

DAILY MARKET INSIGHTS.



Tuesday, 19 May 2026

MARKET COMMENTARY

System Liquidity

System liquidity opened today on a surplus balance of ₦5.97 trillion, reflecting a surge of ₦2.41 trillion from the previous open of ₦3.56 trillion. The liquidity level was largely supported by ₦3.54 trillion Deposit Money Banks placements at the CBN's SDF window and an inflow of ₦28.11 million from 19-May-2026 OMO maturities.

However, the Nigerian Overnight Financing Rate (NOFR) remained steady at 22.00%, with a daily variation of 1.5% as of 18-May-2026.

Outlook: *Barring any significant shocks, we expect liquidity to remain elevated at the next session and a steady NOFR.*

	SYS. LIQ. (₦'BN)	Diff.
19-May-26	5,973.29	↑2,413.39
18-May-26	3,559.90	

Source: CBN, AIICO Capital

Eurobonds

The Nigerian Sovereign Eurobond market traded on a bearish note today, pressured by rising

geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and concerns over possible disruptions to oil supply through the Strait of Hormuz. Higher U.S. Treasury yields also weakened sentiment across emerging market Eurobonds, triggering sell-offs across Nigerian sovereign papers.

Selling pressure was most pronounced at the short-to-mid segment, where the MAR 2029 and FEB 2030 bonds gained 14bps and 13bps respectively to close at 6.00% and 6.43%. At the long end, yields also trended higher, with the JAN 2046 and JAN 2049 papers rising by 4bps each to 8.12%, while the SEP 2051 bond climbed 5bps to 8.20%. Overall, the average benchmark yield increased by 6bps day-on-day to close at 7.05%.

Outlook: *We expect a cautious and selective stance to persist.*

BENCHMARK FGN EUROBOND YIELDS			
	19-May-26	18-May-26	Change in Yield (%)
5 YRS: NGERIA 8.375% 03/24/29	6.00%	5.86%	0.14
10 YRS: NGERIA 7.375% 09/29/33	7.09%	7.02%	0.07
15 YRS: NGERIA 7.696% 23/02/38	7.46%	7.41%	0.05
30 YRS: NGERIA 8.25% 09/29/51	8.20%	8.15%	0.05
8.75% ETI 06/17/31*	1.75%	2.00%	(0.03)

Source: FirstBank UK, AIICO Capital

Treasury Bills

The Nigerian Treasury Bills secondary market traded quietly with a mild bearish bias, as investors remained cautious following the May FGN Bond PMA.

Profit-taking was mainly concentrated at the mid-to-long end of the curve, as the 08-Oct-26 and 06-May-27 bills recorded yield increases of 17bps and 9bps respectively, while the rest of the curve remained largely stable amid position adjustments ahead of expected supply at the forthcoming NTB PMA where the DMO is set to offer ₦650 billion across the three tenors. Overall, the average benchmark yield rose by 2bps to close at 16.03%

Outlook: We expect a mixed to bearish sentiment as investors position ahead of the May MPC decision and recent elevated auction stop rates.

BENCHMARK T-BILLS DISCOUNT RATES			
	19-May-26	18-May-26	Change in Yield (%)
79 DAYS	15.74%	15.74%	-
170 DAYS	16.16%	16.16%	-
324 DAYS	15.98%	15.98%	-

Source: FMDQ, AllCO Capital

FGN Bonds

The FGN Bond secondary market traded on a quiet to bearish note as investors digested the outcome of the May FGN Bond PMA. Post-auction flows slightly improved activity levels, with intermittent trades observed on the FGN 2035 and FGN 2037 bonds, where market axes were quoted around 17.05%/16.95%

Trading interest was marginally skewed to selective names, with the 17-Apr-29 paper edging lower by 13bps, while the 21-Feb-31 tenor weakened by 17bps.

Elsewhere, yields remained unchanged across the bulk of the curve, including the 2035–2053 maturities, where trading was largely stable and the average benchmark yield closed flat at 15.83%.

Outlook: We expect the bearish sentiment to persist as investors are likely to remain cautious ahead of the outcome of the MPC meeting

BENCHMARK FGN BOND YIELDS			
	19-May-26	18-May-26	Change in Yield (%)
3 YRS: 14.55% 26-APR-2029	16.19%	16.19%	-
10 YRS: 12.40% 18-MAR-2036	14.96%	14.96%	-
18 YRS: 13.00% 21-JAN-2042	14.07%	14.07%	-
27 YRS: 15.70% 21-JUN-2053	14.73%	14.73%	-

Source: FMDQ, AllCO Capital

Nigerian Equities

The Nigerian equities market closed today's session on a positive note, as the All-Share Index (ASI) and market capitalization both advanced by 0.57%, reversing the prior bearish trend. The uptick was primarily driven by renewed bargain hunting and buying interest in medium- and large-cap stocks across key sectors, with the Industrial Goods sector leading the gains. The ASI gained 1,430.59 points to settle at 251,635.42, while market capitalization increased by ₦916.89 billion to close at ₦161.28 trillion.

Despite the upward movement, trading activity moderated, as total volume and value traded declined by 12.06% and 13.22% respectively. A total of 703.95 million shares valued at ₦32.15 billion were exchanged across 64,539 deals. ACCESSCORP led activity by volume, accounting for 12.60% of total trades, followed by LINKASSURE (6.59%) and STERLINGNG (6.40%), while ZENITHBANK dominated the value chart with 12.46% of total traded value.

Market breadth closed negative, with 26 gainers against 33 losers. FTNCOCOA led the gainers' chart with a 10.00% appreciation, alongside notable advances in ZICHIS, SKYAVN, and CAVERTON. On the downside, UNILEVER recorded the steepest loss, followed by TRANSEXPR, SOVRENINS, and MCNICHOLS.

Sectoral performance was broadly positive, as three of the five major sectors posted gains. The Industrial Goods index led with a 2.27% increase, followed by Banking (+0.98%) and Oil & Gas (+0.11%), while Insurance and Consumer Goods indices declined by 1.64% and 0.93% respectively.

Outlook: We expect positive sentiment to persist tomorrow amid sectoral rotations and strategic stock-picking.

	D-o-D	W-o-W	MTD	YTD
NGX ASI	↑ 0.57%	↓ -0.31%	↑ 3.86%	↑ 61.71%
NSE BANKING INDEX	↑ 0.98%	↓ -2.46%	↑ 5.97%	↑ 59.49%
NSE INSURANCE INDEX	↓ -1.64%	↑ 1.68%	↑ 4.90%	↑ 4.65%
NSE INDUSTRIAL GOODS INDEX	↑ 2.27%	↑ 3.01%	↑ 12.40%	↑ 123.31%
NSE CONSUMER GOODS INDEX	↓ -0.93%	↓ -1.98%	↑ 2.26%	↑ 24.84%
NSE OIL & GAS INDEX	↑ 0.11%	↓ -4.39%	↓ -4.35%	↑ 118.42%

Source: NGX, AIICO Capital

TOP 5 EQUITY ADVANCERS			
NAME (SYMBOL)	CLOSING PRICE	GAIN(N)	% CHANGE
FTNCOCOA	9.79	0.89	↑ 10.00%
ZICHIS	29.13	2.64	↑ 9.97%
SKYAVN	156.95	14.00	↑ 9.79%
CAVERTON	6.75	0.60	↑ 9.76%
JAPAULGOLD	3.72	0.33	↑ 9.73%

Source: NGX, AIICO Capital

TOP 5 EQUITY DECLINERS			
NAME (SYMBOL)	CLOSING PRICE	LOSS(N)	% CHANGE
UNILEVER	153.00	-17.00	↓ -10.00%
TRANSEXP	6.99	-0.77	↓ -9.92%
SOVRENINS	2.39	-0.26	↓ -9.81%
MCNICHOLS	7.25	-0.74	↓ -9.26%
AUSTINLAZ	4.20	-0.33	↓ -7.28%

Source: NGX, AIICO Capital

Foreign Exchange

The Naira closed today on a slightly weaker note, depreciating by a marginal 1bps against the U.S. Dollar at the Nigerian Foreign Exchange Market (NFEM)

The Naira lost ₦0.17 against the U.S. Dollar, driven by relatively stronger Dollar demand relative to the Naira. The recent stability in the Naira has been linked to sustained foreign portfolio inflows, improved market liquidity, and continued confidence from the CBN's FX reforms. During today's session, the Naira traded between the ₦1,374.99/\$ and ₦1,370.00/\$ band before settling at ₦1,373.70/\$.

However, external reserves recorded an addition of \$109.30 million from prior \$48.58 billion to \$48.68 billion as of 18-May-2026.

Outlook: We expect stability in the FX market to continue in the near term, supported by ongoing refinements in CBN policies and fiscal efforts to maintain liquidity.

	NFEM RATE (\$/N)	Diff.
19-May-26	1,373.8717	
18-May-26	1,373.7004	↑ 0.1713

Source: CBN, AIICO Capital

Commodities

Oil prices were down around 1% on Tuesday after U.S. President Donald Trump said he had paused a planned attack on Iran to allow for negotiations to end the war. Brent crude, as of 19:30 HRS, traded around \$110.45 per barrel, reflecting a decline of 1.47% from previous close, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) fell 1.02%, trading around \$103.32 per barrel.

Conversely, Gold prices fell by more than 1% on Tuesday on a firmer U.S. dollar and as persistent inflation fears kept interest rate hike expectations and Treasury yields high. Spot gold price fell 1.84%, to trade around \$4,497.39/oz, while U.S. gold futures shed 1.26%, hovering around \$4,500.37/oz.

Outlook: Tomorrow, we expect oil to trade at relatively lower levels amid Middle East geopolitical developments.

Macro Indicators	
GDP (Q4 2025)	+4.07% (Q3: 2025 +3.98% y/y)
Inflation (April 2026)	15.69% (Mar'26: 15.38%)
External Reserve (US\$ billion)	48.68 (+6.99% YTD as of 18-May-26)
Monetary Policy Rate (Feb'2026)	26.50%
Cash Reserve Requirement (CRR)	45.00%
Brent Crude Price US\$/bbl	*110.45 (-1.65 d/d)

Source: NBS, CBN, Bloomberg, AIICO Capital

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