



THE NATIONAL TREASURY & ECONOMIC PLANNING

MONTHLY DEBT BULLETIN

MARCH 2024

I.1 Introduction

The total nominal public and publicly guaranteed debt stock as at end of March 2024 was Ksh. 10,398.61 billion (64.5 percent of GDP¹) equivalent to USD 78.90 billion. Domestic debt stock was Ksh. 5,235.19 billion (32.5 percent of GDP), equivalent to USD² 39.72 billion, while the external debt stock was Ksh. 5,163.42 billion (32 percent of GDP), equivalent to USD 39.18 billion. Domestic and external debt stock accounted for 50.3 percent and 49.7 percent of total debt stock, respectively.

I.2 Movement in Exchange Rates

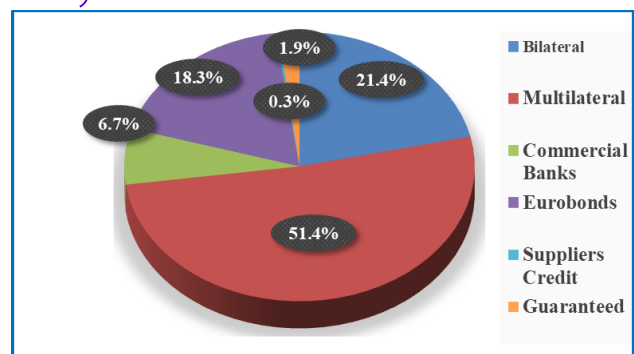
Kenya's public and publicly guaranteed debt is denominated in five major currencies, namely the US Dollar, Euro, Japanese Yen, Chinese Yuan and Sterling Pound. During the month under review, the Kenya shilling appreciated against the USD, Euro, Chinese Yuan, Sterling Pound and Japanese Yen by 8.2 percent, 8.3 percent, 8.6 percent, 8.4 percent and 9.1 percent respectively. The base³ exchange rates for the aforementioned five currencies, notably the USD, Euro, Yen, Yuan and Sterling Pound were Ksh. 143.59, Ksh. 155.59, Ksh. 95.78, Ksh. 19.95 and Ksh. 181.88 respectively.

I.3 Size of Public and Publicly Guaranteed External Debt

Overall, the National Government's external debt stock decreased by Ksh. 490.47 billion from Ksh.

5,653.89 billion as at end February 2024 to Ksh. 5,163.42 billion as at end March 2024. This was attributed to the appreciation of the Kenya shilling against major currencies during the month. Debt owed to bilateral creditors decreased by Ksh 116.49 billion from Ksh. 1,222.86 billion to Ksh. 1,106.37 billion, multilateral debt by Ksh. 244.60 billion from Ksh. 2,898.89 billion to Ksh. 2,654.28 billion. Commercial debt decreased by Ksh. 118.80 billion from Ksh. 1,422.70 billion to Ksh. 1,303.91 billion during the same period. Publicly guaranteed external debt decreased by Ksh. 10.58 billion from Ksh. 109.44 to Ksh. billion 98.86 at end March 2024.

Chart I: External Debt Composition as at end of March 2024 (As a percentage of total External Debt).



Source: National Treasury

I.4 Currency Composition of External Debt

The proportion of external debt denominated in USD, Euro, Yen, Yuan and Sterling Pound was at 67.9 percent, 21.3 percent, 3.6 percent, 4.8 percent and 2.1 percent respectively. Other currencies⁴

¹ Kshs. 16,131.50 billion

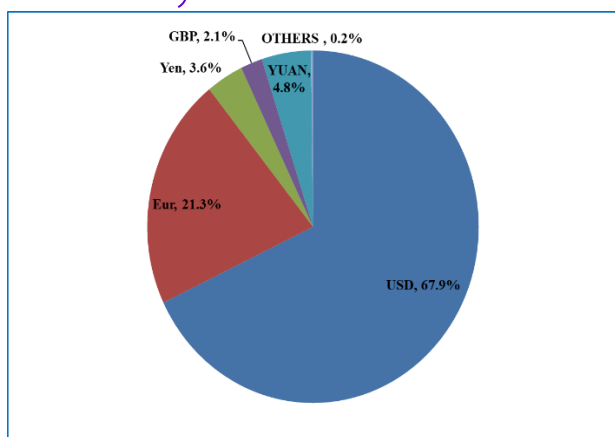
² Kshs. to USD 131.80

³ End February 2024 is the base month for all parameters

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

accounted for 0.2 percent 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 2024 (As percent of Total External Debt)



Source: National Treasury

1.5 Actual Cumulative External Debt Service

The actual cumulative external debt service as at end March 2024 was Ksh. 633.19 billion against the financial year target of Ksh. 780.79 billion. External debt service during the month of March 2024 was Ksh 32.22 billion, comprising principal repayments and interest payments of Ksh. 14.57 billion and Ksh. 17.65 billion respectively. Debt service to bilateral creditors accounted for 30.6 percent of the total cumulative debt service while commercial, multilateral creditors and guarantees accounted for 53.5 percent, 13.1 percent and 2.8 percent, respectively for the period ending March 2024.

1.6 Size of Domestic Debt

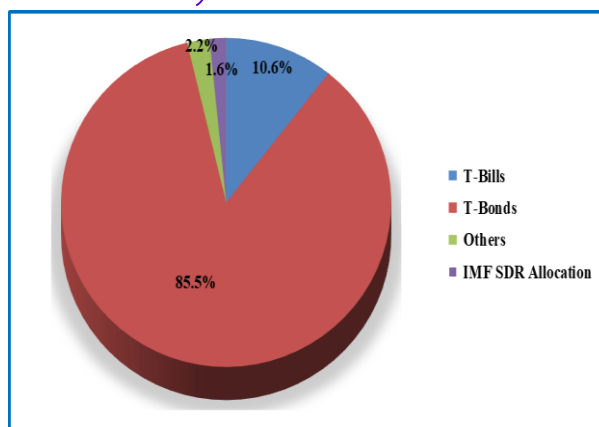
The domestic debt stock increased by Ksh. 34.98 billion from Ksh. 5,200.21 billion as at end February 2024 to Ksh. 5,235.19 billion as at end March 2024. The stock of Treasury bills increased by Ksh. 7.94 billion from Ksh. 549.07 billion to Ksh. 557.01 billion and the stock of Treasury bonds increased by Ksh. 36.44 billion from Ksh. 4,442.09 billion to Ksh 4,478.54 billion during the

same period. Others including pre-1997 Government debt, Government overdraft at the Central Bank of Kenya, advances from commercial banks and IMF SDR Allocation decreased by Ksh. 9.41 billion from Ksh 209.05 billion to Ksh. 199.64 billion during the same period.

1.7 Domestic Debt by Instruments

As at the end of March 2024, the ratio of bonds to bills was 84:10. The Government overdraft at the Central Bank of Kenya and historical bank advances from commercial accounted for 2.0 percent while IMF SDR Allocation accounted for 2.0 percent of domestic debt stock during the same period (Chart 4).

Chart 4: Stock of Domestic debt instruments as at the end of March 2024 (Percentage of Total Domestic Debt)

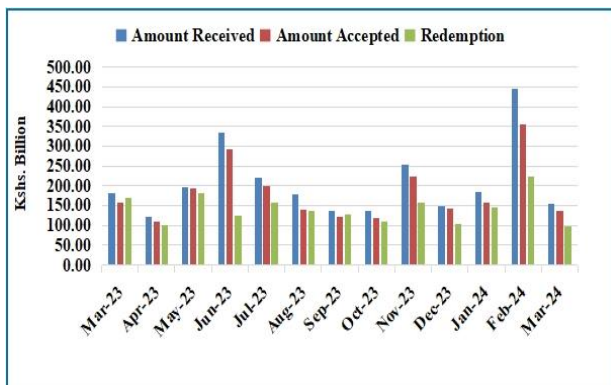


Source: National Treasury

1.8 Domestic Borrowing

During the month of March 2024, Government securities amounting to Ksh. 136.00 billion were advertised. Bids worth Ksh. 155.88 billion were received. Bids worth Ksh. 137.90 billion were successful. The monthly Treasury bills redemptions were Ksh. 98.65 billion (Chart 3). In aggregate, the exchequer had a surplus of Ksh. 39.3 billion during the month.

Chart 3: Government Securities Performance from March 2023 to March 2024 in Ksh. Billions



Source: National Treasury

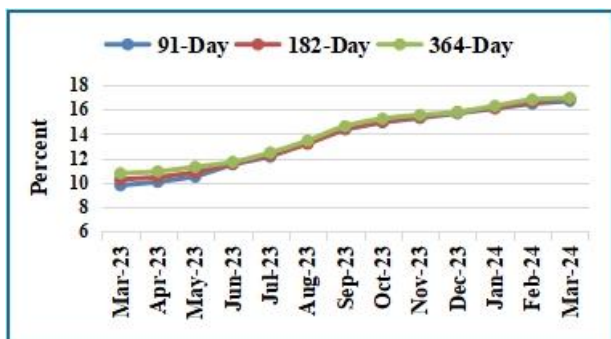
I.9 Net Domestic Financing

The net domestic financing as at end of March 2024 was Ksh. 418.33 billion against an annual target of Ksh. 605.74 billion for FY 2023/24.

I.10 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 16.73 percent, 16.91 percent and 16.99 percent in March 2024 from 16.50 percent, 16.65 percent and 16.84 percent in February 2024, respectively as shown in Chart 5.

Chart 5: Average Interest rates for Treasury Bills from March 2023 to March 2024



Source: National Treasury

The average interest rates for the 91-day and 182-day Treasury bills increased by 3.3 and 2.4 basis points, respectively.

I.11 Cumulative Domestic Interest Payments

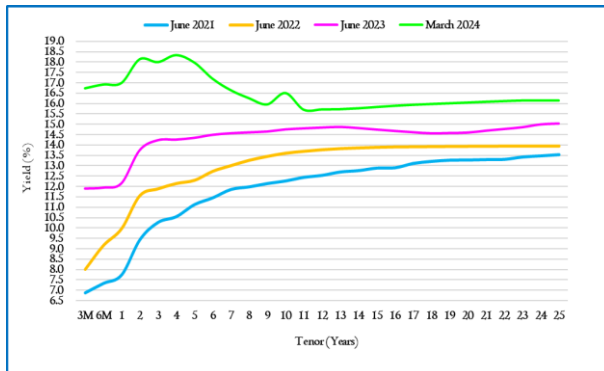
As at end of March 2024, the actual cumulative domestic interest payment amounted to Ksh. 439.42 billion against a cumulative target of 629.37 billion for FY 2023/24. Interest payments for Treasury bonds and bills in the month of February amounted to Ksh. 6.59 billion and Ksh. 30.10 billion, respectively. Total interest payment on the overdraft and interest on Pre-1997 Government Overdraft was Ksh. 1.05 billion.

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 6.86 percent at end June 2021 to 16.73 percent as at end March 2024 (987 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 2024 was 7.76 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 negative outlook and B3 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
Moody's	B3	Negative	July 28 2023
Fitch	B	Negative	July 20 2023
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	B1	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	B1	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	Sept 08 2006

Source: National Treasury

ANNEX II: STOCK OF PUBLIC AND PUBLICLY GUARANTEED EXTERNAL DEBT BY SOURCE AS AT THE END OF MARCH 2024 IN KSH MILLIONS

CREDITOR	Stock at the End February 2024	Stock at the End March 2024	CHANGE
BILATERAL			
BELGIUM	26,029.71	23,581.89	(2,447.82)
AUSTRIA	1,895.68	1,738.28	(157.40)
DENMARK	286.31	262.42	(23.89)
FINLAND	554.59	339.03	(215.56)
FRANCE	105,014.07	95,371.28	(9,642.78)
GERMANY	46,930.67	44,493.93	(2,436.75)
ITALY	28,120.17	25,785.32	(2,334.86)
JAPAN	97,877.69	89,020.51	(8,857.18)
USA	53,345.99	40,944.46	(12,401.53)
SPAIN	14,647.44	13,317.40	(1,330.05)
Other PARIS CLUB	2,106.13	1,546.58	(559.56)
Other NON -PARIS CLUB	24,095.47	22,085.59	(2,009.87)
CHINA	821,958.79	747,882.32	(74,076.46)
Sub Total	1,222,862.72	1,106,369.01	(116,493.71)
MULTILATERAL			
ADB/ADF	543,853.15	500,956.83	(42,896.33)
EEC/EIB	28,380.00	25,395.13	(2,984.88)
IDA	1,649,540.82	1,508,157.90	(141,382.92)
IFAD	37,045.94	33,471.81	(3,574.12)
IMF	469,852.97	429,325.73	(40,527.24)
Others	170,213.40	156,975.68	(13,237.72)
Sub Total	2,898,886.29	2,654,283.08	(244,603.21)
COMMERCIAL			
Commercial Bank	379,141.73	346,031.63	(33,110.10)
International Sovereign Bond	1,027,662.88	943,292.22	(84,370.66)
Suppliers Credit	15,899.51	14,583.34	(1,316.17)
Sub Total	1,422,704.12	1,303,907.19	(118,796.93)
Total Central Government	5,544,453.13	5,064,559.28	(479,893.85)
GUARANTEED			
JAPAN	75,290.80	67,519.41	(7,771.39)
GERMANY	1,847.37	1,693.98	(153.39)
Kenya Airways (Commercial Debt)	32,302.70	29,650.67	(2,652.04)
Sub Total	109,440.88	98,864.06	(10,576.82)
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT+ GUARANTEED TOTAL DEBT	5,653,894.01	5,163,423.34	(490,470.67)

Source: National Treasury

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