AIICO CAPITAL

DAILY MARKET INSIGHTS.

Wednesday, 4 March 2026

MARKET COMMENTARY

System Liquidity

System liquidity opened today at a moderated surplus of ₦5.21 trillion, reflecting a decline of ₦461.94 billion from the previous session. The reduction was driven by the settlement of ₦235.60 billion from the prior session's OMO auction. Meanwhile, Deposit Money Banks' (DMBs) placements at the CBN's Standard Deposit Facility (SDF) window rose slightly by ₦450.94 billion to ₦5.35 trillion.

Despite this, the average funding cost eased by 5bps to 22.11%, as the Open Repo Rate (OPR) held steady at 22.00%, while the Overnight Rate (OVN) declined by 10bps to close at 22.21%.

Outlook: *Amidst an expected inflow of ₦799.13 billon form 5-Mar-26 NTB maturity and 4-Mar-26 NTB settlement, we expect funding cost to slightly increase in the next session.*

SYS. LIQ. (₦'BN)		Diff.
4-Mar-26	5,212.64	(461.94)
3-Mar-26	5,674.58	

Source: CBN, AIICO Capital

Eurobonds

The African Eurobond market traded on a positive note, supported by investors' reaction to the recent price decline.

Across Nigeria's Eurobond curve, yields trended lower. At the short end, the Mar-2028 eased by 5bps to 6.00%, while the Nov-2027 declined by 4bps to 5.81%. Mid-tenors also traded bullish, with the Jan-2036 dropping 6bps to 7.68%, while the Feb-2032 and Sep-2033 shed 3bps each to 7.10% and 7.31%, respectively. The long end extended the rally, as the Jan-2046 and Nov-2047 eased by 4bps each to 8.36% and 8.25%, respectively, while the Sep-2053 dipped slightly by 2bps to 8.42%.

Overall, the average Nigerian Eurobond benchmark yield declined by 3bps to close at 7.22%.

Outlook: *We market to trade traded mixed tomorrow amidst recent yield uptick and update on the Middle-East tension.*

BENCHMARK FGN EUROBOND YIELDS	04-Mar-26	03-Mar-26	Change in Yield (%)
5 YRS: NGERIA 8.375% 03/24/29	6.00%	6.05%	(0.05)
10 YRS: NGERIA 7.375% 09/29/33	7.31%	7.34%	(0.03)
15 YRS: NGERIA 7.696% 23/02/38	7.87%	7.90%	(0.03)
30 YRS: NGERIA 8.25% 09/29/51	8.42%	8.44%	(0.02)
8.75% ETI 06/17/31*	4.16%	4.64%	(0.05)

Source: FirstBank UK, AIICO Capital

Treasury Bills

The NTB secondary market traded on a calm-to-bearish note, as market participants shifted focus to the NTB auction, where the DMO offered ₦1.05 trillion across the 91-, 182-, and 364-day tenors.

Notably, the short and mid segments of the curve traded quietly, with no rate movements recorded on the benchmark bills. However, the long end of the curve came under bearish pressure, as sell-side sentiment was observed on the 7-Jan-27 bill, which recorded a 41bps uptick in yield to 16.17%.Consequently, the average benchmark yield rose by 4bps to close at 15.84%.

Outlook: *We expect the market to be quiet to mildly bullish as investors will focus on submitting bids for the upcoming NTB PMA*

BENCHMARK T-BILLS DISCOUNT RATES	04-Mar-26	03-Mar-26	Change in Yield (%)
64 DAYS	15.66%	15.66%	-
155 DAYS	15.76%	15.76%	-
337 DAYS	15.71%	15.71%	-

Source: FMDQ, AIICO Capital

FGN Bonds

The FGN bond secondary market traded on a mixed-to-bearish note amid prevailing risk-off sentiment.

At the short end of the curve, bonds traded on a mixed-to-positive note. Yield on the 23-Feb-28 bond rose by 1bp to 16.15%, while the 20-Mar-28 and 17-Apr-29 bonds eased by 1bp each to 15.95% and 15.61%, respectively. Across the mid-tenor segment, bearish sentiment was observed on the 21-Feb-31 and 27-Apr-32 bonds, with yields rising by 46bps and 62bps to 16.23% and 16.22%, respectively.

Meanwhile, long-dated bonds traded on a relatively calm note. Overall, the average benchmark yield increased by 6bps to close at 15.51%.

Outlook: *In the near term, we expect the market to retain a cautious tone.*

BENCHMARK FGN BOND YIELDS	04-Mar-26	03-Mar-26	Change in Yield (%)
3 YRS: 14.55% 26-APR-2029	15.81%	15.81%	-
10 YRS: 12.40% 18-MAR-2036	15.38%	15.38%	-
18 YRS: 13.00% 21-JAN-2042	14.96%	14.96%	-
27 YRS: 15.70% 21-JUN-2053	14.16%	14.16%	-

Source: FMDQ, AIICO Capital

Nigerian Equities

The Nigerian bourse closed the day on a negative note as the ASI declined by 8bps, although the benchmark index remains up 26.25% year-to-date. The Pension Index also finished lower, shedding 5bps, while sustaining a stronger year-to-date return of 34.93%.

Market breadth was negative, with 22 stocks recording gains compared to 36 decliners, reflecting cautious sentiment across trading desks. PREMPAINTS led the gainers with a 10% appreciation, while DANGSUGAR topped the losers' chart after shedding 10%. VERITASKAP emerged as the most traded stock by volume, recording 56.42 million shares, whereas MTNN dominated the value chart with transactions worth ₦7.08bn.

Sector performance was broadly weak. The Banking Index fell by 45bps, pressured by declines in FCMB (-5.88%), ETI (-4.46%), ACCESSCORP (-1.89%), and WEMABANK (-0.36%), while GTCO (+0.08%) and UBA (+1.17%) posted modest gains. The Consumer Index declined by 86bps on losses in DANGSUGAR (-10%), MCNICHOLS (-7.86%), VITAFOAM (-7.56%), INTBREW (-1.64%), HONYFLOUR (-1.53%), CHAMPION (-0.88%), and NB (-0.56%). The Oil and Gas Index dipped 3bps as JAPAULGOLD (-4.76%) and OANDO (-0.50%) fell, although ETERNA gained 6.38%. The Industrial Index also edged lower by 3bps following a 9.97% decline in CAP.

Total trade value declined by 14.02% to $27.18m, with notable crosses recorded in MTNN, OANDO, GTCO, ZENITHBANK, NB, and VERITASKAP

Outlook: *We expect sustained mixed market sentiment tomorrow as profit-taking and repositioning.*

	D-o-D	W-o-W	MTD	YTD
NGX ASI	-0.08%	1.08%	1.89%	26.25%
NSE BANKING INDEX	-0.45%	0.00%	-0.15%	24.63%
NSE INSURANCE INDEX	0.33%	1.57%	0.36%	14.76%
NSE INDUSTRIAL GOODS INDEX	-0.03%	-1.06%	2.64%	32.25%
NSE CONSUMER GOODS INDEX	-0.86%	0.63%	0.37%	10.34%
NSE OIL & GAS INDEX	-0.03%	9.23%	9.39%	66.35%

Source: NGX, AIICO Capital

TOP 5 EQUITY ADVANCERS			
NAME (SYMBOL)	CLOSING PRICE	GAIN(N)	% CHANGE
PREMPAINTS	12.10	1.10	10.00%
FTGINSURE	1.24	0.11	9.73%
UACN	115.00	8.30	7.78%
ETERNA	35.00	2.10	6.38%
CUSTODIAN	70.00	4.00	6.06%

Source: NGX, AIICO Capital

TOP 5 EQUITY DECLINERS			
NAME (SYMBOL)	CLOSING PRICE	LOSS(N)	% CHANGE
DANGSUGAR	74.70	-8.30	-10.00%
JAIZBANK	10.80	-1.20	-10.00%
CAP	84.85	-9.40	-9.97%
UNIONDICON	14.95	-1.65	-9.94%
HMCALL	3.92	-0.43	-9.89%

Source: NGX, AIICO Capital

Foreign Exchange

The Naira at the Nigerian Foreign Exchange Market (NFEM) remain pressured to depreciate by 20bps (₦2.80) against the U.S. Dollar.

The depreciation was driven by sustained high USD demand pressure amid global risk-off sentiment across the emerging market assets. The Naira traded within the ₦1,382.50/$ and ₦1400.00/$ range during the session before settling at ₦1,387.10/$.

Meanwhile, external reserves was noted at $49.69 billion as of 27-Feb-2026, reflecting an addition of $89.14 million day-on-day.

Outlook: *We expect the Naira to trade at relatively weaker levels tomorrow supported by recent demand and supply dynamics.*

NFEM RATE ($/₦)		Diff.
4-Mar-26	1,387.0955	2.8035
3-Mar-26	1,384.2920	

Source: CBN, AIICO Capital

Commodities

Global Oil prices were little changed on Wednesday despite a volatile trading session, as renewed U.S. and Israeli strikes against Iran escalated regional tensions and paralysed shipping through the Strait of Hormuz for a fifth day, disrupting vital Middle East oil and gas flows. Brent crude shed 26bps or 21 cent, hovering around $81.19 per barrel, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) lost 5bps from to around $74.52 per barrel.

However, gold prices gained, following a hefty fall in the previous session, as a weaker dollar prompted investors to dive back into the yellow metal's safe-haven status. Spot gold price rose by 91bps, to around $5,133.85/oz, while U.S. gold futures lost by 79bps, hovering around $5,145.21.74/oz.

Outlook: *We expect gold to remain bid on safe-haven demand and oil to stay elevated on continued Middle East supply risk into tomorrow.*

MACRO INDICATORS	
GDP (Q4 2025)	+4.07% (Q3: 2025 +3.98% y/y)
INFLATION (JANUARY 2026)	15.10% (Dec'25: 15.15%)
EXTERNAL RESERVE (US$'BILLION)	49.69 (+9.21% YTD as of 27-Feb-26)
MONETARY POLICY RATE (FEB'2026)	26.50%
CASH RESERVE REQUIREMENT (CRR)	45.00%
BRENT CRUDE PRICE US$/BBL	*81.19 (-0.21 d/d)

Source: NBS,CBN, Bloomberg, AIICO Capital