

TREASURY MARKET UPDATE 25TH MARCH 2022

DOMESTIC NEWS

The Kenya shilling weakened to a new all-time low on Thursday undermined by sustained dollar demand from the energy sector. Commercial banks quoted the shilling at 114.55/75 per dollar compared to Wednesday's close of 114.45/65.

In the capital markets, Kenya's stock market has the lowest returns above those available on risk-free government securities when compared to 15 other frontier and emerging markets according to an analysis by investment bank EFG Hermes. The analysis shows that Investors on the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) stand to earn average annual returns of 12 percent, a mere 2.2 percentage points above the interest rate on the 12-month T-bill. This means that stock market investors are earning a small excess return for the risks they face, including share price decline and loss of capital when they sell stocks at levels below the purchase price.

Indicative Forex Rates

	Buy Cash	Sell Cash	Buy TT	Sell TT
USD/KES	111.25	118.25	112.75	117.75
GBP/KES	147.73	155.73	147.43	156.13
EUR/KES	122.23	130.13	123.03	130.53
AED/KES	29.74	32.74	29.24	33.24

Money Market	Current	Previous	Change
Rates			
Interbank Rate	4.38%	4.26%	0.012
91-Day T-bill	7.283%	7.252%	0.031
182-Day T-Bill	8.134%	8.093%	0.041
364-Day T-Bill	9.767%	9.763%	0.004
Inflation	5.080%	5.390%	-0.310
CBR RATE	7.000%	7.000%	0.000

Source; Central Bank of Kenya)

LIBOR Rates	USD	JPY	GBP
6 Months	1.38971	0.04267	1.44270
12 months	2.01086	-	-
(Source: Reuters)			

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The dollar is down this morning in Asia, while the Japanese yen is set for its worst week in two years. Rising import costs and low interest rates contributed to the yen's downward trend, but commodity currencies were set for a second consecutive weekly gain on the dollar as export prices continue to soar. The U.S. Dollar Index that tracks the greenback against a basket of other currencies was down 0.26% to 98.540 by 11:43 PM ET (3:43 AM GMT).

The USD/JPY pair fell 0.61% to 121.58. Japanese data released earlier in the day showed that the Tokyo consumer price index (CPI) for March 2022 grew 1.3%, and the Tokyo core CPI grew 0.8%, year-on-year. The CPI Tokyo excluding food and energy also grew 0.2% month-on-month.

Oil prices fell about a \$1 earlier today as the United States and allies considered releasing more oil from storage to cool markets and as traders faced higher costs for trading benchmark Brent futures. Brent crude futures fell \$1.07, or 0.9%, to \$117.96 a barrel at 0053 GMT, after sliding 2.1% in the previous session. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures fell \$1.20, or 1.1%, to \$111.14 a barrel, having dropped 2.3% in the previous session.

Gold is up on Friday morning in Asia and is set for its third weekly gain in four. There is no material progress made in the Russia and Ukraine peace talks, giving the yellow metal a boost, but rising U.S. yields capped its gains. Gold futures inched up 0.01% to \$1,962.4 by 1:02 PM ET (5:02 AM GMT), near a more than one-week high hit during the previous session and gaining nearly 2% in the week to date.

Indicative Profit Rates on Deposits				
Amounts > 10 million		Amounts >100,000		
KES		USD		
2 Weeks	6.55%	0.35%		
1 Month	6.75%	0.55%		
3 Months	7.00%	0.80%		
6 Months	7.50%	1.25%		
1 year	8.00%	1.75%		
Indicative Cross Rates				
Bid		Offer		
EUR/USD	1.0522	1.1334		
GBP/USD	1.3012	1.3999		
USD/AED	3.6424	3.6337		
USD/JPY	115.25	123.74		

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