29
XXII	Floater - 5 years	21.26%	1.49	24-Dec-23	47.24	24-Jun-20	24-Jun-25	99.08	99.92	21.31%	0.84
XXIII	Floater - 5 years	22.67%	1.58	29-Jan-24	186.91	29-Jul-20	29-Jul-25	99.40	101.00	20.54%	1.60
XXIV	Floater - 5 years	21.23%	1.95	9-Jun-24	227.26	9-Dec-20	9-Dec-25	99.71	100.91	20.61%	1.20
XXV	Floater - 5 years	22.75%	2.77	6-Apr-24	190.53	6-Oct-21	6-Oct-26	99.44	101.00	20.83%	1.56
XXVI	Floater - 5 years	22.29%	2.84	29-Apr-24	584.86	29-Oct-21	29-Oct-26	99.26	101.50	20.59%	2.24
XXVII	Floater - 5 years	22.39%	3.33	27-Apr-24	563.32	27-Apr-22	27-Apr-27	99.39	101.50	20.76%	2.11
XXVIII	Floater - 5 years	22.39%	3.83	26-Apr-24	243.85	26-Oct-22	26-Oct-27	99.73	101.78	20.71%	2.05
XXIX	Floater - 3 years	21.67%	2.02	5-Jan-24	105.96	5-Jan-23	5-Jan-26	99.00	99.00	21.77%	0.00
XXX	Floater - 1 year	22.73%	0.15	20-Feb-24	5.51	20-Feb-23	20-Feb-24	98.73	100.21	21.23%	1.48
XXXI	Floater - 1 year	25.54%	0.19	8-Mar-24	19.74	8-Mar-23	8-Mar-24	100.11	101.23	17.55%	1.12
XXXII	Floater - 1 year	23.60%	0.30	17-Apr-24	97.88	17-Apr-23	17-Apr-24	100.06	100.59	20.55%	0.53
XXXIII	Floater - 1 year	22.21%	0.40	22-May-24	79.81	22-May-23	22-May-24	100.07	100.73	19.78%	0.66
XXXIV	Floater - 1 year	22.01%	0.49	26-Dec-23	55.19	26-Jun-23	26-Jun-24	0.00	100.75	20.32%	0.00
XXXV	Floater - 5 years	22.31%	4.50	26-Dec-23	131.98	26-Jun-23	26-Jun-28	0.00	103.51	21.07%	0.00
XXXVI	Floater - 1 year	22.76%	0.54	12-Jan-24	61.43	12-Jul-23	12-Jul-24	0.00	100.75	20.78%	0.00
XXXVII	Floater - 3 years	22.77%	2.54	12-Jan-24	27.40	12-Jul-23	12-Jul-26	0.00	100.00	22.24%	0.00
XXXVIII	Floater - 1 year	23.71%	0.61	7-Feb-24	99.71	7-Aug-23	7-Aug-24	0.00	101.37	20.15%	0.00
XXXIX	Floater - 1 year	22.79%	0.73	20-Mar-24	5.79	20-Sep-23	20-Sep-24	0.00	100.00	20.67%	0.00
XL	Floater - 1 year	22.49%	0.78	9-Apr-24	37.55	9-Oct-23	9-Oct-24	0.00	101.03	20.24%	0.00
XLI	Floater - 1 year	20.33%	0.93	4-Jun-24	13.22	4-Dec-23	4-Dec-24	0.00	100.50	19.79%	0.00
XLII	Floater - 3 years	21.12%	2.93	4-Jun-24	49.45	4-Dec-23	4-Dec-26	0.00	100.12	21.09%	0.00
XLIII	Floater - 5 years	21.23%	4.94	4-Jun-24	27.86	4-Dec-23	4-Dec-28	0.00	99.96	21.29%	0.00
PES I	Floater - 10 years	24.01%	5.18	1-Mar-24	200.00	1-Mar-19	1-Mar-29	106.80	106.80	20.23%	0.00
PES II	Floater - 10 years	21.96%	6.40	21-May-24	199.97	21-May-20	21-May-30	100.02	100.03	21.37%	0.01
	_	22.37%		Total	3413.40						

Source: SBP, MUFAP

#### **Fixed Rate Ijarah Sukuk**

	_	_				Issue Size (bn) Issue Date	Maturity	Reval			<b>-</b> 1
Ijarah	Туре	Coupon	Remaining Life	Next Coupoi	Issue Size (bn)			27-Jun-23	29-Dec-23	YTM	Change
XXIII	Fixed - 5 years	8.37%	1.58	29-Jan-24	44.59	29-Jul-20	29-Jul-25	85.70	83.79	20.91%	-1.91
XXIV	Fixed - 5 years	9.45%	2.06	20-Jan-24	8.25	20-Jan-21	20-Jan-26	88.00	84.42	18.93%	-3.58
XXV	Fixed - 5 years	9.70%	2.77	6-Oct-23	12.73	6-Oct-21	6-Oct-26	89.00	83.92	17.22%	-5.08
XXVI	Fixed - 5 years	11.40%	2.96	15-Dec-23	323.83	15-Dec-21	15-Dec-26	90.08	87.08	17.14%	-3.00
XXVII	Fixed - 5 years	12.49%	3.33	27-Oct-23	60.89	27-Apr-22	27-Apr-27	92.37	88.83	17.00%	-3.54
XXVIII	Fixed - 5 years	12.49%	3.88	16-Nov-23	0.25	16-Nov-22	16-Nov-27	97.37	89.17	16.35%	-8.20
XXIX	Fixed - 1 Year	17.50%	0.15	20-Feb-24	0.00	20-Feb-23	20-Feb-24	98.04	98.43	27.14%	0.39
XXX	Fixed - 1 Year	20.70%	0.19	8-Mar-24	1.15	8-Mar-23	8-Mar-24	100.28	100.23	18.30%	-0.05
XXXI	Fixed - 1 Year	21.25%	0.30	17-Oct-23	11.29	17-Apr-23	17-Apr-24	100.11	100.10	20.05%	-0.01
XXXII	Fixed - 3 Years	18.24%	2.30	17-Oct-23	25.01	17-Apr-23	17-Apr-26	100.00	100.50	17.91%	0.50
XXXIII	Fixed - 1 Year	21.30%	0.40	22-Nov-23	1.25	22-May-23	22-May-24	100.00	100.00	20.85%	0.00
XXXIV	Fixed - 1 Year	21.29%	0.49	26-Dec-23	0.69	26-Jun-23	26-Jun-24	0.00	100.81	19.45%	0.00
XXXV	Fixed - 3 Years	18.49%	2.49	26-Dec-23	292.22	26-Jun-23	26-Jun-26	0.00	103.03	16.95%	0.00
XXXVI	Fixed - 1 Year	22.15%	0.54	12-Jan-24	6.39	12-Jul-23	12-Jul-24	0.00	100.10	21.86%	0.00
XXXVII	Fixed - 1 Year	22.00%	0.61	7-Feb-24	1.81	7-Aug-23	7-Aug-24	0.00	100.02	21.79%	0.00
XXXVIII	Fixed - 1 Year	22.95%	0.73	20-Mar-24	10.16	20-Sep-23	20-Sep-24	0.00	100.51	21.92%	0.00
XXXIX	Fixed - 5 Years	16.50%	4.73	20-Mar-24	0.50	20-Sep-23	20-Sep-28	0.00	101.79	15.92%	0.00
XL	Fixed - 1 Year	22.49%	0.78	9-Apr-24	111.25	9-Oct-23	9-Oct-24	0.00	101.63	19.93%	0.00
XLI	Fixed - 3 Years	16.19%	2.93	4-Jun-24	34.30	4-Dec-23	4-Dec-26	0.00	100.35	16.02%	0.00
XLII	Fixed - 5 Years	15.75%	4.94	4-Jun-24	42.45	4-Dec-23	4-Dec-28	0.00	100.50	15.59%	0.00
XLIII	Fixed - 1 Year	19.52%	0.95	11-Jun-24	36.07	11-Dec-23	9-Dec-24	0.00	84.94	18.70%	0.00
				Total	1025.07						

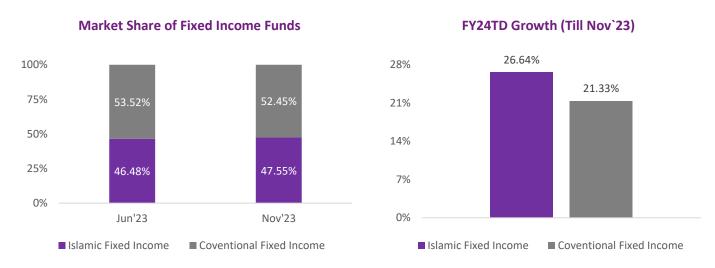
Source: SBP, MUFAP



During the period under review, it is also encouraging to note that some new blue-chip corporates from the sugar and power sectors have explored financing through the Shariah-compliant debt market. Corporates mainly targeted the short-term floating rate instruments for the working capital requirements at relatively better spreads compared to conventional alternatives like TFCs and bank loans. On the other hand, a consistent increase in the issuance of new Sukuk (both government and corporate) have aided the Islamic mutual funds in offering attractive returns to investors along with managing their liquidity effectively.

Going forward, Sukuk issuances are expected to grow as the Government is adamant to increase the share of Islamic debt in the overall domestic debt.

#### **Comparison of Growth in Fixed Income Funds**



Source: MUFAP, FMR

#### Outlook

Given inflationary pressures, we expect that policy rate has peaked out at 22% and we may see a reversal in near future. Fixed Income funds are well positioned to absorb any change in the policy rate. Furthermore, as expected, due to high financing costs, corporates have declined their spreads which lead to a reduction in borrowing rates.

We expect our Fixed income and Money market funds will continue to provide an attractive risk-adjusted rate of return to meet their investors' requirements.



### **Gold – 2023 & beyond...**

#### Spot Gold (USD/Oz) in CY 2023



Source: Bullion Vault

Calendar year 2023 turned out to be glamorous for the yellow metal. International Gold prices started the year around \$1,828 per oz and peaked at \$2,066 per oz in December 2023 on back of increased expectations on Federal Reserve (FED) rate pause bets.

Gold price touched a low of \$1,815 per oz in February 2023 when the FED remained committed on the hawkish course of rate hikes to counter rising inflation and achieve long term goal of keeping inflation under 2% target. The global supply chain disruptions resulting from longer than expected Russia/ Ukraine conflict, continued to increase global inflation. US inflation levels peaked to around 9% in June 2022, their highest levels in 40 years and continued to hover above FED's 2% target throughout 2023. However, the inflation level has subsided to around 3% recently.

Towards the end of 2023, Gold saw upward trajectory and touched a peak of \$2,066 per oz in December 2023 momentarily on the back of expectations that FED may soon start its rate cut cycle. To obtain short term gains from rising gold prices and falling inflationary fears, coupled with signs of Israel-Palestine conflict, investors rushed for safe haven investments like Gold, which helped push global Gold price to above \$2,000 per ounce. However, hotter than expected labor data and slightly hawkish comments from FED policy makers enabled gold to retract from its historical highs.

Globally, Central Banks continued to raise/hold interest rates to combat inflation. Inflationary outlook continued to deteriorate further with World bank expecting major economies to grow at a slower pace due to rate hikes and Banking stress. The U.S. is projected to grow 1.1%, while the Euro zone and Japan are projected to see GDP growth of less than 1% in 2023. Higher rates and overhangs from this year's banking crisis have drastically slowed economic growth for the biggest global economies.

Going forward, we expect that Gold presents a valuable opportunity for investors who seek to take a long position in yellow metal when it is weak and short the position when its price peaks. Investors should continue to monitor the situation surrounding the Federal Reserve in particular to chart a future course of trajectory for Gold prices. Such events should present valuable buying opportunity where attractive price levels can be targeted, especially by those seeking long term investment in the precious commodity, keeping portfolio risks in mind.



### Meezan Pakistan ETF: Pakistan's first & only Shariah Compliant ETF

#### Meezan Pakistan Exchange Traded Fund (MP-ETF):

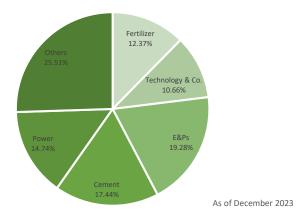
Al Meezan Investment Management Limited is the first Asset Management Company (AMC) in Pakistan to launch several new Shariah Compliant products in the market.

Keeping up this tradition to be the "first-to-market", Al Meezan became the first AMC to launch a Shariah Compliant Equity ETF on October 06, 2020, called Meezan Pakistan ETF (MP-ETF).

MP-ETF provides investors with a diversified exposure to key sectors of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) such as Cement, Oil & Gas Exploration (E&Ps), Fertilizer, Oil & Gas Marketing (OMCs) and Pharmaceuticals etc. The MP- ETF has an underlying basket of 12 stocks, derived from the sectors mentioned above.

MP-ETF offers exposure to high quality, liquid shariah-compliant stocks in the market. Investors can garner exposure in MP-ETF, while maintaining a sense of security that the fund's operations are fully approved by its Shariah Advisor (Dr. Muhammad Imran Ashraf Usmani Sb).

#### **Exposure to various sectors (MP-ETF)**



Source: Al Meezan Research

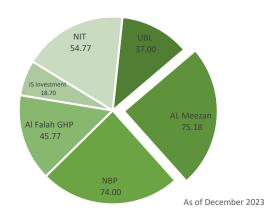
Investors in the stock market with a broker account can simply request their broker to purchase shares of MP-ETF from the stock market. These can be monitored by the investor by viewing the price display on the PSX website, on their respective brokerage trading panel.

MP-ETF is the only Shariah Compliant ETF available in Pakistan for the exclusive benefit of investors who are Shariah conscious in nature and seek halal investments.

**Disclaimer:** All investments in mutual fund are subject to market risks. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of the future results. Please read the Offering Document to understand the investment policies and the risks involved.



#### Market share



Source: Al Meezan Research

#### Benefits of an ETF:

An ETF is similar to a Mutual Fund. However, it enjoys certain characteristics that make it stand out when compared directly to a regular Mutual Fund including but not limited to:

- It enjoys the diversification advantage typically available in Mutual Funds, as it consists of a basket of securities. It is also unique in the sense that its units trade just like a share of stock. The investor can easily approach a broker to buy or sell an ETF unit any time during trading hours when the stock market is open for business.
- Unlike an Open-End Mutual Fund, an ETF provides continuous trading price throughout the trading day. This feature
  is also similar to that of a stock, where price of any stock is available throughout the day. In contrast, in an OpenEnd Mutual Fund, NAVs are generally available only at end of the business day.
- Well diversified ETFs generally permit the investor to purchase a basket of stocks in one-go, without having to buy
  individual stocks and perhaps incur higher transaction costs. Hence, exposure through ETFs may in fact lead to
  reduction in cost for an investor.
- Passive Equity ETFs typically have a passive strategy and may have low management fees, perhaps without any sales-load as well. This may make passive ETFs cost-effective means to take exposure to stocks in a particular index strategy that the ETF aims to mimic.
- Normally, the portfolio of the ETFs and its constituents are available to investors each day, thereby enhancing transparency. When one compares this feature with Open-End Funds, one realizes that such funds generally disclose a certain percentage of their holdings in their Fund Manager Reports which are normally available at end of the month. Thus, investors have the added advantage of tracking an ETF portfolio whenever they like.

**Disclaimer:** All investments in mutual fund are subject to market risks. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of the future results. Please read the Offering Document to understand the investment policies and the risks involved.





## **MARKETING HIGHLIGHTS 1HFY24**

Contributors: Yousuf Kamran | Saman Banatwala | Safi Uddin | Adeel Aslam



## THE WINNING STREAK CONTINUES

We thank our over **250,000 investors**, whose unwavering trust and confidence has further solidified our position as the Largest Fund Manager in Pakistan.

TRULY, WE ARE THE FIRST CHOICE OF INVESTORS!

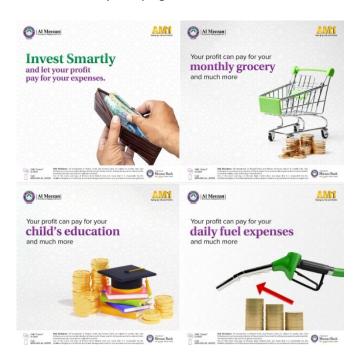
\*AUMs as of 29th Dec, 2023



#### **Educating the Masses**

Al Meezan Investments organized a series of webinars and took part in conferences to enhance awareness of their products, including podcasts as part of their outreach efforts.

#### **Invest Smartly Campaign**



### IBA – CEIF: Participation in Shariah Compliant Financing Solution Session



#### **Investment Road Show Participation**



7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Islamic Banking and Finance (ICIBF-2023)





#### The Future Summit

Mr. Mohammad Shoaib, CFA, CEO AI Meezan Investments engaged in an interesting dialogue with Dr. Ishrat Husain, former Federal Minister & Governor, State Bank of Pakistan, on his latest book "Development Pathways".





#### Podcast - How to Invest in Mutual Funds?

How to Invest in Mutual Funds? All about Mutual Funds with Talha Anwar on Adeel Azhar Talks. An insightful discussion with Mr. Talha Anwar, Chief Sales and Distribution Officer at Al Meezan Investments.

#### KP Pension Reforms – Leading the Way Forward

Mr. Mohammad Shoaib, CFA, CEO Al Meezan Investments presented his views on "Structure of the KP Pension Funds and benefits of private sector managed pension system".





#### Weekly Financial Magazine – Pakistan & Gulf Economist

Mr. Mohammad Shoaib, CFA – CEO, Al Meezan Investment Management Limited, had an exclusive conversation with Pakistan & Gulf Economist the weekly financial magazine about the Mutual Fund Industry of Pakistan.



#### Invest Expo Islamabad 2023



#### Investor Weekend; Dolmen Mall, Karachi



#### Learning with Mr. Itminan – Investor Education



Learn with Mr. Itminan about Equity Funds













#### Awards & Achievements





Al Meezan Roshan Digital Investment Accounts **crossed PKR 1 Billion** in Assets Under Management.

Awarded "Best Asset Management Company of the Year FY2023" by CFA Society Pakistan.



Awarded "Asset Management Company of the Year" at the 8<sup>th</sup> Islamic Finance Forum of South Asia (IFFSA) awards.



#### Expanding Footprint in Central Region – New Branch Opening in Lahore

Keeping in line with its expansion strategy, Al Meezan Investment Management Limited extended its branch network by opening its 4<sup>th</sup> branch in Lahore.



#### **Digital Initiatives**

#### Launch of Al Meezan Mobile App and Meezan Funds Online Portal

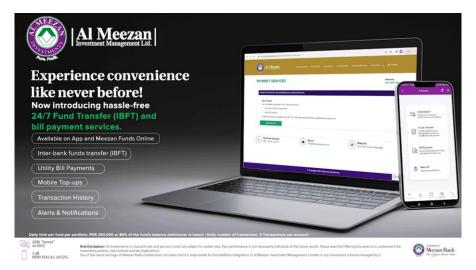


#### **RAAST Payments**





#### Launch of Inter Bank Fund Transfers & Bill Payment Services



#### **Product Launch**

#### Re-Launch of Meezan Paaidaar Munafa Plan-VIII





#### Meet & Greets: Client Get-Together

#### **Annual Corporate Dinner**

Al Meezan Investment extended its gratitude to all the investors who graced the event with their presence.







**Employee Engagement** 

#### Annual Dinner & Long Service Awards 2023





#### **Annual Picnic 2023**





#### **CSR** Initiative

#### **Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign**





# RISK PROFILE OF COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT SCHEME/PLANS

Fund Name	Symbol	Funds Category	Risk Profile	Risk of Principal Erosion
Meezan Islamic Fund	MIF	Islamic Equity	High	High
Al Meezan Mutual Fund	AMMF	Islamic Equity	High	High
KSE Meezan Index Fund	KMIF	Islamic Index Tracker	High	High
Meezan Energy Fund	MEF	Islamic Equity	High	High
Meezan Dedicated Equity Fund	MDEF	Islamic Equity	High	High
Meezan Pakistan Exchange Traded Fund	MP-ETF	Exchange Traded Fund	High	High
Meezan Gold Fund	MGF	Islamic Commodity	High	High
Meezan Asset Allocation Fund	MAAF	Islamic Asset Allocation	High	High
Meezan Balanced Fund	MBF	Islamic Balanced	Medium	Medium
Meezan Islamic Income Fund	MIIF	Islamic Income	Medium	Medium
Meezan Sovereign Fund	MSF	Islamic Income	Moderate	Moderate
Meezan Daily Income Fund	MDIF	Islamic Income	Plan Specific (Low to Moderate)	Plan Specific (Low to Moderate)
Meezan Fixed Term Fund	MFTF	Open End Islamic CIS as per SECP's Circular No.3 of 2022	Very Low	Very Low
Meezan Cash Fund	MCF	Islamic Money Market	Low	Low
Meezan Rozana Amdani Fund	MRAF	Islamic Money Market	Low	Low
Meezan Financial Planning Fund of Fund	MFPF	Islamic Fund of Funds	Plan Specific (Medium to High)	Plan Specific (Medium to High)
Meezan Strategic Allocation Fund	MSAF	Islamic Fund of Funds	Plan Specific (Medium to High)	Plan Specific (Medium to High)
Meezan Strategic Allocation Fund - II	MSAF-II	Islamic Fund of Funds	Medium	Medium
Meezan Strategic Allocation Fund – III	MSAF-III	Islamic Fund of Funds	Medium	Medium

**Disclaimer:** All investments in mutual fund are subject to market risks. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of the future results. Please read the Offering Document to understand the investment policies and the risks involved.





### Al Meezan mein Itminan hai.

## CONTACT US

0800-HALAL(42525) | SMS "invest" to 6655 www.almeezangroup.com

We are available on Social Media

















Download Al Meezan Investments Mobile Application Now!



For investment services and advice visit any branch of Al Meezan or Meezan Bank across Pakistan.

Disclaimer: All investments in Mutual Funds and Pension Fund are subject to market risks. Past Performance is not necessarily indicative of future results. Please read the offering document to understand the investment policies, risks and tax implication involved.

Use of the name and logo of Meezan Bank Limited as given above does not mean that it is responsible for the liabilities/obligations of Al Meezan Investment Management Limited or any investment scheme managed by it.