

MACROECONOMIC REVIEW

US Federal Reserve Board ("US Fed") held the benchmark rate steady within the target range of 2.25%p.a. to 2.50%p.a. in its last two meetings within the quarter (May and June 2019). However, the US Fed noted concerns around the sustainability of economic expansion, strong labour market conditions, and inflation near its target of 2%

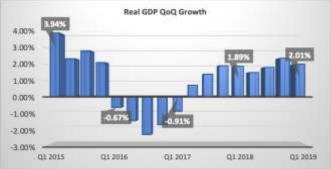
In Europe, uncertainty around Brexit continued to impact the Sterling negatively as it has lost circa 5% and 6% of its value against the Dollar and the Euro respectively since May. This uncertainty was escalated by the exit of the Prime Minister, Theresa May and the higher chances that Boris Johnson, a protagonist of hard Brexit could become Britain's next Prime Minister. As such, investors are concerned about the uncertainties that would prevail in the aftermath of the expected separation slated for 31 October 2019.

The volatility in the oil market was elevated during the quarter due to demand/supply imbalance, build up in US crude inventories, US / China trade war concerns, coordinated output cuts by major oil suppliers as well as U.S. sanctions and war threats against Iran. As such, crude oil prices which opened the quarter at \$67.58 per barrel traded between a quarter high of \$75.60 per barrel and a quarter low of \$59.45 per barrel but closed the quarter at \$66.55 per barrel.

The Nigeria 2019 budget was signed into law by the President during the quarter (27 May 2019) with total spending estimated at N8.92 trillion. The overall policy thrust of the 2019 budget aims to ensure economic diversification, inclusive growth and sustainable development.

According to data released by the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics ("NBS") in May 2019, Nigeria's economic growth slowed to 2.01% in Q1 2019 compared to 2.38% recorded in Q4 2018. Temporary suspension of economic activities during the general elections was cited as a major factor responsible for the quarter on quarter decline in the GDP growth rate. The non-oil sector grew by 2.47% in the first quarter of 2019 while the oil sector contracted by 2.40%.

Real GDP QoQ Growth

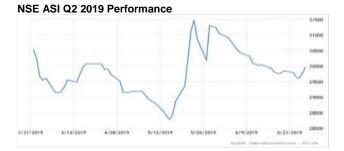


Source: Nigerian Bureau of Statistics

The year-on-year inflation in Nigeria rose to 11.40% in May 2019. Whilst this represents a marginal increase of 0.03% from the rate of 11.37% recorded in the month of April 2019, this is the highest inflation recorded since December 2018, as pressure on food prices continued to feed-through.

FINANCIAL MARKET REVIEW

Despite the initial rally in the Nigerian Stock Exchange All Share index ("NSE ASI") to a high of 2.82% for Q2 2019 following the listing of listing of MTN Nigeria Plc (MTNN), the NSE ASI declined to close the quarter at (3.46%). The significant weight of MTNN (20% in the index) combined with its 37% return in May 2019 initially moved the NSE ASI into the positive territory, but the index returned to the negative territory as investors took profits on the stock. On a year to date basis, the NSE ASI returned (4.66%). Whilst the market has become larger and broader with the addition of the Telecommunications sector, Dangote Cement Plc continues to hold the largest weight (23%) in the NSE ASI.



The Monetary Policy Committee ("MPC") of the Central Bank of Nigeria ("CBN") maintained the Monetary Policy Rate ("MPR") at 13.50%p.a. at its 124th meeting which held in May after its decision to cut the MPR from 14%p.a. to 13.5%p.a. in Q1 2019. All other policy levers were also maintained; the asymmetric corridor of +200/-500 basis points around the MPR; the Cash Reserve Ratio ("CRR") at 22.5% and the Liquidity Ratio at 30%. This decision was considered essential to support the growth momentum of the economy.

The Fixed Income market was predominantly bullish throughout the quarter with the prices of instruments trending upwards and their respective yields going in the opposite direction. This was a continuation from Q1 2019 when the market witnessed increased investment flows and oversubscriptions at auctions which led to a decline in yields and the frequency of auctions. The lower yield regime, particularly in the short end of the yield curve led to increase in the issuance of Commercial Papers ("CP") such as Nigerian Breweries and Dangote Cement CPs.

The I&E Window indicated by Nigerian Autonomous Foreign Exchnage ("NAFEX") fixing, closed at $\frac{1}{3}37.53$ /\$ from $\frac{1}{3}35.78$ /\$ at the beginning of the quarter, while the spread between the rates at the I&E Window and the parallel market contracted to $\frac{1}{3}0.26$ /\$ from $\frac{1}{3}0.60$ /\$ recorded at the start of Q2 2019. Similarly, the parallel market which opened the year at $\frac{1}{3}63$ /\$, opened the quarter at $\frac{1}{3}60$ /\$ and eventually closed the quarter at $\frac{1}{3}61$ /\$.

OUTLOOK

The World Bank estimates global growth to slow to 2.6% in 2019 as against 2.9% earlier projected in January 2019 reflecting weaker than expected trade and investment given the escalation of trade tensions. Focus Economics however projects global growth of 2.9% in 2019 with support from tight labor markets and accommodative monetary policies despite the key downside risk of the US – China trade dispute.

On the local scene, Economic activity is expected to gain some traction with accelerated credit provision and the implementation of the new minimum wage package by the FGN, which should in turn support consumer demand and production in the non-oil segment of the economy. However, we expect growth to remain fragile considering the slow progress with structural reforms, infrastructure spending and potential risks to oil price stability.

We expect the lull in the stock market to continue with occasional spikes driven by speculative activities. Furthermore, we do not expect the macroeconomic conditions to positively impact the sentiments of value investors towards the stock market.

We expect the monetary policy parameters to be maintained in the quarter given the fragile state of the economy. Increasing the cost of credit would further diminish economic activities and impact negatively on expected output growth. On the other hand, a poorly managed loosening would worsen inflationary pressures and become a disincentive to foreign portfolio flows, resulting in a rebound of exchange rate pressures.

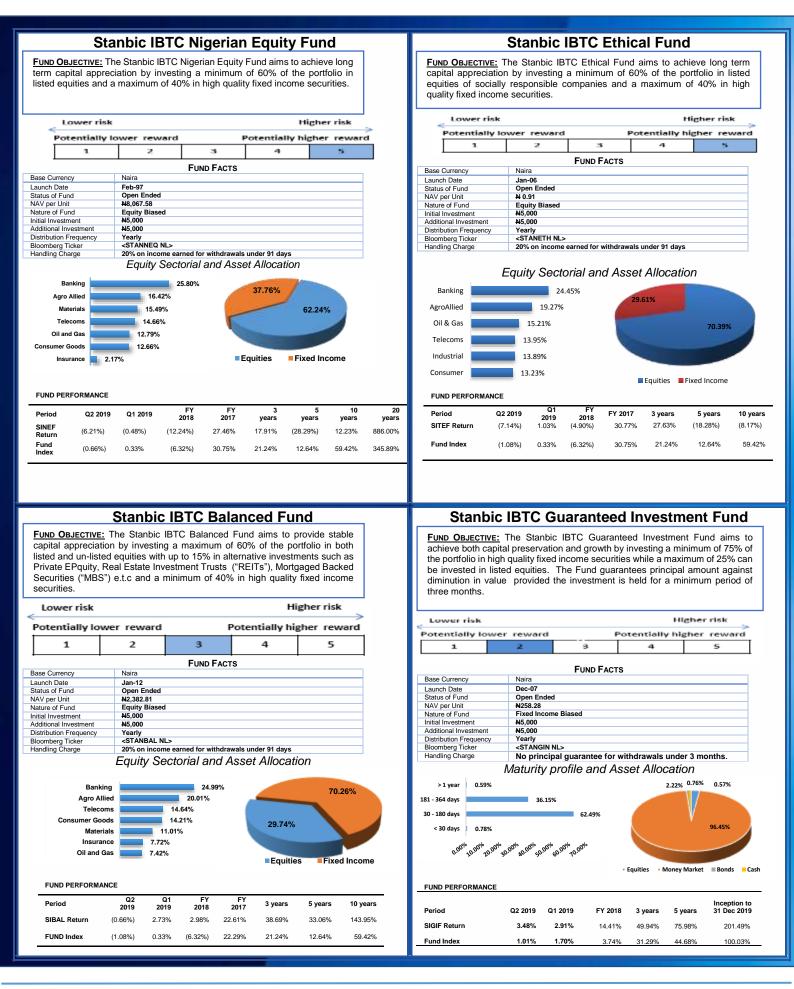
We therefore expect yields along the curve to trade within a band of 11%p.a. – 14.50%p.a. for most part of Q3 2019 as the CBN continues to adopt various measures to control liquidity and interest rates.

Past performance is not an indicator of future performance and individual investors' returns may differ depending on individual asset allocation

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QUARTERLY FUND FACTSHEET - QUARTER 2:2019





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QUARTERLY FUND FACTSHEET - QUARTER 2:2019



Higher risk

0 29%

8.35% ommercial Papers • Money Market Placements Cash

Higher risk

9 31-May-19 30-Jun-19

Inception to 31 Dec. 2018

8.49%

10.06%

Potentially higher reward

4

NSE 30 Index (Rebased)

FY 2016

(8.97%)

(7.18%)

FY 2017

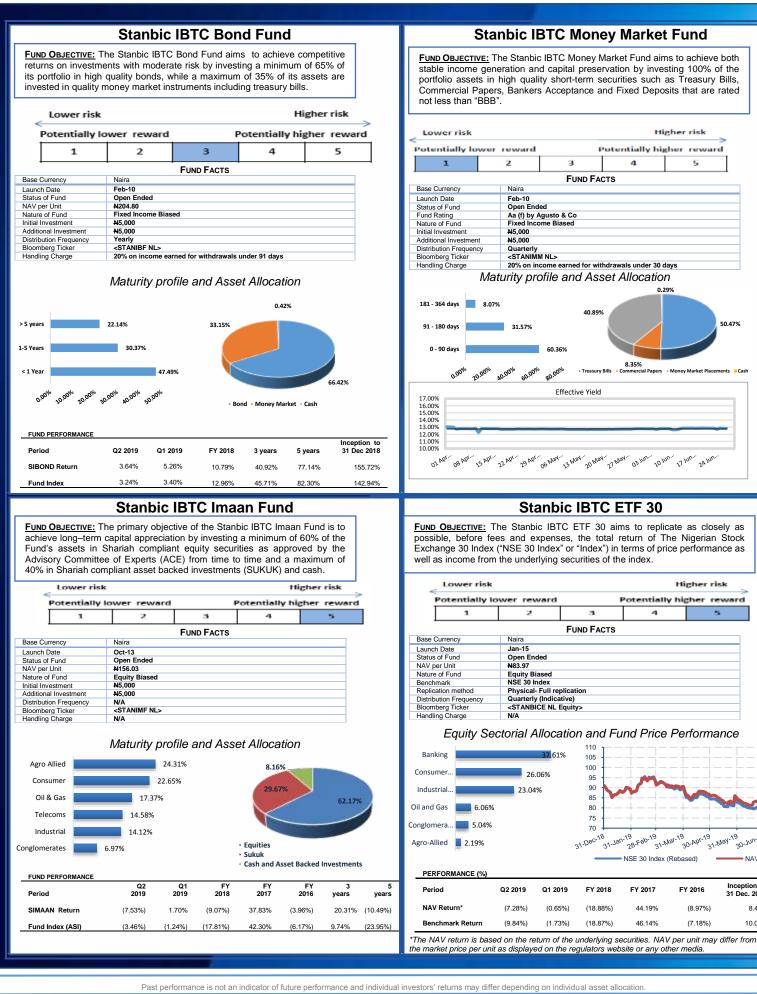
44.19%

46.14%

5

50.47%

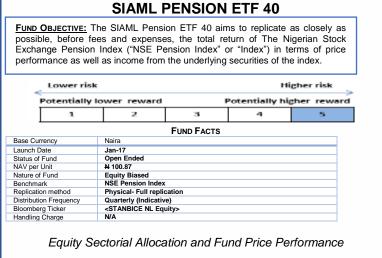
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*The NAV return is based on the return of the underlying securities. NAV per unit may differ from the market price per unit as displayed on the regulators website or any other media.

How to Invest

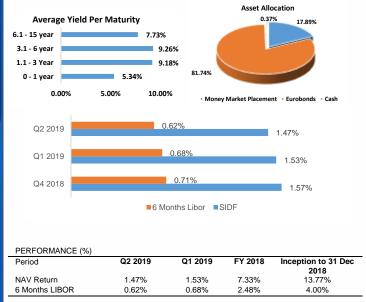
- Fill in a <u>Subscription Form</u> and send alongside support documents to any of our offices in <u>Lagos, Abuja, or Port-</u> <u>Harcourt</u> or any <u>branch of Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc.</u>
- An investment account with an E-account number would be created and sent to you.
- Please make the transfer/cheque/draft payable to the Bank account of the Fund including your E-account number in the narration.
- If you are buying from outside Nigeria it is easy to do so. <u>Find out how</u>.

An email would be sent to you confirming purchase of units and telling you how to log in to your account.

Stanbic IBTC Dollar Fund

FUND OBJECTIVE: Stanbic IBTC Dollar Fund aims to provide currency diversification, income generation and capital growth in USD. It also seeks to optimize dollar returns of clients by investing a minimum of 75% of the portfolio in high quality Eurobonds, maximum of 25% in short term USD deposits and a maximum of 10% in USD equities approved and registered by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Nigeria.





Maturity profile and Asset Allocation

How to Invest Digitally (existing clients only)

- Option 1 You can effect a one time investment into your Mutual Fund account by logging on to your online mutual fund account (www.stanbicibtcfundsmanagement.com), click on the additional subscription icon and follow through with the sequence. You will be required to use your debit/credit card to make payment for the investment. Please note value will be given 2 business days after the transaction.
- Option 2 You can effect a transfer from your internet banking platform to the Bank account of the Mutual Fund. Please include your E-account number in the narration.

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