

GRYPHON MARKET COMMENTARY – 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

THE PAST												
INTERNATIONAL						LOCAL						
<p>Global equity markets continued to rally, however, for the first time this year Emerging Markets posted a negative return and were outperformed by Developed Markets. Negative performances from Emerging Markets in Europe and Africa weighed on performance. Allied with this was a slight pullback in commodity prices. Our core thesis, however, remains that commodity prices have bottomed and are likely to head higher. This view continues to be reflected in the copper price. The FOMC continue to indicate that a hike in December is likely and balance sheet unwinding is about to commence. Clarity and good communication from the FOMC has allowed other central bankers to operate with enhanced certainty.</p>						<p>After two powerful months, local equities eased, ending the month at -0.87%. A weaker ZAR, resulted in dollar returns which were more negative. Gold and platinum stocks continued to take pain. Also significant is the diverse performance between the Top 40 (-0.3%), which benefited from weaker currency and the Mid Cap index (-5.1%), where locally-focused industrials came under pressure after the failure by our central bank to live up to expectations and cut interest rates. With a year-to-date performance of +12.6%, equities have been the asset class of choice, followed by bonds at +7.8% and cash at 5.6%.</p>						
THE PRESENT												
EQUITY INDICES	MTD	YTD	12m	CURRENCIES / COMMODITIES	Value	MTD	YTD	12m	BONDS	Value	YTD BPS Δ	12M BPS Δ
MSCI WORLD (USD)	2%	14%	16%	ZAR vs USD	13.55	-4%	1%	1%	USA BOND 10 YEAR	2.32%	-14	73
MSCI EMERGING MARKETS (USD)	-1%	25%	20%	ZAR vs GBP	18.03	-7%	-8%	-2%	USA BOND 2 YEAR	1.46%	30	70
DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL	2%	15%	25%	ZAR vs EUR	16.01	-3%	-11%	-4%	GERMAN BOND 10 YEAR	0.47%	36	66
S&P 500	2%	14%	19%	ZAR vs AUD	10.70	-4%	-8%	-2%	GERMAN BOND 2 YEAR	-0.70%	10	0
UK FTSE 100	-1%	3%	7%	EUR vs USD	1.17	-1%	12%	4%	UK BOND 10 YEAR	1.41%	17	66
JAPANESE NIKKEI 225	4%	4%	24%	GBP vs USD	1.34	4%	9%	3%	UK BOND 2 YEAR	0.54%	43	42
GERMAN DAX	6%	14%	23%	YEN vs USD	112.94	-3%	3%	-11%	RSA 10 YEAR	8.72%	-20	6
FRENCH CAC 40	5%	10%	20%	GOLD	1279	-3%	11%	-3%	RSA 3 YEAR	7.38%	-73	-43
AUSTRALIAN ASX	-1%	0%	4%	PLATINUM	912	-9%	1%	-11%	RSA REPO RATE	6.75%	-25	-25
JSE ALL SHARE	-1%	13%	10%	IRON ORE	62	-21%	-21%	11%	RSA PRIME LENDING RATE	10.25%	-25	-25
JSE TOP 40	0%	15%	12%	COPPER	6485	-5%	18%	34%	RSA LONG TERM GILT	8.72%	-20	6
JSE ALL SHARE SWIX	-2%	11%	7%	NICKEL	10585	-9%	6%	1%				
				BRENT OIL	56.79	7%	0%	14%				
THE FUTURE												
INTERNATIONAL						LOCAL						
<p>Markets continue to power ahead, on the back of global growth and well-flagged action from global central bankers. We suspect fund managers globally have been caught off-guard by the strength in equities and are playing catch-up. Trump's tax-reform is back on the table and while it will be subject to much negotiation, the intention appears positive for economic growth. Global bond yields had started to trend higher. Japanese stocks seem to be breaking up and European economic indicators reflect increasing strength. We eagerly await U.S. earnings releases for the September quarter-end as these will give us the real story on the health of the global economy. (Large capitalization U.S. enterprises are increasingly global in their reach and their results are a great bellwether of the global economy.)</p>						<p>While the recent weakness in our currency bodes well for our local manufacturers and internationally focused listed large capitalization stocks, it's bad news for the likelihood of further interest rate cuts. While higher oil prices likely prevented the central bank from cutting rates in September, we believe it's the currency that will determine future policy action. While the dollar strengthened against most emerging market currencies in September, South Africans also had to contend with a slew of political and "state-capture"-related headlines. Our bond market which has been attractive to global investors hunting for yield, will increasingly have to contend with a declining fiscal position and steadily rising U.S. interest rates as the Federal Reserve embarks on its policy of balance sheet normalization. The uncertainty makes stock-picking virtually impossible, simply buy the index.</p>						
OUR FUNDS												
RISK	GRYPHON FUND					POSITIONING						
LOW	Money Market Fund					Conservatively managed, superb yield.						
↑	Dividend Income Fund					Enhanced before tax yield of + / - 10.00%. Attractive relative to other interest rate products.						
	Prudential Fund of Funds					Aggressively exposed to SA equities. Regulation 28 compliant.						
	Flexible Fund of Funds					Aggressively exposed to SA equities.						
	All Share Tracker Fund					Lowest cost, superbly diversified exposure to equities.						
HIGH	Global Equity Fund					Low cost exposure to the internationally diversified with associated currency benefit.						

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