

Socio-Economy

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FG set to launch new National Identity Card.

According to a press statement released by the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), the Federal Government of Nigeria, through the NIMC in conjunction with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System (NIBSS), has announced the launching of an innovative identity solution with payment functionality for all types of social and financial services to be powered by AfriGO, a national domestic card scheme.

The new national ID card is said to be layered with verifiable National Identity features, backed by the NIMC Act No. 23 of 2007, which mandates NIMC to enrol and issue a General Multipurpose Card (GMPC) to Nigerians and legal residents. The card boasts several innovative features, including biometric authentication through fingerprints and photographs, Nigeria's Quick Response (NQR) code containing the NIN, and a Machine-Readable Zone (MRZ) containing e-passport information. These enhancements are designed to enhance security and efficiency in identity verification processes.

The introduction of this new identity card will give citizens access to government and private social services, promote financial inclusion for marginalized Nigerians, empower citizens, and foster greater engagement in nation-building efforts. However, reports indicate that only registered citizens and legal residents possessing the National Identification Number (NIN) will qualify to obtain the card. While this initiative is commendable, it potentially leaves out a significant portion of the population, as data from the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) reveals that as of December 2023, only 104.16 million Nigerians had obtained the NIN, representing less than half of the nation's total population.

As the new card is targeted at becoming the primary national identity card for the country, we note that the ease of requesting and collecting it will greatly influence people's willingness to participate. Past challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, staffing shortages, and technical difficulties hindered many Nigerians from enrolling for the NIN. Additionally, the issue of multiple identity cards is also of concern, as many citizens possess various identification documents such as BVN, PVC, NIN, International Passport, and Driver's License.

MARKET UPDATE

Indicators	1 year	30-Dec-23	1 day
NGX - ASI*	53,018.97	74,773.77	103,437.67
Naira / US\$	460.93	899.89	1251.05
Brent, US\$/bbl	84.18	77.04	90.24
MPR %	18.00	18.75	24.75

Source: NGX, Central Bank of Nigeria, Bloomberg. *All Share Index

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News headlines:

\$2.3bn Siemens power project transformers, substations arrive Nigeria: The Managing Electricity transformers and substations meant for the \$2.3bn Siemens power project have arrived in the country as the project gains traction, Minister of Power, Adebayo Adedun, said on Sunday. The development came a few months after the Federal Government renewed the mega power project contract with the German government and Siemens, following several months of delays. The minister in a statement on Sunday said the COVID-19 pandemic and the death of the late Chief of Staff to former President Muhammadu Buhari, Abba Kyari, hampered the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between Nigeria and Siemens to transform power transmission and distribution in the country. Source : Punch <https://punchng.com/2-3bn-siemens-power-project-transformers-substations-arrive-nigeria/>

Crude oil price hits \$91 amid brewing Iran-Israeli crisis: Since Friday, Brent Crude price surpassed the \$90 per barrel threshold and surged past the \$91 per barrel mark as of Sunday. Global crude oil prices reported a second straight weekly gain and hit six-month high levels as markets watched for signs of any direct conflict between Israel and Iran that could further tighten supplies. According to Oilprice.com, the anticipation of Iran's retaliatory strike on Israel, a developing Mexico export shortage, and the continuation of OPEC+ cuts have boosted sentiment in the oil market recently. Source: Punch <https://punchng.com/crude-oil-price-hits-91-amid-brewing-iran-israeli-crisis/>

External reserves drop by \$950m in 17 days — CBN: Nigeria's foreign exchange reserves have taken a significant hit, dropping by approximately \$1.02bn within 18 days as the Central Bank of Nigeria steps up efforts aimed at defending the naira. On March 18, 2024, the FX reserves stood at \$34.45bn, but by April 3, it had dropped to \$33.50bn, based on the latest data from the CBN. Before the current decline, the reserve had been steadily growing, witnessing a remarkable 43-day surge between February 5 and March 18, 2024, during which it appreciated by \$1.28bn. The CBN attributed this rise to increased remittance payments from Nigerians abroad and heightened interest from foreign investors in local assets, including government debt securities Source: Punch <https://punchng.com/external-reserves-drop-by-950m-in-17-days-cbn-report/>

FX Sales: BDCs Seek Review As Official Rate Crashes Against Black Market: The Association of Bureaux De Change Operators of Nigeria (ABCON), the umbrella body of all Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)-licensed Bureaux De Change (BDCs), at the weekend, urged the apex bank to adjust and lower its applicable exchange rate downwards below the N1,251/\$ it pegged for them. This followed the recovery of the naira which made the official rate to be lower than the parallel market rate for the first time in 15 years. *Daily Trust* reports that the CBN penultimate week sold dollars to BDCs at N1,251/\$, but since then the local currency has regained its strength, exchanging currently lower than the price being sold to BDCs. Source : Daily Trust <https://dailytrust.com/fx-sales-bdcs-seek-review-as-official-rate-crashes-against-black-market/>

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	Buy	Hold	Sell	Not Rated	Total
Coverage universe	17	10	5	3	35
% distribution	49%	29%	14%	9%	
Investment banking clients	0	1	1	0	2
% distribution	0%	50%	50%	0%	

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