

Unity Bank Digest

May 24th, 2018



THE HIGHLIGHTS

Monetary Policy Committee maintains status quo

The MPC, in its second meeting of 2018, maintained status quo on all monetary policy parameters, leaving the Monetary Policy Rate (14% pa), Cash Reserve Ratio (22.5%), Liquidity ratio (30%) and asymmetric window (+200bps/-500bps) unchanged. This would be the 10th consecutive session that the MPC has retained interest rates. Key considerations for the decision include positive but weak GDP growth rate, external reserves accretion and looming inflationary risks from the expansion of the 2018 budget. However, the decision to do nothing again could lead to weak corporate earnings (now at 9%), high unemployment and underemployment rates (above 40%) and a volatile stock market capitalization (-1% since April).

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) slows to 1.95% in Q1'18

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Nigeria's real GDP growth slowed to 1.95% in Q1'18 from the revised growth of 2.11% in Q4'17. However, it was an expansion in comparison to -0.91% recorded in Q1'17. The largest sector remains agriculture, which contributed 21.65% to GDP. Sectors that recorded an expansion in Q1 include insurance, oil and gas, and financial institutions while sectors that contracted were real estate, trade, professional services and construction.

Naira falls to seven-month low at the Street Market

The naira depreciated against the dollar by 1.4% to N367/\$ at the parallel market as at May 24th. This was prompted by a combination of external and internal developments. Firstly, the dollar strengthened against a basket of currencies to a YTD high, as the market anticipates a Fed rate hike in June. On the domestic front, there has been increased speculative demand, as investors and traders prepare for the depreciation of the naira that usually comes with budget disbursements and spending. Additionally, higher demand from travellers (summer tourists and pilgrims) has heightened pressure on the naira. Accordingly, the IATA rate also depreciated by 0.4% to N361.46/\$. Since there has not been any fundamental change in the forex market dynamics, we expect the naira to recover in the short-term.

US-China trade war placed on hold

US and China have stepped back from a potential trade war and begun diplomatic negotiations. A US delegation led by Treasury Secretary, Steven Mnuchin, is in ongoing bilateral talks with Chinese government representatives to ensure a deal that is beneficial to both parties. The US is requesting that China hold back on its exports into the country in a bid to trim the US trade deficit from \$375bn to \$200bn. While it is unlikely that the Asian superpower would agree to this, the country has agreed to reduce tariffs on agricultural and energy products coming from the US. According to Mnuchin, this could result in a 35% boost in US farm exports to China in the next 12 months. China also agreed to strengthen intellectual property protection, as supported by the US. In the initial aftermath of this, global stock markets rallied, with the Dow Jones gaining 300 points, and S&P 500 inching up 0.7%. However, the market has since retreated as President Trump expressed dissatisfaction with the ongoing negotiations.

Inflation dips to 12.48% in April

April inflation dipped to 12.48% (year-on-year), compared to 13.34% in March. This is a 26-month low and brings the CBN closer to its target of 11% (as at 2017). The month-on-month index saw a change in direction, declining to 0.83% from 0.84%. When annualized, the inflation figure stands at 10.45%. May's inflation rate is expected to decline further, albeit at a slower pace. The Ramadan fast and planting season will push up domestic food prices. However, the government's recent intervention in the agricultural sector, to increase output, would dampen the adverse effects.

N9.1 trillion 2018 budget passed

The National Assembly has passed the 2018 budget ahead of its May 24th deadline. The Senate had earlier reviewed the budget upwards to N9.1trn, 6% (N508 billion) higher than the N8.6trn proposed by President Buhari six months ago. Recurrent expenditure was raised by 0.86% to N3.52trn, while capital expenditure was increased by 8.3% to N2.87trn. The senate also increased the budget benchmark for oil from \$47pb to \$51pb. The additional amount of N508 billion is 0.4% of GDP (2018 forecast) and 20.76% less than the average YTD FAAC allocation (from January – April 2018) of N641.1bn. The budget passage will provide the much needed stimulus to jump-start economic activity, and ultimately support growth in private consumption.

The Companies and Allied matters Act bill re-enacted by the senate

The Nigerian Senate on May 15th passed the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA) bill, the biggest business reform bill in over 28 years. The bill works to allow business owners to register their businesses online, removes some regulatory provisions including the

requirement for company secretary and annual general meetings. CAMA also introduces the Limited Liability Partnerships and reduces the minimum share capital for all companies and start-ups in Nigeria. Ultimately, the bill will enhance Nigeria's business environment and boost its attractiveness to foreign investments. We expect the new bill to further improve Nigeria's rank on the Ease of Doing Business Index, from the current position of 145th.

Nigeria spends \$36.3 billion on fuel importation in five years

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has disclosed that Nigeria spent \$119.41 billion on importing commodities in five years. Fuel imports represented 13.5% (\$36.37billion) of the total. From 2013 to 2017, domestic consumption dropped from 23.9 million metric tons in 2013 to 2.6 million metric tons in 2016. Although Nigeria currently has only four refineries with a combined capacity of 445,000bpd, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has reaffirmed its commitment to end fuel imports by December 2019.

United States pulls out of Iran nuclear deal

President Trump has announced the decision to withdraw the US from the Iran nuclear deal. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) agreement was reached in 2015 between Iran and six nations – the US, the UK, France, China, Russia and Germany. Under the agreement Iran committed to eliminate its stockpile of medium-enriched uranium, cut its stockpile of low-enriched uranium by 98%, and reduce, by about two-thirds, the number of gas centrifuges for 13 years. Following the announcement, Brent prices rallied to over \$77 per barrel (pb), as several countries sought to reduce their reliance on Iranian oil. This is because the US is expected to re-introduce sanctions against Iran's energy sector. This will mop up approximately 1mbpd of oil from the oil market. The effect of this decline in supply is expected to be short-lived, given the US Fed's anticipated interest rate hike in June.

Nigeria, U.S. sign \$90mn agreement to conduct HIV survey

The Federal Government and the U.S have signed a six-month deal worth \$90mn (N32bn) to conduct a National Health Indicator and Impact Survey of the HIV virus. The Memorandum of Understanding, aimed at facilitating the effective treatment of people living with HIV, would also cover Hepatitis B and C across all 36 states in Nigeria. The survey would provide accurate information on the number of people living with HIV and the burden of the disease in Nigeria. The initiative would be driven by the Federal Ministry of Health and National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) with a sample size of 170,000 people. Nigeria has the world's second highest number of HIV victims. Approximately 3.2 million Nigerians are living with the

virus, while South Africa, which ranks 1st, has 7 million HIV victims. However, when it comes to prevalence rates¹, Nigeria ranks 21st globally, with a rate of approximately 2%.

Central Bank of Nigeria pegs daily Unstructured Supplementary Service Data transactions at N100, 000

The CBN has set the maximum amount a customer can transfer using the Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) channel to N100, 000 per day. The USSD is a real time communication technology used by banks, mobile money operators, to communicate with service providers for a faster and cost-effective transaction process. The technology also provides the advantage of transferring money without the use of internet. The directive, which is effective June 2018, also states that transactions over N20, 000 will require a pin and soft token. We expect this decision to reduce mobile banking risks and the exposure of banks to technology threats.

Commercial bank credit to private sector drops by 0.86% to N15.6trn in Q1'18

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), commercial bank credit to the private sector dropped to N15.6trn in Q1'18, representing a 0.86% decline from Q4'17. Oil and gas and the manufacturing sector received the highest allocation at N3.42trn and N2.07trn respectively. Allocation to the agriculture sector declined by 5% to N501bn in Q1'18. The drop in credit to the private sector is reflective of the high borrowing cost environment and has negative implications for economic activity.

Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria automates payment at airports

The Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) has introduced a cashless payment system in airports across the country. The initiative, introduced under the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC), includes payments for car parks, cargo services, charter and unscheduled flights. The process is being supported by Remita, an electronic payment platform, which has mobilized agents at strategic locations in airports to ensure seamless transactions. This system will work to curb corruption and increase the transparency of airport officials, while ensuring quicker and more convenient payment processes for customers.

¹ Prevalence rate is the number of victims as a proportion of the entire population. Nigeria's prevalence rate is estimated to be approximately 2%, compared to Swaziland which has an HIV prevalence rate of 21%.



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Note that all transactions are subject to Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) guidelines.



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SOCIAL CORNER

The royal wedding

- Prince Henry, Duke of Sussex, married Megan Markle, former co-star of the hit TV series, *Suits*, on May 19th, 2018.
- The wedding ceremony took place at the St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, making the lovebirds the 16th royal couple to tie the knot at the castle since 1863, when it was first used by King Edward VII and Queen Alexandria. The couple's decision to marry on a Saturday went against tradition, as royal weddings usually take place on a weekday.
- A group of 1,200 non-VIPs or 'Community Champions' were invited for the wedding service, while 600 close friends/family attended the wedding reception. This is a small crowd compared to Prince Williams' 1900-guests reception. Celebrities in attendance included the 'Suits' co-stars, the Beckhams, Oprah Winfrey, Serena Williams, Priyanka Chopra, George Clooney and Idris Elba amongst others.
- The Community Champions invited were given gift bags to commemorate the occasion. The bag contained a bottle of Windsor Castle branded water, a chocolate coin, some shortbread, and a 20 percent off coupon for the castle gift shop. After the ceremony, some of the gift bags were sold off on eBay for as much as £420 (\$570).



Met Gala 2018

- The Met Gala is fashion's biggest night, the event held on May 7th. It is an annual invitation-only fundraiser to benefit New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute.
- The hosts of the event were editor-in-chief of *Vogue*, Anna Wintour, current VP of Versace, Donatella Versace, prominent human rights lawyer, Amal Clooney and Grammy award winning artist, Rihanna.



Getty Images

- According to Forbes, the gala has raised over \$12 million dollars per event, with a single ticket costing \$30,000 and consistently reaps eight-figure sums for the Costume Institute.
- The theme of this year's event was "Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination". The theme stirred significant controversy as many criticized its use of religious representations as sacrilegious. In its defense, the Gala claimed to be emphasizing the impact of Catholicism on Fashion, and reiterated that the Vatican had approved the theme and even donated over 40 artifacts to the show.



The Headies 2018

- The Headies 2018 award show was held on May 5th to recognize the most outstanding in the Nigerian Music Industry. The show (which is run by the owners of Hip TV) was hosted by Bovi and Sheyi Shay, with performances from Falz, Mr Real, Mad Melon & Mountain Black, Tiwa Savage, and Simi. The biggest winners of the night were Wizkid (3 awards), Simi (3 awards) and Davido (3 awards). The biggest award was bagged by Davido (Artist and song of the year).



- The list of winners includes:
 - Album of the Year: *Simisola* – Simi
 - Artist of the Year: Davido
 - Best Recording of the Year: *Joromi* – Simi
 - Best Music Video: *Come Closer* (Wizkid) – Daps
 - Best R&B/Pop Album: *Sounds from the other side*– Wizkid
 - Best R&B Single: *Smile for me* – Simi
 - Best Pop Single: *If* – Davido
 - Best Reggae/Dancehall Single: *Holy Holy* – 2 Face
 - Best Rap Album: *El Hadj*– Reminisce
 - Best Collabo: *Ma Lo* – Tiwa Savage featuring Wizkid
 - Best Rap Single: *You Rappers should fix up your lives* – MI
 - Best Vocal Performance (Male): *Folashade* – Praiz
 - Best Vocal Performance (Female): *Butterflies* – Omawumi
 - Producer of the Year: *Kidominant* – Fall – Davido
 - Best Street-Hop Artist: *Penalty*– Small Doctor

- Best 'Alternative' Song: Fun Mi Lowo Mi – Aramide featuring Sound Sultan and Koker
- Hip Hop World Revelation: Reekado Banks
- Hall of Fame: CEO Classic, Beat and Naija FM, Chris Ubosi
- Lyricist on the Roll: You Rappers should fix up your lives – MI
- Next Rated: Mayorkun
- Song of the Year: If – Davido
- Special Recognition Award: Kaffy
- Rookie of the Year: Teni

Taxify introduces emergency safety button for its drivers



- Taxify has added a new safety feature to its ride-hailing app called the SOS button.
- The new feature, when set off, triggers a distress call to the Lagos State Emergency Response Agency.
- The ride-hailing platform introduced the SOS button with the goal of ensuring the safety of its drivers and riders. The feature was adopted following Taxify's plans to further utilize technology to keep drivers safe on the road.
- Taxify was introduced to the Lagos market in 2016, 2 years after its competition – Uber – set up. Yet, the app has gained popularity and holds a significant share of the Lagos taxi market. The ride hailing service is also available in 26 other countries worldwide.

The world's most powerful people 2018

- According to Forbes², the world's most powerful person is Xi Jinping, the leader of the most populous country (China) and second largest economy (GDP).
- Russian President Vladimir Putin came second on the list after holding the first spot for four years. President Donald Trump is third.
- Angela Merkel, the de facto leader of Germany, comes in 4th, and is the highest ranked woman.
- Jeff Bezos, CEO and Founder of Amazon and the world's richest



² <https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidewalt/2018/05/08/the-worlds-most-powerful-people-2018/#2ced13516c47>

man, is fifth.

- Of the top 20, we have 12 politicians, 7 business owners and the Pope.
- Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote is the 66th most powerful person, ahead of the Vice President of the United States Mike Pence.

TOP STORIES

GDP slows to 1.95% in Q1'18

- The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has reported a real GDP growth of 1.95% in Q1'18, representing a decline of 0.16% from the revised growth rate of 2.11% in Q4'17. Year-on-Year GDP growth expanded from -0.91% in Q1'17.
- The highest contributors to GDP in the period include- agriculture (21.65%), trade (17.06%), information & communication (12.41%), manufacturing (9.91%) and mining & quarrying (9.67%).
- Fastest growing sectors were insurance (18.07%), oil and gas (14.77%), financial institutions (12.58%), telecommunications (1.88%) while sectors that contracted include real estate (-9.4%), trade (-2.57%), professional services (-2.35%) and construction (-1.54%).

Analysis and Outlook

The GDP growth rate in Q1'18 represents the fourth consecutive quarter of positive growth in Nigeria. The positive growth is however below Nigeria's population growth of 2.5% meaning that Nigeria's output cannot feed its population. Also noteworthy, is the fact that the sectors that recorded a drop in activities in Q1'18 were interest rate sensitive and labour intensive with the exception of the manufacturing sector. This would be a key consideration for the MPC at its next meeting as it has become imperative to stimulate growth by lowering borrowing costs.

Inflation dips to 12.48%

- April inflation dipped to 12.48% (year-on-year), compared to 13.34% in March. This is the 15th consecutive decline in the headline index, and the lowest rate since February 2016. All the sub-indices followed the same trend while the month-on-month index saw a change in direction, declining to 0.83% from 0.84%. This brings the annualized inflation figure down to 10.45%. Food inflation eased to 14.80% in April from 16.08% in the previous month. Core inflation (y-o-y) eased marginally by 0.03% to 10.9% in April. Month-on-month core inflation increased to 0.87%, from 0.84% recorded in March.

- The urban and rural sub-indexes moved in the same direction. The urban index declined to 12.89% in April from 13.75% in March. The rural index declined further to 12.13% in April from 12.99% in March. Kwara state had the lowest level of inflation at 9.77% while Kebbi recorded the highest inflation rate at 15.94%. Lagos state's inflation rate stood at 13.11% in the month of April.

Analysis and Outlook

May's inflation rate is expected to decline further, albeit at a slower pace. The Ramadan fast and planting season will push up domestic food prices. However, recent government intervention in the agricultural sector, to increase output, would dampen the adverse effect.

Additionally, inflationary pressures are expected to increase given the expected disbursements of budget funds in the latter part of the month.

Nigeria, China sign currency swap deal

- Nigeria and China have signed a three-year currency swap deal worth \$2.5bn. The agreement comes after two years of negotiations by both countries and makes Nigeria the third African country to sign a currency deal with China after South Africa (2015) and Egypt (2016).
- The agreement, effective June 2018, is designed to ease trade relations between both countries by providing sufficient local currency to business owners. In other words, the Naira will be available at Chinese banks and the Renminbi (RMB) will be available at Nigerian banks.
- Four banks - Stanbic IBTC, Standard Chartered, Zenith Bank Plc and First Bank have been appointed as settlement banks for the deal. The banks, which were chosen based on their presence in China, will handle trade transactions between both countries.

Analysis & outlook

The major benefits of this deal are the reduced exchange rate risks for importers, and a faster and more convenient trade process. Likewise, this deal further strengthens Nigerian-Chinese foreign relations.

However, this deal, which is essentially an exchange rate subsidy, will leave room for market arbitrage. Goods from China under this deal will be traded at the rate of N305/\$, compared to N330/\$ under the intervention window and N360/\$ at the IEFX window. This increases the likelihood of distorted resource allocation.

- Additionally, the \$2.5 billion swap deal equals \$830m per annum. Nigeria's imports from China are expected to account for 20% of total imports of \$44.3bn in 2018. This is equivalent to \$8.87bn. This means that the yearly value of the deal is 1.8% of total imports and 9% of Chinese imports. This is barely enough to move the needle when it comes to the trade balance or exchange rate.

Commercial Bank credit to private sector drops to N15.6trn in Q1'18

- The National Bureau of Statistics reported a decline in commercial bank credit to N15.6trn in Q1'18. This represents a quarter-on-quarter decline of 0.86%.
- The Oil and Gas and manufacturing sector received the highest allocation of N3.42trn and N2.07trn respectively while agriculture sector credit declined by 5% to N501bn in Q1'18
- Mining (N10.4bn), Education (N73.5bn) and Transportation & storage (N291.7bn) services received the lowest allocation during the review quarter.

Analysis & Outlook

The decline in commercial bank credit to the private sector reflects high borrowing costs (14%), discouraging SME borrowing. In addition, this trend is also being supported by lower consumer and trader sentiment as reflected by the consumer confidence, and PMI.

Nigeria spends \$36.3 billion on fuel importation in five years

- According to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Nigeria spent \$119.41bn on the importation of commodities from 2013 to 2017 with fuel imports representing 13.5% of all imports.
- Domestic fuel consumption dropped from 23.9 million metric tons in 2013 to 2.6 million metric tons in 2016, representing a decline of 89%. This was driven largely by the curb in cross-border smuggling activities within the period.

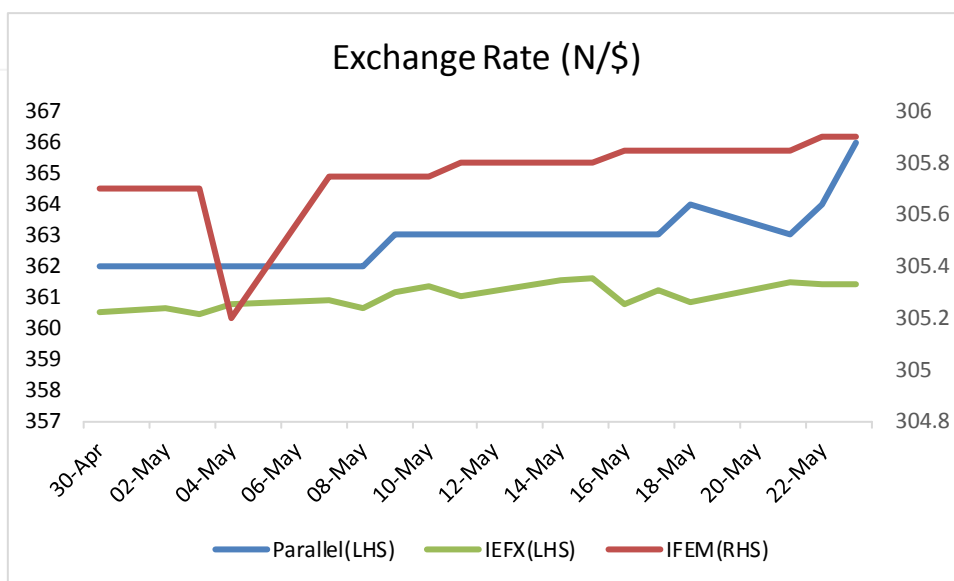
Analysis & Outlook

Nigeria currently has four refineries – 2 in Port Harcourt, 1 in Warri and 1 in Kaduna, with a combined installed capacity of 445,000bpd. At least 2 refineries are currently under construction and due for completion by the end of 2018. However, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) is committed to end the fuel importation by December 2019.

BUSINESS UPDATE (Review Period: April 30th – May 23rd 2018)

The Forex Market

- At the parallel market, the naira
 - Depreciated against the dollar by 1.10% to close at N366/\$ from N362/\$ on April 30th
 - Appreciated against the pound by 1.98% at N495/£ from N505/£ on April 30th
 - Appreciated against the euro by 2.79% to close at N430/€ from N442/€ on April 30th
- At the interbank foreign exchange market, the naira appreciated to a high of N305.2/\$ before depreciating marginally by 0.23% to close at N305.90/\$. The exchange rate continues to trade within a tight band of N305/\$- N306/\$.
- The naira depreciated by 0.25% to close at N361.42/\$ at the IEFX window from N360.51/\$ on April 30th. Total forex traded at the IEFX window during the review period (April 30th-May 23th) was \$3.78bn, compared to \$3.97bn in the corresponding period in April.
- The level of Nigeria's gross external reserves increased by 0.55% (\$260m) to \$47.75bn on May 20th from \$47.49bn on April 30th.
 - The import cover increased to 13.26 months from 13.19 months on April 30th.

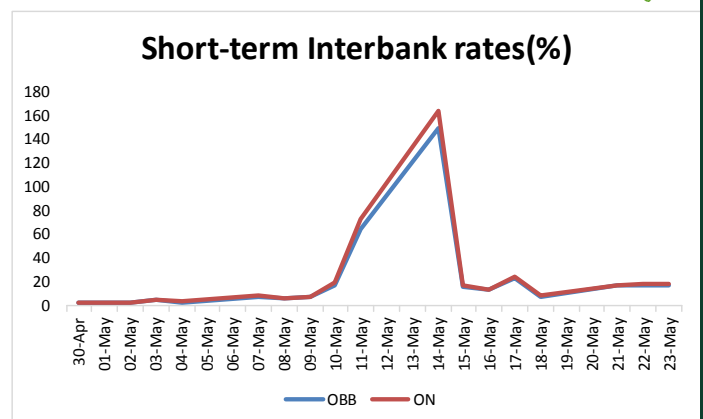


SOURCE: FDC Think Tank, CBN, FMDQ

The Money Market

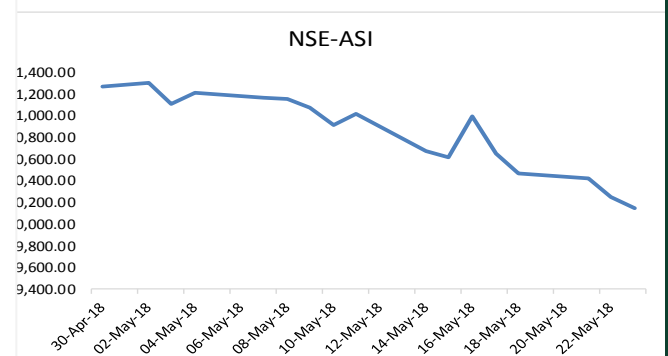
- Short term interbank interest rates (OBB and ON) increased by 1475bps and 1600bps respectively:
 - OBB: 16.67% pa
 - O/N: 18.42% pa
 - The OBB and ON rates reached a 13 month high of 150% and 164.17% on May 14th, this was on the back of CBN's forex auction of an undisclosed amount., which mopped up naira liquidity.
- Average opening position decreased by 73.91% to N148.55bn, when compared to the previous period (30th April - 23rd May)
 - Total OMO sales stood at N1.15bn, compared to total maturity of N867.57bn
- Primary market rates for T/Bills (as at May 23rd) fell by an average of 126bps compared to the April 18th auction
 - 91-day declined to close at 10% from 10.9% on April 18th
 - 182-day slid to close at 10.50% from 12% on April 18th
 - 364-day decreased to close at 10.70% from 12.08% on April 18th
- Secondary market rates for T/bills increased by an average of 145 bps during the review period.
 - 91-day climbed 184bps to close at 12.37% from 10.53% on April 30th.
 - 182-day increased by 170bps to close at 12.36% from 10.66% on April 30th.
 - 364-day advanced by 82bps to close at 12.74% from 11.92% on April 30th.

SOURCE: FMDQ, CBN



The Stock Market

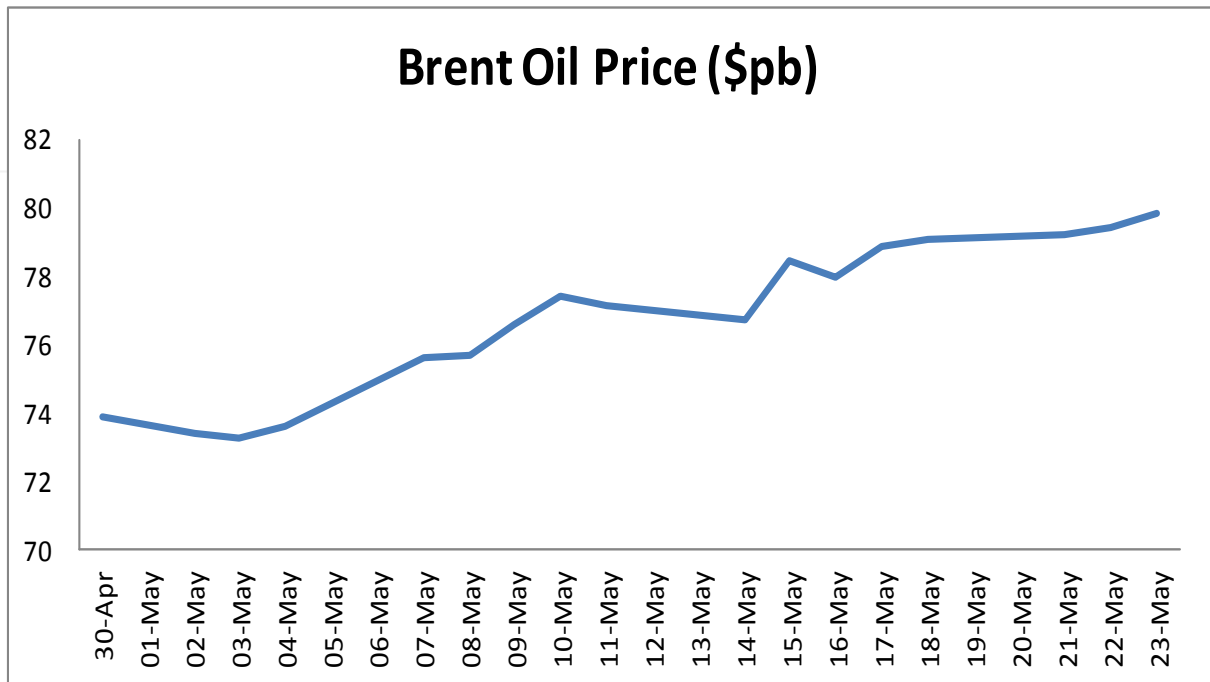
- The Nigerian Stock Exchange All Share Index (NSE ASI) lost 2.71% to close at 40,150.55pts on May 23rd, compared to 41,268.01pts on April 30th.
- Total market capitalization closed 2.74% lower at N14.54trn on May 23rd from N14.95trn on April 30th.



SOURCE: NSE

The Commodities Market

- Brent crude price gained 6.16% to \$79.80pb on May 23rd, from \$75.17pb on April 30th.
 - Driven by Trump's decision on the US-Iran nuclear deal
- Natural gas advanced by 5.32% to close at \$2.910/mmbtu from \$2.763/mmbtu in the review period.
 - Despite a stable global supply
- Corn prices increased by 1.75% to close at \$4.08/bushel from \$4.01/bushel.
 - Due to the unfavourable weather in the US and South America
- Wheat prices rose by 3.91% to \$5.31/bushel from \$5.11/bushel.
 - On the back of poor weather conditions in the U.S.
- Sugar prices increased by 5.11% to \$0.1235/pound from \$0.1175/pound.
 - On the back of reduced supply from Brazilian miners
- Cocoa prices fell by 7.33% to \$2,618/mt from \$2,825/mt in the review period.
 - Due to increased rainfall in West African producing regions
 - As major cocoa producers revealed plans to boost productivity and yields.



SOURCE: Bloomberg, EIA, Newsnow

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SCAN TO OPEN



UNITY BANK NEWS

UniFi goes to Jos

As part of the Bank's strategy to engage the youth market, a new digital and youth banking product; called UniFi was launched on April 12th 2018 at the University of Lagos. In its bid to ensure a nation-wide experience of the product and its offerings, the UniFi train stopped over at the University of Jos, for a 3-day activation-Tuesday May8-Thursday 10th 2018 which witnessed enthusiastic youths/students sign unto the Unifi platform.

The pics below show Unity Bank's UniFi Ambassador, Musician & Song writer, Adekunle Gold thrilling students of University of Jos.



CYBER SECTION



Six Tips to Mitigate the Risk of Fraud-Related Financial Loss-Culled from Forbes³

The financial impact of fraud can be devastating to any business. According to the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, businesses across the globe lose nearly \$4 trillion a year due to fraud, with small businesses (fewer than 100 employees) being the most vulnerable due to their lack of anti-fraud protections.

It's more important than ever to ensure that your company has a plan in place to mitigate the risk of fraud-related financial loss. We asked a panel of Forbes Finance Council members how to do just that. Their best answers are below.

1. Encrypt your emails.

Putting an encryption policy in force for emails will drastically reduce your risk of identity fraud and financial loss. Many small businesses overlook the importance of this. There is a great Gmail plugin that makes it quick and simple to encrypt your messages that contain sensitive material. You also need to hold employees accountable when the encryption process is not followed.



2. Reconcile your accounts daily.

Reconciling cash and credit accounts daily is a very effective method to mitigate identity fraud. Whether your small business is using Quickbooks, Xero or another ERP, get into the habit of

³ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesfinancecouncil/2018/05/01/six-tips-to-mitigate-the-risk-of-fraud-related-financial-loss/#43cc58656752>

downloading your bank transactions every day and reconciling them. This allows you to be on top of all cash that is leaving the company.

3. Research any financial institutions you're working with.

Research any company you are applying for financing with. You don't want to send your sensitive information to a shady organization (and there are many). Reviewing your bank statements for unexpected transactions can also reveal potentially fraudulent debts.

4. Protect sensitive business data as you would your own personal data.

Treat your business' sensitive information with care equal to your personal data. It's easy for fraudsters to legally obtain much of the information required to authorize credit under your business' name. Enroll in credit monitoring services that will show new credit applications being made using your business' information.



5. Use a password manager.

Sharing passwords is common for small businesses, but this sometimes tends to make it challenging to use secure passwords, and sharing can be a pain. It is critical that companies use an affordable password manager, like LastPass or 1Password, which supports sharing to ensure that passwords are not reused, without taking a hit on productivity.

6. Obtain full due diligence and disclosures up front.

To avoid being caught in a scandal or identity fraud, a corporation should have a policy and procedure in place that collects all necessary disclosure documents up front. This would include government-issued IDs, secondary IDs (utilities, bank statements, etc), direct contact information and pulling a reverse search to ensure it matches with the identity of the borrowers or clients.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Would you like to open an account with us?

Kindly direct all account opening enquiries to:

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nomoigui@unitybankng.com

For all other enquiries, contact:

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