

## TREASURY MARKET UPDATE 31ST JANUARY 2019

## **DOMESTIC NEWS**

Increased demand from oil and merchandise importers buying dollars to meet end month obligations continued to weaken the Kenya shilling against the greenback on Tuesday despite improved dollar inflows from diaspora remittances. In active trading on the day, the local unit shed 5 cents to close at 100.85/101.05, marginally weaker than Tuesday's close of 100.80/101.00.

We expect the local currency to remain under some pressure against the U.S. dollar in the short term as end month demand from oil and manufacturing importers persists. However, we expect the shilling to continue receiving support from increasing remittances from Kenyans living abroad.

## **Indicative Forex rates**

	Buy Cash	Sell Cash	Buy TT	Sell TT
USD/KES	97.45	104.45	98.45	103.45
GBP/KES	128.55	136.55	129.05	136.05
EUR/KES	112.65	119.65	113.15	119.15
AED/KES	26.00	29.00	26.00	29.00

Money Market Rates	Current	Previous	Change
Interbank Rate	4.9822%	3.8610%	1.121
91-Day T-bill	7.122%	7.134%	-0.012
182-Day T-Bill	8.833%	8.927%	-0.094
364-Day T-Bill	9.905%	9.953%	-0.048
Inflation	5.71%	5.58%	0.130
CBR RATE	9.00%	9.50%	-0.500

(Source; Central Bank of Kenya)



## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

The U.S. dollar fell on Wednesday, after the Federal Reserve held interest rates steady, as expected, and struck a cautious tone on its outlook for the economy and future interest rate increases. The greenback hit session lows versus the euro and gave up gains versus the yen immediately after the Fed statement. Prior to the Fed comments, the dollar traded higher across the board.

The Fed said it would be patient in lifting borrowing costs further this year as it pointed to rising uncertainty about the U.S. economic outlook. It also said it would be prepared to use the full range of tools, including altering the size and composition of its balance sheet, if the economy needed more monetary accommodation, than could be achieved with rate cuts.

The euro gained 0.5% against the weaker dollar to close at \$1.1500 despite concerns about weakening growth in the euro zone. The weakening momentum in the bloc led markets to price in an accommodative ECB through much of 2019, likely limiting the upside for the single currency over the medium term.

Meanwhile, the sterling pound recovered on Wednesday after declines triggered by the UK parliament's rejection of amendments to delay Brexit, as investors bet the government would still avoid exiting the European Union without an agreed divorce deal in place. on the day, the British currency rose 0.3% from the previous session to settle at \$1.3125.

Elsewhere, global oil prices rose for a third day on Thursday, pushed up by lower imports into the U.S. amid OPEC efforts to tighten the market, and as Venezuela struggles to keep up its crude exports after Washington imposed sanctions on the nation. Brent crude oil futures were up around 1% at \$62.25 per barrel.

Indicative Profit Rates on Deposits						
Amounts > 10 N	1illion	Amounts >100,000				
KES		USD				
2 Weeks	6.50%	2.00%				
1 Month	7.00%	2.50%				
3 Months	8.00%	2.75%				
6 Months	8.50%	3.50%				
1 year	9.00%	3.75%				
Indicative Cross Rates						
Bid		Offer				
EUR/USD	1.1450	1.1550				
GBP/USD	1.3075	1.3175				
USD/AED	3.6675	3.6785				
USD/JPY	108.30	109.30				

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