



First Capital

REPORT OF THE MANAGER

We have pleasure in presenting the unaudited Interim Financial Statements of First Capital Wealth Fund for the six months ended 30 September 2015.

Economic Review

Sri Lanka's GDP growth rates were 4.4% and 6.7% in the first and second quarters of financial year 2015/16 compared to 0.7% and 1.9% in the previous year (source - Central Bank of Sri Lanka – CBSL). The accelerated growth was primarily driven by the services sector, which in turn was driven by wholesale and retail trade, and financial services.

Interest rates, a key driver of fixed income investment returns, were volatile during the first six months. The benchmark one year, five year, and ten year government securities yields were 6.75%, 9.05%, and 9.70% respectively at the commencement of the year (January 2015), declined to 6.18%, 8.13%, and 8.68% respectively during the first half, and increased to 7.20%, 9.65%, and 10.50% respectively by 30 September 2015. The resulting net increases of 0.45%, 0.60%, and 0.80% reflect market expectations of rising interest rates. Interest rate expectations were impacted by significantly lower excess liquidity in the banking system: adjusted for the Central Bank's term repo transactions, excess liquidity declined from Rs. 174 Bn to Rs. 62 Bn during the first half. Changes in interest rates are a key driver of returns from fixed income funds accounted on a mark to market basis, with rising interest rates depressing fund returns and vice versa.

Fund Performance

First Capital Wealth Fund reported a net profit (after tax) of Rs. 133 Mn for the first half of the financial year 2015/16 compared to Rs.196 Mn in the correspondence period of the last year. The Fund reported a return of 5.75 % (annualized) during the period under review (2014/15 – 17.12%).

The funds under management increased to Rs. 3.8 Bn as at 30 September 2015 compared to Rs. 2.17 Bn at the commencement of the year. Capital infused by the unit holders for the period under review is Rs. 1.5Bn (1st Half of 2014/15 – Rs.1Bn). Number of units represented by the unit holders' funds as at 30 September 2015 is 3,217,708.

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