MERISTEM

Ahead of Next Bond Auction

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS AUCTION

Marginal Rates:

13.53% MAR 2025	10.00%
12.50% APR 2032	12.45%
13.00% JAN 2042	13.00%

Amount:

13.53% MAR 2025	NGN88.92bn
12.50% APR 2032	NGN85.34bn
13.00% JAN 2042	NGN171.00bn

SUMMARY OF CURRENT AUCTION

FGN MAR 2025

Auction Date	20/06/2022
Settlement Date	22/06/2022
Maturity Date	23/03/2025
Next Coupon Date	23/09/2022
Clean Price	108.57

FGN APR 2032

Auction Date	20/06/2022
Settlement Date	22/06/2022
Maturity Date	27/04/2032
Next Coupon Date	22/10/2022
Clean Price	103.87

FGN JAN 2042

Auction Date	20/06/2022
Settlement Date	20/06/2022
Maturity Date	21/01/2042
Next Coupon Date	21/07/2022
Clean Price	100.68

FGN Bond Auction Scheduled for 20th June 2022

Issue on Offer/Summary

The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN), through the Debt Management Office (DMO), will be conducting a bond auction on Monday 20th of June 2022. The total amount on offer is expected to be between NGN210bn and NGN240bn from three issues. The instruments include three re-opening issues (Mar 2025, Apr 2032, and Jan 2042).

13.53% FGN MAR 2025	**NGN70bn – NGN80bn**
12.50% FGN APR 2032	**NGN70bn – NGN80bn**
13.00% FGN JAN 2042	**NGN70bn – NGN80bn**

Current Yield Analysis

At the last Primary Market Auction (PMA) held in May 2022, demand for instrument on offer was strong as opposed to the previous auction as subscription increased across the trio instruments. The total subscription at the auction was 40.60% higher than the prior auction (NGN575.63bn vs NGN409.41bn in April). Also, the high subscription level propped the Debt Management Office (DMO) to raise NGN345.26bn (1.53x the amount offered). Thus, increased allotment at the May PMA led to a lower bid to cover ratio of 1.67x (vs. 1.86x at the April PMA). Particularly for the Jan 2042 instrument, we note that the higher demand was met with a higher allotment compared to the prior auction (NGN171.00bn was allotted in May vs NGN79.68bn in April). However, bid to cover ratio on the instrument declined to 1.96x (vs.2.80x April). Overall, marginal rate on the instrument increased by 10bps to 13.00%.

In the coming auction, our prognosis is for a marginal increase in rates across all reopened instruments. This position is supported by the existing wide budget deficit and the need for the Government to tap into the domestic debt market to fund these needs (especially as it has cancelled its plan to raise funds from the international debt market due to high cost of raising external debt). Moreso, the unabating inflation trajectory presents room for increase in rates as real returns remain negative. Also, the tight system liquidity amidst the higher amount FGN seeks to borrow in the second quarter makes a case for an increase in rate.

Bullish sentiments dominated the secondary market as average bond yield declined by 8bps to 11.17% (as of 16th June), from 11.25% as at the last auction date. However, we expect bearish sentiments to prevail in the secondary market given the current lower system liquidity and the expectation of an increase in rates at the PMA.

Please see the table below for our recommended bid rates based on our analysis of the current yield environment.

Bond Absolute and Relative Valuation

In valuing the **13.53% FGN MAR 2025, 12.50% FGN APR 2032** and **13.00% FGN JAN 2042** offers with the current yield curve as the basis for discounting, we arrived at the following fair value, implied yield, and advised bid rates for the instruments:

Instrument	Fair Value	Implied Yield	Advised Bid Rates
13.53% FGN MAR 2025	108.85	9.88%	10.00% - 10.20%
12.50% FGN APR 2032	102.96	11.98%	12.45% - 12.60%
13.00% FGN JAN 2042	100.66	12.90%	12.90% - 13.20%

Our valuation gives a fair-trading price ex coupon payment, the expected return on the bond considering its periodic interest payments and the expected return on the bond's periodic payments. We analysed the issues on offer given the current yield environment, market liquidity, as well as a review of the recent past auctions, whilst also introducing market sentiment factor into our valuation, on which we advise bid yield ranges for both issues on offer.

About Bonds

A bond is a fixed income debt instrument issued by the government (federal or state government) or corporate institutions with a definite date of maturity and a fixed interest payment (known as coupon) payable either semi-annually or annually. Unlike equities, bonds are issued with a guarantee of the initial investment and can have tenors as long as 20 years.

A treasury note refers to a government bond instrument with a term to maturity of 1 to 10 years while a treasury bond has a maturity of 10 years and above. Bonds issued by state governments of a country are referred to as municipal bonds while those issued by organizations are corporate bonds.

The government usually issue bonds at the primary market to raise domestic funds to meet its fiscal responsibilities. This can be done from time to time as the need arises. Nigerian FGN bond instruments are named by their maturity, coupon, tenor etc. such as 13.05% FGN AUG 2016 instrument.

How is Return Determined?

Bonds are mostly issued with a coupon otherwise known as **the periodic interest payable**. Bond instruments are usually issued at par; that is, N100 or N1,000 as is the case with Nigerian bonds. A 2-year bond issued at 12% annual coupon with a par value of N1000 implies that the issuer will make 3 semi-annual payments of N60, and a final N1060 on the maturity date.

Bonds can be purchased at both the primary and secondary markets, they are either quoted in price or yields. **There is an inverse relationship between the price of a bond and its yield to maturity (YTM).** At issuance, the yield on a bond instrument is most likely the coupon on that instrument. At the secondary market therefore, an investor can trade bonds by quoting a yield that reflects the variance between the par value and the current price based on the current market dynamics.

How does the Auction Process work?

Bond instruments are issued through a competitive bidding process at auctions as conducted by the Debt Management Office which serves as the representative of the government. An existing government instrument can be re-issued also at the primary market in which case the DMO re-issues based on the current market yield to maturity.

Bonds are auctioned at established rates which determine the return to investors.

Purchasing these instruments in the primary market and holding it till maturity would mean that the investor gets a fixed interest payment, however, there is a secondary market in which investors can trade these bonds to meet their immediate liquidity needs.

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