



Rating Action

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PACRA Maintains Stability Rating of NAFA Islamic Aggressive Income Fund

The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency (PACRA) has maintained the stability rating of NAFA Islamic Aggressive Income Fund (NIAIF), an open-end Islamic aggressive income fund, at '**A- (f)**' (Single A minus; fund rating). The fund's rating denotes a strong capacity to manage relative stability in returns and low exposure to risks.

The investment objective of the fund is to earn reasonable rate of return for its unit holders by constructing a portfolio primarily invested in Shariah compliant money market and debt securities. Currently, fund's exposure with GoP Ijara sukuk is 4%, while 92% of the fund's assets are exposed as banking deposits with banks rated 'A-' & above. Exposure with 'AAA' rated banks was 16%, exposure with 'AA' rated banks was 2%, whereas with A+ and A- rated banks exposure was 29% and 46% respectively at end-sept 16. The unit holding pattern of the fund is reasonably concentrated with top10 investors representing 30% of the fund's total assets.

The fund intends to maintain its allocation towards bank placements (70%). The remaining assets will be invested in Shariah compliant government securities and good quality debt instruments. Material changes in the fund's asset allocation strategy, which could negatively impact the fund's credit quality and exposure to interest rate risk, remain critical for the rating.

About the Management Company:

NBP Fullerton Asset Management Limited (NAFA) an 'AM2++' rated AMC by PACRA was incorporated in August 2005. National Bank of Pakistan is the major shareholder of NAFA with 54% stake, followed by Alexandra Fund Management Pte. Ltd - 36% stake. NBP, one of the largest banks in Pakistan over 1300 branch network, has a very strong financial position, evidenced by a long-term entity rating of AAA by PACRA. The CEO of NAFA holds a stake of 10% in the company. Presently, the company is managing a diversified portfolio of twenty one open-end funds, two pension schemes and several discretionary portfolios with AUM of PKR 80bln at end-Nov16.

The CEO, Dr. Amjad Waheed, CFA, holds a Doctorate in Business Administration; he has extensive experience in domestic and international capital markets. The fund manager, Mr. Muhammad Ali is CFA charter holder and carries a diversified experience in the banking and mutual fund industry.

Applicable Criteria and Related Research

- Mutual Funds | Oct-16
- Fund Stability Rating Methodology

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