

Treasury Bills Auction Scheduled for 9th Mar 2022

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS AUCTION

Stop Rate:

91-Day	2.24%
182-Day	3.30%
364-Day	4.35%

Amount Allotted:

91-Day	NGN5.36bn
182-Day	NGN11.03bn
364-Day	NGN241.61bn

SUMMARY OF CURRENT AUCTION

Auction Date March 9, 2022

Settlement Date March 10, 2022

Auction Size

91-Day	NGN1.55bn
182-Day	NGN11.88bn
364-Day	NGN80.57bn

Maturing Instruments

91-Day	NGN1.55bn
182-Day	NGN11.88bn
364-Day	NGN80.57bn

Meristem Advised Stop Rates

91-Day	2.20% - 2.24%
182-Day	3.20% - 3.30%
364-Day	3.80% - 4.30%

Offer Summary

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) will hold a Treasury Bills (T-Bills) Primary Market Auction (PMA) on 9th of March 2022. At the PMA, existing T-Bills totalling NGN94.00bn (NGN1.55bn, NGN11.88bn and NGN80.57bn across the 91-day, 182-day, and 364-day instruments, respectively), will mature and be rolled over.

Outlook on Yields

At the last PMA, the stop rates on the 91-day and 364-day instruments declined to 2.24% and 4.35% respectively (vs. 2.48% and 5.20% at the previous auction). Rate on the 182-day instrument however remained unchanged at 3.30%. High system liquidity continue to trigger robust demand for the instruments, as total subscription increased by 35.03% relative to the prior auction. Also, overall bid-to-cover ratio was higher at 2.34x (vs. 1.98x at the last auction).

In the next auction, we do not expect rates on the 91-day and 182-day instruments to change significantly from their present levels. We however envisage a further decline in the rate on the 364-day instrument as the government continues to focus on minimizing its cost of debt. We also note the strong demand for instruments, especially on the long end of the curve and a relatively lower amount on offer (due to a lower maturity) in contrast to the persisting high system liquidity as a catalyst for reducing rates.

Meanwhile bullish sentiments have prevailed in the secondary fixed income market since the last auction, as average Treasury-bills yields have declined to 4.43% (as of 4th of March) from 5.02% (as at the 23rd of February). Similarly, bond yields have trended lower to 9.31% (vs. 9.80% at the last auction). In our view, the yield decline in the fixed income market reflects the high system liquidity, declining rates at the PMAs, as well as the lack of safe and profitable investment alternatives in the country. Thus, we do not rule out further decrease in secondary market fixed income yields as we expect rates of the 364day instrument to dip further.

In view of the above, our rate guidance is informed by the need to strike a balance between the goals of maximizing investment returns and having a successful bid. Thus, the recommended stop rates for the respective instruments are as follows:

Tenor	Offer Size	Advised Rates
91-Day	NGN1.15bn	2.20% - 2.24%
182-Day	NGN11.88bn	3.20% - 3.30%
364-Day	NGN80.57bn	3.80% - 4.30%

Investing through Meristem Wealth Management Limited

Meristem Wealth Management Limited charges a transaction fee of 0.25% of the principal amount invested, and there will be three (3) days prior notification before maturity for all Treasury Bills investments. *The income from investing in T-Bills is tax-free, so interest received is not subject to withholding tax and you will receive an immediate Investment confirmation letter for the Treasury bills. Also, note that the T-Bills certificates can be used as collateral for securing loans.*

Participation Process

The T-bills Primary Auction bid holds twice in a month (i.e. every other Wednesday). The above likely stop rates are our estimates and might not necessarily hold true, as the final decision always lies with the CBN based on the auction process.

About Treasury Bills

Treasury Bills (T-bills) are marketable money market securities that serve the purpose of raising money for the government and are also used as monetary policy tools by the Central Bank. T-bills are short-term securities that mature in 1 year or less from their issue date. They are usually issued with 3-month, 6-month, and 1-year maturities.

How is Return Determined?

T-bills are purchased for a price that is less than their par (face) value; when they mature, the government pays the holder the full par value. Effectively, your interest is the difference between the purchase price of the security and what you get at maturity.

The advised stop rate is different from the annualized yield of instruments. For example; the annualized yield of a 91-day T-bill, with a stop rate of 15.30% is 15.90%. If you buy a 91-day T-bill with a face value and stop rate of N1, 000,000 and 15.3% accordingly, the discounted value would be N962, 274. The difference between the face value and purchase price, which is N37, 726, is the money return and it implies 15.9% yield on annual basis. However, the holding period yield for this instrument is 3.75% since it is held for a 91-day period (3 months), and not a year.

How does the Auction Process work?

Treasury bills (as well as notes and bonds) are issued through a competitive bidding process at auctions.

Primary market trading of Treasury bill instruments entails auctions by the country's monetary authority – The Central Bank of Nigeria. **T-bills are auctioned at established rates which determine the return to investors.** Purchasing these instruments in the primary market and holding it until maturity would mean that the investor gets a fixed interest payment.

Benefits of T-bills

The biggest reasons that T-Bills are so popular are that they are one of the few money-market instruments that are affordable to individual investors. Other positives are that T-bills (and all Treasuries) are considered to be risk-free investments because they are

Ahead of Next T-Bills Auction

backed by the full faith of the Federal Government. In addition, returns on T-bills are tax-free, unlike equities.

The only downside to T-bills is that investors will not get a great return (alpha) because Treasuries are considered “exceptionally safe”.

Contact Information

Brokerage and Retail Services

topeoludimu@meristemng.com (+234 905 569 0627)
isaaconaolapo@meristemng.com (+234 803 234 8275)
contact@meristemng.com

Investment Banking/Corporate Finance

rasakisalawu@meristemng.com (+234 806 022 9889)
seunlijofi@meristemng.com (+234 808 536 5766)

Wealth Management

funmilolaadekola-daramola@meristemng.com (+234 803 355 0008)
crmwealth@meristemng.com
 Tel : +234 01 738 9948

Registrars

muboolasoko@meristemregistrars.com (+234 803 324 7996)
martinaosague@meristemregistrars.com (+234 802 303 1783)
www.meristemregistrars.com
 Tel: +23401-280 9250

Trust Services

damilolahassan@meristemng.com (+234 803 613 9123)
trustees@meristemng.com

Group Business Development

saheedbashir@mersitemng.com (+234 802 454 6575)
ifeomaogalue@meristemng.com (+234 802 394 2967)
info@meristemng.com

Client Services

adefemtaiwo@meristemng.com (+234 803 694 3034)
blessingogwuche@meristemng.com (+234 706 896 5173)
car@meristemng.com

Investment Research

timchanggwatau@meristemng.com (+234 703 188 3322)
research@meristemng.com

Corporate websites: www.meristemng.com www.meristemwealth.com www.meristemregistrars.com

Meristem Research can also be accessed on the following platforms:

Meristem Research portal: research.meristemng.com

Bloomberg: MERI <GO>

Capital IQ: www.capitaliq.com

ISI Emerging Markets: www.securities.com/ch.html?pc=NG

Reuters: www.thomsonreuters.com

FactSet: www.factset.com

Disclaimer Notice:

Meristem and any of its associated or subsidiary companies or the employees thereof cannot be held responsible for any loss suffered by relying on the said information as this information as earlier stated, is based on publicly available information, analysts' estimates and opinions and is meant for general information purposes and should not be construed as an offer to buy or sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy or sell securities or any financial instruments. The value of any investment is subject to fluctuations, i.e. may fall and rise. Past performance is no guide to the future. The rate of exchange between currencies may cause the value of the investment to increase or diminish. Hence investors may not get back the full value of their original investment. Meristem Wealth Management Limited is licensed and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Meristem Wealth Management Ltd.'s registered office is at 3, Norman Williams Street, South West, Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria. Website: www.meristemng.com; Email: crmwealth@meristemng.com, © **Meristem Wealth Management Limited 2022.**