

## **Summary**

Inflation Rate (As at September, 2021) 16.63%

2021 Quarter Two (Q2) GDP Growth Rate 5.01%

Exch. Rate (USD) (NAFEX as at Friday, November 05, 2021) ₦414.13

Exch. Rate (USD) (Black market as at Friday, November 05, 2021) ₦570

Monetary Policy Rate, MPR (As at Friday, November 05, 2021) 11.5%

Crude Oil Price in USD (As at Friday, November 05, 2021) \$81.16

## **CBN Reports N56.83 million worth of counterfeit notes in 2020**

The Currency Operations department of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in its 2020 annual report revealed that a total of 67,265 pieces of counterfeit notes with a nominal value of N56.83million was confiscated in 2020, indicating a 20.80 per cent decrease in volume and 12.18per cent decrease in value, compared with 84,934 pieces valued at N64.71 million in 2019. According to the report, the ratio of counterfeit notes to volume of banknotes in circulation was 13 pieces per million in 2020, compared to 20 pieces per million banknotes in 2019 with N1000 and N500 denominations constituting the most counterfeited, accounting for 69.06% and 30.79% of the total counterfeit notes in 2020 respectively.

## **Cryptocurrency Watch: Squid Game Token Crash**

A Squid Game token going by the ticker, 'SQUID', which was inspired by the popular Netflix hit series 'SQUID GAME', surged to more than 230,000% in the past week to trade as high as \$2,861.80 per coin. According to coinmarketcap, the coin lost its entire market capitalization as the token traded less than half a cent. Binance, one of the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange by trading volume is investigating the SQUID token crash and considers it a scam. According to Binance, the Binance Smart Chain-based gaming token is suspected to be a rug pull as token holders were unable to sell their tokens after they purchased it. Binance is exploring options to assist those who bought the token and lost out in the crash. It is reportedly blacklisting addresses affiliated with the developers and using blockchain analytics to identify bad actors. It hopes to recover lost funds, although this seems a relatively remote possibility.

## **POS Transactions in Nigeria Drops despite Rise in Deployed Terminals**

Point of Sale transactions in Nigeria dropped marginally by 0.74% to N552.26 billion in October 2021 compared to N556.36 billion recorded in the previous month and rose by 19.81% compared to N460.95 billion recorded in the corresponding period of 2020. This is according

to recent data released by the Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System (NIBSS). The value of POS transactions dropped despite a 33.6% increase in the volume of transactions to 91.39 million from 87.71 million recorded in September 2021 and an the increase in the number of POS terminals deployed in October by 7.6% month-on-month to 764,589.

## **FX**

The Naira depreciated against the US dollar to close at N415.1/\$1 on Thursday 4th November 2021, representing a 0.07% decline compared to N414.8/\$1 recorded at the close of trading activities on Wednesday. On the other hand, according to information obtained by Nairametrics from Bureaux De Change (BDC) operators in Lagos, the naira remained flat against the US dollar at the parallel market on Thursday to close at N570/\$1, the same as recorded at the close of trading activities on Wednesday, 3rd November 2021. Nigeria's foreign reserve on its path continued on a decline on Wednesday with a 0.05% drop to close at \$41.76 billion on 3rd November 2021 representing a \$19.32 million decline compared to \$41.78 billion recorded as of Tuesday, 2nd November 2021.