

Press Release (For Immediate Release)

Key Government Officials Inaugurate EFG Hermes CSR Project in Beni Sweif

Minister of Social Solidarity, Dr. Ali Al-Moselhi and Beni Sweif Governor, Dr. Samir Seif Al Yazzal visit the village of Ezbet Yacoub to commemorate the completion of the second phase of Ro'ya 2008, the EFG Hermes Foundation's sustainable development project that aims to provide adequate housing and services for over 5,000 residents.

Cairo — EFG Hermes, the leading investment bank in the Arab world, is proud to announce the completion of phase two of Ro'ya 2008, an integrated development project designed to provide adequate housing, running water, sanitary facilities and electricity to the 5,000 impoverished residents of the village of Ezbet Yacoub in the Upper Egyptian governorate of Beni Sweif.

To commemorate the special event, the Minister of Social Solidarity, Dr. Ali Al-Moselhi and the Governor of Beni Sweif, Dr. Samir Seif Al Yazzal paid a visit to Ezbet Yacoub where they joined EFG Hermes Foundation Chairperson, Mona Zulficar and EFG Hermes Foundation Managing Director, Hanaa Helmy for the handover of 150 new homes to 150 families and a tour of the impressive facilities that have been put into place to support the project.

“The new homes which are all equipped with room separators, running water, electricity and sanitary facilities, are merely the start of what has become the development of an entire village”, said Zulficar. “We felt that it was necessary to provide the villagers with the means to support themselves and maintain their new home after the project was over.”

A new sewerage system has been designed and a waste water treatment plant that recycles sewage water for irrigation has been built and is currently operational. Income-generating projects such as microfinance and animal husbandry have been established in an effort to provide the villagers with stable, sustainable sources of income and small-business finance. A new community center has also been built to act as the focal point for the village. It currently includes a bakery that is run by the villagers, and by spring 2010 the community center will also house a health clinic, dairy lab, nursery for children and vocational training center all staffed by members of the local community.

“For the past two years the EFG Hermes Foundation has been very hands on with this project so today it is a great honor to be able to deliver the new homes and facilities that we hope will significantly improve quality of life for the residents of Ezbet Yacoub,” said Helmy. It also gives me a great deal of satisfaction to see the spotlight shed on the very important area of corporate social responsibility. As Egyptian companies grow and mature we hope to see more companies making significant contributions to their communities,” she adds.

The landmark EGP 25 million project, which began 2 years ago, hopes to deliver a total of 422 new and refurbished homes by the end of 2010, a figure that is almost double the 270 homes that



were initially targeted. Once the project is complete, the EFG Hermes Foundation plans to use the basic infrastructure that has been put into place to extend services to other neighboring villages.

In 2009, the Egyptian Cabinet of Ministers' Social Contract Center recognized Ro'ya 2008 as "the model development project of the year" and made a call to the private sector to follow suit. The project was also the winner of the GTM/EGX Best Corporate Social Responsibility Award for 2010 and a finalist for the Schwab Foundation Award for Social Entrepreneurship.

—Ends—

Notes for Editors:

About EFG-Hermes Foundation

As part of its social responsibility towards the communities in which it operates, EFG-Hermes established the EFG-Hermes Foundation in 2006. The EFG-Hermes Foundation is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization. Its mission is to assist people and institutions overcome the financial, educational and health-related challenges facing our society. The Foundation aims to support innovative and sustainable programs that increase the opportunities for those most in need to make a positive change in our local communities.

The EFG-Hermes Foundation's primary focus is to alleviate poverty in Egypt by supporting development initiatives in the housing, water, sanitation, and income generation areas. Other program interests include issues related to health, education, the environment, gender equality, employment, children rights, youth development, and microfinance.

Since its launch, the Foundation has played a significant role in the development of the society by working with reputable institutions and NGOs on several projects including and not limited to: Unite for Children: Street Children Initiative; Youth Sustainability and Viability Fund; The Paper Recycling and Graphics Center; Nazlet Hussein Housing Project in Menya; Bani Khaled Water and Latrine Facilities in Menya; Hepatitis C Awareness and Combat; Hepatitis B Vaccination campaign for college students; Microfinance; Medical Convoys; School Feeding Program; Community Center for Art for Development; and Poverty Alleviation of Ezbet Yacoub in Beni Sweif.

For more information on EFG-Hermes Foundation please visit www.efghermesfoundation.org, or contact: