

Business

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022

Gulf Cable and Electrical Industries' assets increase to KD 316.35 million

Company adopts promising strategy to carry out quality takeover operations

KUWAIT: Chairman of the Board of Gulf Cable and Electrical Industries Co Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi said the company adopted a promising strategy to carry out controlled quality takeover operations, which will have positive effects on the company's performance and revenues, in addition to shareholders' equity.

Al-Kharafi, who spoke on the sidelines of the company's general assembly that was held recently, said Gulf Cable is currently interested in expanding its operational investment to go along with approved strategic plans, which reflects its ability and solvency as a main umbrella that has become like a holding company.

Plans and standards:

Going for various acquisitions.
The right selection at the right time.
Concentrating on highly active management.

Al-Kharafi said the search for acquisitions resulted in the quality takeover of National Investments Company, which is now categorized as an associate company after the increase of Gulf Cable's share in it. "The creation of various investment Gulf Cable is only the start towards more sustainable growth, and maybe our presence as a major shareholder in National Investments Company is one of the historic main steps of the portfolio," he said.

Effects of takeovers

Al-Kharafi expected the operation to have a great impact on Gulf Cable and its assets as a comprehensive entity that is enough to expand it to various sectors. He added the plan includes ownership of other operational entities including Care for Building and Cities Cleaning Contracting Company as a subsidiary, along with Heavy Engineering Industries and Shipbuilding Co (HEISCO), which is considered among the strategic moves, besides NIC and other promising assets.

Al-Kharafi said the ambitious future vision of Gulf Cable relies on moving along with quick changes in local, regional and international markets, as the company is currently concentrating its efforts on the development of its resources and plans on seizing promising investment opportunities to increase income and profits in a way that guarantees it ability to compete and expand.

Performance

Al-Kharafi spoke about Gulf Cable's annual per-



Chairman of the Board of Gulf Cable and Electrical Industries Co Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi speaks during the company's general assembly.

formance, which reflects a growth in its profits for the year by 188.2 percent to reach KD 16.06 million at 77 fils per share, compared to KD 5.57 million for 2020. The general assembly approved the board of director's recommendation to distribute cash dividends estimated by 60 fils per share according to the rules in effect at Boursa Kuwait. The general assembly approved all items on the agenda including the board of director's and auditors' reports.

Asset growth

The company's assets recorded a 56 percent increase reaching KD 316.35 million, compared to KD 202.77 million, according the annual financial data for 2020. Cables achieved total revenues of KD 81.3 million for 2021, a growth rate of 2.6 percent compared to KD 79.3 million for 2020. It is worth mentioning that the company revenues are made up of three elements - Gulf Cable sales at KD 65.5 million, investments of KD 12.8 million and rendering services of KD 3 million.



KUWAIT: Gulf Cable and Electrical Industries Co officials led by Chairman of the Board Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi pose for a group picture during the company's general assembly.

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait announces 17 percent increase in net profit

Total assets reach KD 5.8 billion

KUWAIT: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has announced its financial results for the quarter ended 31 March 2022. Demonstrating a strong start to the year, ABK reported a Net Profit of KD 8.3 million for the first quarter of 2022, a 17 percent increase over the same period last year. Over the same period Total assets increased by 21 percent to KD 5.8 billion. Total loans increased by 19 percent to KD 3.6 billion and customer deposits increased by 29 percent to KD 4.1 billion. The Capital Adequacy Ratio was 17.7 percent, while Shareholders' Equity was KD 522 million.

The Bank's balance sheet remains healthy with strong capital, liquidity and impaired loan coverage ratios. Non-Performing Loan (NPL) ratio stood at 1.48 percent and NPL coverage at 368 percent. Commenting on the robust results, George Richani, Group Chief Executive Officer of ABK, said, "We are pleased with the start of the year.

The continued execution of our 'Transform and Grow' strategy has enabled us to deliver an excellent performance in the first quarter of this year as we maintained steady growth on all key parameters. We also remain focused on sustaining strong returns for our shareholders through prudent financial management. To support our clear momentum and long-term growth, we will continue to invest in digitization and human capital in order to create a seamless experience for our customers."

As for ABK-Egypt, the operational profits and net profits for the first quarter of this year have increased considerably despite the stressed economic conditions. The Bank's regional branches continued to excel in their operations. ABK-DIFC, was awarded a



George Richani ABK CEO

'Category 1 Banking License' by the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA). ABK-DIFC is now able to offer a vast portfolio of wholesale banking services, including accepting deposits from corporates and financial institutions.

ABK has been rated A2 and A, with a Stable outlook from Moody's and Fitch respectively. This reflects the Bank's healthy capital position and excellent liquidity, which is fully compliant with the Central Bank of Kuwait's conservative and robust regulatory system. Noting that customers are at the forefront of the Bank's operations, Richani added, "We remain committed to our

'Simpler Banking' promise. In this quarter, we introduced a suite of innovative services with unique features and benefits that support customers' access to seamless banking services.

These services included enabling customers to open and manage a term deposit account digitally, either through eahli.com or through the ABK Mobile Banking app. In addition, the Bank also launched the '5-Year Term Deposit,' a first of its kind product in Kuwait that allows customers to receive interest in advance." ABK continues to prove itself as a key catalyst in the financial sector, focusing on employee development.

The Bank organizes and runs industry-leading training programs geared toward developing the leadership pipeline at ABK by identifying the talent pool of potential future leaders and empowering them to go through structured developmental streams while undertaking multiple aptitude and psychometric assessments to align their performance with their career aspirations. The Bank also actively participates in career fairs to support young talent in Kuwait and assists them in navigating their careers.

In addition, ABK continues its commitment to giving back to the communities in which it operates through several comprehensive corporate citizenship and socially responsible initiatives. The Bank's support towards initiatives and organizations such as Health Awareness Run organized by Al Amiri Hospital, Kuwait University Medical Association, and a First-of-its-Kind 'Sustainable Living Event' are demonstrative of this commitment.

Richani also reinforced the Bank's com-



mitment to the 'Let's Be Aware' campaign, Kuwait's nationwide joint initiative by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and Kuwait Banking Association (KBA). During the first three months of the year, ABK raised financial awareness by highlighting the risks associated with loan encashment and trad-

ing with cryptocurrency. ABK will continue to provide the public with the necessary knowledge to foster financial literacy amongst the community. For more information about ABK please visit eahli.com or contact an ABK customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.