

DAILY MARKET INSIGHTS.



Wednesday, 20 May 2026

MARKET COMMENTARY

System Liquidity

System liquidity opened today on a surplus balance of ₦6.21 trillion, reflecting a surge of ₦241.25 billion from the previous open of ₦5.97 trillion. The liquidity level was largely supported by ₦6.10 trillion Deposit Money Banks placements at the CBN's SDF window and a Primary Market Repayment of ₦8.43 billion.

At its meeting today, the MPC left the benchmark rate unchanged at 26.5% and maintained all other policy variables. However, the Nigerian Overnight Financing Rate (NOFR) remained steady at 22.00%, with a daily variation of 1.5% as of 19-May-2026.

Outlook: *Barring any significant shocks, we expect the NOFR to remain stable despite the ₦334bn bond auction settlement.*

	SYS. LIQ. (₦BN)	Diff.
20-May-26	6,214.54	↑241.25
19-May-26	5,973.29	

Source: CBN, AIICO Capital

Eurobonds

The Nigerian Sovereign Eurobond market traded on a bullish note, with yields edging lower across the curve as investors showed renewed demand despite lingering global macroeconomic and geopolitical concerns.

Buying interest dominated across the curve, with yields compressing broadly day-on-day. The decline was most pronounced at the short-to-mid segment, where the MAR 2029 and FEB 2030 bonds fell by 6bps and 10bps to close at 5.94% and 6.33%, respectively. At the long end, yields also eased as the NOV 2047 bond declined by 7bps to 7.85%, while the JAN 2046 and JAN 2049 papers shed 4bps each to 8.08%. Overall, the average benchmark yield dipped by 4bps day-on-day to close at 7.02%.

Outlook: *We expect the trend to persist, supported by sustained investor demand, foreign inflows, and stable crude oil prices.*

BENCHMARK FGN EUROBOND YIELDS

	20-May-26	19-May-26	Change in Yield (%)
5 YRS: NGERIA 8.375% 03/24/29	5.94%	6.00%	(0.06)
10 YRS: NGERIA 7.375% 09/29/33	7.07%	7.09%	(0.02)
15 YRS: NGERIA 7.696% 23/02/38	7.42%	7.46%	(0.04)
30 YRS: NGERIA 8.25% 09/29/51	8.15%	8.20%	(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 focused on the primary market auction, where the DMO offered ₦650bn across three tenors, attracting ₦1.99trn in total demand, with final allotments printing at ₦829.33bn.

At the MPC meeting today, the committee elected to leave the benchmark rate unchanged at 26.5% while maintaining all other policy parameters

The 05-Nov-26 maturity was the only paper to record a marginal adjustment, with yields edging up by 4bps to 16.20%, while all other tenors closed flat. Overall, the average benchmark rate remained broadly unchanged at 16.03%

Outlook: *We expect investor activity to remain driven by prevailing liquidity conditions, with strong interest in the 1-year paper.*

BENCHMARK T-BILLS DISCOUNT RATES			
	20-May-26	19-May-26	Change in Yield (%)
78 DAYS	15.74%	15.74%	-
169 DAYS	16.20%	16.16%	0.04
323 DAYS	15.98%	15.98%	-

Source: FMDQ, AIICO Capital

FGN Bonds

The FGN Bond secondary market traded on a largely bearish note as investor attention shifted to the NTB PMA and the outcome of the MPC meeting. Investors predominantly stayed on the sidelines, adopting a cautious wait-and-see stance as the committee kept all policy parameters unchanged at the MPC meeting.

Short-dated papers were mixed, with the 23-Feb-28 yield easing by 10bps to 16.70% while the 20-Mar-28 rose 43bps to 16.52%. Mid-curve tenors were also mixed, as the 21-Feb-31 and 15-May-33 sold off by 35bps and 17bps respectively, while the 17-Apr-29 gained 15bps. The 18-Apr-37 saw the sharpest selloff, with yields jumping 149bps to 16.80%, while long-dated papers were largely unchanged, reflecting subdued activity at the ultra-long end. Overall, the average benchmark yield rose by 16bps to close at 15.99%

Outlook: *We expect sustained investor interest in the domestic market in the near term.*

BENCHMARK FGN BOND YIELDS			
	20-May-26	19-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	14.95%	14.73%	0.22

Source: FMDQ, AIICO Capital

Nigerian Equities

The Nigerian equities market closed on a bearish note as the benchmark All-Share Index (ASI) declined by 102bps, although the market maintained a strong year-to-date return of 60.05%. Market breadth remained positive, with 41 gainers against 24 losers, reflecting selective buying interest across pockets of the market. ZICHIS and ABCTRANS led the gainers' chart with gains of 9.99% apiece, while BUACEMENT topped the losers' list after declining by 10.00%. In terms of activity, ACCESSCORP emerged as the most traded stock by volume with 55.96 million shares, while ZENITHBANK led the value chart with transactions worth ₦4.81bn.

Despite Sectoral performance was largely negative as the NGX Banking Index fell 31bps due to losses in FCMB (-3.36%), GTCO (-0.48%) and ACCESSCORP (-0.39%), despite gains recorded in ZENITHBANK (+0.04%), UBA (+0.22%), WEMABANK (+0.61%), FIDELITYBK (+2.17%) and STANBIC (+2.41%). The NGX Consumer Goods Index lost 45bps following declines in INTBREW (-5.38%), CHAMPION (-1.38%) and NB (-0.48%), while gains in DANGSUGAR (+1.72%), NASCON (+1.90%), MCNICHOLS (+9.79%) provided some support. The NGX Oil and Gas Index dipped 10bps on the back of weakness in OANDO (-3.13%), although JAPULGOLD (+9.95%) advanced strongly. The NGX Industrial Index recorded the steepest decline, losing 384bps due to selloffs in BUACEMENT (-10.00%), CAP (-9.99%) and AUSTINLAZ (-4.76%) while CUTIX (+0.32%), WAPCO (+2.09%) gained points. Market activity remained relatively quiet, with ZENITHBANK, MTNN and NGXGROUP driving trades, while cross trades were also recorded in ZENITHBANK.

Outlook: *We expect the Nigerian equities market to trade mixed with a cautious tone, amid profit-taking in heavyweight stocks and selective bargain hunting.*

	D-o-D	W-o-W	MTD	YTD
NGX ASI	↓ -1.02%	↓ -1.36%	↑ 2.80%	↑ 60.05%
NSE BANKING INDEX	↓ -0.31%	↓ -0.25%	↑ 5.64%	↑ 59.00%
NSE INSURANCE INDEX	↑ 0.80%	↑ 1.81%	↑ 5.74%	↑ 5.49%
NSE INDUSTRIAL GOODS INDEX	↓ -3.84%	↓ -1.85%	↑ 8.09%	↑ 114.74%
NSE CONSUMER GOODS INDEX	↓ -0.45%	↓ -2.64%	↑ 1.80%	↑ 24.28%
NSE OIL & GAS INDEX	↓ -0.10%	↓ -4.46%	↓ -4.44%	↑ 118.21%

Source: NGX, AIICO Capital

TOP 5 EQUITY ADVANCERS CLOSING			
NAME (SYMBOL)	PRICE	GAIN(N)	% CHANGE
ZICHIS	32.04	2.91	↑ 9.99%
ABCTrans	8.26	0.75	↑ 9.99%
JAPAU GOLD	4.09	0.37	↑ 9.95%
LIVINGTRUST	4.21	0.38	↑ 9.92%
FTNCOCOA	10.76	0.97	↑ 9.91%

Source: NGX, AIICO Capital

TOP 5 EQUITY DECLINERS CLOSING			
NAME (SYMBOL)	PRICE	LOSS(N)	% CHANGE
BUACEMENT	414.00	-46.00	↓ -10.00%
CAP	210.35	-23.35	↓ -9.99%
ETRANZACT	17.20	-1.30	↓ -7.03%
INTBREW	12.30	-0.70	↓ -5.38%
DEAPCAP	5.80	-0.30	↓ -4.92%

Source: NGX, AIICO Capital

Foreign Exchange

The Naira closed today on a stronger note, appreciating by a marginal 4bps against the U.S. Dollar at the Nigerian Foreign Exchange Market (NFEM)

The Naira gained ₦0.53 against the U.S. Dollar, supported by relatively stronger Naira demand relative to the Dollar. 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 ₦1,372.50/\$ and ₦1,374.00/\$ band before settling at ₦1,373.34/\$.

However, external reserves recorded an addition of \$35.78 million from prior \$48.68 billion to \$48.72 billion as of 19-May-2026.

Outlook: We expect the FX market to remain stable in the near term, supported by robust external reserves and ongoing refinements in CBN policies

	NFEM RATE (\$/₦)	Diff.
20-May-26	1,373.3431	
19-May-26	1,373.8717	↓ (0.5286)

Source: CBN, AIICO Capital

Commodities

Oil prices fell about 6% on today after U.S. President Donald Trump said that negotiations with Iran were in the final stages, although investors remained wary about the outcome of peace talks as disruption to Middle Eastern supply continued.

Conversely, Gold prices rose 1%, as hopes for a resolution to the Iran conflict pressured oil markets, relieving some inflation fears and knocking U.S. Treasury yields from their recent highs.

Outlook: Tomorrow, oil prices are expected to trade with mild downward pressure as volatility persists amid ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

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)	48.72 (+7.07% YTD as of 19-May-26)
MONETARY POLICY RATE (MAY'2026)	26.50%
CASH RESERVE REQUIREMENT (CRR)	45.00%
BRENT CRUDE PRICE US\$/BBL	*104.90 (-5.55 d/d)

Source: NBS, CBN, Bloomberg, AIICO Capital

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