



THE NATIONAL TREASURY & ECONOMIC PLANNING

MONTHLY DEBT BULLETIN

MARCH 2023

I.1 Introduction

The total nominal public and publicly guaranteed debt stock as at end of March 2023 was Kshs. 9,390.69 billion (64.7 percent of GDP¹). Domestic debt stock was Kshs. 4,539.59 billion (31.3 percent of GDP), equivalent to USD² 34.30 billion, while the external debt stock was Kshs. 4,851.09 billion (33.4 percent of GDP), equivalent to USD 36.66 billion. Domestic and external debt stock accounted for 48.3 percent and 51.7 percent of total debt stock, respectively.

I.2 Movement in Exchange Rates

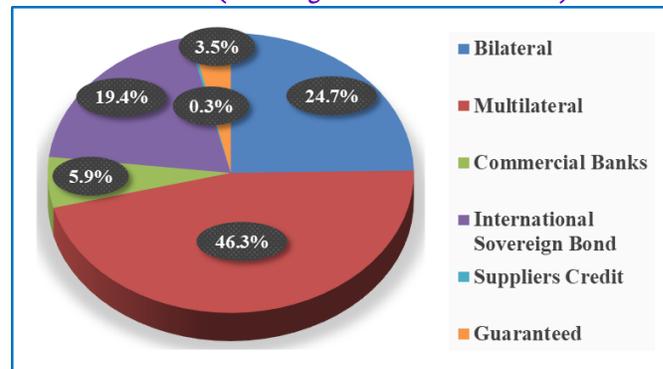
Kenya's public and publicly guaranteed debt is denominated in five major currencies, namely the USD, Euro, Yen, Yuan and Sterling Pound. During the month under review, the Kenya shilling depreciated against the USD, Euro, Yen, Yuan and Sterling Pound by 4.3 percent, 7.8 percent, 7.0 percent, 5.3 percent and 7.8 percent respectively. The base³ exchange rates for the aforementioned five currencies, notably the USD, Euro, Yen, Yuan and Sterling Pound were Kshs. 126.85, Kshs. 133.93, Kshs. 93.08, Kshs. 18.28 and Kshs. 151.87 respectively.

I.3 Size of Public and Publicly Guaranteed External Debt

Overall, the National Government's external debt stock increased by Kshs. 141.38 billion from Kshs 4,709.72 billion in February 2023 to Kshs. 4,851.09 billion in March 2023. This was attributed to disbursements and repayments made during the month and in addition, the exchange rate depreciation. Debt owed to bilateral creditors increased by Kshs 56.45 billion from Kshs. 1,142.55 billion to Kshs. 1,198.99 billion while multilateral debt increased by Kshs. 29.95 billion from Kshs. 2,214.13 billion to Kshs. 2,244.09 billion. Commercial debt increased by Kshs. 52.71 billion from

Kshs. 1,185.44 billion to Kshs. 1,238.14 billion during the same period. Publicly guaranteed external debt marginally increased by 2.27 billion from Kshs. 167.60 in February 2023 to Kshs. 169.87 billion in March 2023.

Chart I: External Debt Composition by Creditor Category as at end of March 2023 (Percentage of Total External Debt)



Source: National Treasury

I.4 Movement of Domestic Debt

The domestic debt stock decreased by Kshs. 11.97 billion from Kshs. 4,551.56 billion in February 2023 to Kshs. 4,539.59 billion in March 2023. Treasury bills decreased by Kshs. 9.55 billion from Kshs. 675.41 billion to Kshs. 665.86 billion whereas treasury bonds decreased by Kshs. 2.42 billion from Kshs 3,773.45 billion to Kshs 3,771.03 billion during the same period. Other including tax reserve, Government overdraft at the Central Bank of Kenya and bank advances remained unchanged at Kshs. 102.71 billion.

I.5 Currency composition of external debt

The proportion of external debt denominated in USD, Euro, Yen, Yuan and Sterling Pound at 67.3 percent, 20.6 percent, 4.3 percent, 5.3 percent and 2.3 percent respectively. Other currencies⁴ accounted for 0.2 percent

¹ Kshs. 14,521.62 billion

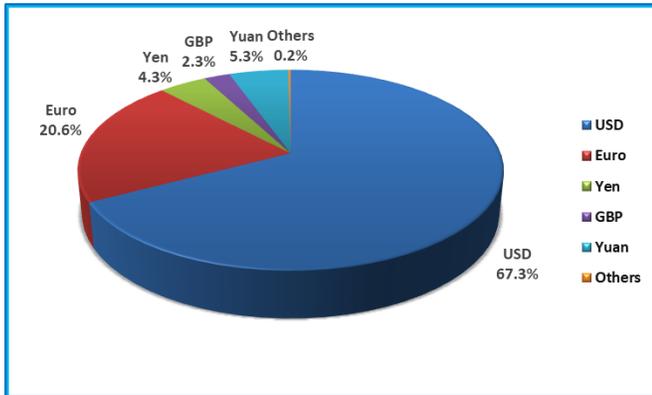
² Kshs to USD 132.33

³ End February 2023 is the base month for all parameters

⁴ Other currencies include Danish Kroner, African Unit of Account, Kuwait Dinar, Korean won, Indian Rupee, Canadian Dollar, Saudi Riyal, Swedish Kroner and Emirati Dirham

of total external debt (Chart 2). The Government is currently exercising currency diversification with an aim of mitigating the exchange rate risk on external debt.

Chart 2: External Debt by Currency Composition as at end March 2023 (Percent of Total External Debt)



Source: National Treasury

1.6 Actual Cumulative External Debt Service

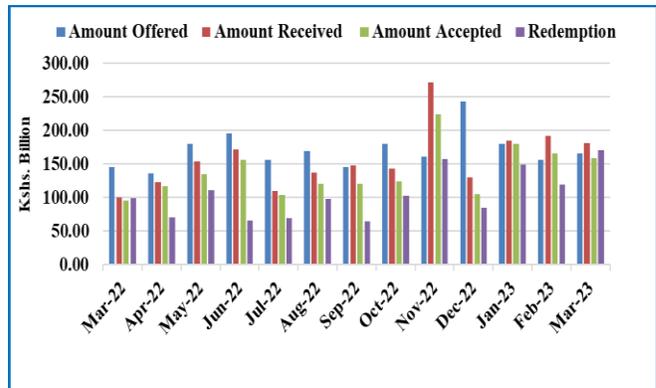
The actual cumulative external debt service as at end March 2023 was Kshs. 312.63 billion against a target of 362.28 billion. External debt service during the month of March 2023 was Kshs. 27.54 billion, comprising principal and interest payments of Kshs. 20.47 billion and Kshs. 7.07 billion respectively. Debt service to bilateral creditors accounted for 43.4 percent of the total cumulative debt service while commercial, multilateral creditors and Guaranteed accounted for 36.5 percent, 16.9 percent and 3.2 percent, respectively.

1.7 Domestic Borrowing

During the month of March 2023, Government securities amounting to Kshs. 166 billion were advertised. Bids worth Kshs. 181.81 billion were received, comprising of Kshs. 109.33 billion and Kshs. 72.48 billion Treasury bills and bonds respectively. Bids worth Kshs. 158.75 billion were successful, out of which Kshs. 95.16 billion and Kshs. 63.59 billion were Treasury bills and bonds respectively. The monthly redemptions amounted to Kshs. 170.21 billion, out of which Kshs. 104.91 billion and Kshs. 65.30 billion were

Treasury bills and bonds respectively. (Chart 3). In aggregate, the exchequer had a deficit of Kshs. 11.46 billion during the month.

Chart 3: Government Securities Performance from March 2022 to March 2023 in Kshs. Billions

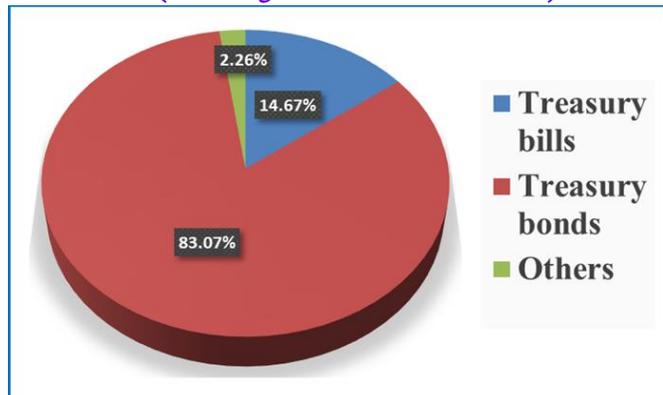


Source: National Treasury

1.8 Domestic Debt by Instruments

As at the end of March 2023, the ratio of bonds to bills was 83:15. The Government overdraft at the Central Bank of Kenya, Tax Reserve Certificates and bank advances accounted for 2.3 percent of domestic debt during the same period (Chart 4).

Chart 4: Stock of Domestic debt instruments as at the end of March 2023 (Percentage of Total Domestic Debt)



Source: National Treasury

I.9 Net Domestic Financing

The net domestic financing as at end of March 2023 was Kshs. 284.92 billion against an annual target of Kshs. 438.11 billion for FY 2022/23.

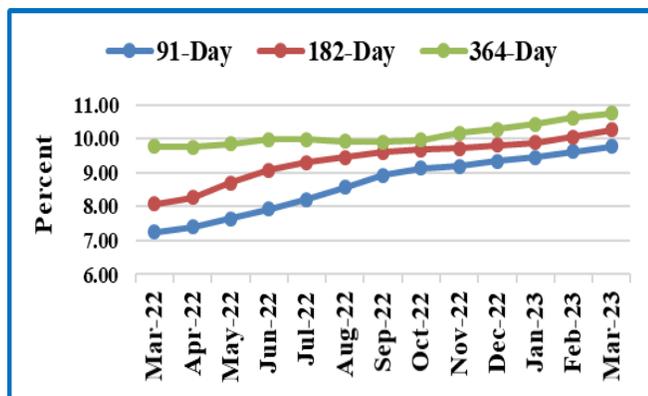
I.10 Cumulative Domestic Interest Payments

As at end of March 2023, the actual cumulative domestic interest payment amounted to Kshs. 373.60 billion against a cumulative target of 537.38 billion. Interest payments for Treasury bonds and bills in the month of March amounted to Kshs. 29.34 billion and Kshs. 5.35 billion, respectively. The interest payment on the overdraft was Kshs. 0.56 billion.

I.11 Average Interest rates for Treasury Bills

On average, there was a marginal change in interest rate for Treasury bills during the month. The average interest rates for 91-day, 182-day, and 364-day Treasury bills increased to 9.76 percent, 10.25 percent and 10.75 percent in March 2023 from 9.62 percent, 10.06 percent and 10.62 percent in February 2023, respectively as shown in Chart 5.

Chart 5: Average Interest rates for Treasury Bills from March 2022 to March 2023



Source: National Treasury

The average interest rates for the 91-day, 182-day and 364-day Treasury bills increased by 14, 19 and 13 basis points, respectively.

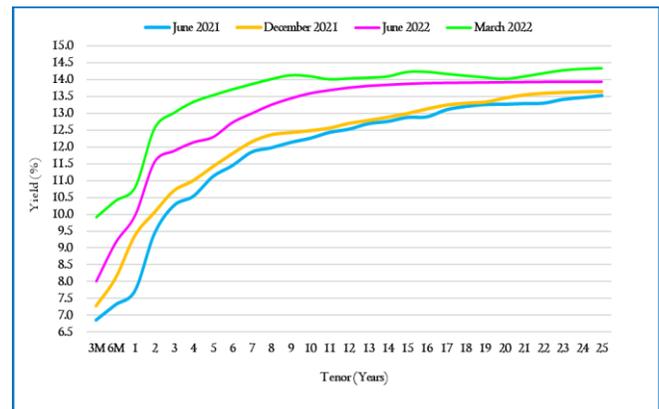
I.12 Government Securities Yields

The interest rates have been on the rise both in the international capital markets and domestic market

following monetary policy tightening by the Central Banks both in the advanced and developing economies to contain inflationary pressures.

The 91 Day Treasury bill interest rates has increased from 6.9 percent at end June 2021 to 9.9 percent as at end March 2023 (a 305 basis points increase) as shown in Chart 6.

Chart 6: Government Securities Yield Curve



Source: Nairobi Stock Exchange

I.13 Average Time to Maturity for Treasury Bonds

The Average Time to Maturity (ATM) for Treasury Bonds during the month of March 2023 was 8.9 years.

I.14 Sovereign Credit Rating

Kenya was assigned a B sovereign credit rating by Standard & Poor's (S&P) and Fitch in 2006, and 2007, respectively. It was assigned a B+, equivalent of BI rating by Moody's in 2012, which was the only rating agency to upgrade Kenya's sovereign rating to B2 in 2018. S&P did cut Kenya's ratings outlook from stable to negative. While Fitch credited Kenya at B with a stable outlook and B2 with a negative outlook by Moody's (Annex I). The variations in the credit rating scores of the three agencies shows the influence of subjectivity and the perceptions generated in the qualitative analysis.

In order for Kenya to graduate to investment grade (BBB-) and attract cheaper debt from global markets, there is need for: actualizing the long planned fiscal

consolidation; improvement of export sector performance and expand foreign reserves accumulation; promotion of economic growth to boost GDP per Capita; and improve on food production, access and affordability in order to lower and stabilize the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER), among others.

ANNEX I: KENYA'S CREDIT RATING

Agency	Rating	Outlook	Date
Standard and Poors	B	Negative	Feb 28 2023
Fitch	B	Stable	Dec 14 2022
Standard and Poors	B	Stable	Aug 25 2022
Standard and Poors	B	Stable	Mar 05 2021
Standard and Poors	B+	Negative	Jul 14 2020
Fitch	B+	Negative	Jun 19 2020
Moody's	B2	Negative	May 07 2020
Moody's	B2	Stable	Feb 13 2018
Fitch Rating	B+	Stable	Feb 09 2018
Moody's	BI	Under Review	Oct 02 2017
Standard and Poors	B+	Stable	Oct 14 2016
Standard and Poors	B+	Negative	Oct 16 2015
Fitch Rating	B+	Negative	Jul 17 2015
Moody's	BI	Stable	Nov 08 2012
Standard and Poors	B+	Stable	Nov 19 2010
Fitch Rating	B+	Stable	Jan 16 2009
Standard and Poors	B	Positive	Aug 04 2008
Standard and Poors	B	Stable	Mar 10 2008
Standard and Poors	B	Negative	Feb 04 2008
Fitch Rating	B+	Negative	Jan 30 2008
Fitch Rating	B+	Stable	Dec 12 2007
Standard and Poors	B+	Stable	Sep 08 2006

ANNEX II: STOCK OF PUBLIC AND PUBLICLY GUARANTEED EXTERDEBT BY SOURCE AS AT THE END OF MARCH 2023 IN KSHSMILLIONS

CREDITOR	Stock at the End February 2023	Stock at the End March 2023	CHANGE
BILATERAL			
BELGIUM	22,743.04	24,180.33	1,437.29
AUSTRIA	1,727.31	1,861.91	134.60
DENMARK	385.03	413.70	28.67
FINLAND	795.64	857.64	62.00
FRANCE	95,152.05	101,584.55	6,432.51
GERMANY	38,599.29	43,476.63	4,877.34
ITALY	42,289.50	45,584.82	3,295.32
JAPAN	97,141.70	104,539.01	7,397.32
USA	1,112.40	1,155.51	43.11
SPAIN	14,524.86	15,568.30	1,043.44
Other PARIS CLUB	2,604.91	2,329.23	(275.68)
Other NON -PARIS CLUB	21,609.88	22,766.44	1,156.56
CHINA	803,859.79	834,673.21	30,813.42
Sub Total	1,142,545.39	1,198,991.28	56,445.89
MULTILATERAL			
ADB/ADF	448,091.43	475,221.97	27,130.54
EEC/EIB	22,946.68	24,098.93	1,152.26
IDA	1,325,214.77	1,403,018.02	77,803.25
IFAD	28,254.52	29,878.34	1,623.82
IMF	303,726.03	221,445.61	(82,280.42)
Others	85,900.56	90,423.96	4,523.39
Sub Total	2,214,133.99	2,244,086.84	29,952.84
COMMERCIAL			
Commercial Bank	271,669.83	284,580.91	12,911.08
International Sovereign Bond	900,655.59	939,560.04	38,904.45
Suppliers Credit	13,113.32	14,003.94	890.61
Sub Total	1,185,438.74	1,238,144.88	52,706.14
Total Central Government	4,542,118.13	4,681,223.00	139,104.87
GUARANTEED			
JAPAN	82,075.34	87,850.91	5,775.57
GERMANY	4,646.53	5,008.60	362.07
Kenya Airways (Commercial Debt)	80,875.16	77,012.28	(3,862.87)
Sub Total	167,597.03	169,871.80	2,274.77
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT+ GUARANTEED TOTAL DEBT	4,709,715.16	4,851,094.80	141,379.64

Source: National Treasury

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