

# TREASURY MARKET UPDATE 25TH JANUARY 2021

### DOMESTIC NEWS

The Kenya shilling weakened on Friday due to increased dollar demand from energy and merchandise importers amid a relatively liquid money market, supported by government payments which partly offset tax remittances. The local unit is forecast to weaken further during the week due to end month demand by importers.

By close of day, the local unit stood at 109.95/110.15 compared to the day's opening of 109.75/95.

The analysis by the CBK on Friday showed skewed liquidity in the market. The regulator was thus in the market for KES 10BN in 7 days reverse repos in order to remain within the set monetary policy path by the MPC.

The Central Bank of Kenya usable foreign exchange reserves remained adequate at USD 7,658 million (4.70 months of import cover) as at January 21. This meets the CBK's statutory requirement to endeavor to maintain at least 4 months of import cover, and the EAC region's convergence criteria of 4.5 months of import cover.

Elsewhere, international oil prices relatively stable during the week ending January 22 despite the ever-rising number of COVID-19 cases raising fuel demand worries. Murban oil price (Kenya's benchmark) stood at \$55.76 per barrel on January 21 from \$55.88 per barrel on January 14.

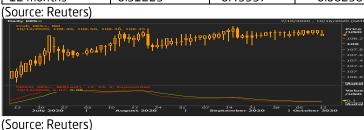
#### **Indicative Forex Rates**

	Buy Cash	Sell Cash	Buy TT	Sell TT
USD/KES	106.50	115.50	107.50	116.50
GBP/KES	146.84	156.84	147.34	158.34
EUR/KES	130.47	139.47	130.97	140.97
AED/KES	27.92	31.98	27.92	31.98

Money Market Rates	Current	Previous	Change	
Interbank Rate	4.9764%	4.4300%	0.546	
91-Day T-bill	6.983%	6.884%	0.099	
182-Day T-Bill	7.508%	7.522%	0.014	
364-Day T-Bill	8.508%	8.445%	0.063	
Inflation	5.620%	5.330%	0.290	
CBR RATE	7.000%	7.000%	0.000	
Source; Central Bank of Kenya)				

LIBOR Rates	USD	EUR	GBP
6 Months	0.23600	-0.53214	0.04350
12 months	0.31225	-0.49957	0.08238





### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The dollar held ground against riskier currencies on Monday as weak economic data from Europe and fresh worries about the coronavirus supported investor demand for safe-havens, stretching greenback selling positions.

Markets however remain hopeful that the \$1.9 trillion stimulus package proposed by U.S. President Joe Biden will be passed by Congress soon. Senators are hoping to pass the measures before the second impeachment trial of former president Donald Trump, which is due to start the week of Feb. 8. Meanwhile, the Federal Reserve meets for its first policy meeting of 2021 tomorrow, with the policy decision to be handed down on Wednesday. The central bank is expected to maintain its commitment to accommodative monetary policy during the meeting.

The U.S. Dollar Index that tracks the greenback against a basket of other currencies inched down 0.10% to 90.118. The Pound edged up 0.17% to \$1.3720 after U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that the B117 variant of COVID-19 could be 30% more deadly, adding that stricter travel curbs and continued lockdown measures while the infection rate remains "forbiddingly high" could be possible. Data from the U.K. showed that retail sales grew 0.3% month-on-month in December.

Euro capped gains at \$1.2180 partly due to growing political instability in Italy. Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte has so far failed to secure a ruling majority in parliament, receiving few replies to his appeal to centrist and unaligned upper house lawmakers to join his minority government. The political impasse saw Italian bond vields rise, with spreads over German Bunds hitting their highest since November.

However, the situation demonstrates the widespread risks of political instability from popular discontent as COVID-19 fatigue settles in.

# Source: Reuters

Jource, Reuters				
. Indicative Profit Rates on Deposits				
Amounts	> 10 Million	Amounts >100,000		
KES		USD		
2 Weeks	6.00%	0.05%		
1 Month	6.25%	0.75%		
3 Months	6.50%	1.00%		
6 Months	6.75%	1.25%		
1 year	7.00%	1.50%		
Indicative Cross Rates				
Bid		Offer		
EUR/USD	1.2030	1.2330		
GBP/USD	1.3585	1.3875		
USD/AED	3.6605	3.6865		
USD/JPY	102.30	105.10		

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