



Your Preferred Bank



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

www.guardian-bank.com

PHOTOGRAPHY by *W. W. W.*

Guardian Bank Limited is regulated by the Central Bank of Kenya

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chairman’s Report	4-5
Corporate Information	6 - 7
Statement of Corporate Governance	8 - 10
Directors’ Report	11 - 13
Statement of Directors’ Responsibilities	14 - 15
Independent Auditor’s Report	16 - 19
Financial Statements:	
Consolidated and Bank statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income	21
Consolidated statement of financial position	22
Bank statement of financial position	23
Consolidated statement of changes in equity	24
Bank statement of changes in equity	24
Consolidated and Bank statement of cash flows	25
Notes	26 - 80

Chairman's Message



It is with great pleasure I present the Annual Report and Financial Statements of Guardian Bank Limited for the fiscal year ending 31st December, 2023.

The Bank has demonstrated resilience despite the challenging macroeconomic operating environment during the financial year 2023. Some of the challenges included rising interest rates as the Central Bank tightened the monetary policy to combat runaway inflation, depreciating domestic currencies, foreign exchange pressures, drought due to erratic weather patterns and global supply chain disruption due to heightened geopolitical volatilities. This impacted the disposable income of many which translated to repayment capacity challenges of the borrowers leading to increased non-performing assets in the Banking Industry. It is expected that the economy will improve during the financial year 2024 with government interventions which include settlement of some of the pending bills, fiscal consolidation, agriculture recovery from long rains and services sector growth.

The performance of the Bank during the financial year ending December 2023 was satisfactory in spite of the various challenges faced by the industry. The Bank adopted a very robust Business development and marketing strategy during the year.

The customer deposits of the Bank stood at Kshs. 11.773 Bn. as at 31-12-2023. The Bank has been very selective in marketing fixed deposits with a view to reduce the cost of funds and concentrated on increasing the customer base and low cost deposits. The Bank has been successful in achieving this strategy.

The gross advances of the Bank as at 31st December 2023 grew by 7% to Kshs. 7.275 Bn. as against Kshs. 6.800 Bn. during the previous year. The Bank has been very selective in taking up new advances because of the economic strains faced by the country and also the increased level of non-performing advances portfolio in the industry.

The Bank showed improved levels of profitability. The pre-tax profit of the Bank as at 31-12-2023 stood at Kshs. 379.154 Mn. and profit after tax was Kshs. 338.732 Mn. against Kshs. 249.809 Mn. in the previous year translating to an increase of 39%. The Shareholders have not been drawing dividends since the inception of the Bank and once again it has been agreed that no dividend will be declared for the year under reference and the net profit has been ploughed back. The total Shareholders' funds grew by 10 % to Kshs. 3.577Bn. as at 31-12-2023 against the statutory requirement of Kshs. 1.000 Bn.

The liquidity ratio of the Bank has been maintained at a high level over the years and the same stood at 66.3% as at 31-12-2023 against the statutory requirement of 20%. The total capital/total risk weighted assets ratio stood at 28.5% as at 31-12-2023 as against the statutory requirement of 14.5%. The surplus funds held by the Bank were invested largely in Government Bonds and Bills. The Bank has been a net lender in the Interbank lending. The Bank has been strictly adhering to the guidelines of the Central Bank of Kenya including all the statutory ratios. This is supported by a consistently strong risk management culture of the Bank.

The gross-non-performing assets of the Bank stood at Kshs. 1.213 Bn. as at 31-12-2023. The Bank has been making provisions strictly as per the prudential guidelines and the net non-performing assets as at the same date stood at Kshs. 426.452Mn. These exposures are fully covered by tangible securities and the Bank has initiated appropriate recovery proceedings.

As custodians of our esteemed clientele, we hold customer feedback in the highest esteem, acknowledging its indispensable role in shaping our strategic imperatives. It is these invaluable insights that serve as our guiding beacon as we forge ahead. With an unwavering commitment to fulfilling your ever evolving needs and aspirations and a profound awareness of the dynamic banking landscape, Guardian Bank embarked on a

transformative digital odyssey several years ago. In the year 2023, we unveiled two game changing products that have redefined the banking experience of our valued customers - Guardian Visa Cards, comprising the Gold debit card and two credit cards - Gold Credit and Infinite Credit, tailored to cater to the diverse needs of our esteemed clientele. Furthermore, in the same year, we introduced Guardian Collect, an innovative collection platform empowering businesses to collect payments from mobile money wallets and seamlessly reconcile transactions, heralding a new era of efficiency and convenience in financial transactions.

At Guardian Bank, we hold a steadfast commitment to fostering positive change and enriching the communities we serve. Each year, we dedicate ourselves to giving back under carefully chosen themes that reflect our strategic focus on areas vital to societal advancement: Climate Action, Education, Health & Well-being and Clean Water & Sanitation. In 2023, our thematic focus on Clean Water and Sanitation drove impactful initiatives executed across our 9 Branches and Head Office. From planting trees, water tank donations, funding water testing projects, to drilling boreholes for communities in need, we reaffirm our dedication to building inclusive societies and sustainable environments.

The Bank's Board comprises 8 members, including one Executive Director, two Non-Executive Directors and five Independent Non-Executive Directors, aligning with statutory guidelines. A robust corporate governance structure and requisite policy documents have been established in compliance with prudential guidelines. Additionally, the Board has formed several committees chaired by Independent Non-Executive Directors at the Board level and also put in place Management Committees. Regular meetings of the Board and management committees are held to ensure diligent oversight. The minutes of the Board/Management committees are presented to the full Board for review. The Bank adheres to full compliance with statutory requirements.

The day to day affairs of the Bank is managed by seasoned bankers fully committed to the Bank under the dynamic leadership of the Executive Director Mr. Hetul Chandaria. The Management has put in place working manuals / policy documents which are strictly adhered to by the staff working at the Head Office and Branches. Customer Service Committees formed at all the branches periodically meet and discuss the customer service at the branches and the means to improve the service extended to the customers. Such meetings are also attended by the customers on invitation.

The Board Members have been actively participating in the board meetings and committee meetings and extended their valuable guidance/suggestions to the management for improving the performance of the Bank. I sincerely thank the Board Members for their contribution.

Guardian Bank had a good year in 2023 and I sincerely thank all our customers for their loyalty and support. I assure them of our best services.

Messrs. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC), are the statutory auditors of the Bank. I thank the officials of PwC for completing the annual audit well in time and also for their valuable suggestions.

On behalf of the Board Members, the Management of the Bank and myself, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Governor and Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya, as well as officials of Bank Supervision and the Ministry of Finance, along with other statutory authorities. Your cooperation and guidance have been invaluable in steering our operations and we deeply appreciate your ongoing support.

At the heart of our Bank lies the 'Guardian Family', a cohesive unit of dedicated individuals whose loyalty and commitment are the bedrock of our success. Many of our team members have served for over a decade, embodying the values of excellence and teamwork that define our institution. I extend my sincere gratitude to each and every member of our team for their unwavering dedication and exceptional service to our esteemed customers and stakeholders. I encourage each and every one of you to persist in your efforts to elevate the Guardian Bank brand. Together we can surpass expectations and establish new benchmarks of excellence in the banking sector.

With warm regards,
Vasant K. Shetty

CORPORATE INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023



DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Chairman	Mr. Vasant K. Shetty
Executive Director	Mr. Hetul D. Chandaria
Non-Executive Director	Mr. Bhavnish Chandaria
Independent Non-Executive Director	Mr. Raj Sahi
Independent Non-Executive Director	Dr. Shantilal Shah
Independent Non-Executive Director	Mr. Ajay Shah
Independent Non-Executive Director	Dr. Samson Ndegwa
Independent Non-Executive Director	Brig (Rtd.) Wilson A. C. Boinett
Chief Executive Officer	Mr. Narayanamurthi Sabesan
General Manager	Mr. K.R. Sahasranaman
Deputy General Manager	Ms. Lorraine Carneiro

REGISTERED OFFICE/ HEAD OFFICE

Guardian Centre
 Biashara Street
 P. O. Box 67437 – 00200
 Nairobi, Kenya

LAWYERS

Mutua Waweru & Co Advocates
 Ochieng', Onyango, Kibet & Ohaga Advocates
 LJA Associates Advocates
 LG Menezes Advocates
 Oyatta & Associates Advocates
 Iseme Kamau & Maema Advocates
 Kabiru & Company Advocates

BANKER

Central Bank of Kenya
 Haile Selassie Avenue
 P. O. BOX 60000 – 00200
 Nairobi, Kenya

AUDITOR

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
 Certified Public Accountants
 PWC Tower, Waiyaki Way/Chiromo Road
 P. O. Box 43963 – 00100
 Nairobi, Kenya

SECRETARY

Salilesh V. Patel
 P. O. Box 69952 – 00400
 Nairobi

CORRESPONDENT BANKS

Crown Agents Bank (UK)
 DCB Bank, Mumbai (India)
 Bank of China – South Africa
 HDFC Bank Ltd, (India)
 KCB Bank Kenya Ltd, Nairobi
 United Bank for Africa PLC, America

BRANCHES

Biashara Street

Guardian Centre
 P. O. Box 67437 - 00200
 Nairobi

Mombasa Branch

Oriental Building, Nkurumah Rd.
 P. O. Box 40619 - 80100
 Mombasa

Nakuru Branch

Parana House, Kenyatta Avenue
 P. O. Box 18633 - 20100
 Nakuru

Westlands Branch

Brick Court House, Mpaka Rd.
 P. O. Box 66568 - 00800
 Nairobi

Ngong Road Branch

The Green House
 P. O. Box 9822 - 00200
 Nairobi

Eldoret Branch

Beharilal House, Uganda Road
 P. O. Box 7685 - 30100
 Eldoret

Mombasa Road Branch

Tulip House
 P. O. Box 42060 - 00100
 Nairobi

Nyali Branch

Links Plaza
 P. O. Box 34375 - 80118
 Nyali

Kisumu Branch

Amalo Plaza, Oginga Odinga Rd.,
 Central Square
 P. O. Box 2816 - 40100
 Kisumu

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Stavros*



Board/Management Committees

Tabulated below are Board/Management Committees, their composition and membership, functions and the frequency of meetings.

	Credit Committee	Audit Committee	Risk Management Committee	Strategy Committee	Human Resource Committee	Asset & Liabilities Management Committee (ALCO)	Business Continuity Management (BCM)
Composition	Non-Executive Directors, Executive Director	Non-Executive Directors	Non-Executive Directors Executive Director	Executive Director, Chief Executive Officer Senior Management	Executive Director Chief Executive Officer Senior Management	Executive Director Chief Executive Officer Senior Management	Senior Management
Chairman	Dr. Shantilal R. Shah	Dr. Samson Ndegwa	Mr. Raj Sahi	Mr. Hetul D. Chandaria	Mr. N. Sabesan	Mr. Hetul D. Chandaria	Ms. Lorraine Carneiro
Members	Mr. Vasant K. Shetty Mr. Hetul D. Chandaria Mr. Ajay Shah	Dr. Shantilal R. Shah Mr. Raj Sahi Mr. Bhavnish Chandaria Brig (Rtd) Wilson A.C. Boinett	Brig. (Rtd) Wilson A. C. Boinett Mr. Vasant K. Shetty Mr. Hetul D. Chandaria Mr. Bhavnish Chandaria	Mr. N. Sabesan Ms. Lorraine Carneiro Mr. Dipan Shah Mr. Joseph Wachira Mr. Francis Ndereba Ms. Lily Muriuki Mr. Bryan Tetea Ms. Elsie Guga	Mr. Hetul D. Chandaria Mr. Joseph Wachira Ms. Lorraine Carneiro	Mr. N. Sabesan Ms. Lorraine Carneiro Mr. Dipan Shah Mr. K. Solanki Mr. Francis Ndereba	Mr. Dipan Shah Mr. Joseph Wachira Ms. Grace Nyende Mr. Geoffrey Korir
Main Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review and oversee the lending policy of the Group and Bank. - Sanctioning new/ review credit proposals within the delegated authority. - Evaluate / review Group's and Bank's risk under Credit Risk Management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure that the financial statements are prepared in a timely and accurate manner. - Review internal controls, review the management report of external auditors.- Comply with CBK inspection report. - Approve annual audit plan, and - Review internal audit report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review/ Implementation of Risk Management Framework - Review/Monitor and deliberation on risk mitigation approach. - Enhance overall risk awareness and control. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drawing short term/ long term business strategy of the Group and Bank. - Preparation of annual business budget. - Monitoring the performance of the branches vis-à-vis the target. - Marketing/ publicity and branch expansions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selection / recruitment, - Promotions, - Performance review, - Disciplinary issues, - Staff welfare and - Preparation/ updating of HR Policy of the Group and Bank. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compliance with the legal and regulatory requirements, - Monitoring the liquidity of the Group and Bank, - Take investment decision, fix interest rates on deposit/ bank's lending rate, evaluate / review liquidity risk management, interest rate risk management and price risk management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protecting the interest of stake holders and meeting CBK compliance/legal requirements, - Developing disaster mitigation and resumption strategies for various business process, - Allocate resources for Disaster Recovery centre - Creating awareness amongst staff about the disaster recover management - Facilitating creation and updating of Business Continuity Policy.
Frequency of Meetings	Quarterly	Quarterly	Quarterly	Quarterly	Quarterly	Monthly	Quarterly

Meetings of the Board of Directors and Committees during the year ended 31 December 2023

Board of Directors Meetings in 2023

The Board of Directors held four ordinary meetings in 2023

Director	07.03.2023	18.04.2023	30.06.2023	21.09.2023	07.12.2023
Mr. Vasant K Shetty	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr. Hetul D. Chandaria	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr. Bhavnish Chandaria	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr. Rajeshwar Sahi	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr. Shantilal R. Shah	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Dr. Samson Ndegwa	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr. Ajay Shah	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Brig. (Rtd) Wilson A.C.Boinett	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Board Audit Committee Meetings in 2023

The Board Audit Committee held four meetings in 2023

Director	31.03.2023	27.06.2023	18.09.2023	28.12.2023
Dr. Samson Ndegwa	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr. Bhavnish Chandaria	✓	X	X	X
Mr. Rajeshwar Sahi	X	✓	✓	✓
Mr. Shantilal R. Shah	X	✓	✓	X
Brig. (Rtd) Wilson A.C.Boinett	✓	✓	✓	✓

Board Risk Management Committee Meetings in 2023

The Board Risk and Compliance Committee held four meetings in 2023

Director	30.03.2023	26.06.2023	12.09.2023	20.11.2023
Mr. Rajeshwar Sahi	X	✓	✓	✓
Mr. Vasant K Shetty	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr. Hetul D. Chandaria	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr. Bhavnish Chandaria	✓	✓	✓	X
Brig. (Rtd) Wilson A.C.Boinett	✓	✓	✓	✓

Board Credit Committee Meetings in 2023

The Board Credit Committee held four meetings in 2023

Director	30.03.2023	20.06.2023	19.09.2023	29.12.2023
Mr. Shantilal R. Shah	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr. Ajay Shah	✓	✓	X	X
Mr. Vasant K Shetty	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr. Hetul D. Chandaria	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ Attended Meeting

x Absent from meeting with apology



**DIRECTOR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2023**



University of Pretoria

The directors submit their report together with the audited financial statements of Guardian Bank Limited (the “Bank”) and its subsidiaries (together, the “Group”) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Group is engaged in the business of banking and the provision of related services and is licensed under the Banking Act.

The Group’s activities are principally related to the use of financial instruments. The Group accepts deposits from customers that are both interest bearing and non-interest bearing, and for various periods, and seeks to earn above-average interest margins by investing these funds in high-quality assets while maintaining sufficient liquidity to meet all claims that fall due.

RESULTS AND RECOMMENDED DIVIDEND

Profit for the year of Shs 338,732,000 (2022: Shs 249,809,000) has been added to the retained earnings. The directors do not recommend the payment of dividend for the year ended 31 December 2023 (2022: Nil).

BUSINESS REVIEW

In the current economic climate, capital conservation is regarded as paramount to the Group’s sustainability over the short to medium term. The Central Bank of Kenya has encouraged the boards of directors of Group to ensure that capital conservation takes priority over any distributions of dividends on ordinary shares. As a result of guidance from the Central Bank of Kenya and the Board’s view as to the need for capital conservation and the appropriate management of capital at this time.

Net interest income increased by 10% from Shs 888 million in 2022 to Shs 973 million in 2023. This was supported by growth of 9% in interest income from loans and advances, from Shs 978 million in 2022 to Shs 1,063 million in 2023. Interest expense dropped by 5% on account of Group strategy to grow its low-cost deposit volumes in order to counter the drop in reduction of interest income from its government securities which dropped by 17 % from Shs 604 million in 2022 to Shs 502 million in 2023.

Net loans and advances increased by 7% to Shs 6.8 billion in 2023 from Shs 6.4 billion in 2022. This is in keeping with the Bank strategy to grow in quality assets. Provision for impairment of loans and advances increased to Shs 464 million in 2023 from Shs 424 million in 2022 this was to cushion the Bank against borrower’s defaults due to the hard economic conditions precipitated by rising interest rates and inflation across the region.

Gross non-performing loans and advances increased by 0.41% to Shs 1.213 billion from Shs 1.208 billion in the previous year.

Customer deposits stood at Shs 11.773 billion in 2023 representing a decrease of 1% from previous year’s Shs 11.8 billion. Total assets increased by 1% to Shs 15.853 billion from previous year Shs 15.634 billion, which was driven by increase in cash and cash equivalents.

PRINCIPAL RISK AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Group’s principal risk and uncertainties together with processes that are in place to monitor and mitigate those risks where possible can be found under the note 4 to the financial statement.

CLIMATE CHANGE

There has been increase in interest in relation to the risks posed by climate change. In light of this and in response to the risks posed, Guardian Bank Limited has embedded the management and monitoring of climate related financial risks in its management framework, and this will be included in our business strategy and operations.

DIRECTORS

The directors who held office during the year and to the date of this report are as follows:

Mr. Vasant K Shetty	Non-Executive Director - Chairman
Mr. Hetul D. Chandaria	Executive Director
Mr. Bhavnish Chandaria	Non-Executive Director
Mr. Rajeshwar Sahi*	Independent Non-Executive Director
Mr. Shantilal R. Shah	Independent Non-Executive Director
Dr. Samson Ndegwa	Independent Non-Executive Director
Mr. Ajay Shah	Independent Non-Executive Director
Brig. (Rtd) Wilson A.C.Boinett	Independent Non-Executive Director
Mr. N. Sabesan	Chief Executive Officer

* British

In line with Central Bank of Kenya Prudential Guidelines, all directors attended 100% of main board meetings. Evaluation of the directors was through peer and self-evaluation.

STATEMENT AS TO THE DISCLOSURE TO THE GROUP'S AUDITOR

With respect to each director at the time this report was approved:

(a)there is, so far as the director is aware, no relevant audit information of which the Group's auditor is unaware; and

(b)the director has taken all steps that ought to have been taken as a director, so as to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Group's auditor is aware of that information.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP continue in office in accordance with company's articles of association and section 719 (2) of the Companies' Act, 2015.

The directors monitor the effectiveness, objectivity and independence of the auditor. The directors also approve the annual audit engagement contract which sets out the terms of the auditor's appointment and the related fees.

By order of the Board

Secretary

11th March 2024

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023



The Companies Act, 2015 requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Group and of the Bank at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for that year. The directors are responsible for ensuring that the Group and Bank keeps proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the transactions of the Group and Bank; disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and Bank; and that enables them to prepare financial statements of the Group and Bank that comply with prescribed financial reporting standards and the requirements of the Companies Act, 2015. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and Bank and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The directors accept responsibility for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and in the manner required by the Companies Act, 2015. They also accept responsibility for:

- i. designing, implementing and maintaining internal control as they determine necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error;
- ii. selecting suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; and
- iii. making accounting estimates and judgements that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Having made an assessment of the ability of the Group and Bank to continue as a going concern, the directors are not aware of any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast doubt upon the use of going concern basis for preparation of these financial statements.

The directors acknowledge that the independent audit of the financial statements does not relieve them of their responsibilities.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 11th March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Vasant K. Shetty
Director

Hetul D. Chandaria
Director



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S
REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
GUARDIAN BANK LIMITED**





Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Guardian Bank Limited (the “Bank”) and its subsidiaries (together, the “Group”) set out on pages 12 to 88 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position at 31 December 2023, and the consolidated statement of profit or loss, consolidated statement of comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, together with the Bank statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, Bank statement of financial position at 31 December 2023, the statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the Bank for the year then ended, and the notes to the financial statements, comprising material accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Guardian Bank Limited Limited as at 31 December 2023 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards and the requirements of the Companies Act, 2015.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report.

We are independent of the Group in accordance with the International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Kenya. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed on the other information, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, PwC Tower, Waiyaki Way/Chiromo Road, Westlands
P O Box 43963 – 00100 Nairobi, Kenya
T: +254 (20)285 5000 F: +254 (20)285 5001 www.pwc.com/ke

Partners: E Kerich B Kimacia M Mugasa A Murage F Muriu P Ngahu B Ngunjiri R Njoroge S O Norbert’s B Okundi K Saiti



Responsibilities of the directors for the financial statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards and the requirements of the Companies Act, 2015 and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the Group's and Bank's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Group or Bank or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's and Bank's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's and Bank's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group or Bank to cease to continue as a going concern.



- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the Group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act, 2015

In our opinion the information given in the report of the directors on page 6 to 7 is consistent with the financial statements.

FCPA Kang'e Saiti, Practicing Number 1652
Engagement partner responsible for the audit

For and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Certified Public Accountants
Nairobi

21st March 2024

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023



PHOTOGRAPHER BY *WILSON*

Consolidated and bank statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

	Notes	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Interest income	5(a)	1,667,662	1,615,434
Interest expense	5(b)	(693,925)	(727,185)
Net interest income		973,737	888,249
Fee and commission income	6	44,024	41,715
Foreign exchange income	7	89,451	102,257
Other income	8	19,512	6,990
Credit impairment losses	16	(40,889)	(112,621)
Net operating income		112,098	38,341
Other operating expenses	9	(706,681)	(654,203)
Profit before income tax		379,154	272,387
Income tax charge	10	(40,422)	(22,578)
Profit for the year		338,732	249,809
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		338,732	249,809

Consolidated statement of financial position

	Notes	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
ASSETS			
Cash and balances with Central Bank of Kenya	12	3,881,680	1,385,476
Government securities at amortised cost	13	3,773,443	5,564,378
Deposits and balances due from financial institutions	14	241,977	1,139,788
Loans and advances to customers	16	6,810,601	6,376,480
Property and equipment	18	55,256	49,434
Right-of-use assets	19	436,540	452,260
Intangible assets	20	32,225	29,285
Tax recoverable	10	81,940	22,956
Other assets and prepayments	15	272,643	340,022
Deferred income tax	17	266,705	273,99
Total assets		15,853,010	15,634,069
LIABILITIES			
Deposits from customers	22	11,773,111	11,875,847
Other liabilities and accrued expenses	23	191,878	211,220
Lease liabilities	24	310,430	308,143
Total liabilities		12,275,419	12,395,210
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY			
Share capital	25	450,375	450,375
Regulatory reserve	26	386,666	277,420
Retained earnings		2,740,550	2,511,064
Total shareholders' equity		3,577,591	3,238,859
Total equity and liabilities		15,853,010	15,634,069

The financial statements on pages 20 to 80 were approved for issue by the board of directors on 11th March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Vasant K. Shetty
Director

Hetul D. Chandaria
Director

Bank statement of financial position

	Notes	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
ASSETS			
Cash and balances with Central Bank of Kenya	12	3,881,680	1,385,476
Government securities at amortised cost	13	3,773,443	5,564,378
Deposits and balances due from banking institutions	14	241,977	1,139,788
Loans and advances to customers	16	6,810,601	6,376,480
Investment in subsidiaries	21	300,375	300,375
Property and equipment	18	55,256	49,433
Right-of-use assets	19	436,540	452,260
Intangible assets	20	32,225	29,285
Tax recoverable	10	81,940	22,956
Other assets and prepayments	15	272,643	340,022
Deferred income tax	17	266,705	273,990
Total assets		16,153,385	15,934,444
LIABILITIES			
Deposits from customers	22	11,773,111	11,875,847
Balances due to related parties	21	364,792	364,792
Other liabilities and accrued expenses	23	191,878	211,220
Lease liabilities	24	310,430	308,143
Total liabilities		12,640,211	12,760,002
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY			
Share capital	25	450,375	450,375
Regulatory reserve	26	386,666	277,420
Retained earnings		2,676,133	2,446,647
Total shareholders' equity		3,513,174	3,174,442
Total equity and liabilities		16,153,385	15,934,444

The financial statements on pages 20 to 80 were approved for issue by the board of directors on 11th March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Vasant K. Shetty
Director

Hetul D. Chandaria
Director

Consolidated statement of changes in equity

		Share capital	Regulatory reserve	Retained earnings	Total
	Notes	Shs'000	Shs'000	Shs'000	Shs'000
Year ended 31 December 2022					
At start of year		450,375	233,686	2,304,989	2,989,050
Profit and total comprehensive income for the year		-	-	249,809	249,809
Transfer from regulatory reserve	26	-	43,734	(43,734)	-
At end of year		450,375	277,420	2,511,064	3,238,859
Year ended 31 December 2023					
At start of year		450,375	277,420	2,511,064	3,238,859
Profit and total comprehensive income for the year				338,732	338,732
		450,375	277,420	2,849,796	3,577,591
Transfer to regulatory reserve	26		109,246	(109,246)	
At end of year		450,375	386,666	2,740,550	3,577,591

Bank statement of changes in equity

		Share capital	Regulatory reserve	Retained earnings	Total
	Notes	Shs'000	Shs'000	Shs'000	Shs'000
Year ended 31 December 2022					
At start of year		450,375	233,686	2,240,572	2,924,633
Profit and total comprehensive income for the year		-	-	249,809	249,809
Transfer from regulatory reserve	26	-	43,734	(43,734)	-
At end of year		450,375	277,420	2,446,647	3,174,442
Year ended 31 December 2023					
At start of year		450,375	277,420	2,446,647	3,174,442
Profit and total comprehensive income for the year				338,732	338,732
		450,375	277,420	2,785,379	3,513,174
Transfer from regulatory reserve	26		109,246	(109,246)	
		450,375	386,666	2,676,133	3,513,174

Consolidated and Bank Statement of cash flows

	Notes	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Profit before income tax		379,154	272,387
Adjustment for:			
Depreciation of property and equipment	18	11,540	12,849
Amortisation of right-of-use assets	19	35,432	35,130
Amortisation of intangible assets	20	2,164	2,522
Interest on lease liabilities	24	32,103	32,017
Cash flows from operating activities before changes in operating assets and liabilities		460,393	354,905
Movements in:			
Gross loans and advances		(434,121)	576,951
Cash reserve requirement		6,461	104,771
Other assets and prepayments		67,557	(186,999)
Government securities at amortised cost with a maturity of more than 90 days	28	1,239,485	1,303,131
Customer deposits		(119,475)	(2,472,075)
Other liabilities and accrued expenses		(2,600)	84,501
Interest paid on lease liabilities	24	(32,103)	(32,017)
Income tax paid	10	(92,306)	(37,819)
Net cash generated from operating activities		1,093,291	(304,651)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property and equipment	18	(17,362)	(10,641)
Purchase of intangible assets	20	(5,104)	-
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment		-	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(22,466)	(10,641)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of lease liabilities	24	(17,421)	(16,080)
Cash used in financing activities		(17,421)	(16,080)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		1,053,404	(331,372)
Cash and cash equivalents at start of year		3,726,761	4,058,133
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	28	4,780,165	3,726,761



**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**



Notes

1. General information

The Bank is incorporated in Kenya under the Companies Act, 2015 and is domiciled in Kenya. The address of its registered office is:

Guardian Centre
Biashara Street
PO Box 67437 - 00200 GPO
Nairobi

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented.

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”). The measurement basis applied is the historical cost basis, except for fair value through other comprehensive income investments, derivative financial assets and the loan note at fair value through profit or loss which have been measured at fair value.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires the directors to exercise judgement in the process of applying the Group’s accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed in Note 3.

Changes in accounting policy and disclosures

(i) New and amended standards and interpretations adopted by the Bank and Group

The following standards, amendments and interpretations are effective for the first time for annual reporting periods ending on 31 December 2023 and have been applied by the Bank:

Definition of Accounting Estimates – Amendments to IAS 8

The amendment to IAS 8 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors clarifies how companies should distinguish changes in accounting policies from changes in accounting estimates.

The distinction is important, because changes in accounting estimates are applied prospectively to future transactions and other future events, but changes in accounting policies are generally applied retrospectively to past transactions and other past events as well as the current period.

Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction – Amendments to IAS 12

The amendments to IAS 12 Income Taxes require companies to recognise deferred tax on transactions that, on initial recognition, give rise to equal amounts of taxable and deductible temporary differences. They will typically apply to transactions such as leases of lessees and decommissioning obligations and will require the recognition of additional deferred tax assets and liabilities.

The amendment should be applied to transactions that occur on or after the beginning of the earliest comparative period presented. In addition, entities should recognise deferred tax assets (to the extent that it is probable that they can be utilised) and deferred tax liabilities at the beginning of the earliest comparative

period for all deductible and taxable temporary differences associated with:

- right-of-use assets and lease liabilities, and
- decommissioning, restoration and similar liabilities, and the corresponding amounts recognised as part of the cost of the related assets.

The cumulative effect of recognising these adjustments is recognised in retained earnings, or another component of equity, as appropriate.

IAS 12 did not previously address how to account for the tax effects of on-balance sheet leases and similar transactions and various approaches were considered acceptable. Some entities may have already accounted for such transactions consistent with the new requirements. These entities will not be affected by the amendments.

The Bank accounts for deferred tax on leases applying the ‘integrally linked’ approach, resulting in a similar outcome to the amendments, except that the deferred tax impacts are presented net in the statement of financial position.

There will be no impact on retained earnings on adoption of the amendments.

IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts

IFRS 17 was issued in May 2017 as replacement for IFRS 4 Insurance Contracts. It requires a current measurement model where estimates are remeasured in each reporting period. Contracts are measured using the building blocks of:

- discounted probability-weighted cash flows
- an explicit risk adjustment, and
- a contractual service margin (CSM) representing the unearned profit of the contract which is recognised as revenue over the coverage period.

The standard allows a choice between recognising changes in discount rates either in the statement of profit or loss or directly in other comprehensive income. The choice is likely to reflect how insurers account for their financial assets under IFRS 9. An optional, simplified premium allocation approach is permitted for the liability for the remaining coverage for short duration contracts, which are often written by non-life insurers.

There is a modification of the general measurement model called the ‘variable fee approach’ for certain contracts written by life insurers where policyholders share in the returns from underlying items. When applying the variable fee approach, the entity’s share of the fair value changes of the underlying items is included in the CSM. The results of insurers using this model are therefore likely to be less volatile than under the general model. The new rules will affect the financial statements and key performance indicators of all entities that issue insurance contracts or investment contracts with discretionary participation features.

Targeted amendments made in July 2020 aimed to ease the implementation of the standard by reducing implementation costs and making it easier for entities to explain the results from applying IFRS 17 to investors and others.

The adoption of this standard did not have an impact on the Bank’s financial statements

Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2018–2020

The following improvements were finalised in May 2020:

- IFRS 9 Financial Instruments – clarifies which fees should be included in the 10% test for derecognition of financial liabilities.
- IFRS 16 Leases – amendment of illustrative example 13 to remove the illustration of payments from the lessor relating to leasehold improvements, to remove any confusion about the treatment of lease incentives.
- IFRS 1 First-time Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards – allows entities that have measured their assets and liabilities at carrying amounts recorded in their parent’s books to also measure any cumulative translation differences using the amounts reported by the parent.

(ii) Standards, interpretations and amendments issued but not effective and have not been early adopted by the Group and Bank

The following standards and interpretations have been published but are not mandatory for 31 December 2023 reporting periods and have not been early adopted by the Bank.

Title	Effective date	Executive summary
<p><i>Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current – Amendments to IAS 1</i></p>	<p>1 January 2024</p>	<p>The narrow-scope amendments to IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements clarify that liabilities are classified as either current or non-current, depending on the rights that exist at the end of the reporting period. Classification is unaffected by the expectations of the entity or events after the reporting date (e.g. the receipt of a waiver or a breach of covenant). The amendments also clarify what IAS 1 means when it refers to the ‘settlement’ of a liability.</p> <p>The amendments could affect the classification of liabilities, particularly for entities that previously considered management’s intentions to determine classification and for some liabilities that can be converted into equity.</p> <p>They must be applied retrospectively in accordance with the normal requirements in IAS 8 <i>Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors</i>.</p>
<p><i>Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback – Amendments to IFRS 16</i></p>		<p>In September 2022, the IASB finalised narrow-scope amendments to the requirements for sale and leaseback transactions in IFRS 16 Leases which explain how an entity accounts for a sale and leaseback after the date of the transaction.</p> <p>The amendments specify that, in measuring the lease liability subsequent to the sale and leaseback, the seller-lessee determines ‘lease payments’ and ‘revised lease payments’ in a way that does not result in the seller lessee recognising any amount of the gain or loss that relates to the right of use that it retains.</p> <p>This could particularly impact sale and leaseback transactions where the lease payments include variable payments that do not depend on an index or a rate.</p>

Title	Effective date	Executive summary
<p><i>Sale or contribution of assets between an investor and its associate or joint venture – Amendments to IFRS 10 and IAS 28</i></p>	<p>n/a **</p>	<p>The IASB has made limited scope amendments to IFRS 10 Consolidated financial statements and IAS 28 Investments in associates and joint ventures. The amendments clarify the accounting treatment for sales or contribution of assets between an investor and its associates or joint ventures.</p> <p>They confirm that the accounting treatment depends on whether the nonmonetary assets sold or contributed to an associate or joint venture constitute a ‘business’ (as defined in IFRS 3 Business Combinations). Where the non-monetary assets constitute a business, the investor will recognise the full gain or loss on the sale or contribution of assets. If the assets do not meet the definition of a business, the gain or loss is recognised by the investor only to the extent of the other investor’s interests in the associate or joint venture. The amendments apply prospectively.</p> <p><i>** In December 2015 the IASB decided to defer the application date of this amendment until such time as the IASB has finalised its research project on the equity method</i></p>

The standards are not expected to have a material impact on the entity in the current or future reporting periods and on foreseeable future transactions.

(b) Recognition of Interest income and expense

Interest income and expense are recognized in profit or loss for all interest-bearing instruments measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Effective interest rate

Income from Government securities at amortised cost, deposits and balances due from other Banking institutions and loans and advances to customers is recognized in profit or loss using the effective interest rate method. The ‘effective interest rate’ is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts through the expected life of the financial instrument to:

- The gross carrying amount of the financial asset; or
- The amortised cost of the financial liability

When calculating the effective interest rate for financial instruments other than purchased or originated credit-impaired assets, the Group estimates future cash flows considering all contractual terms of the financial instrument, but not the expected credit loss (ECL). For purchased or originated credit-impaired financial assets, a credit-adjusted effective interest rate is calculated using estimated future cash flows including ECL.

The calculation of the effective interest rate includes transaction costs and fees and points paid or received that are an integral part of the effective interest rate. Transaction costs include incremental costs that are

directly attributable to the acquisition or issue of a financial asset or financial liability.

Amortised cost and gross carrying amount

The 'amortised cost' of a financial asset is the amount at which the financial asset is measured on initial recognition minus the principal repayments, plus or minus the cumulative amortisation using the effective interest rate method of any difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount and, for financial assets, adjusted for any ECL.

The 'gross carrying amount of a financial asset' is the amortised cost of a financial asset before adjusting for any expected credit loss allowance.

Calculation of interest income

The effective interest rate of a financial asset is calculated on initial recognition of a financial asset. In calculating interest income, the effective interest rate is applied to the gross carrying amount of the asset (when the asset is not credit-impaired). The effective interest rate is revised as a result of periodic re-estimation of cash flows of floating rate instruments to reflect movements in market rates of interest.

For financial assets that were credit-impaired on initial recognition, purchased originated credit impaired (POCI) assets, interest income is calculated by applying the credit-adjusted effective interest rate to the amortised cost of the asset. The calculation of interest income does not revert to a gross basis, even if the credit risk of the asset improves.

For financial assets that have become credit-impaired subsequent to initial recognition, interest income is calculated by applying the effective interest rate to the amortised cost of the financial asset. If the asset is no longer credit-impaired, then the calculation of interest income reverts to the gross basis.

(c) Fees and commissions

Fees and commissions income are generally recognized on an accrual basis when the service has been provided.

Fees and commissions expense are generally recognized on an accrual basis when incurred.

(d) Translation of foreign currencies

(a) Functional and presentation currency

The accounting records are maintained in the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Group operates (the "Functional Currency"). The financial statements are presented in Kenya Shillings, which is the Group's presentation currency. The figures shown in the financial statements are stated in Kenya Shillings (Shs), rounded to the nearest thousand (Shs '000).

(b) Transactions and balances

Transactions in foreign currencies during the year are converted into the functional currency using the exchange rate prevailing at the transaction date. Monetary assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date denominated in foreign currencies are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rate prevailing as at that date.

The resulting foreign exchange gains and losses from the settlement of such transactions and from year-end translation are recognised on a net basis in the income statement in the year in which they arise, except for differences arising on translation of non-monetary assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income, which are recognised in other comprehensive income.

(e) Financial assets and liabilities

(i) Classification and measurement of financial instruments

The Group classifies its financial assets on initial recognition into three principal classification categories based on the cash flow characteristics of the asset and the business model assessment:

- Measured at Amortised Cost;
- Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI); and
- Fair Value through Profit or Loss (FVTPL).

Amortised cost and effective interest rate

The amortised cost is the amount at which the financial asset or financial liability is measured at initial recognition minus the principal repayments, plus or minus the cumulative amortisation using the effective interest method of any difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount and, for financial assets, adjusted for any loss allowance.

The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts through the expected life of the financial asset or financial liability to the gross carrying amount of a financial asset or to the amortised cost of a financial liability. The calculation does not consider expected credit losses and includes transaction costs, premiums or discounts and fees and points paid or received that are integral to the effective interest rate, such as origination fees.

For purchased or originated credit-impaired (POCI) financial assets, the Group calculates the credit adjusted effective interest rate, which is calculated based on the amortised cost of financial assets instead of its gross carrying amount and incorporates the impact of expected credit losses in estimated future cashflows.

When the Group revises the estimates of future cash flows, the carrying amount of the respective financial assets or financial liability is adjusted to reflect the new estimate discounted using the effective interest rate. Any changes are recognized in the profit or loss.

Interest Income and interest expense

Interest income and interest expense is calculated by applying the effective interest rate to the gross carrying amount of financial assets, except for:

- a) POCI financial assets, for which the original credit-adjusted effective interest rate is applied to the amortised cost of the financial asset; and
- b) Financial assets that are not POCI but have subsequently become credit impaired for which revenue is calculated by applying the effective interest rate to their amortised cost.

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognized when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Regular way purchases and sales of financial assets are recognized on trade date, the date on which the Group commits to purchase or sell the asset.

At initial recognition, the Group measures a financial asset or financial liability at its fair value plus or minus, in the case of a financial asset or financial liability not at fair value through profit and loss, transaction costs that are incremental and directly attributable to the acquisition or issue of the financial asset or financial liability, such as fees and commissions. Transaction costs of financial assets and financial liabilities carried at fair value through profit and loss are expensed in profit and loss. Immediately after initial recognition, an expected credit loss allowance is recognized for financial assets measured at amortised cost and investments in debt instruments measured at FVOCI, which results in an accounting loss being recognized in profit or loss when an asset is newly originated.

(i) Classification and measurement of financial instruments (continued)

When the fair value of financial assets and liabilities differs from the transaction price on initial recognition, the entity recognises the difference as follows:

- (a) When the fair value is evidenced by a quoted price in an active market for an identical asset or liability (i.e. a Level 1 input) or based on a valuation technique that uses only data from observable markets, the difference is recognized as a gain or loss.
- (b) In all other cases, the difference is deferred and the timing of recognition of deferred day one profit or loss is determined individually. It is either amortised over the life of the instrument, deferred until the instrument's fair value can be determined using market observable inputs, or realized through settlement.

Financial assets

Debt instruments

Debt instruments are those instruments that meet the definition of a financial liability from the issuer's perspective, such as loans, government and corporate bonds and trade receivables purchased from clients in factoring arrangements without recourse.

Classification and subsequent measurement of debt instruments depend on:

- (i) the Group's business model for managing the asset; and
- (ii) the cash flow characteristics of the asset.

Based on these factors, the Group classifies its debt instruments into one of the following three measurement categories:

- **Amortised cost:** Assets that are held for collection of contractual cash flows where those cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest ('SPPI'), and that are not designated at FVPL, are measured at amortised cost. The carrying amount of these assets is adjusted by any expected credit loss allowance recognized and measured as described in note 3 (a). Interest income from these financial assets is included in 'Interest and similar income' using the effective interest rate method. The Group recognises cash and balances with Central Bank, placements with other Groups, investments in government securities, loans and advances to customers and other assets at amortised cost.
- **Fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI):** Financial assets that are held for collection of contractual cash flows and for selling the assets, where the assets' cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest, and that are not designated at FVTPL, are measured at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI). Movements in the carrying amount are taken through OCI, except for the recognition of impairment gains or losses, interest revenue and foreign exchange gains and losses

on the instrument's amortised cost which are recognized in profit or loss. When the financial asset is derecognized, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognized in OCI is reclassified from equity to profit or loss and recognized in 'Net Investment income'. Interest income from these financial assets is included in 'Interest income' using the effective interest rate method.

The Group has no financial assets classified at FVOCI.

- Fair value through profit or loss: Assets that do not meet the criteria for amortised cost or FVOCI are measured at fair value through profit or loss. A gain or loss on a debt investment that is subsequently measured at fair value through profit or loss and is not part of a hedging relationship is recognized in profit or loss and presented in the profit or loss statement within 'Net trading income' in the period in which it arises, unless it arises from debt instruments that were designated at fair value or which are not held for trading, in which case they are presented separately in 'Net investment income'. Interest income from these financial assets is included in 'Interest income' using the effective interest rate method

The Group not have financial assets classified at FVTPL.

Business model

The business model reflects how the Group manages the assets in order to generate cash flows. That is, whether the Group's objective is solely to collect the contractual cash flows from the assets or is to collect both the contractual cash flows and cash flows arising from the sale of assets. If neither of these is applicable (e.g. financial assets are held for trading purposes), then the financial assets are classified as part of 'other' business model and measured at FVPL.

Factors considered by the Group in determining the business model for a group of assets include past experience on how the cash flows for these assets were collected, how the asset's performance is evaluated and reported to key management personnel, how risks are assessed and managed and how managers are compensated. Securities held for trading are held principally for the purpose of selling in the near term or are part of a portfolio of financial instruments that are managed together and for which there is evidence of a recent actual pattern of short-term profit-taking. These securities are classified in the 'other' business model and measured at FVPL.

SPPI

Where the business model is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows or to collect contractual cash flows and sell, the Group assesses whether the financial instruments' cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest (the 'SPPI test'). In making this assessment, the Group considers whether the contractual cash flows are consistent with a basic lending arrangement i.e. interest includes only consideration for the time value of money, credit risk, other basic lending risks and a profit margin that is consistent with a basic lending arrangement. Where the contractual terms introduce exposure to risk or volatility that are inconsistent with a basic lending arrangement, the related financial asset is classified and measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Financial assets with embedded derivatives are considered in their entirety when determining whether their cash flows are solely payment of principal and interest.

The Group reclassifies debt investments when and only when its business model for managing those assets changes. The reclassification takes place from the start of the first reporting period following the change. Such changes are expected to be very infrequent and none occurred during the period.

(i) Impairment

The Group assesses, on a forward-looking basis, the expected credit losses ('ECL') associated with its debt instrument assets carried at amortised cost and FVOCI and with the exposure arising from loan commitments

and financial guarantee contracts. The Group recognises a loss allowance for such losses at each reporting date. The measurement of ECL reflects:

- An unbiased and probability-weighted amount that is determined by evaluating a range of possible outcomes;
- The time value of money; and
- Reasonable and supportable information that is available without undue cost or effort at the reporting date about past events, current conditions and forecasts of future economic conditions.

Note 3 (a) provides more detail of how the expected credit loss allowance is measured.

(ii) Modification of loans

The Group sometimes renegotiates or otherwise modifies the contractual cash flows of loans to customers. When this happens, the Group assesses whether the new terms are substantially different from the original terms. The Group does this by considering, among others, the following factors:

- If the borrower is in financial difficulty, whether the modification merely reduces the contractual cash flows to amounts the borrower is expected to be able to pay;
- Whether any substantial new terms are introduced, such as a profit share/equity-based return that substantially affects the risk profile of the loan;
- Significant extension of the loan term when the borrower is not in financial difficulty;
- Significant change in the interest rate;
- Change in the currency the loan is denominated in; and
- Insertion of collateral, other security or credit enhancements that significantly affect the credit risk associated with the loan.

If the terms are substantially different, the Group derecognises the original financial asset and recognises a 'new' asset at fair value and recalculates a new effective interest rate for the asset. The date of renegotiation is consequently considered to be the date of initial recognition for impairment calculation purposes, including for the purpose of determining whether a significant increase in credit risk has occurred. However, the Group also assesses whether the new financial asset recognized is deemed to be credit-impaired at initial recognition, especially in circumstances where the renegotiation was driven by the debtor being unable to make the originally agreed payments. Differences in the carrying amount are also recognized in profit or loss as a gain or loss on derecognition.

If the terms are not substantially different, the renegotiation or modification does not result in derecognition, and the Group recalculates the gross carrying amount based on the revised cash flows of the financial asset and recognises a modification gain or loss in profit or loss. The new gross carrying amount is recalculated by discounting the modified cash flows at the original effective interest rate (or credit-adjusted effective interest rate for purchased or originated credit-impaired financial assets).

(iii) Derecognition other than on a modification

Financial assets, or a portion thereof, are derecognized when the contractual rights to receive the cash flows from the assets have expired, or when they have been transferred and either (i) the Group transfers substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership, or (ii) the Group neither transfers nor retains substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership and the Group has not retained control.

The Group enters into transactions where it retains the contractual rights to receive cash flows from assets but assumes a contractual obligation to pay those cash flows to other entities and transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards. These transactions are accounted for as 'pass through' transfers that result in derecognition if the Group:

- (i) Has no obligation to make payments unless it collects equivalent amounts from the assets;
- (ii) Is prohibited from selling or pledging the assets; and
- (iii) Has an obligation to remit any cash it collects from the assets without material delay.

Collateral (shares and bonds) furnished by the Group under standard repurchase agreements and securities lending and borrowing transactions are not derecognized because the Group retains substantially all the risks and rewards on the basis of the predetermined repurchase price, and the criteria for derecognition are therefore not met. This also applies to certain securitisation transactions in which the Group retains a subordinated residual interest.

Financial liabilities

(i) Classification and subsequent measurement

In both the current and prior period, financial liabilities are classified as subsequently measured at amortised cost, except for:

- Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss: this classification is applied to derivatives, financial liabilities held for trading (e.g. short positions in the trading booking) and other financial liabilities designated as such at initial recognition. Gains or losses on financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss are presented partially in other comprehensive income (the amount of change in the fair value of the financial liability that is attributable to changes in the credit risk of that liability, which is determined as the amount that is not attributable to changes in market conditions that give rise to market risk) and partially profit or loss (the remaining amount of change in the fair value of the liability). This is unless such a presentation would create, or enlarge, an accounting mismatch, in which case the gains and losses attributable to changes in the credit risk of the liability are also presented in profit or loss;
- Financial liabilities arising from the transfer of financial assets which did not qualify for derecognition, whereby a financial liability is recognized for the consideration received for the transfer. In subsequent periods, the Group recognises any expense incurred on the financial liability; and
- Financial guarantee contracts and loan commitments.

(ii) Derecognition

Financial liabilities are derecognized when they are extinguished (i.e. when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires).

The exchange between the Group and its original lenders of debt instruments with substantially different terms, as well as substantial modifications of the terms of existing financial liabilities, are accounted for as an extinguishment of the original financial liability and the recognition of a new financial liability. The terms are substantially different if the discounted present value of the cash flows under the new terms, including any fees paid net of any fees received and discounted using the original effective interest rate, is at least 10% different from the discounted present value of the remaining cash flows of the original financial liability.

In addition, other qualitative factors, such as the currency that the instrument is denominated in, changes in the type of interest rate, new conversion features attached to the instrument and change in covenants are also taken into consideration. If an exchange of debt instruments or modification of terms is accounted for as an extinguishment, any costs or fees incurred are recognized as part of the gain or loss on the extinguishment. If the exchange or modification is not accounted for as an extinguishment, any costs or fees incurred adjust the carrying amount of the liability and are amortised over the remaining term of the modified liability

Financial guarantee contracts and loan commitments

Financial guarantee contracts are contracts that require the issuer to make specified payments to reimburse the holder for a loss it incurs because a specified debtor fails to make payments when due, in accordance with the terms of a debt instrument. Such financial guarantees are given to Groups, financial institutions and others on behalf of customers to secure loans, overdrafts and other Banking facilities.

Financial guarantee contracts are initially measured at fair value and subsequently measured at the higher of:

- The amount of the loss allowance; and
- The premium received on initial recognition less income recognized in accordance with the principles of IFRS 15.

Loan commitments provided by the Group are measured as the amount of the loss allowance. The Group has not provided any commitment to provide loans at a below-market interest rate, or that can be settled net in cash or by delivering or issuing another financial instrument.

For loan commitments and financial guarantee contracts, the loss allowance is recognized as a provision. However, for contracts that include both a loan and an undrawn commitment and the Group cannot separately identify the expected credit losses on the undrawn commitment component from those on the loan component, the expected credit losses on the undrawn commitment are recognized together with the loss allowance for the loan. To the extent that the combined expected credit losses exceed the gross carrying amount of the loan, the expected credit losses are recognized as a provision.

(f) Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for indicators of impairment at the end of each reporting period. Financial assets are considered to be impaired when there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows of the investment have been affected.

(i) Assets carried at amortised cost

The Group assesses at each reporting date whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired. A financial asset or a group of financial assets is impaired and impairment losses are incurred only if there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the asset (a 'loss event') and that loss event (or events) has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset or group of financial assets that can be reliably estimated.

The criteria that the Group uses to determine that there is objective evidence of an impairment loss include:

- a) significant financial difficulty of the issuer or obligor;

- b) a breach of contract, such as a default or delinquency in interest or principal payments;
- c) the lender, for economic or legal reasons relating to the borrower's financial difficulty, granting to the borrower a concession that the lender would not otherwise consider;
- d) it becomes probable that the borrower will enter bankruptcy or other financial reorganization;
- e) the disappearance of an active market for that financial asset because of financial difficulties; or
- f) observable data indicating that there is a measurable decrease in the estimated future cash flows from a portfolio of financial assets since the initial recognition of those assets, although the decrease cannot yet be identified with the individual financial assets in the portfolio, including:
 - (i) adverse changes in the payment status of borrowers in the portfolio; and
 - (ii) national or local economic conditions that correlate with defaults on the assets in the portfolio.

The Group first assesses whether objective evidence of impairment exists individually for financial assets that are individually significant, and individually or collectively for financial assets that are not individually significant. If the Group determines that no objective evidence of impairment exists for an individually assessed financial asset, whether significant or not, it includes the asset in a Group of financial assets with similar credit risk characteristics and collectively assesses them for impairment. Assets that are individually assessed for impairment and for which an impairment loss is or continues to be recognized are not included in a collective assessment of impairment.

The amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows (excluding future credit losses that have not been incurred) discounted at the financial asset's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount of the asset is reduced through the use of an allowance account and the amount of the loss is recognized in profit or loss. If a loan or held at amortised cost investment has a variable interest rate, the discount rate for measuring any impairment loss is the current effective interest rate determined under the contract. As a practical expedient, the Group may measure impairment on the basis of an instrument's fair value using an observable market price.

The calculation of the present value of the estimated future cash flows of a collateralised financial asset uses the cash flows that may result from foreclosure less costs for obtaining and selling the collateral, whether or not foreclosure is probable.

For the purposes of a collective evaluation of impairment, financial assets are grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics (that is, on the basis of the Group's grading process that considers asset type, past-due status and other relevant factors). Those characteristics are relevant to the estimation of future cash flows for groups of such assets by being indicative of the debtors' ability to pay all amounts due according to the contractual terms of the assets being evaluated

Future cash flows in a group of financial assets that are collectively evaluated for impairment are estimated on the basis of the contractual cash flows of the assets in the Group and historical loss experience for assets with credit risk characteristics similar to those in the Group. Historical loss experience is adjusted on the basis of current observable data to reflect the effects of current conditions that did not affect the period on which the historical loss experience is based and to remove the effects of conditions in the historical period that do not currently exist.

Estimates of changes in future cash flows for groups of assets should reflect and be directionally consistent with changes in related observable data from period to period (for example, changes in property prices, payment status, or other factors indicative of changes in the probability of losses in the Group and their magnitude). The methodology and assumptions used for estimating future cash flows are reviewed regularly by the Group to reduce any differences between loss estimates and actual loss experience.

When a loan is uncollectible, it is written off against the related allowance for loan impairment. Such loans are written off after all the necessary procedures have been completed and the amount of the loss has been determined. Impairment charges relating to loans and advances to Groups and customers are classified in loan impairment charges whilst impairment charges relating to investment securities (at amortised cost and loans and receivables categories) are classified in 'Net gains/(losses) on investment securities'.

If, in a subsequent period, the amount of the impairment loss decreases and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognized (such as an improvement in the debtor's credit rating), the previously recognized impairment loss is reversed by adjusting the allowance account. The amount of the reversal is recognized in profit or loss.

(ii) Renegotiated loans

Loans whose terms have been renegotiated are treated as new loans and their classification is maintained unless:

- For loans that are not impaired, the loans have exhibited weaknesses which may weaken the assets or inadequately protect the institution's position at some future date, in which case they are classified as 'impaired'; or
- For impaired loans, all past due principal and interest is repaid in full at the time of renegotiation, in which case they may revert to 'past due but not impaired' classification. They may then be reclassified as 'neither past due nor impaired' if a sustained record of performance is maintained for six months from the date of renegotiation.

In subsequent years, the renegotiated terms apply in determining whether the asset is considered to be past due.

(g) Property and equipment

(i) Recognition and measurement

Items of property and equipment are initially recognised at cost. Cost includes expenditures that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset. The cost includes any other costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to a working condition for its intended use and the present value of the estimated costs of dismantling and removing the items and restoring the site on which they are located.

Purchased software that is integral to the functionality of the related equipment is capitalised as part of that equipment.

After initial recognition, property and equipment is measured at cost less accumulated depreciation.

(ii) Subsequent costs

The cost of replacing part of an item of property or equipment is recognised in the carrying amount of the item if it is probable that the future economic benefits embodied within the part will flow to the Group and its cost can be measured reliably. The costs of the day-to-day servicing of property and equipment are recognised in profit or loss as incurred.

(iii) Depreciation

Depreciation is charged to the profit or loss on a straight line basis over the estimated useful lives of each item of property, plant and equipment. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

- Buildings	40 years
- Leasehold improvements	5 years
- Fixtures, fittings and equipment	8 years
- Computers software and hardware	3 years
- Motor vehicles	4 years

(vi) Disposal of property and equipment

Gain and losses on disposal of an item of property and equipment are determined by comparing the proceeds from the disposal with the carrying amount of the property and equipment and are recognised net in profit or loss

(h) Intangible assets

Costs associated with maintaining computer software programs are recognized as an expense as incurred. Development costs that are directly attributable to the design and testing of identifiable and unique software products controlled by the Group are recognized as intangible assets when the following criteria are met:

- it is technically feasible to complete the software product so that it will be available for use;
- management intends to complete the software product and use or sell it;
- there is an ability to use or sell the software product;
- it can be demonstrated how the software product will generate probable future economic benefits;
- adequate technical, financial and other resources to complete the development and to use or sell the software product are available; and
- the expenditure attributable to the software product during its development can be reliably measured.

Directly attributable costs that are capitalized as part of the software product include the software development employee costs and an appropriate portion of relevant overheads.

Other development expenditures that do not meet these criteria are recognized as an expense as incurred. Development costs previously recognized as an expense are not recognized as an asset in a subsequent period.

Computer software development costs recognized as assets are amortised over their estimated useful lives, which does not exceed three years.

Acquired computer software licences are capitalized on the basis of the costs incurred to acquire and bring to use the specific software. These costs are amortised on the basis of the expected useful lives. The Core Banking Software has a maximum expected useful life of 3 years.

(i) Offsetting

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the statement of financial position when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognized amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

(j) Income tax

The tax expense for the period comprises current and deferred income tax. Tax is recognised in profit or loss, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity. In this case, the tax is also recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity respectively

(a) Current income tax

The current income tax charge is calculated on the basis of the tax enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date. The directors periodically evaluate positions taken in tax returns with respect to situations in which applicable tax regulation is subject to interpretation. It establishes provisions where appropriate on the basis of amounts expected to be paid to the tax authorities.

(b) Deferred income tax

Deferred income tax is provided in full, using the liability method, for all temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying values for financial reporting purposes. However, if the deferred income tax arises from the initial recognition of an asset or liability in a transaction other than a business combination that at the time of the transaction affects neither accounting nor taxable profit or loss, it is not accounted for. Deferred income tax is determined using tax rates (and laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date and are expected to apply when the related deferred income tax asset is realized or the deferred income tax liability is settled.

Deferred income tax assets are recognized only to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which temporary differences can be utilised.

Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are offset when there is a legally enforceable right to offset current income tax assets against current income tax liabilities and when the deferred income taxes assets and liabilities relate to income taxes levied by the same taxation authority on either the same entity or different taxable entities where there is an intention to settle the balances on a net basis.

(k) Employee benefits

Retirement benefit obligation

The Group operates a defined contribution retirement benefit scheme for its permanent employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Group pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. The Group has no legal or constructive obligations to pay further contributions if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

The assets of the scheme are held in separate trustee administered funds, which are funded by contributions from both the Group and employees. The Group and its employees also contribute to the National Social Security Fund, which is a defined contribution scheme. The Group's contributions to the defined contribution schemes are charged to profit or loss in the year to which they relate. The estimated monetary liability for employees' accrued annual leave entitlement at the reporting date is recognized as an expense accrual.

(l) Dividends payable

Dividends on ordinary shares are charged to equity in the period in which they are declared. Proposed dividends are shown as a separate component of equity until declared.

(m) Forward foreign exchange contract

Forward foreign exchange contracts are carried at their fair value. Fair values are obtained from appropriate pricing models.

Gains and losses on forward foreign exchange contracts are included in foreign exchange income as they arise.

(n) Acceptances and letters of credit

Acceptances and letters of credit are accounted for as off-balance sheet transactions and disclosed as contingent liabilities.

(o) Leases

(i) Determination

The determination of whether an arrangement is, or contains, a lease is based on the substance of the arrangement and requires an assessment of whether the fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of a specific asset or assets and the arrangement conveys a right to use the asset.

(ii) Leases under which the Group is the lessee

On the commencement date of each lease (excluding leases with a term, on commencement, of 12 months or less and leases for which the underlying asset is of low value) the Group recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability.

The lease liability is measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid on that date. The lease payments include fixed payments, variable payments that depend on an index or a rate, amounts expected to be payable under residual value guarantees, and the exercise price of a purchase option if the Group is reasonably certain to exercise that option. The lease payments are discounted at the interest rate implicit in the lease. If that rate cannot be readily determined, the Group's incremental borrowing rate is used.

The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost comprising the initial measurement of the lease liability, any lease payments made on or before the commencement date, any initial direct costs incurred, and an estimate of the costs of restoring the underlying asset to the condition required under the terms of the lease.

Subsequently the lease liability is measured at amortised cost, subject to remeasurement to reflect any reassessment, lease modifications, or revised fixed lease payments.

Right-of-use assets are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses, adjusted for any remeasurement of the lease liability. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method to write down the cost of each asset to its residual value over its estimated useful life. If ownership of the underlying asset is not expected to pass to the Group at the end of the lease term, the estimated useful life would not exceed the lease term.

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity under the heading of revaluation surplus. Decreases that offset previous increases of

the same asset are recognised in other comprehensive income. All other decreases are charged to the profit and loss account. Annually, the difference between the depreciation charge based on the revalued carrying amount of the asset charged to the profit and loss account and depreciation based on the asset's original cost (excess depreciation) is transferred from the revaluation surplus reserve to retained earnings.

For leases with a term, on commencement, of 12 months or less and leases for which the underlying asset is of low value, the total lease payments are recognised in the income statement on a straight-line basis over the lease period.

(p) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with Groups, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, including cash and balances with Central Bank of Kenya, treasury and other eligible bills and amounts due from other Groups. Cash and cash equivalents exclude the cash reserve requirements held with the Central Bank of Kenya.

(q) Sale and repurchase agreements

Securities sold subject to repurchase agreements ('repos') are classified in the financial statements as pledged assets when the transferee has the right by contract or custom to sell or repledge the collateral; the counterparty liability is included in deposits and balances due to Banking institutions or deposits due to customers, as appropriate. Securities purchased under agreements to resell ('reverse repos') are recorded as loans and advances to customers or deposits and balances from Banking institutions as appropriate. The difference between sale and repurchase price is treated as interest and accrued over the life of the agreements using the effective interest method. Securities lent to counterparties are also retained in the financial statements.

(r) Share capital

Ordinary shares are classified as equity. Any premium received over and above the par value of the shares is classified as share premium in equity.

(s) Regulatory reserve

Where impairment losses required by Central Bank of Kenya Prudential Guidelines exceed those computed under IFRS, the excess is recognized as a regulatory reserve and is accounted for as an appropriation of retained earnings. The regulatory reserve is non-distributable.

(t) Deposits from customers

Deposits from customers are recognized and accounted for on receipt basis as liabilities. Interest expense is accrued on the deposits on a daily basis.

(u) Work in progress

Work-in-progress includes assets paid for but are not yet ready for the intended use and include software, computers and equipment. These are not depreciated and are capitalized when they get in the location and condition necessary for them to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

(v) Derivative financial assets and liabilities

The Group enters into derivatives (currency forwards and swaps) for trading purposes. At their inception, derivatives often involve only a mutual exchange of promises with little or no transfer of consideration. The Group may take positions with the expectation of profiting from favourable movement in prices, rates or indices. The Group's exposure under derivative contracts is closely monitored as part of the overall management of its market risk. Derivatives are recorded at fair value and carried as assets when their fair value is positive and as liabilities when their fair value is negative. Changes in the fair value of derivatives are included in net trading income.

The Group uses the following derivative instruments:

Swaps

Swaps are contractual agreements between two parties to exchange streams of payments over time based on specified notional amounts, in relation to movements in a specified underlying index such as a foreign currency rate. In a currency swap, the Group pays a specified amount in one currency and receives a specified amount in another currency.

3. Critical accounting estimates and judgements in applying accounting policies

The Group makes estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Measurement of expected credit losses

The measurement of the expected credit loss allowance for financial assets measured at amortised cost and FVOCI is an area that requires the use of complex models and significant assumptions about future economic conditions and credit behavior (e.g. the likelihood of customers defaulting and the resulting losses).

Significant judgements are also required in applying the accounting requirement for measuring ECL, such as:

- Determining criteria for significant increase in credit risk;
- Choosing the appropriate models and assumptions for the measurement of ECL;
- Establishing the number and relative weightings of forward-looking scenarios for each type of product/market and the associated ECL; and
- Determining the relevant period of exposure to credit risk when measuring ECL for credit cards and revolving credit facilities.

The expected credit loss allowance on loans and advances is disclosed in more details on note 16.

4. Financial risk management

By their nature, the Group's activities are principally related to the use of financial instruments. The Group's business involves taking on risks in a targeted manner and managing them professionally. The core functions of the Group's risk management are to identify all key risks, measure these risks and manage the risk positions. The Group regularly reviews its risk management policies and systems to reflect changes in markets, products and best market practice.

The Group accepts deposits from customers at both fixed and floating rates, and for various periods, and seeks to earn above-average interest margins by investing these funds in high-quality assets. The Group seeks to increase these margins by consolidating short-term funds and lending for longer periods at higher rates, while maintaining sufficient liquidity to meet all claims that might fall due.

The Group also seeks to raise its interest margins by obtaining above-average margins, net of allowances, through lending to commercial and retail borrowers with a range of credit standing. Such exposures involve not just on-balance sheet loans and advances; the Group also enters into guarantees and other commitments such as letters of credit and performance, and other bonds.

Financial risk management is carried out by the treasury function under policies approved by the Board of Directors. The Board provides written principles for overall risk management as well as policies covering specific areas such as foreign exchange risk, interest rate risk and credit risk. In addition, internal audit is responsible for the independent review of risk management and the control environment.

(a) Credit risk

The Group takes on exposure to credit risk, which is the risk that a counter party will be unable to pay amounts in full when due. Impairment provisions are provided for losses that have been incurred at the reporting date. Significant changes in the economy, or in the health of a particular industry segment that represents a concentration of the Group's portfolio, could result in losses that are different from those provided for at the reporting date. Management therefore carefully manages its exposure to credit risk and regularly undertakes a portfolio review to vet the potential risk of each economic sector that the Group is exposed to.

The Group structures the levels of credit risk it undertakes by placing limits on the amount of risk accepted in relation to one borrower, or Groups of borrowers, and to industry segments. Such risks are monitored on a revolving basis and are subject to annual review. Limits on the level of credit risk by product and industry sector are regularly reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors.

The exposure to any one borrower including Groups is further restricted by sub-limits covering on and off-balance sheet exposures.

Exposure to credit risk is managed through regular analysis of the ability of borrowers and potential borrowers to meet interest and capital repayment obligations and by changing lending limits where appropriate. Exposure to credit risk is also managed in part by obtaining collateral and corporate and personal guarantees.

Credit related commitments

The primary purpose of these instruments is to ensure that funds are available to a customer as required. Guarantees and standby letters of credit, which represent irrevocable assurances that the Group will make payments in the event that a customer cannot meet its obligations to third parties, carry the same credit risk as loans. Documentary and commercial letters of credit, which are written undertakings by the Group on behalf of a customer authorising a third party to draw drafts on the Group up to a stipulated amount under specific terms and conditions, are collateralised by the underlying shipments of goods to which they relate and therefore carry less risk than a direct borrowing.

Commitments to extend credit represent unused portions of authorisations to extend credit in the form of loans, guarantees or letters of credit. With respect to credit risk on commitments to extend credit, the

Group is potentially exposed to loss in an amount equal to the total unused commitments.

However, the likely amount of loss is less than the total unused commitments, as most commitments to extend credit are contingent upon customers maintaining specific credit standards. The Group monitors the term to maturity of credit commitments because longer-term commitments generally have a greater degree of credit risk than shorter-term commitments.

Measurement of expected credit losses

IFRS 9 outlines a “three-stage” model for impairment based on changes in credit quality since initial recognition as summarised below:

- A financial instrument that is not credit impaired at initial recognition is classified in “Stage 1” and has its credit risk continuously monitored by the Group;
- If a significant increase in credit risk (“SICR”) since initial recognition is identified, the financial instrument is moved to “Stage 2” but is not yet deemed to be credit impaired;
- If the financial instrument is credit-impaired, the financial instrument is then moved to “Stage 3”;
- Financial instruments in Stage 1 have their ECL measured at an amount equal to the portion of lifetime expected credit losses that result from default events possible within the next 12 months. Instruments in Stage 2 or 3 have their ECL measured based on expected credit losses on a lifetime basis;
- A pervasive concept in measuring ECL in accordance with IFRS 9 is that it should consider forward- looking information; and
- Purchased or originated credit-impaired financial assets are those financial assets that are credit-impaired on initial recognition. Their ECL is always measured on a lifetime basis (Stage 3).

The measurement of the expected credit loss allowance for financial assets measured at amortised cost and FVOCI is an area that requires the use of complex models and significant assumptions about future economic conditions and credit behavior (e.g. the likelihood of customers defaulting and the resulting losses).

Significant judgements are also required in applying the accounting requirement for measuring ECL, such as:

- Determining criteria for significant increase in credit risk;
- Choosing the appropriate models and assumptions for the measurement of ECL;
- Establishing the number and relative weightings of forward-looking scenarios for each type of product/ market and the associated ECL;
- Determining the relevant period of exposure to credit risk when measuring ECL for credit cards and revolving credit facilities.

Determining the appropriate business models and assessing the “solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI)” requirements for financial assets.

Significant increase in credit risk

The Group in determining whether the credit risk (i.e. risk of default) on a financial instrument has increased significantly since initial recognition considered reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort, including both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis based on the Group’s historical experience, expert credit assessment and forward-looking information.

The Group identifies a significant increase in credit risk where:

- exposures have a regulatory risk rating of ‘watch’;

- an exposure is greater than 30 days past due – this is in line with the IFRS 9 “30 days past due (DPD) rebuttable presumption”;
- an exposure has been restructured in the past due to credit risk related factors or which was non-performing and is now regularised (subject to the regulatory cooling off period); or
- by comparing, where information is available, an exposure’s:
 - credit risk quality at the date of reporting; with
 - the credit risk quality on initial recognition of the exposure.

The assessment of significant deterioration is key in establishing the point of switching between the requirement to measure an allowance based on 12-month expected credit losses and one that is based on lifetime expected credit losses.

Determining whether credit risk has increased significantly

The Group has established a framework that incorporates both past due information and qualitative information to determine whether the credit risk on a particular financial instrument has increased significantly since initial recognition.

The framework aligns with the Group’s internal credit risk management process.

The Group will deem the credit risk of a particular exposure to have increased significantly since initial recognition if, the financial asset is more than 30 days in arrears.

Additionally, in certain instances, using its expert credit judgement and, where possible, relevant historical experience, the Group may determine that an exposure has undergone a significant increase in credit risk and classify the exposure as ‘watch’ if particular qualitative factors indicate so and those indicators may not be fully captured by its past due status on a timely basis.

The following qualitative criteria is applied:

- Classification of exposures by any other Groups and Financial institutions or local Credit Reference Bureau (CRB).
- Unavailable/inadequate financial information/financial statements;
- Qualified report by external auditors;
- Significant contingent liabilities;
- Loss of key staff in the organization;
- Increase in operational risk and higher occurrence of fraudulent activities;
- Continued delay and non-cooperation by the borrower in providing key relevant documentation;
- Deterioration in credit worthiness due to factors other than those listed above

As a backstop, and as required by IFRS 9, the Group will presumptively consider that a significant increase in credit risk occurs no later than when an asset is more than 30 days past due. The Group will determine days past due by counting the number of days since the earliest elapsed due date in respect of which full payment has not been received.

Definition of default

The Group will consider a financial asset to be in default when:

- the borrower is unlikely to pay its credit obligations to the Group in full, without recourse by the Group to actions such as realising security (if any is held); or

- the borrower is more than 90 days past due on any material credit obligation to the Group. This definition is largely consistent with the Central Bank of Kenya definition that is used for regulatory purposes.

In assessing whether a borrower is in default, the Group will consider indicators that are:

- qualitative: e.g. breaches of covenant;
- quantitative: e.g. overdue status and non-payment of another obligation of the same issuer to the Group; and
- based on data developed internally and obtained from external sources.

Inputs into the assessment of whether a financial instrument is in default and their significance may vary over time to reflect changes in circumstances.

Incorporation of forward-looking information

Under IFRS 9, the Group incorporates forward-looking information in its measurement of ECLs.

The Group applies linear regression to determine the forward-looking adjustment to incorporate in its ECL. The Group formulates three economic scenarios: a base case, which is the median scenario assigned a probability of occurring based on the predictive strength of the relationship between the Group's default rate and the macro economic variables (MEV's), and two less likely scenarios, one upside and one downside, each assigned a probability of occurring based on half the difference between the base case and 100%.

External information considered includes economic data and forecasts published by governmental bodies and monetary authorities in Kenya, supranational organisations such as the World Group and the International Monetary Fund and selected private-sector and academic forecasters.

The Group has identified key drivers of credit risk and credit losses for its overall portfolio of financial instruments and, using an analysis of historical data, has estimated relationships between macro-economic variables and credit risk and credit losses. These are reviewed by management periodically to ascertain relevance based on management's understanding of the current industry environment.

The key drivers for credit risk are GDP and inflation.

Modified financial assets

The contractual terms of loans and advances may be modified because of a number of reasons, including changing market conditions, customer retention and other factors not related to a current or potential credit deterioration of the customer. An existing loan whose terms have been modified may be derecognized and the renegotiated loans and advances recognized as a new loans and advances at fair value.

Under IFRS 9, when the terms of a financial asset are modified and the modification does not result in derecognition, the determination of whether the asset's credit risk has increased significantly reflects comparison of the borrower's initial credit risk assessment and the current assessment at the point of modification.

The Group renegotiates loans and advances with customers in financial difficulties (referred to as 'restructuring') to maximise collection opportunities and minimise the risk of default.

Under the Group's restructuring policy, loans and advances restructuring is granted on a selective basis if the

debtor is currently in default on its debt or if there is a high risk of default, there is evidence that the debtor made all reasonable efforts to pay under the original contractual terms and the debtor is expected to be able to meet the revised terms.

The revised terms usually include extending the maturity, changing the timing of interest payments and amending the terms of loan covenants. The Group Credit Committee regularly reviews reports on restructuring activities.

Generally, forbearance is a qualitative indicator of default and credit impairment and expectations of restructuring are relevant to assessing whether there is a significant increase in credit risk (see above).

Following forbearance, a customer needs to demonstrate consistently good payment behaviour over a period of time before the exposure is no longer considered to be in default/credit-impaired or the PD is considered to have decreased such that the loss allowance reverts to being measured at an amount equal to 12-month ECLs.

Inputs into measurement of ECLs

The key inputs into the measurement of ECLs are the term structures of the following variables:

- Probability of Default (PD);
- loss given default (LGD); and
- exposure at default (EAD).

These parameters will be derived from internally developed models and other historical data that leverage industry information. The PD will be adjusted to reflect forward-looking information as described above.

Probability of default (PD)

Loan listings and the borrower Central Bank risk classifications from 2016 to date were used as the primary input in the determination of the PD structures.

PD estimates for loans and advances are estimates at a certain date, calculated based on statistical migration matrices that model the chance of an exposure transitioning to default over time and will be assessed at portfolio level for portfolios of assets that have similar characteristics. The Group has categorised its loans and advances into three segments, Business, Corporate and Personal.

The PD estimates for other financial instruments assessed for impairment is based on external credit rating information obtained from reputable external rating agencies such as Moody's, Standard and Poors, Fitch and Global credit rating.

The PD estimates applied are probability weighted incorporating a forward-looking adjustment which is determined based on a base scenario, upside and downside scenario. Please see the section on forward-looking information.

Loss Given Default (LGD)

LGD is the magnitude of the likely loss if there is a default. The Group estimates LGD parameters based on collateral available against exposures and the history of recovery rates of claims against defaulted counterparties.

The LGD models consider the type of collateral, seniority of the claim, time to recover in the event of foreclosure, counterparty industry and recovery costs of any collateral that is integral to the financial asset. LGD estimates are calibrated to consider the time to recover cash flows for different collateral types and apply the forced sale value (FSV) of collateral. The collateral values to consider will be calculated on a discounted cash flow basis using the effective interest rate (EIR) or a close proxy of the EIR.

The collateral values to consider will be calculated on a discounted cash flow basis using the effective interest. The table below highlights the Bank's acceptable collateral types:

Collateral type

- 1 Cash under lien
- 2 Corporate guarantees
- 3 Debenture / land
- 4 Government guarantee
- 5 Hire purchase agreement
- 6 Land & buildings - Commercial
- 7 Land & buildings - Residential
- 8 Logbooks
- 9 Shares
- 10 Treasury bonds / bills

Exposure at Default

EAD represents the expected exposure in the event of a default. The Group will derive the EAD from the current exposure to the counterparty and potential changes to the current amount allowed under the contract, including amortisation, and prepayments. For loan commitments and financial guarantees, the EAD will consider the amount drawn, as well as potential future amounts that may be drawn or repaid under the contract, which will be estimated based on historical observations and forward-looking forecasts.

As described above, and subject to using a maximum of a 12-month PD for financial assets for which credit risk has not significantly increased, the Group will measure ECLs considering the risk of default over the maximum contractual period (including any borrower's extension options) over which it is exposed to credit risk, even if, for risk management purposes, the Group considers a longer period.

The maximum contractual period extends to the date at which the Group has the right to require repayment of an advance or terminate a loan commitment or guarantee.

For guarantee facilities, overdrafts and other revolving facilities that include both a drawn and an undrawn commitment component, the Group will measure ECLs over a period of one year unless the expected life of the exposure can be reasonably determined.

Where modelling of a parameter is carried out on a collective basis, the financial instruments will be grouped on the basis of shared risk characteristics that include:

- Product type; and
- Industry.

The Bankings will be subject to regular review to ensure that exposures within a particular Group remain appropriately homogeneous.

Credit quality

In measuring expected credit losses the Group has segmented its loans and advances to customers into several segments: Corporate, Business and personal based on their different risk characteristics.

The following tables set out information about the credit quality and credit risk exposure of financial assets measured at amortised cost. Unless specifically indicated, the amounts in the table represent gross carrying amounts at 31 December 2023. For loan commitments and non-financial guarantees the amounts in the table represent the undrawn portion of amounts committed. Loan commitments are overdraft facilities.

Corporate segment	2023				2022
	Stage 1 Shs'000	Stage 2 Shs'000	Stage 3 Shs'000	Total Shs'000	Total Shs'000
Normal	4,954,943	-	-	4,954,943	4,545,946
Watch	-	184,762	-	184,762	179,104
Non-performing	-	-	1,122,908	1,122,908	1,146,065
Loss allowance	(30,220)	(2,736)	(369,029)	(401,985)	(373,847)
Carrying amount	4,924,723	182,026	753,879	5,860,628	5,497,268

Business segment	2023				2022
	Stage 1 Shs'000	Stage 2 Shs'000	Stage 3 Shs'000	Total Shs'000	Total Shs'000
Normal	290,406	-	-	290,406	331,290
Non-performing	-	-	78,077	78,077	49,295
Loss allowance	-	-	(50,098)	(50,098)	(38,183)
Carrying amount	290,406	-	27,979	318,385	342,402

Personal segment	2023				2022
	Stage 1 Shs'000	Stage 2 Shs'000	Stage 3 Shs'000	Total Shs'000	Total Shs'000
Normal	631,687	-	-	631,687	535,623
Watch	-	-	-	-	-
Non-performing	-	-	12,449	12,449	12,899
Loss allowance	(3,543)	-	(9,005)	(12,548)	(11,712)
Carrying amount	628,144	-	3,444	631,588	536,810

Total loans and advances	2023				2022
	Stage 1 Shs'000	Stage 2 Shs'000	Stage 3 Shs'000	Total Shs'000	Total Shs'000
Normal	5,877,036	-	-	5,877,036	5,412,859
Watch	-	184,762	-	184,762	179,104
Non-performing	-	-	1,213,434	1,213,434	1,208,259
Loss allowance	(33,763)	(2,736)	(428,132)	(464,631)	(423,742)
Carrying amount	5,843,273	182,026	785,302	6,810,601	6,376,480

Off balance sheet commitments	2023				2022
	Stage 1 Shs'000	Stage 2 Shs'000	Stage 3 Shs'000	Total Shs'000	Total Shs'000
Normal	1,178,871	-	-	1,178,871	747,600
Loss allowance	(1)	-	-	(1)	(12)
Carrying amount	1,178,870	-	-	1,178,870	747,588

Deposits and placements due from banking institutions	2023				2022
	Stage 1 Shs'000	Stage 2 Shs'000	Stage 3 Shs'000	Total Shs'000	Total Shs'000
Normal	242,561	-	-	242,561	1,145,537
Loss allowance	(584)	-	-	(584)	(5,749)
Carrying amount	241,977	-	-	241,977	1,139,788

Government securities at amortised cost	2023				2022
	Stage 1 Shs'000	Stage 2 Shs'000	Stage 3 Shs'000	Total Shs'000	Total Shs'000
Normal	3,782,423	-	-	3,782,423	5,578,151
Loss allowance	(8,980)	-	-	(8,980)	(13,773)
Carrying amount	3,773,443	-	-	3,773,443	5,564,378

Other assets	2023				2022
	Stage 1 Shs'000	Stage 2 Shs'000	Stage 3 Shs'000	Total Shs'000	Total Shs'000
Normal	272,633	-	-	272,633	306,379
Loss allowance	-	-	-	-	-
Carrying amount	272,633	-	-	272,633	306,379

Balances with Central Bank of Kenya	2023				2022
	Stage 1 Shs'000	Stage 2 Shs'000	Stage 3 Shs'000	Total Shs'000	Total Shs'000
Normal	3,744,941	-	-	3,744,941	1,277,365
Loss allowance	-	-	-	-	-
Carrying amount	3,744,941	-	-	3,744,941	1,277,365

Maximum exposure to credit risk before collateral held

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Balances with Central Bank of Kenya (Note 12)	3,744,941	1,277,365
Government securities at amortised cost (Note 13)	3,773,443	5,564,378
Deposits and balances due from banking institutions (Note 14)	241,977	1,139,788
Loans and advances to customers (Note 16)	6,810,601	6,376,480
Other assets (Note 15)	272,633	303,050
Credit risk exposures relating to off-balance sheet items (Note 27):		
- Acceptances and letters of credit	350,601	165,853
- Guarantee and performance bonds	828,270	581,747
	16,022,466	15,408,661

The maximum exposure table represents a worst-case scenario of credit risk exposure to the Group at 31 December 2023 and 2022, without taking account of any collateral held or other credit enhancements attached. For on-balance sheet assets, the exposures set out above are based on carrying amounts as reported in the balance sheet. As shown above, 50 % of the total maximum exposure is derived from loans and advances to customers and deposits (2022: 49%) while 24 % represents investments in government securities (2022: 36%).

Loans and advances to customers and off-balance sheet items, other than to major corporates, are secured by collateral in the form of charges over land and buildings and/or plant and machinery or corporate guarantees. All other financial assets have no collateral held on them.

Management is confident in its ability to continue to control and sustain minimal exposure of credit risk to the Group resulting from both its loan and advances portfolio and debt securities based on the following:

- the Group exercises stringent controls over the granting of new loans;
- 83% of the loans and advances portfolio are neither past due nor impaired (2022: 82%);
- 98.68% of the loans and advances portfolio are backed by collateral; and
- 100% of the investments in debt securities are government securities.

Credit risk exposure

Financial assets that are past due or impaired

The Group aligns the classification of assets that are past due or impaired in line with the Central Bank of Kenya prudential guidelines. In determining the classification of an account, performance is the primary consideration. Classification of an account reflects judgement about the risk of default and loss associated with the credit facility.

Accounts are classified into five categories as follows:

CBK PG/04 Guidelines	Days past due	IFRS 9 Stage allocation
Normal	0-30	1
Watch	31-90	2
Substandard	91-180	3
Doubtful	181 - 365	3
Loss	Over 365 or considered uncollectible	3

Loans and advances are summarised as follows:

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Neither past due nor impaired	5,877,036	5,412,859
Past due but not impaired	184,762	179,104
Impaired	1,213,434	1,208,259
Gross	7,275,232	6,800,222
Less: allowance for impairment	(464,631)	(432,742)
Net	6,810,601	6,367,480

Loans and advances neither past due nor impaired

The credit quality of the portfolio of loans and advances that were neither past due nor impaired can be assessed based on the Central Bank of Kenya rating which the Group has adopted:

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Normal – neither past due nor impaired	5,877,036	5,412,859
Watch – renegotiated loan (not past due nor impaired)	184,762	179,104
	6,061,798	5,591,963

Loans and advances renegotiated

Of the total gross amount of loans and advances, the following amounts have been renegotiated:

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Renegotiated loans and advances	680,989	695,481

Loans and advances past due but not impaired

Loans and advances less than 90 days past due are not considered impaired, unless other information is available to indicate the contrary. The gross amounts of loans and advances that were past due but not impaired were as follows:

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Past due 31 - 90 days	184,762	179,104

Collateral on loans and advances

The Bank routinely obtains collateral and security to mitigate credit risk. The Bank ensures that any collateral held is sufficiently liquid, legally effective, enforceable and regularly reassessed.

Before attaching value to collateral, the Bank ensures that they are legally perfected devoid of any encumbrances. Security structures and legal covenants are subject to regular review, to ensure that they remain fit for purpose and remain consistent with accepted local market practice.

The principal collateral types held by the Bank for loans and advances are:

- Mortgages over residential properties.
- Charges over business assets such as premises, inventory and accounts receivable.
- Charges over financial instruments such as debt securities and equities.

Valuation of collateral taken are within agreed parameters and are conservative in value. The valuation is performed only on origination or in the course of enforcement actions. Collateral for impaired loans is reviewed regularly to ensure that it is still enforceable and that the impairment allowance remains appropriate given the current valuation.

The Bank has considered all relevant factors, including local market conditions and practices, before any collateral is realized.

The collateral held by the Bank against loans and advances is as below;

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Property	9,659,643	8,957,282
Equities	160,000	160,000
Other*	5,996,021	7,524,737
	15,815,664	16,642,019

*Other includes logbooks, cash cover, debentures and directors' guarantees.

(b) Concentration risk

Economic sector risk concentrations within the customer loan and deposit portfolios were as follows:

	2023		2022	
	Loans and advances	Unused credit commitments	Loans and advances	Unused credit commitments
	%	%	%	%
Manufacturing	22%	12%	15%	30%
Wholesale and retail trade	35%	49%	38%	44%
Transport and communications	9%	33%	9%	5%
Agricultural	-	-	-	-
Individuals	9%	-	8%	4%
Foreign trade	-	-	-	-
Real estate	13%	-	17%	10%
Building and construction	9%	3%	10%	6%
Other	3%	2%	3%	1%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

Customer deposits	2023 %	2022 %
Insurance Companies	0.4%	1%
Private enterprise`	21.9%	24%
Individuals	55.1%	57%
Non-profit institutions & individuals	5.4%	7%
Resident foreign currency	17.2%	11%
	100%	100%

(c) Liquidity risk

The definition of liquidity risk is the risk that the Group is unable to meet its obligations as they fall due as a result of a sudden, and potentially protracted, increase in net cash outflows. Such outflows would deplete available cash resources for client lending, trading activities and investments. These outflows could be principally through customer withdrawals, wholesale counterparties removing financing, collateral posting requirements or loan drawdowns. This risk is inherent in all Banking operations and can be affected by a range of Group-specific and market-wide events which can result in: – an inability to support normal business activity; and – a failure to meet liquidity regulatory requirements.

During periods of market dislocation, the Group’s ability to manage liquidity requirements may be impacted by a reduction in the availability of wholesale term funding as well as an increase in the cost of raising wholesale funds. Asset sales, balance sheet reductions and the increasing costs of raising funding will affect the earnings of the Group. In illiquid markets, the Group may decide to hold assets rather than securitising, syndicating or disposing of them. This could affect the Group’s ability to originate new loans or support other customer transactions as both capital and liquidity are consumed by existing or legacy assets.

The efficient management of liquidity is essential to the Group in retaining the confidence of the financial markets and ensuring that the business is sustainable. Liquidity risk is managed through the Liquidity Risk Framework, which is designed to meet the following objectives:

- maintain liquid resources that are sufficient in amount and quality and a funding profile that is appropriate to meet the liquidity risk framework as expressed by the Board,
- maintain market confidence in the Group’s name,
- set limits to control liquidity risk within and across lines of business,
- accurately price liquidity costs, benefits and risks and incorporate those into product pricing and performance measurement,
- set early warning indicators to identify immediately the emergence of increased liquidity risk or vulnerabilities including events that would impair access to liquidity resources,
- project fully over an appropriate set of time horizons cash flows arising from assets, liabilities and off-balance sheet items, and
- maintain a contingency funding plan (“CFP”) that is comprehensive and proportionate to the nature, scale and complexity of the business and that is regularly tested to ensure that it is operationally robust

Management of liquidity risk

The Group is exposed to daily calls on its available cash resources from overnight deposits, current accounts, maturing deposits and calls on cash settled contingencies. The Group does not maintain cash resources to meet all of these needs as experience shows that a minimum level of reinvestment of maturing funds can be predicted with a high level of certainty.

The matching and controlled mismatching of the maturities of assets and liabilities is fundamental to the

management of the Group. By the very nature of operations, it is unusual for Groups to ever completely match assets and liabilities. The Central Bank of Kenya requires that the Group maintain a cash reserve ratio and minimum liquidity ratios. In addition, the Board sets limits on the minimum proportion of maturing funds available to meet such calls and on the minimum level of inter-Group and other borrowing facilities that should be in place to cover withdrawals at unexpected levels of demand. The treasury department monitors liquidity ratios on a daily basis, and this is closely reviewed by the Risk Management Committee.

The key measure used by the Group for managing liquidity risk is the ratio of net liquid assets to deposits from customers. For this purpose, net liquid assets are considered as including cash and cash equivalents and investment grade debt securities for which there is an active and liquid market less any deposits from Groups, debt securities issued, other borrowings and commitments maturing within the next month.

The Central Bank of Kenya minimum liquidity ratio is 20%. Details of the reported Group ratio of net liquid assets to deposits from customers at the reporting date and during the reporting period were as follows:

	2023	2022
At 31 December		
Average for the year	60.96%	66.13%
Maximum for the year	66.42%	67.70%
Minimum for the year	57.50%	64.53%

The table below analyses assets and liabilities into relevant maturity brackets based on the remaining period at 31 December 2023 to the contractual maturity date. All figures are in thousands of Kenya Shillings.

At 31 December 2023	Up to 1 Month	1-6 Months	6-12 Months	1-5 Years	Over 5 Years	Total
Financial assets						
Cash and balances with Central Bank of Kenya	3,881,680	-	-	-	-	3,881,680
Government securities at amortised cost	555,801	737,342	41,441	1,260,606	3,985,780	6,580,970
Deposits and balances due from banking institutions	241,977	-	-	-	-	241,977
Other assets	272,643	-	-	-	-	272,643
Loans and advances to customers	2,555,687	1,267,955	989,129	3,446,134	1,141,844	9,400,749
Total Financial assets	7,507,788	2,005,297	1,030,570	4,706,740	5,127,624	20,378,019
Financial Liabilities						
Deposits from customers	7,465,449	3,888,640	468,658	-	-	11,822,747
Other liabilities and accrued expenses	-	-	191,878	-	-	191,878
Lease liabilities	2,920	14,296	19,219	271,884	317,044	625,363
Total Financial liabilities	7,468,369	3,902,936	679,755	271,884	317,044	12,639,988
Net liquidity gap	39,419	(1,897,639)	350,815	4,434,856	4,810,580	7,738,031

At 31 December 2022	Up to 1 Month	1-6 Months	6-12 Months	1-5 Years	Over 5 Years	Total
Cash and balances with Central Bank of Kenya	1,385,476	-	-	-	-	1,385,476
Government securities at amortised cost	556,584	1,921,452	776,214	573,286	3,694,553	7,522,089
Deposits and balances due from banking institutions	1,139,788	-	-	-	-	1,139,788
Other assets	306,379	-	-	-	-	306,379
Loans and advances to customers	8,976	137,195	3,534,349	3,790,587	1,701,252	9,172,359
Total Financial assets	3,397,203	2,058,647	4,310,563	4,363,873	5,395,805	19,526,091
Financial Liabilities						
Deposits from customers	6,056,443	5,099,678	729,105	97,994	-	11,983,220
Other liabilities and accrued expenses	-	-	211,220	-	-	211,220
Lease liabilities	1,340	6,700	9,025	198,111	322,375	537,551
Total Financial liabilities	6,057,783	5,106,378	949,350	296,105	322,375	12,731,991
Net liquidity gap	(2,660,580)	(3,047,731)	3,361,213	4,067,768	5,073,430	6,794,100

The matching and controlled mismatching of the maturities and interest rates of assets and liabilities is fundamental to the management of the Group. It is unusual for Groups ever to be completely matched since business transacted is often of uncertain terms and of different types. An unmatched position potentially enhances profitability but can also increase the risk of losses.

The maturities of assets and liabilities and the ability to replace, at an acceptable cost, interest-bearing liabilities as they mature, are important factors in assessing the liquidity of the Group and its exposure to changes in interest rates and exchange rates.

(d) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices, which include currency exchange rates and interest rates, will affect the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument. Market risk arises from open positions in interest rates and foreign currencies, both of which are exposed to general and specific market movements and changes in the level of volatility. The objective of market risk management is to manage and control market risk exposures within acceptable limits, while optimising the return on risk. Overall responsibility for managing market risk rests with the Risk Management Committee. The Treasury department is responsible for the development of detailed risk management policies (subject to review and approval by Risk Management Committee) and for the day to day implementation of those policies.

Management of market risks

The objective of market risk measurement is to manage and control market risk exposures within acceptable limits while optimising the return on risk. The Group's Treasury is responsible for the development of detailed risk management policies and for day-to-day implementation of those policies.

Furthermore, it includes the protection and enhancement of the statement of financial position and statement of comprehensive income and facilitating business growth within a controlled and transparent risk management framework.

All foreign exchange risk within the Group is managed by the treasury department. Accordingly, the foreign exchange position is treated as part of the Group's trading portfolios for risk management purposes

(i) Currency risk

The Group takes on exposure to effects of fluctuations in the prevailing foreign currency exchange rates on its financial position and cash flows. The Board sets limits on the level of exposure by currency and in total for both overnight and intra-day positions, which are monitored regularly by management. In addition, the Central Bank of Kenya monitors the foreign currency position on a regular basis.

The Group had the following significant foreign currency positions (all amounts expressed in thousands of Kenya Shillings):

At 31 December 2023	USD	GBP	Euro	Other	Total
Assets					
Cash and balances with Central Bank of Kenya	1,604,406	3,427	11,025	129	1,618,987
Deposits and balances due from Banking institutions	86,044	49,166	7,937	1,977	145,124
Loans and advances to customers	277,699	-	2,136	-	279,835
Other Assets	1,981	-	-	-	1,981
Total assets	1,970,130	52,593	21,098	2,106	2,045,927
Liabilities					
Customer deposits	1,945,014	51,609	20,798	3	2,017,424
Other liabilities and accrued expenses	6,039	-	-	-	6,039
Total liabilities	1,951,053	51,609	20,798	3	2,023,463
Net balance sheet position	19,077	984	300	2,103	22,464
Net off-balance sheet position	716,328	-	-	-	716,328

At 31 December 2022	USD	GBP	Euro	Other	Total
Assets					
Cash and balances with Central Bank of Kenya	712,602	21,260	7,734	-	741,596
Deposits and balances due from Banking institutions	172,956	19,839	3,462	1,328	197,585
Loans and advances to customers	399,315	6	53,866	-	453,187
Other Assets	7,192	-	-	-	7,192
Total assets	1,292,065	41,105	65,062	1,328	1,399,560
Liabilities					
Customer deposits	1,267,856	41,230	12,315	3	1,321,404
Other liabilities and accrued expenses	1,630	333	52,633	-	54,596
Total liabilities	1,269,486	41,563	64,948	3	1,376,000
Net balance sheet position	22,579	(458)	114	1,325	23,560
Net off-balance sheet position	402,867	-	52,506	-	455,373

The off-balance sheet position represents the difference between the notional amounts of foreign currency derivative financial instruments and their fair values.

At 31 December 2023, if the Shilling had strengthened/weakened by 10% against the major currencies with all other variables held constant, pre-tax profit for the year would have been lower/higher by Shs 2.246 million (2022: Shs 2.3 million) as illustrated below:

Impact on shilling strengthening per currency (Shs '000)

	USD	GBP	Euro	Other	Total
At 31 December 2023 (10%)	1,908	98	30	210	2,246
At 31 December 2022 (10%)	2,258	(46)	11	133	2,356

Impact on shilling weakening per currency (Shs '000)

	USD	GBP	Euro	Other	Total
At 31 December 2023 (10%)	(1,908)	(98)	(30)	(210)	(2,246)
At 31 December 2022 (10%)	(2,258)	46	(11)	(133)	(2,356)

(ii) Interest rate risk

The Group is exposed to the effects of fluctuations in the prevailing levels of market interest rates on its financial position and cash flows. Interest margins may increase as a result of such changes but may reduce or create losses in the event that unexpected movements arise. The Board of Directors sets limits on the level of mismatch of interest rate repricing that may be undertaken, which is monitored daily

The table below summarises the exposure to interest rate risks. Included in the table are the Group's assets and liabilities at carrying amounts, categorised by the earlier of contractual repricing or maturity dates. The Group does not bear an interest rate risk on off balance sheet items. All figures are in thousands of Kenya Shillings.

At 31 December 2023	Up to 1 Month	1-6 Months	6-12 Months	1-5 Years	Over 5 Years	Non-interest bearing	Total
Assets							
Cash and balances with Central Bank of Kenya	-	-	-	-	-	3,881,680	3,881,680
Government securities at amortised cost	555,801	737,341	35,572	587,422	1,857,307	-	3,773,443
Deposits and balances due from Banking institutions	241,977	-	-	-	-	-	241,977
Other assets and prepayments	-	-	-	-	-	272,643	272,643
Loans and advances to customers	2,555,687	1,267,955	849,038	1,605,841	532,080	-	6,810,601
Total assets	3,353,465	2,005,296	884,610	2,193,263	2,389,387	4,154,323	14,980,344
Liabilities							
Customer deposits	7,482,189	3,888,640	402,282	-	-	-	11,773,111
Other liabilities and accrued expenses	-	-	-	-	-	191,878	191,878
Lease liabilities	2,920	16,583	16,497	126,693	147,737	-	310,430
Total liabilities	7,485,109	3,905,223	418,779	126,693	147,737	191,878	12,275,419
Interest sensitivity gap	(4,131,644)	(1,899,926)	465,831	2,066,570	2,241,650	3,962,445	2,704,925

At 31 December 2022	Up to 1 Month	1-6 Months	6-12 Months	1-5 Years	Over 5 Years	Non-interest bearing	Total
Assets							
Cash and balances with Central Bank of Kenya	-	-	-	-	-	1,385,476	1,385,476
Government securities at amortised cost	556,584	1,921,452	691,504	321,691	2,073,147	-	5,564,378
Deposits and balances due from Banking institutions	1,139,788	-	-	-	-	-	1,139,788
Other assets and prepayments	-	-	-	-	-	306,379	306,379
Loans and advances to customers	8,976	137,195	3,148,640	2,127,035	954,634	-	6,376,480
Total assets	1,705,348	2,058,647	3,840,144	2,448,726	3,027,781	1,691,855	14,772,501
Liabilities							
Customer deposits	6,056,443	5,099,678	649,537	70,189	-	-	11,875,847
Other liabilities and accrued expenses	-	-	-	-	-	211,220	211,220
Lease liabilities	1,340	6,700	8,040	111,167	180,896	-	308,143
Total liabilities	6,057,783	5,106,378	657,577	181,356	180,896	211,220	12,395,210
Interest sensitivity gap	(4,352,435)	(3,047,731)	3,182,567	2,267,370	2,846,885	1,480,635	2,377,291

Cash flow and fair value interest rate risk

Fixed interest rate financial instruments expose the Group to fair value interest rate risk. Variable interest rate financial instruments expose the Group to cashflow interest rate risk.

The Group's fixed interest rate financial instruments are government securities, deposits with financial institutions and borrowings. The Group's variable interest rate financial instruments are loans and advances. The sensitivity analysis for interest rate risk illustrates how changes in the fair value or future cashflows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates at the reporting date.

The Group regularly monitors financial assets and liabilities. As at 31 December 2023, a 10% increase/decrease in interest rates would have resulted in an increase/decrease in pre-tax profit of Shs 34,657,912 (2022: increase of Shs 23,456,000).

(e) Fair value estimation

At 31 December 2023	Amortised cost Shs'000	Total carrying amount Shs'000	Fair value Shs'000
Assets			
Cash and balances with Central Bank of Kenya	3,881,680	3,881,680	3,881,680
Government securities at amortised cost	3,773,443	3,773,443	3,773,443
Deposits and balances due from Banking institutions	241,977	241,977	241,977
Loans and advances to customers	6,810,601	6,810,601	6,810,601
Other financial assets	272,643	272,643	272,643
	14,980,344	14,980,344	14,980,344
Liabilities			
Customer deposits	11,773,111	11,773,111	11,773,111

At 31 December 2022	Amortised cost Shs'000	Total carrying amount Shs'000	Fair value Shs'000
Assets			
Cash and balances with Central Bank of Kenya	1,385,476	1,385,476	1,385,476
Government securities at amortised cost	5,564,378	5,564,378	5,564,378
Deposits and balances due from Banking institutions	1,139,788	1,139,788	1,139,788
Loans and advances to customers	6,376,480	6,376,480	6,376,480
Other financial assets	306,403	306,403	306,403
	14,772,525	14,772,525	14,772,525
Liabilities			
Customer deposits	11,758,183	11,758,183	11,758,183

(f) Capital management

The Group's objectives when managing capital, which is a broader concept than the 'equity' on the balance sheet, are:

- to safeguard the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, so that it can continue to provide returns for shareholders and benefits for other stakeholders;
- to maintain a strong capital base to support the development of its business; and
- to comply with the capital requirements set by the Central Bank of Kenya.

Capital adequacy and use of regulatory capital are monitored regularly by management, employing techniques based on the guidelines developed by the Basel Committee, as implemented by the Central Bank of Kenya for supervisory purposes. The required information is filed with the Central Bank of Kenya on a monthly basis.

The Central Bank of Kenya requires each Group to:

- hold the minimum level of regulatory capital of Shs 1 billion;
- Maintain a ratio of total regulatory capital; to risk weighted assets plus risk weighted off balance assets at above the required minimum of 10.5%;
- Maintain a core capital of not less than 8 % of total deposit liabilities; and
- Maintain total capital of not less than 14.5% of risk weighted assets plus risk weighted off balance sheet items.

The risk weighted assets are measured by means of a hierarchy of four risk weights classified according to the nature of and reflecting an estimate of the credit risk associated with each asset and counterparty. A similar treatment is adopted for off-balance sheet exposure, with some adjustments to reflect the more contingent nature of the potential losses.

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Tier 1 capital	3,190,925	2,946,196
Tier 1 + Tier 2 capital	3,338,763	3,223,616
Risk-Weighted assets		
On-balance sheet	7,640,316	7,011,733
Off-balance sheet	1,163,657	715,734
Market risk weighted assets	1,244,412	1,551,270
Operational risk weighted assets	1,814,987	1,809,388
Total Risk-Weighted assets	11,363,372	11,088,125
Basel ratio		
Tier 1 (minimum – 10.5%)	27.10%	26.57%
Tier 1 + Tier 2 (minimum – 14.5%)	28.30%	29.07%

5 Interest income – Group and Bank

Shs'000	Shs'000	2023	2022
(a) Interest income			
Loans and advances to customers		1,063,113	934,599
Government securities at amortised cost		501,944	604,230
Placements		73,908	32,755
Fees & commission on loans and advances		28,697	43,850
		1,667,662	1,615,434
(b) Interest expense			
Customer deposits		661,417	695,168
Deposits and balances due to banking institutions		405	-
Lease liabilities (Note 24)		32,103	32,017
		693,925	727,185
Net interest income		973,737	888,249

6 Fee and commission income – Group and Bank

	2023	2022
	Shs'000	Shs'000
Service charge	9,735	8,727
Other fees and commission	34,289	32,988
	44,024	41,715

7 Foreign exchange income – Group and Bank

	2023	2022
	Shs'000	Shs'000
Foreign exchange gain	89,451	102,257

8 Other operating income – Group and Bank

	2023	2022
	Shs'000	Shs'000
Rental income	106	171
Bad debt recoveries*	7,239	2,599
Other income	12,167	4,220
	19,512	6,990

* Bad debt recoveries relate to loan recoveries that had previously been written off from the Bank's books.

9 (a) Operating expenses – Group and Bank

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
The following items have been charged in arriving at profit before tax income:		
Employees benefits (Note 9(b))	388,996	349,864
Depreciation on property and equipment (Note 18)	11,540	12,849
Amortisation of intangible assets (Note 20)	2,164	2,522
Amortisation on right-of-use asset (Note 19)	27,433	27,131
Occupancy expenses	7,999	36,119
Auditors' remuneration	12,000	8,846
Amortisation of prepaid operating lease (Note 19)	7,999	7,999
Other operating expenses	248,550	208,873
	706,681	654,203

9 (b) Employee benefits – Group and Bank

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
The following items are included within employees' benefits:		
Staff salaries	339,068	306,309
Retirement benefits cost	13,753	13,860
National Social Security Fund	1,351	273
Medical costs	4,400	3,526
Other staff costs	30,424	25,896
	388,996	349,864

The average number of employees during the year was 113 (2022: 116).

10 Income tax charge/ (credit) – Group and Bank

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Current income tax charge	33,137	61,876
Deferred income tax charge/(credit) (Note 17)	7,285	(39,298)
Income tax charge	40,422	22,578

The tax on the Bank's profit before income tax differs from the theoretical amount that would arise using the statutory income tax rate as follows:

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Profit before income tax	379,154	272,387
Tax calculated at the statutory income tax rate of 30% (2022: 30%)	113,746	81,716
Tax effect of:		
Other expenses not deductible for tax purposes	(73,324)	(59,138)
Effect of change in tax rate		-
Income tax (credit) /expense	40,422	22,578
Tax recoverable		
At start of the year	(22,956)	(47,013)
Current income tax	(58,984)	24,057
At end of year	(81,940)	(22,956)
Current income tax		
At start of the year	(24,057)	-
Charge for the year	33,137	61,876
Paid during the year	(68,064)	(37,819)
At end of year	(58,984)	24,057

11 Earnings per share – Group and Bank

Basic earnings per share are calculated on the profit attributable to shareholders of Shs 249,809,000 (2022: Shs 155,033,000) and on the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the period.

	2023	2022
Net profit attributable to shareholders (Shs '000)	338,732	249,809
Number of ordinary shares in issue (Note 25)	22,518,750	22,518,750
Basic earnings per share (Shs)	15.04	11.09

There were no potentially dilutive shares outstanding at 31 December 2023 and 2022. Diluted earnings per share is therefore the same as basic earnings per share.

12 Cash and balances with Central Bank of Kenya – Group and Bank

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Cash in hand	136,739	108,111
Local currency balances with Central Bank of Kenya	2,156,510	564,866
Foreign currency balances with Central Bank of Kenya	1,588,431	712,499
	3,881,680	1,385,476
Less: cash reserve requirement	(493,262)	(499,723)

The cash ratio reserve is non-interest earning and is based on the value of deposits as adjusted for Central Bank of Kenya requirements. At 31 December 2023, the cash reserve ratio requirement was 4.25% of eligible deposits (2022 – 4.25%). The funds are available for use by the Group and Bank in its day-to-day operations in a limited way provided that on any given day this balance does not fall below 3.00% requirement and provided the overall average in the month is at least 4.25% (2022 – 4.25%).

13 Government securities at amortised cost – Group and Bank

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Treasury bills		
With an original tenor of less than 90 days	1,149,770	1,701,220
With an original tenor of more than 90 days	182,106	1,476,165
Treasury bonds		
With an original tenor of more than 90 days	2,450,547	2,400,766
	3,782,423	5,578,151

Treasury bills and bonds are debt securities issued by the Central Bank of Kenya.

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Movement at cost		
At start of year	5,578,151	6,823,378
Maturity of securities	(3,118,634)	(6,954,627)
Purchases of securities	1,322,906	5,709,400
At end of year	3,782,423	5,578,151
12- month ECL		
At start of year	(13,773)	(18,749)
Credit/(charge) for the year	4,793	4,976
At end of year	(8,980)	(13,773)
Net balance	3,773,443	,564,378

The weighted average effective interest rate on investment securities at 31 December was: 12.65% (2022: 8.46%).

14 Deposits and balances due from banking institutions – Group and Bank

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Local currency deposits	98,467	947,953
Foreign currency balances with foreign banks	144,094	197,584
	242,561	1,145,537
Expected credit loss		
At 1 start of year	(5,749)	(660)
Credit/(charge) for year	5,165	(5,089)
At end of year	(584)	(5,749)
	241,977	1,139,788

The weighted average effective interest rate on investment securities at 31 December was: 9.06% (2022: 5.32%).

15 Other assets and prepayments – Group and Bank

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Items in transit	186,969	174,659
Prepayments	35,350	33,643
Private placements	-	50,342
Other receivables	50,324	81,378
	272,643	340,022

16 Loans and advances to customers – Group and Bank

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Overdrafts	2,535,779	2,380,369
Loans	3,200,199	3,146,918
Bills discounted	665,287	281,425
Hire purchase	407,831	445,364
Premium financing	406,181	542,198
Bills purchased	59,955	3,948
Gross loans and advances	7,275,232	6,800,222
Less: Provision for impairment of loans and advances		
- Stage 1	33,763	8,256
- Stage 2	2,736	7,072
- Stage 3	428,132	408,414
	464,631	423,742
Net loans and advances	6,810,601	6,376,480

i) Loans and advances to customers at amortised cost

	Stage 1 Shs'000	Stage 2 Shs'000	Stage 3 Shs'000	Total Shs'000
Gross carrying amount as at 1 January 2023	5,412,859	179,104	1,208,259	6,800,222
Changes in the gross carrying amount				
- Transfer from stage 1 to stage 3	(30,663)	-	30,663	-
- Transfer from stage 1 to stage 2	-	-	-	-
- Transfer from stage 2 to stage 3	-	-	-	-
- Transfer from stage 3 to stage 2	-	129,760	(129,760)	-
- Write-offs	-	-	-	-
Net remeasurement of loan balance	(461,174)	(53,494)	104,981	(409,687)
New financial assets originated	2,147,903	-	3,061	2,150,964
Financial assets that have been derecognised	(1,191,889)	(70,608)	(3,770)	(1,266,267)
Gross carrying amount as at 31 December 2023	5,877,036	184,762	1,213,434	7,275,232
Gross carrying amount as at 1 January 2022	5,898,948	508,602	1,257,497	7,665,047
Changes in the gross carrying amount				
- Transfer from stage 1 to stage 3	(3,213)	-	3,213	-
- Transfer from stage 1 to stage 2	(93,728)	93,728	-	-
- Transfer from stage 2 to stage 3	-	(423,525)	423,525	-
Write-offs	-	-	(384,218)	(384,218)
Net remeasurement of loan balance	(492,707)	299	19,810	(472,598)
New financial assets originated	1,733,260	-	-	1,733,260
Financial assets that have been derecognised	(1,629,701)	-	(111,568)	(1,741,269)
Gross carrying amount as at 31 December 2022	5,412,859	179,104	1,208,259	6,800,222

ii) Provisions – Loans and advances to customers

	Stage 1 Shs'000	Stage 2 Shs'000	Stage 3 Shs'000	Total Shs'000
At 1 January 2023	8,256	7,072	408,414	423,742
Changes in expected credit loss:				
- Transfer from stage 1 to stage 2	-	-	-	-
- Transfer from stage 1 to stage 3	(9,581)	-	9,581	-
- Transfer from stage 3 to stage 2	-	2,639	(2,639)	-
- Write-offs	-	-	-	-
Net remeasurement of loss allowance	23,899	(4,163)	11,000	30,736
New financial assets originated or purchased	12,432	-	2,254	14,686
Financial assets that have been derecognized	(1,243)	(2,812)	(478)	(4,533)
At 31 December 2023	33,763	2,736	428,132	464,631

	Stage 1 Shs'000	Stage 2 Shs'000	Stage 3 Shs'000	Total Shs'000
At 1 January 2022	14,228	5,310	692,078	711,616
Changes in expected credit loss:				
- Transfer from stage 1 to stage 2	(18)	18	-	-
- Transfer from stage 1 to stage 3	(13)	(1,754)	1,767	-
- Transfer from stage 2 to stage 3	-	-	-	-
- Write-offs	-	-	(317,276)	(317,276)
Net remeasurement of loss allowance	(7,969)	3,498	71,110	66,639
New financial assets originated or purchased	3,299	-	-	3,299
Financial assets that have been derecognized	(1,271)	-	(39,265)	(40,536)
At 31 December 2022	8,256	7,072	408,414	423,742

Movements in provisions for impairment of loans and advances are as follows:

	Stage 1 Shs'000	Stage 2 Shs'000	Stage 3 Shs'000	Total Shs'000
Year ended 31 December 2023				
At 1 January 2023	8,256	7,072	408,414	423,742
Write-off in the year	-	-	-	-
Increase/(decrease) in impairment provision	25,507	(4,336)	19,718	40,889
At 31 December 2023	33,763	2,736	428,132	464,631
Charge to profit or loss	25,507	(4,336)	19,718	40,889
Year ended 31 December 2022				
At 1 January 2022	14,228	5,310	692,078	711,616
Write-off in the year	-	-	(317,276)	(317,276)
Increase/(decrease) in impairment provision	(5,972)	1,762	33,612	29,402
At 31 December 2022	8,256	7,072	408,414	423,742
(Credit)/charge to profit or loss	(5,972)	1,762	116,831	112,621

All loans are written down to their estimated recoverable amount. The amount of non-performing loans (net of impairment losses) at 31 December 2023 was Shs748,803,000 (2022: Shs 799,845,000).

Loan book movement per sector

The following tables show reconciliations from the opening to the closing balance of the loans and advances by segment:

Loans and advances movement - Corporate	2023				2022
	Stage 1 Shs'000	Stage 2 Shs'000	Stage 3 Shs'000	Total Shs'000	Total Shs'000
Balance at 1 January	4,545,946	179,104	1,146,065	5,871,115	6,292,498
Transfer to Lifetime ECL not credit impaired	(1,816)	-	1,816	-	-
Net re-measurement of loss balance	(374,052)	76,266	(24,973)	(322,759)	(334,130)
Net financial assets originated or purchased	1,848,822	-	-	1,848,822	1,415,000
Financial assets derecognised	(1,063,957)	(70,608)	-	(1,134,565)	(1,197,638)
Write offs	-	-	-	-	(304,615)
Balance at 31 December	4,954,943	184,762	1,122,908	6,262,613	5,871,115

Loans and advances movement - Business	2023				2022
	Stage 1 Shs'000	Stage 2 Shs'000	Stage 3 Shs'000	Total Shs'000	Total Shs'000
Balance at 1 January	331,290	-	49,295	380,585	632,087
Transfer to Lifetime ECL credit impaired	(28,847)	-	28,847	-	-
Net re-measurement of loss balance	(45,688)	-	194	(45,494)	(61,755)
Net financial assets originated or purchased	85,636	-	3,061	88,697	53,656
Financial assets derecognised	(51,985)	-	(3,320)	(55,305)	(240,904)
Write-offs	-	-	-	-	(2,499)
Balance at 31 December	290,406	-	78,077	368,483	380,585

Loans and advances movement - Personal	2023				2022
	Stage 1 Shs'000	Stage 2 Shs'000	Stage 3 Shs'000	Total Shs'000	Total Shs'000
Balance at 1 January	535,623	-	12,899	548,522	740,462
Transfer to Lifetime ECL credit impaired	-	-	-	-	-
Net re-measurement of loss balance	(45,846)	-	-	(45,846)	(76,713)
Net financial assets originated or purchased	217,857	-	-	217,857	264,604
Financial assets derecognised	(75,947)	-	(450)	(76,397)	(302,727)
Write offs	-	-	-	-	(77,104)
Balance at 31 December	631,687	-	12,449	644,136	548,522

Loss allowance- movement per sector

The following tables show reconciliations from the opening to the closing balance of the loss allowance by segment.

Corporate	2023				2022
Total ECL loss allowance	Stage 1 Shs'000	Stage 2 Shs'000	Stage 3 Shs'000	Total Shs'000	Total Shs'000
Balance at 1 January	4,965	7,072	361,810	373,847	606,120
Transfer to 12 months ECL	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to Lifetime ECL not credit impaired	-	2,639	(2,639)	-	-
Transfer to Lifetime ECL credit impaired	(18)	-	18	-	-
Net re-measurement of loss allowance	14,695	(4,163)	9,840	20,372	63,796
Net financial assets originated or purchased	11,152	-	-	11,152	1,086
Financial assets derecognised	(574)	(2,812)	-	(3,386)	(39,129)
Write offs	-	-	-	-	(258,026)
Balance at 31 December	30,220	2,736	369,029	401,985	373,847

Business	2023				2022
Total ECL loss allowance	Stage 1 Shs'000	Stage 2 Shs'000	Stage 3 Shs'000	Total Shs'000	Total Shs'000
Balance at 1 January	61	-	38,122	38,183	93,750
Transfer to Lifetime ECL credit impaired	(9,563)	-	9,563	-	-
Net re-measurement of loss allowance	9,507	-	191	9,698	(53,038)
Net financial assets originated or purchased	-	-	2,254	2,254	34
Financial assets derecognised	(5)	-	(32)	(37)	(64)
Write offs	-	-	-	-	(2,499)
Balance at 31 December	-	-	50,098	50,098	38,183

Personal	2023				2022
Total ECL loss allowance	Stage 1 Shs'000	Stage 2 Shs'000	Stage 3 Shs'000	Total Shs'000	Total Shs'000
Balance at 1 January	3,230	-	8,482	11,712	11,746
Transfer to 12 months ECL	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to Lifetime ECL credit impaired	-	-	-	-	-
Net re-measurement of loss allowance	(319)	-	969	650	55,881
Net financial assets originated or purchased	1,296	-	-	1,296	2,178
Financial assets derecognised	(664)	-	(446)	(1,110)	(1,342)
Write offs	-	-	-	-	(56,751)
Balance at 31 December	3,543	-	9,005	12,548	11,712

17 Deferred income tax – Group and Bank

Deferred income tax is calculated using the enacted income tax rate of 30% (2022: 30%). The movement on the deferred income tax account is as follows:

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
At start of year	273,990	234,692
Credit to the profit or loss (Note 10)	(7,285)	39,298
At end of year	266,705	273,990

The deferred income tax asset and deferred income tax credit in the profit or loss and are attributable to the following items:

	1 January 2023	Recognised in profit or loss	31 December 2023
	Shs'000	Shs'000	Shs'000
Deferred income tax asset			
Property and equipment	7,651	(1,881)	5,770
Provisions on loans and advances	223,227	12,266	235,493
Gratuity provisions	17,599	(17,599)	-
Other provisions	5,944	(3,074)	2,870
Leave provisions	2,180	-	2,180
Right-of-use asset	17,389	3,003	20,392
Net deferred income tax asset	273,990	(7,285)	266,705

	1 January 2022	Recognised in profit or loss	31 December 2022
	Shs'000	Shs'000	Shs'000
Deferred income tax asset			
Deferred income tax asset			
Property and equipment	7,551	100	7,651
Provisions loans and advances	189,441	33,786	223,227
Gratuity provisions	16,222	1,377	17,599
Other provisions	5,825	119	5,944
Leave provisions	1,580	600	2,180
Right-of-use asset	14,073	3,316	17,389
Net deferred income tax asset	234,692	39,298	273,990

18 Property and equipment – Group and Bank

	Buildings Shs'000	Leasehold Improv- ements Shs'000	Motor vehicles Shs'000	Fixtures fittings and equipment Shs'000	Capital work in progress Shs'000	Total Shs'000
Year ended 31 December 2022						
Cost						
At 1 January 2022	51,503	84,696	48,818	140,997	375	326,389
Additions	-	225	1,400	9,016	-	10,641
Write offs	-	-	-	-	(375)	(375)
At 31 December 2022	51,503	84,921	50,218	150,013	-	336,655
Depreciation						
At 1 January 2022	23,063	83,685	43,876	123,748	-	274,372
Charge for the year	1,217	520	2,732	8,380	-	12,849
	24,280	84,205	46,608	132,128	-	287,221
As at 31 December 2022	27,223	716	3,610	17,885	-	49,434

	Buildings Shs'000	Leasehold Improv- ements Shs'000	Motor vehicles Shs'000	Fixtures fittings and equipment Shs'000	Capital work in progress Shs'000	Total Shs'000
Year ended 31 December 2023						
Cost						
At 1 January 2023	51,503	84,921	50,218	150,013	-	336,655
Additions	-	-	-	17,362	-	17,362
Write offs	-	-	-	(1,274)	-	(1,274)
At 31 December 2023	51,503	84,921	50,218	166,101	-	352,743
Depreciation						
At 1 January 2023	24,280	84,205	46,608	132,128	-	287,221
Charge for the year	1,217	289	2,100	7,934	-	11,540
Write offs	-	-	-	(1,274)	-	(1,274)
	25,497	84,494	48,708	138,788	-	297,487
At 31 December 2023	26,006	427	1,510	27,313	-	55,256

19 Right-of-Use Assets – Group and Bank

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
a) Leasehold land		
Cost at start of year	269,201	269,201
Accumulated amortization at start of year	(67,117)	(59,122)
Amortization charge for the year	(7,999)	(7,999)
Accumulated amortization at end of year	(75,116)	(67,121)
At end of year	194,085	202,080
b) Right-of-use assets- office and branch premises		
At start of year	250,180	225,796
Modifications	19,708	51,515
Amortisation charge for the year (Note 9(a))	(27,433)	(27,131)
At end of year	242,455	250,180
Total	436,540	452,260

The Bank leases various office buildings in the normal course of business. The leases for buildings are typically for a period of between 5 and 6 years, with option to renew at the end of the term. None of these leases contains any restrictions or covenants other than the protective rights of the lessor or carries a residual value guarantee.

20 Intangible assets – Group and Bank

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Cost at start of year	33,542	33,542
Additions	5,104	-
At end of year	38,646	33,542
Accumulated amortisation charge at start of year	(29,174)	(26,652)
Amortisation charge for the year (Note 9)	(2,164)	2,522)
At end of year	(31,338)	(29,174)
Net book value at end of year	7,308	4,368

Capital work in progress	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
At 1 January	24,917	24,917
At 31 December	24,917	24,917
At end of year	32,225	29,285

21 Investment in subsidiaries – Bank

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
The First National Finance Bank Limited- 100%	104,375	104,375
Guilders International Bank Limited – 100%	196,000	196,000
	300,375	300,375
Balances due to related companies		
The First National Finance Bank Limited	156,245	156,245
Guilders International Bank Limited	208,547	208,547
	364,792	364,792

22 Deposits from customers – Group and Bank

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Current accounts and demand deposits	2,552,389	2,572,182
Savings and transaction accounts	1,395,242	1,421,327
Fixed deposit accounts	7,808,740	7,867,137
Other deposits	16,740	15,201
	11,773,111	11,875,847

The weighted average effective interest rate on interest bearing customer deposits at 31 December 2023 was of 6.20 % (2022: 5.40%).

23 Other liabilities and accrued expenses – Group and Bank

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Bills payable	15,005	16,866
Outstanding banker's drafts	13,238	10,450
Accrued leave	7,267	7,627
Gratuity	-	58,662
Other accruals and liabilities	156,368	117,615
	191,8788	211,220

24 Lease liabilities – Group and Bank

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
At start of year	308,143	272,708
Modifications	19,708	51,515
Interest charge for the year (Note 5(b))	32,103	32,017
Rent payments in the year (net of vat)	(49,524)	(48,097)
At end of year	310,430	308,143

25 Share capital – Group and Bank

	Number of ordinary Shares	Ordinary shares Shs'000
Balances at 31 December 2022, 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023	22,518,750	450,375

The total authorised number of ordinary shares is 25,000,000 with a par value of Shs 20 per share. Only 22,518,750 issued shares are fully paid.

26 Regulatory reserve – Group and Bank

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
At start of year	277,420	233,686
Transfer from retained earnings	109,246	43,734
At end of year	386,666	277,420

The regulatory reserve represents an appropriation from retained earnings to comply with the Central Bank of Kenya's Prudential Guidelines. The balance in the reserve represents the excess of impairment provisions determined in accordance with the prudential guidelines over the IFRS impairment provisions. The reserve is non-distributable.

27 Off balance sheet financial instruments, contingent liabilities and commitments – Group and Bank

In the ordinary course of business, the Bank conducts business involving acceptances, guarantees, performance bonds and indemnities. The majority of these facilities are offset by corresponding obligations of third parties. In addition, there are other off-balance sheet financial instruments including forward contracts for the purchase and sale of foreign currencies, whose nominal amounts are not reflected in the balance sheet.

Contingent liabilities	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Acceptances and letters of credit	350,601	165,853
Guarantee and performance bonds	828,270	581,747
Currency bought & sold	-	52,506
	1,178,871	800,106

An acceptance is an undertaking by a Bank to pay a bill of exchange drawn on a customer. The Bank expects most acceptances to be presented, and reimbursement by the customer is normally immediate. Letters of credit commit the Bank to make payments to third parties, on production of documents, which are subsequently reimbursed by customers.

Guarantees are generally written by a Bank to support performance by a customer to third parties. The Bank will only be required to meet these obligations in the event of the customer's default.

Commitments	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Undrawn formal stand-by facilities, credit lines and other commitments to lend	1,151,282	1,202,273

Nature of commitments

Commitments to lend are agreements to lend to a customer in future subject to certain conditions. Such commitments are normally made for a fixed period. The Bank may withdraw from its contractual obligation for the undrawn portion of agreed overdraft limits by giving reasonable notice to the customer.

Foreign exchange forward contracts are agreements to buy or sell a specified quantity of foreign currency, usually on a specified future date at an agreed rate.

28 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents as shown in the cash flow statement

Group and Bank	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000	Change in the year Shs'000
Balances with Central Bank of Kenya	3,251,679	777,642	2,474,037
Cash on hand	136,739	108,111	28,628
Placements with other banks	241,977	1,139,788	(897,811)
Treasury bills maturing with a tenor of less than 90 days	1,149,770	1,701,220	(551,450)
	4,780,165	3,726,761	1,053,404

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Cash and balances with Central Bank of Kenya (Note 12)	3,881,680	1,385,476
Deposits and balances due from banking institutions (Note 14)	241,977	1,139,788
Less: cash reserve requirement	(493,262)	(499,723)
	3,630,395	2,025,541

For the purposes of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents comprise balances with a tenor of 90 days: cash and balances with Central Bank of Kenya, deposits and balances due from or to banking institutions, treasury bills and other eligible bills. Cash and cash equivalents exclude the cash reserve requirement held with the Central Bank of Kenya.

Banks are required to maintain a prescribed minimum average cash balance with the Central Bank of Kenya that is not available to finance the Bank's day-to-day activities. At year end, the amount was determined as 4.25% (2022: 4.25%) of the average outstanding customer deposits over a cash reserve cycle period of one month.

29 Related party disclosures – Group and Bank

In the normal course of business, the Group and Bank issues / operates loans, advances and other facilities, current accounts and placements of foreign currencies with entities connected to some of the Group's and Bank's directors and/ or shareholders as follows:

(i) Loans and advances to related parties

Advances to customers include loans to directors, loans to companies connected to directors or their families and loans to employees as follows;

Advances to Bank employees	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
At start of year	17,520	17,929
Advances during the year	5,032	7,643
Repayments during the year	(9,552)	(8,052)
At end of year	13,000	17,520
Advances to directors, shareholders and associates at end of year	40,254	69,707
Interest income earned on advances to employees, directors or entities controlled by directors	6,750	6,749

(ii) Guarantees to directors of the Bank (and their families) and companies controlled by directors:

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
At start of year	69,873	39,723
Issues	0	40,692
Retirement	(20,350)	(10,542)
At end of year	49,523	69,873

(iii) Deposits from related parties

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
The aggregate amount of deposits made by staff and directors or entities controlled by directors	8,425,235	7,915,919
The aggregate amount of deposits withdrawn by staff and directors or entities controlled by directors`	8,604,844	7,785,743
Interest expense paid on deposits by directors or entities connected to directors	76,847	85,611

(iv) Key management compensation

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Salaries and other short-term employment benefits	58,106	40,470

(v) Directors' remuneration

	2023 Shs'000	2022 Shs'000
Fees and other emoluments - as directors	20,685	18,987
- as employees	33,838	30,769

Directors' remuneration is determined by the Bank's Board. To attract and retain directors, the Bank has a structure that is competitive in the industry and that is within the Bank's ability to pay.

30 Other contingencies – Group and Bank

In the ordinary course of business, the bank and its subsidiaries are defendants in various litigation and claims. Although there can be no assurances, the directors believe, based on the information currently available and legal advice, that the claims can be successfully defended and therefore no provision has been made in the financial statements.

There are no material events after the reporting date which require to be disclosed.

31 Events after reporting period – Group and Bank

There have been no events after the reporting date that require adjustment to, or disclosure in, these financial statements.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Ms. Lorraine Carneiro for her stunning wildlife photography that has enriched this publication. Through her lens, the captivating images of Kenya's iconic Big Five and other mesmerizing wildlife, vividly captured, serve as powerful reminders of the importance of conservation efforts, inspiring us all to cherish and preserve these precious treasures for generations to come.





Your Preferred Bank

Head Office

Guardian Centre, Biashara Street
P. O. Box: 67681 – 00200, Nairobi
Landline: 020 8693300 | Mobile: 0703 005000
headoffice@guardian-bank.com

Biashara Street Branch

Guardian Centre, Biashara Street
P. O. Box: 67437 – 00200, Nairobi
Landline: 020 8693300 | Mobile: 0703 005000
biashara@guardian-bank.com

Mombasa Road Branch

Tulip House, Ground Floor, Mombasa Road
P. O. Box: 42062 – 00100, Nairobi
Landline: 020 8693300 | Mobile: 0703 005000
msaroad@guardian-bank.com

Westlands Branch

Brick Court Hse, Mpaka Road
P. O. Box: 66568 – 00800, Nairobi
Landline: 020 8693300 | Mobile: 0703 005000
westlands@guardian-bank.com

Ngong Road Branch

The Greenhouse, Ground floor, Ngong Road,
P. O. Box No. 9822 – 00200, Nairobi.
Landline: 020 8693300 | Mobile: 0703 005000
ngongrd@guardian-bank.com

Eldoret Branch

Biharilal House, Uganda Road
P. O. Box: 7685 – 30100, Eldoret
Landline: 020 8693300 | Mobile: 0703 005000
eldoret@guardian-bank.com

Kisumu Branch

Amalo Plaza, Ground Floor, Oginga Odinga Rd., Central Square
P. O. Box: 2816 – 40100, Kisumu
Landline: 020 8693300 | Mobile: 0703 005000
kisumu@guardian-bank.com

Nakuru Branch

Parana House, Ground Floor, Kenyatta Avenue
P. O. Box 18633 – 20100, Nakuru
Landline: 020 8693300 | Mobile: 0703 005000
nakuru@guardian-bank.com

Mombasa Branch

Oriental Building, Nkrumah Rd
P. O. Box: 40619 – 80100, Mombasa
Landline: 020 8693300 | Mobile: 0703 005000
mombasa@guardian-bank.com

Nyali Branch

Links Plaza, Ground floor, Links Road,
P. O. Box No. 34375 – 80118, Nyali
Landline: 020 8693300 | Mobile: 0703 005000
nyali@guardian-bank.com