



# THE NATIONAL TREASURY & ECONOMIC PLANNING

## MONTHLY DEBT BULLETIN

### FEBRUARY 2024

#### I.1 Introduction

The total nominal public and publicly guaranteed debt stock as at end of February 2024 was Ksh. 10,868.48 billion (67.4 percent of GDP<sup>1</sup>) equivalent to USD 75.69 billion. Domestic debt stock was Ksh. 5,214.59 billion (32.3 percent of GDP), equivalent to USD<sup>2</sup> 36.32 billion, while the external debt stock was Ksh. 5,653.89 billion (35.1 percent of GDP), equivalent to USD 39.38 billion. Domestic and external debt stock accounted for 48 percent and 52 percent of total debt stock, respectively.

#### I.2 Movement in Exchange Rates

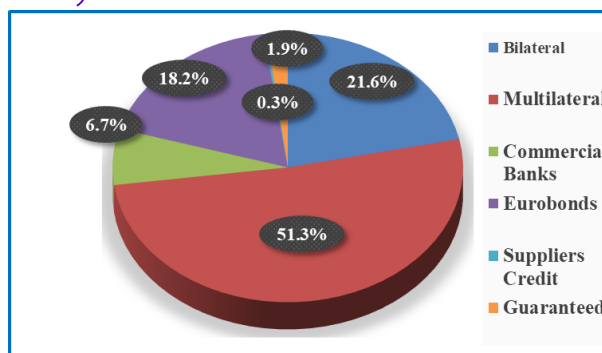
Kenya's public and publicly guaranteed debt is denominated in five major currencies, namely the US Dollar, Euro, Japanese Yen, Chinese Yuan and Sterling Pound. During the month under review, the Kenya shilling appreciated against the USD, Euro, Chinese Yuan, Sterling Pound and Japanese Yen by 10.7 percent, 10.6 percent, 10.9 percent, 10.8 percent and 11.9 percent respectively. The base<sup>3</sup> exchange rates for the aforementioned five currencies, notably the USD, Euro, Yen, Yuan and Sterling Pound were Ksh. 160.75, Ksh. 173.95, Ksh. 108.80, Ksh. 22.38 and Ksh. 203.79 respectively.

#### I.3 Size of Public and Publicly Guaranteed External Debt

Overall, the National Government's external debt stock decreased by Ksh. 536.07 billion from Ksh 6,189.97 billion as at end January 2024 to Ksh 5,653.89 billion as at end February 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 141.48 billion from Ksh. 1,311.94 billion to Ksh. 1,170.46 billion while multilateral debt decreased by Ksh. 219.69 billion from Ksh. 3,118.57 billion to Ksh. 2,898.87 billion. Commercial debt decreased by Ksh. 101.74 billion from Ksh. 1,576.85 billion to Ksh. 1,475.11 billion during the same period. Publicly guaranteed external debt decreased by Ksh 73.16 billion from Ksh. 182.61 billion in January 2024 to Ksh. 109.44 billion in February 2024.

**Chart I: External Debt Composition as at end of February 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 68 percent, 21.1 percent, 3.7 percent, 5 percent and 2.2 percent respectively. Other currencies<sup>4</sup> accounted for 0.2 percent of total external debt (Chart 2). The Government is currently exercising currency

<sup>1</sup> Kshs. 16,131.50 billion

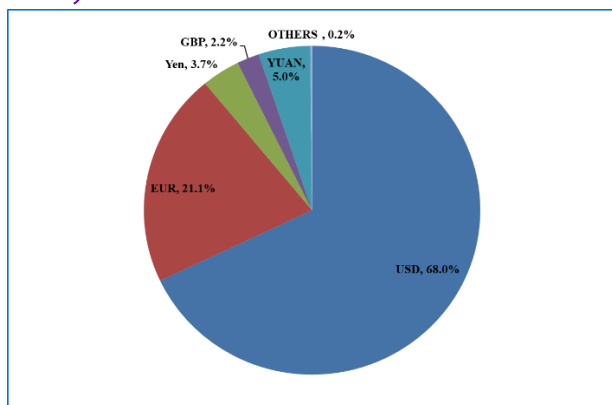
<sup>2</sup> Kshs. to USD 143.59

<sup>3</sup> End January 2024 is the base month for all parameters

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

diversification with an aim of mitigating the exchange rate risk on external debt.

**Chart 2: External Debt by Currency Composition as at end February 2024 (As percent of Total External Debt)**



*Source: National Treasury*

### I.5 Actual Cumulative External Debt Service

The actual cumulative external debt service as at end February 2024 was Ksh. 600.98 billion against the financial year target of Ksh 780.79 billion. External debt service during the month of February 2024 was Ksh 260.82 billion, comprising principal repayments and interest payments of Ksh. 235.74 billion and Ksh. 25.08 billion respectively. Debt service to bilateral creditors accounted for 30.7 percent of the total cumulative debt service while commercial, multilateral creditors and guarantees accounted for 55.4 percent, 11.0 percent and 2.9 percent, respectively for the period ending February 2024.

### I.6 Size of Domestic Debt

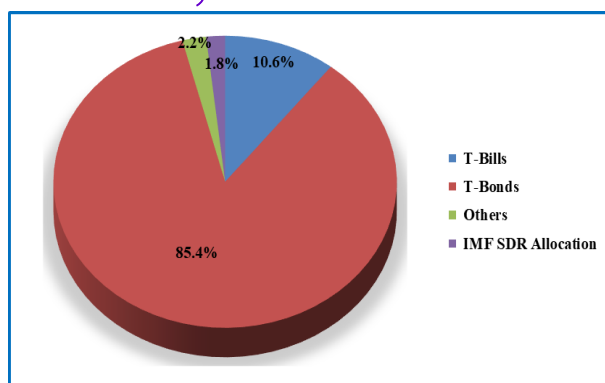
The domestic debt stock increased by Ksh. 149.77 billion from Ksh. 5,050.44 billion as at end January 2024 to Ksh. 5,200.21 billion as at end February 2024. The stock of Treasury bills decreased by Ksh. 16.56 billion from Ksh. 565.63 billion to Ksh. 549.07 billion and the stock of Treasury bonds increased by Ksh. 169.84 billion from Ksh 4,272.25 billion to Ksh 4,442.10 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 3.51 billion from

Ksh 212.56 billion to Ksh 209.05 billion during the same period.

### I.7 Domestic Debt by Instruments

As at the end of February 2024, the ratio of bonds to bills was 85:11. The Government overdraft at the Central Bank of Kenya and historical bank advances from commercial accounted for 2.2 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 February 2024 (Percentage of Total Domestic Debt)**

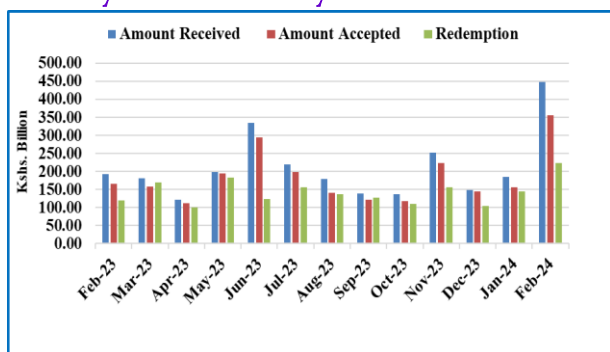


*Source: National Treasury*

### I.7 Domestic Borrowing

During the month of February 2024, Government securities amounting to Ksh. 166.00 billion were advertised. Bids worth Ksh. 445.23 billion were received, comprising of Ksh. 156.56 billion and Ksh. 288.66 billion Treasury bills and bonds respectively. Bids worth Ksh. 354.98 billion were successful, out of which Ksh. 114.02 billion and Ksh. 240.96 billion were Treasury bills and bonds respectively. The monthly Treasury bills and bonds redemptions were Ksh. 153.59 billion and Ksh. 69.53 billion respectively (Chart 3). In aggregate, the exchequer had a surplus of Ksh. 131.86 billion during the month.

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



Source: National Treasury

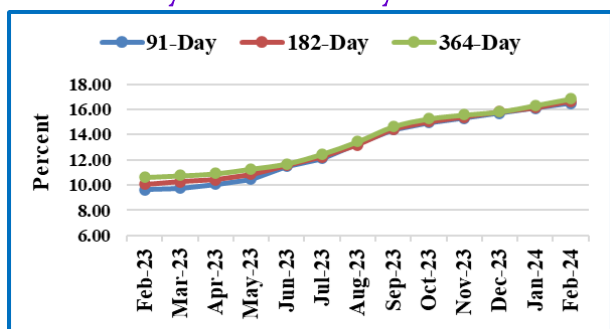
### I.9 Net Domestic Financing

The net domestic financing as at end of February 2024 was Ksh. 397.21 billion against an annual target of Ksh. 605.74 billion for FY 2023/24.

### 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 16.50 percent, 16.65 percent and 16.84 percent in February 2024 from 16.14 percent, 16.18 percent and 16.36 percent in January 2024, respectively as shown in Chart 5.

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



Source: National Treasury

The average interest rates for the 91-day, 182-day and 364-day Treasury bills increased by 37, 47 and 48 basis points, respectively.

### I.10 Cumulative Domestic Interest Payments

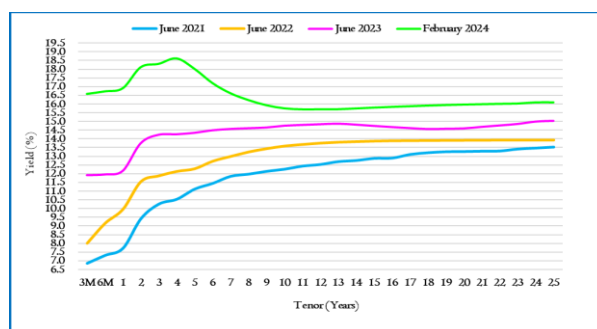
As at end of February 2024, the actual cumulative domestic interest payment amounted to Ksh. 401.68 billion against a cumulative target of 629.37 billion for FY 2023/24. Interest payments for Treasury bonds and bills in the month of February amounted to Ksh. 54.06 billion and Ksh. 7.53 billion, respectively. Total interest payment on the overdraft and interest on Pre-1997 Government Overdraft was Ksh. 0.91 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 16.59 percent as at end February 2024 (973 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 February 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 FEBRUARY 2024 IN KSH MILLIONS

CREDITOR	Stock at the End January 2024	Stock at the End February 2024	CHANGE
<b>BILATERAL</b>			
BELGIUM	28,445.37	26,029.71	(2,415.65)
AUSTRIA	2,134.67	1,895.68	(238.99)
DENMARK	320.06	286.31	(33.75)
FINLAND	620.02	554.59	(65.43)
FRANCE	116,691.26	105,014.07	(11,677.19)
GERMANY	52,781.56	46,930.67	(5,850.89)
ITALY	31,437.56	28,120.17	(3,317.39)
JAPAN	111,527.68	97,877.69	(13,649.99)
USA	1,147.62	53,345.99	52,198.37
SPAIN	16,341.80	14,647.44	(1,694.36)
Other PARIS CLUB	2,357.86	2,106.13	(251.73)
Other NON -PARIS CLUB	27,614.67	24,095.47	(3,519.20)
CHINA	920,521.94	821,958.79	(98,563.16)
Sub Total	<b>1,311,942.07</b>	<b>1,222,862.72</b>	<b>(89,079.35)</b>
<b>MULTILATERAL</b>			
ADB/ADF	607,645.30	543,853.15	(63,792.15)
BEC/EIB	31,728.05	28,380.00	(3,348.04)
IDA	1,816,574.67	1,649,540.82	(167,033.85)
IFAD	41,005.73	37,045.94	(3,959.80)
IMF	431,173.80	469,852.97	38,679.17
Others	190,443.99	170,213.40	(20,230.60)
Sub Total	<b>3,118,571.54</b>	<b>2,898,886.29</b>	<b>(219,685.25)</b>
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>			
Commercial Bank	417,734.82	379,141.73	(38,593.09)
International Sovereign Bond	1,141,332.10	1,027,662.88	(113,669.22)
Suppliers Credit	17,781.83	15,899.51	(1,882.32)
Sub Total	<b>1,576,848.75</b>	<b>1,422,704.12</b>	<b>(154,144.62)</b>
<b>Total Central Government GUARANTEED</b>	<b>6,007,362.36</b>	<b>5,544,453.13</b>	<b>(462,909.23)</b>
<b>JAPAN</b>	85,710.07	75,290.80	(10,419.28)
<b>GERMANY</b>	2,065.31	1,847.37	(217.94)
Kenya Airways (Commercial Debt)	94,829.72	32,302.70	(62,527.02)
Sub Total	<b>182,605.11</b>	<b>109,440.88</b>	<b>(73,164.23)</b>
<b>CENTRAL GOVERNMENT+ GUARANTEED TOTAL DEBT</b>	<b>6,189,967.47</b>	<b>5,653,894.01</b>	<b>(536,073.46)</b>

Source: National Treasury

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