

## Treasury Bills Auction Scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> Mar 2023

### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS AUCTION

#### Stop Rate:

91-Day	1.44%
182-Day	6.00%
364-Day	10.00%

#### Amount Allotted:

91-Day	NGN1.03bn
182-Day	NGN10.55bn
364-Day	NGN212.92bn

### SUMMARY OF CURRENT AUCTION

Auction Date	March 15, 2023
Settlement Date	March 16, 2023

#### Auction Size

91-Day	NGN1.10bn
182-Day	NGN0.92bn
364-Day	NGN159.85bn

#### Maturing Instruments

91-Day	NGN1.10bn
182-Day	NGN0.92bn
364-Day	NGN159.85bn

#### Meristem Advised Stop Rates

91-Day	1.25%-1.44%
182-Day	4.50%-5.50%
364-Day	8.50%-9.50%

### Offer Summary

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) will hold a Treasury Bills (T-Bills) Primary Market Auction (PMA) on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, 2023. At the PMA, existing T-Bills totalling NGN161.87bn (NGN1.10bn, NGN0.92bn and NGN159.85bn across the 91-day, 182-day, and 364-day instruments, respectively), will mature and be rolled over.

### Outlook on Yields

At the last PMA, stop rates on the 182-day and 364-day instruments increased to 6.00% and 10.00% (from 3.24% and 9.90% at the previous auction), respectively. However, the rate on the 91-day instrument declined by 156bps to 1.44%. The high system liquidity prompted robust demand for the instruments, as total subscriptions jumped by 205.38% relative to the previous auction. In our opinion, the divergence in rates (as highlighted earlier) was primarily driven by the Government's profound interest in longer-dated instruments. For context, an analysis of the bid-to-cover ratio across the instruments revealed that the CBN allotted the least to the 91-day instrument (relative to the subscription).

At the forthcoming auction, we anticipate a marginal decline in the stop rates across all instruments. Our expectation is premised on the relatively lower amount on offer (NGN161.87bn) at the PMA relative to the market liquidity (c.NGN235bn as of March 13). Also, we envisage a significant demand for instruments, particularly at the long end of the curve.

In the secondary market, bearish sentiment lingered as yields maintained an uptrend. Subsequently, the average Treasury bills rate rose to 6.37% as of March 14, 2023 (vs 4.53% on the date of the previous auction). In the near term, we do not rule out a reversal in the trend as we expect unmet demands at the PMA to find their way to the secondary market.

Given the above, our rate guidance is informed by the need to strike a balance between 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	NGN1.10bn	1.25%-1.44%
182-Day	NGN0.92bn	4.50%-5.50%
364-Day	NGN159.85bn	8.50%-9.50%

## 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

## Ahead of Next T-Bills Auction

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positives are that T-bills (and all Treasuries) are considered to be risk-free investments because they are 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".

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