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Al Ismaelia secures EBRD financing to drive ESG-led redevelopment in Downtown Cairo

Al Ismaelia for Real Estate Investment has secured financing from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to accelerate its environmental, social, and governance (ESG)-led redevelopment of heritage assets across Downtown Cairo.

The agreement was signed at Mazej Balad by Karim Shafei, Chairperson of Al Ismaelia, and Jean-Marc Peterschmitt, Managing Director, Corporate Sector at the EBRD. The financing will be deployed across a pipeline of historic and commercial buildings, focusing on deep retrofits, adaptive reuse, and strengthening governance and reporting frameworks.

Shafei emphasized that ESG principles are embedded in Al Ismaelia's

operations, shaping decision-making, capital allocation, and community engagement. "They guide how the Downtown portfolio is developed over time, from restoration and infrastructure upgrades to tenant mix and district-wide connectivity," he said.

The agreement supports projects scheduled for 2026, including the Mahmoud Bassiouny boutique hospitality concept, designed by young Egyptian creatives to offer immersive stays rooted in Downtown's identity, and La Viennoise Retail, which will showcase curated Egyptian brands alongside a dining concept to energize the space.

These initiatives extend Al Ismaelia's adaptive reuse model beyond restoration, introducing new uses

that increase occupancy, diversify revenue streams, and integrate heritage buildings into a functioning mixed-use district.

Peterschmitt noted: "We see strong potential in platforms that combine disciplined asset management with structured ESG practices, particularly in dense urban environments such as Downtown Cairo."

Founded in 2008, Al Ismaelia owns 25 heritage properties across Downtown Cairo, spanning approximately 85,000 square meters. Through adaptive reuse, the company continues to reposition these assets as commercially viable spaces integrating hospitality, retail, and cultural uses within a unified urban framework.