



# MBG Equity Investment Fund, Inc.

## **Fund Manager's Report**

For the month of November, shares lost 4.7% to 108.25, underperforming the PSEi TR which lost 3%. Since the Fund's inception, shares have lost 6.5%, outperforming PSEi TR which lost -8.7% for the same period.

Markets sold off as MSCI rebalancing announced down-weights across the Philippines which resulted in pronounced selling. Net foreign selling accelerated from announcement date to \$258.6 mln, the largest level since May this year. The peso is expected to strengthen amid the seasonal increase in OFW remittances. In addition, a recently approved measure making the 2019 budget available to agencies, particularly for infra spending into 2020 should provide a much needed lift. Externally, the US-China trade war seems to have reached a momentous phase one trade deal in principle, with both sides agreeing to reduce some punitive tariffs for increased purchases of products, as well as make structural reforms in the areas of intellectual property. (source: Deutsche Regis, "The Month in Review - November 2019").

Our biggest loser is our oil refinery whose 9M19 net income fell 70% YoY. Management indicated declining volumes (-7%), worsening oil smuggling cases, and the refinery's prolonged shutdown (nearly 4-months) as a result of scheduled maintenance and a quake in the area as the cause of the decline. Additionally, benchmark refining margins fell 16% YoY, but continue to recover due to increasing diesel crack spread. We anticipate a turnaround in 4Q19, driven by a better refinery utilization rate, and higher refining margins adjusted for inventory loss/gain.

On the Vietnam front, foreign investors were net sellers for the 4th month straight with a total value of USD 41 mln. There is some good news—Kuwait's impending upgrade to the Emerging Market index gives Vietnam's current weight (16.96%) room for growth. MSCI roughly estimates Vietnam's weight in the index to jump to around 27%.

Another one of our stocks took a beating (-34%) as investors seemed to overreact to lower than expected October earnings (-77% YoY). However, the drop in earnings for our retail company can be explained by a provision for bad debt of VND 20 bln, and expenses arising from an investment in the digital transformation for both its pharmacy and pharmaceuticals chains. We believe the market to be incredibly short-term in view in this regard. The bad debt is due to a one-off that they have been able to correct, and for the increase in expenses, there's a popular adage I believe fits well in this situation. You might be familiar with it—"Plant trees that other men will sit under". We like that the company is trying to improve its current operating system even if it weighs down the company's earnings in the short-term because this upgrade is crucial for its future success. While its pharmacy chain is booking losses, it is on track to reach its management target of 70 stores by year end. If it continues its plan of 700 stores by 2022, its pharmacy will then be a significant driver of its profitability. Currently, its average monthly sales per store in 9M reached USD 64,000, more than twice the second player. In addition, the pharmaceuticals market in Vietnam is estimated to be around USD 4.5 bln, almost equivalent to that of the mobile phone retail market. We're convinced of this company's long-term growth potential.

With the holidays just around the corner, we'd like to thank you for your trust and continued support. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your families! We look forward to this new decade with you.



## **November 2019 Newsletter**

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## Performance MBG Equity Investment Fund, Inc. (MBG EIFI), net of all fees (in PHP)

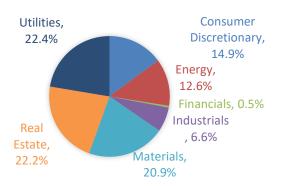
| 2019                 | Jan  | Feb   | Mar  | Apr   | May   | Jun   | Jul   | Aug   | Sep   | Oct   | Nov   | Dec | YTD   |
|----------------------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| MBG EIFI             | 4.4% | 1.4%  | 3.6% | -1.1% | -2.7% | -1.0% | -0.8% | -2.6% | -1.7% | -1.8% | -4.7% |     | -7.2% |
| PSEi TR <sup>1</sup> | 7.3% | -3.7% | 3.2% | 0.7%  | 0.5%  | 0.5%  | 0.6%  | -0.7% | -2.5% | 2.5%  | -2.8% |     | 5.4%  |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Philippine Stock Exchange Index Total Return;

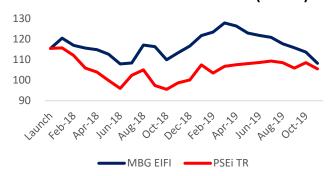
#### **Portfolio Characteristics**

|                              | MBGEIFI  | PSEi TR  |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Volatility (3σ, 1-day)       | +/- 1.7% | +/- 2.8% |
| Correlation to PSEi          | 0.46     | 1.0      |
| Beta                         | 0.28     | 1.0      |
| Stock holdings               | 92.4%    | 100.0%   |
| Large cap (> \$3bln)         | 22.6%    | 98.0%    |
| Mid cap (\$500mln to \$3bln) | 63.8%    | 2.0%     |
| Small cap (< \$500mln)       | 13.6%    | Nil      |
| Philippines allocation       | 67.6%    | 100.0%   |
| Vietnam allocation           | 19.9%    | Nil      |

#### **Sector Allocation**



### MBG EIFI Performance vs. Benchmark (in PHP)



<sup>\*</sup>Rescaled to 115.46 on 8 January 2018 (NAV of fund at launch date)

# Class A Fund Statistics, since launch (08Jan18)

| (net of all fees)          | MBG EIFI | PSEi TR |
|----------------------------|----------|---------|
| Year-to-date               | -7.2%    | 5.4%    |
| 3 months                   | -8.0%    | -2.8%   |
| 6 months                   | -12.0%   | -2.4%   |
| 1 year                     | -4.5%    | 6.8%    |
| Launch (cumulative)        | -6.2%    | -8.7%   |
| Launch (annualized)        | -3.3%    | -4.7%   |
| Months with gains          | 34.8%    | 52.2%   |
| Volatility of returns p.a. | 8.9.%    | 14.8%   |
| 1-yr Sharpe ratio (RFR 6%) | -1.18    | 0.06    |





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## **Fund Information**

| Launch date                | January 8, 2018   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Management fee             | 2%  |
| Performance fee            | 10% with High Water Mark  |
| Minimum subscription       | PHP 100,000   |
| Dealing                    | Daily   |
| Subscription notice        | 5 business days   |
| Redemption notice          | 7 calendar days   |
| Lock-up period and penalty | 1 year; 5% penalty  |
| Fund AUM                   | PHP 156 million   |
| FATCA categorization/ GIIN | Registered deemed-compliant foreign financial institution under Model 1 IGA/                            |
|                            | 6XW2RW.99999.SL.608   |
| Investment manager         | MBG Investment Management, Inc. (Licensed Investment Company Adviser)                                   |
|                            | SEC C.R. No. 01-2017-00284  |
| Custodian                  | Deutsche Bank AG  |
| Auditor                    | SGV & Co. (Ernst & Young Ltd)   |
| Legal advisors             | Mata-Perez & Francisco  |
| Stock Transfer Agent       | BDO Unibank   |
| Fund Manager               | Joseph Alvin C. Tan   |
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**November 2019 Newsletter**