Dear Investor,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present **Alhamra Islamic Money Market Fund** accounts review for the quarter ended September 30, 2021.

Economy and Money Market Review

The fiscal year started on a robust note as Covid-19 vaccination drive gathered paced which helped to lift lockdowns across the county. The economic recovery was higher than expected as lagged impact of monetary easing, higher remittances and government incentives such as TERF facilities provided impetus to economic growth. The GDP growth clocked at 3.94 per cent in FY21 with government expecting the economic growth to clock at 4.8 per cent for FY22.

However, the robust recovery in domestic demand, coupled with higher international commodity prices, led to a strong pick-up in imports and a rise in the current account deficit. This put pressure on the local currency as rupee depreciated by 13.1 per cent against USD during this quarter.

Current account deficit posted a deficit of USD 2,290 million in the first two months of fiscal year compared to a surplus of USD 838 million in the corresponding period of the last year. The deterioration came in primarily on the back of higher imports which grew by 67.8 per cent in the first two months compared to export growth of 35.4 per cent. Trade Deficit increased by 100.2 per cent to USD 6.8 billion compared to USD 3.4 billion last year. Foreign exchange reserves of central bank saw an increase of USD 1.6 billion as Pakistan received USD 2.75 billion from the IMF under its new SDR allocation to back economically vulnerable countries combating the coronavirus pandemic.

Inflation remained a concern for the government as rising commodities continued to create challenges for policy makers. Headline inflation represented by CPI averaged 8.58 per cent during the quarter, with food inflation averaging 9.5 per cent during the period. Inflation was also effected by increase in fuel prices on account of increase in international oil and LNG prices. Nevertheless, core inflation as measured by Non Food Non Energy was still controlled and averaged 6.5 per cent for the period. The MPC committee conducted two monetary policies during the quarter and increased policy rate by 25bps in the Sep-21 meeting. SBP increased the interest rate to control the current account deficit and prevent the overheating of the economy as it noted the need to gradually increase the interest rates to protect the nascent economic growth.

On the fiscal side FBR Tax collection increased by 38 per cent over last year in this quarter to clock at PKR 1,395 billion compared to target of PKR 1,211 exceeding it by PKR 186 billion. This was on the back of higher custom duty and sales tax due to higher import.

Secondary markets yields have increased significantly in the quarter as SBP has started the monetary tightening cycle. The recent depreciation in rupee along with persistently high commodity prices will add pressure to inflation and we expect average FY22 inflation to clock above the range of 7-9 per cent forecasted by SBP. 3Y, 5Y and 10Y bonds saw a rise of 73 bps, 46 bps and 51 bps respectively during the period.

FUND PERFORMANCE

During the period under review, the fund posted a return of 6.97 per cent compared to the benchmark return of 3.26 per cent. In addition, the fund’s exposure in Cash stood at 65.8 per cent.

The Net Assets of the Fund as at September 30, 2021 stood at Rs. 13,780 million as compared to Rs. 15,258 million as at June 30, 2021 registering a decrease of -9.69 per cent. The Net Asset Value (NAV) per unit as at September 30, 2021 was Rs. 99.5100 as compared to Rs. 99.5100 at June 30, 2021 as well.

Converted into Islamic money market fund from 21st Aug 2020, hence this reflects performance from this date

Economy & Market – Future Outlook

The government has set a GDP growth target of 4.8 per cent for fiscal year 2022 (FY22). Covid-19 vaccination drive is continuing with success as over 50 million people have received the first dose of coronavirus vaccine. This has helped to lift lockdown across the country and we expect the Covid-19 situation to remain under control. Broader economy also appears to be operating close to pre-covid levels gauged by LSM growth, cement sales, auto sales, etc. However, the recent surge in commodity prices poses challenges to both to Fiscal and External Accounts. Due to the recent government steps to curtail demand we see some downside risks to government growth target. We expect GDP growth to clock higher as compared to previous year but it is likely to remain lower than the government target of 4.8 per cent.

The robust recovery in domestic demand on the back of pro-growth measures by the government, coupled with higher international commodity prices, has led to a strong pick-up in imports and a rise in the current account deficit. The current account deficit is expected to increase to USD 13.1 billion (4.0 per cent of GDP) in FY22, amid rising international crude oil prices along with general increase in international commodity prices. The Current Account deficit is likely to further weaken the local currency and we expect the exchange rate to close the year around 176 PKR/USD. Swift resumption of IMF program will be a key prerequisite to keep the financial account in positive zone. SBP has indicated that the flexible market determined exchange rate and gradual tightening of interest rates would be used in tandem to ensure sustainable current account position. The remittances along with bilateral and multilateral flows would also be crucial in managing our external position.

CPI averaged 8.9 per cent in FY21. The expected utility adjustments, currency depreciation and higher international commodities prices will lead to increase in inflation in this year. We expect Average FY22 inflation to clock at 9.7 per cent with inflation going in double digits in second half of the fiscal year. Based on our expected inflation, the real interest rates now fall into negative range thus requiring adjustments in the monetary policy during the current fiscal year. However, SBP has shown its focus to avoid any shocks to economic growth and will gradually increase interest rate to achieve mildly positive interest rate over the medium term. We expect the Policy Rate to reach 9.0 per cent by the end of the year.

From capital market perspective, particularly equities, the recent correction in stock prices have opened up valuation. The market has priced in expected interest rate increase and currency depreciation. Market cap to GDP ratio has declined to 15.9 per cent, a discount of 43 per cent from its historical average. Similarly, risk premiums are close to 5.9 per cent, compared to historical average of 1.5 per cent signifying abnormal returns for long term investors. We believe a micro view of sectors and stock will remain important and investment selection should focus on companies which trade at a deep discount to their intrinsic value. Similarly, focus should also revert back to companies that are expected to exhibit stellar earnings growth over the medium term.

For debt holders, we expect Money Market Funds to continue to seamlessly mirror policy rates throughout the year. On the other hand, government bonds yields may continue to rise given expected increase in interest rates. We remain cautious at the current levels of bond yields and would continue to monitor the data points to capitalize on opportunities.

Mutual Fund Industry Review

The Net Assets of the open end mutual fund industry increased by about 1.4 per cent during the quarter to PKR 1,032 billion at the end of 1QFY22. Total money market funds grew by about 1.1 per cent since June 2021. Within the money market sphere, the conventional funds dominated as they grew by about 8.1 per cent to PKR 308 billion while Islamic funds declined by 9.9 per cent to PKR 164 billion. In addition, the total fixed Income funds increased by about 8.5 per cent since June 2021, as the conventional income funds grew by 13.6 per cent to PKR 143 billion.

Equity and related funds declined by 4.4 per cent over last quarter as market witnessed a decline in the quarter eroding AUMS and concern over macroeconomic and geopolitical factors kept investors at bay.

In terms of the segment share, Money Market funds were the leader with a share of around 46 per cent, followed by Equity and Equity related funds with a share of 28 per cent and Income funds having a share of 26 per cent as at the end of 1QFY22.

Mutual Fund Industry Outlook

The recent increase in interest rates along with prospect of further monetary tightening would increase flows in the money market funds. The money markets funds by virtue of its short duration would be the ideal for investors with a short term horizon and low risk profile. However recent correction in stock prices have opened up valuations and long term investors would look to add equity exposure at these attractive levels. Our operations remained seamless and given our competitive edge due to aggressive investment in digital access and online customer experience, the environment provides an opportunity with growing number of investors available online.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Board is thankful to the Fund's valued investors, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan and the Trustees of the Fund for their continued cooperation and support. The Directors also appreciate the efforts put in by the management team.

On behalf of Directors,

Muhammad Saqib Saleem	**Nasim Beg**
Chief Executive Officer	Director/Vice Chairman
October 22, 2021	October 22, 2021