

FEATURE
BENSO OIL PALM PLANTATION LIMITED (BOPP)

Benso Oil Palm Plantation Limited was incorporated in January 1976 as a joint venture between UAC International (now Unilever Plc) and the Government of Ghana. In 2004, the Government of Ghana, through an Initial Public Offer divested its holdings in the company and BOPP subsequently listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange. On the other hand, Unilever Ghana Limited took over the 58.45% equity interest that Unilever Plc held. In 2012, Asian agribusiness giant, Wilmar International, through its African subsidiary, Wilmar Africa Limited acquired 77.97% of the entire issued shares of BOPP, making the company the majority and controlling shareholder of BOPP.

The authorized business of BOPP includes growing of oil palm and other agricultural products, processing of oil palm fruits to produce palm oil and palm kernels and dealing and trading in palm oil, palm kernels and other agricultural products. Although the company is authorized to deal in other agricultural products, its main activities currently relate to oil palm only.

In relation to the financial performance, BOPP has performed satisfactory over the years despite dips in its financial indicators. In the last five years, the company has recorded a growth of about 211.39% in Revenue from GH¢13.12 million in 2007 to GH¢40.84 million in 2012. Likewise, Net Profit climbed from GH¢0.75 million in 2007 to end 2012 at GH¢13.41 million signifying a 1,699.46% appreciation during the same period and an average growth of 339.89% per year.

For the 2013 operational year, the performance of BOPP was less impressive compared with that of the immediate past year. Financial statements released for the period under review showed Total Revenue of GH¢35.43 million representing a 13.23% decline in comparison with the 2012 top line indicator of GH¢40.84 million. On the other hand, Cost of Sales and Administrative Expenses for the year went up by 9.38% and 11.78% respectively. This together with an increase of 43.22% in Other Income and net gains of 42.00% from changes in fair value of the biological assets led the company's Operating Profit to GH¢4.83 million. Compared to the Operating Profit of GH¢12.48 million in 2012, this signifies a 61.27% decline. In the end, BOPP's Net profit stood at GH¢5.81 after deducting income tax of GH¢0.32 million and incorporating Finance income of GH¢1.30 million. Consequently, the company's Earnings per Share (EPS) moved from its 2012 year end position of GH¢0.3852 to close 2013 at GH¢0.2225. According to BOPP, the decline in financial performance is partly attributed to a drop of 19.19% in the company's matured hectares due to an accelerated replanting program. It however points out that the year under review saw an improved yield per hectare. This improved yield together with expectations of stable prices of crude palm oil on the world market in 2004 is anticipated to lead to a better year in 2014.

On the Ghana Stock Exchange, BOPP has enjoyed a laudable price trend since its listing in August 2004. Amidst several fluctuations, the stock rose gradually from its initial listing price of GH¢0.56 to hit a high of GH¢1.30 in July 2008 before witnessing a free-fall which saw BOPP end the year 2009 at GH¢0.48. Thereafter, BOPP's price has picked up steadily despite occasional declines. In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the stock recorded year-to-date

appreciations of 56.25%, 46.67% and 27.27% respectively and in 2013, further increases occurred with BOPP hitting its all-time high of GH¢3.85 on 27th August, 2013. The stock's price however fell by GH¢0.64 to end 2013 at GH¢3.21. As at Friday, 31st January 2014, BOPP's price had moved up by GH¢0.04 to trade at GH¢3.25.

Income Statement

(All figures are stated in thousands of Dalasi)

	2010	2011	2012	2013*
Revenue	19,366	34,797	40,839	35,438
Operating Profit	2,375	9,267	12,480	4,833
Net Profit	2,668	9,585	13,406	5,806

Balance Sheet Summary

(All figures are stated in thousands of Dalasi)

	2010	2011	2012	2013*
Total Assets	23,884	31,513	43,261	45,925
Total Liabilities	2,071	1,983	2,726	2,264
Total Equity	21,813	29,530	40,535	43,661

**Un-audited financial statements*

Ratios/Statistics

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Profit Margin (%)	13.78	27.55	32.83	16.38
Return on Assets (%)	11.17	30.42	30.99	12.64
Return on Equity (%)	12.23	32.46	33.07	13.30
Earnings Per Share (Bututs)	0.0767	0.2754	0.3852	0.2225
Dividend Per Share (Bututs)	0.0537	0.0690	0.077	
Net Assets Per Share (Bututs)	0.6268	0.8486	1.1648	1.2546
Share price				
High (GH¢)	0.82	1.10	1.78	3.85
Low (GH¢)	0.48	0.75	1.10	1.40
Close (GH¢)	0.75	1.10	1.40	3.21

Investor Ratios

	2012	2013
Price to Book Value	1.20	2.56
Price Revenue Ratio	1.19	3.15
Price Earnings Ratio	3.63	14.43
Dividend Yield (%)	0.06	
Year-to-date Return (%)*	27.27	129.29


Price Information

Year	Week	Current	Weekly	Weekly	Year To
Opening	Opening	Price	Change	Change	Date
Price	Price		(GHS)	(%)	(%)
(GH¢)	(GH¢)	(GH)			
01.01.14	27.01.14	31.01.14			
0.2668	0.2720	0.2764	0.0044 ▲	1.62 ▲	3.60 ▲

GHANA STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS

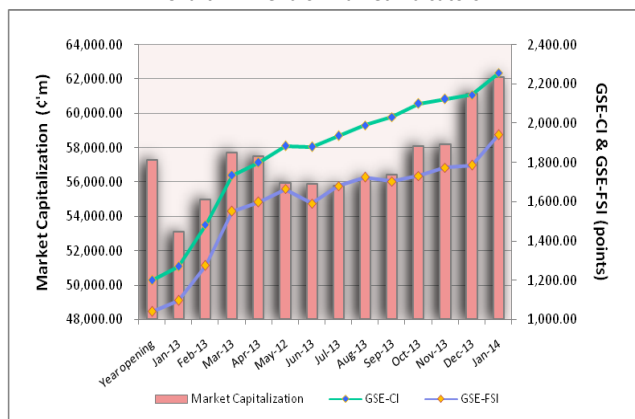
On the Ghanaian bourse this week, 8,249,233 shares were exchanged for a total consideration of GH¢4,396,980.13 compared to last week's 1,960,344 shares valued at GH¢2,513,502.71. Produce Buying Company accounted for about 84% of total trade to emerge the most active equity while Tullow Oil Ghana Limited traded only 8 shares to be the least traded equity for the period.

Activity on the market moved the GSE Composite Index (GSE-Cl) to 2,255.52 points from a week opening position of 2,218.23 points, representing a 37.29 points increase. This corresponds with a year-to-date return of 5.14%. The GSE Financial Stocks Index (GSE-FSI) also went up by 48.57 points to a week closing position of 1,940.23 points, corresponding with a year-to-date return of 8.60%.

Capitalization of the stock market subsequently stood at GH¢62,128.77 million as at Friday, 31st January, 2014.

The graph below shows the trend in the GSE Composite Index, GSE Financial Stocks Index and Market capitalization from January 2013 to January 2014.

Chart 1 – Trend of Market Indicators



MONEY MARKET NEWS

Cedi Depreciates Further

The Ghana Cedi recorded further depreciations against the major trading currencies on the foreign exchange market during the week.

The local currency depreciated by 3.56% alone this week against the US Dollar, bringing its year-to-date depreciation against the Dollar to 10.92%. The Cedi also depreciated against the British Pound, the Euro, the South African Rand and the Japanese Yen by 3.00%, 3.46%, 0.96%, and 5.18% respectively. This led the local currency's year-to-date depreciation against the respective currencies to 10.63%, 8.78%, 4.10% and 13.35%.

The following table gives a summary of the interbank rates for the week under review.

Table 1 – Summary of Interbank Rates

	Buying		Selling	
	24.01.14	31.01.14	24.01.14	31.01.14
US Dollar	2.3138	2.3950	2.3163	2.4000
Pound	3.8347	3.9479	3.8397	3.9566
Euro	3.1385	3.2453	3.1409	3.2511
Rand	0.2125	0.2146	0.2128	0.2148
Yen	0.0222	0.0233	0.0222	0.0234

Source: Ghana Association of Bankers

Yields

Yields on government-backed securities moved in different directions during the week under review, For the 91 and 182 day Treasury bills, increases of 0.0206% and 0.0101% were recorded on the respective securities. The 1-Year Note on the other hand remained at 17.00% while yield on the 2-Year Fixed Rate Note declined by 0.50% to end the week at 16.00%.

Total tenders received last week amounted to GH632.56 million for short term securities out of which GH631.48 million were sold. For the medium term securities, the 0.41 million tendered in were all sold.

This week, Government is targeting GH¢612.00 million from the sale of both short and medium term securities.

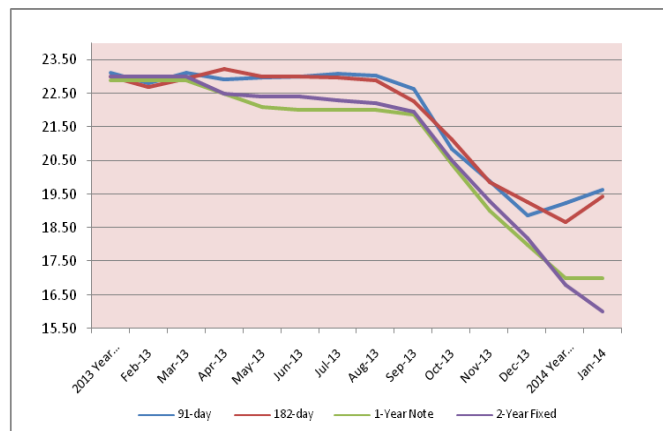
The table below shows the rates for the week under review alongside that of the previous week while the chart displays the trend of the yields from January 2013 to January 2014.

Table 2 – Prevailing Interest Rates

Interest Rates (for Weeks Beginning)			
	20.01.14 (% p.a.)	27.01.14 (% p.a.)	Year-to-date change (%)
91 Day	19.5975	19.6181	0.0206▲
182 Day	19.4266	19.4367	0.0101▲
1-Year Note	17.0000	17.0000	-
2-Year Fixed Rate Note	16.5000	16.0000	0.5000▼

Source: Bank of Ghana

Chart 2 – Trend of Yields on Money Market Securities



RELEVANT CORPORATE NEWS

ETI – RESIGNATION OF A DIRECTOR

Ecobank Transnational Incorporated (ETI) has announced the resignation of Mr. Paulo Gomes as a Non-Executive Director of the Board with effect from 22 January 2014.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. André Siaka, Interim Chairman of the ETI's Board thanked Mr. Gomes for his valuable contributions over the years and for what he had brought to the Board. He also wished him well in his future endeavours.

Mr. Gomes joined the Board of ETI in 2006. Prior to that, he was an Executive Director of the World Bank Group in Washington D.C. from 1998 to 2006. From 1995 to 1998, Paulo Gomes worked for the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Trade of Guinea-Bissau, where he was Principal Adviser, Director of Strategic Planning, Public Investment and Debt. Mr. Paulo Gomes is the Founder and Manager of Constelor Holdings and Chairman of AFIG Fund. He holds a Certificate in Political Studies (Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris), a Bachelor in Economics and International Trade (Institut d'Etudes Libres de Relations Internationales, Paris) and Masters in Economic Policy and Management from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard (USA).

GSE Press Release: 010/2014

COMPANIES THAT DECLARED FINAL DIVIDENDS IN 2012

Company	Final Dividend Per Share	Qualifying date	Book Closure	Payment Date
AYRTN	GHC0.00125	Jun 25	Jun 26 - 27	Aug 8
AADS	GHC0.0009			Apr 2
AGA	GHC0.0900			Apr 2
BOPP	GHC0.0770	Apr 23	April 24 - 26	May 10
CAL	GHC0.035	Mar 22	Mar 25 - 26	Apr 30
CMLT	GHC0.0060	Jun 26	Jun 27	Aug 30
EBG	GHC0.29	Apr 10	Apr 11 - 18	May 10
EGL	GHC0.016	May 17	May 20 - 22	Jun 28
ETI	0.4 US cents	Jul 5	Jul 5	Jul 19
FML	GHC0.06	Apr 19	April 22 - 24	May 8
GCB	GHC0.14	May 31	Jun 3 - 7	Jun 28
GOIL	GHC0.015	Aug 15	Aug 16	Aug 30
MLC	GHC0.015	Jun 25	June 26 - 28	July 19
PBC	GHC0.0062	Mar 15	March 18 - 22	May 7
PZ	GHC0.0046	Sept 23	Sept 24 - 27	Oct 14
SCB	GHC0.47	May 17	May 20 - 21	Jun 28
SOGECH	GHC0.04	Mar 22	Mar 25 - 26	May 15
SPL	GHC0.0022	Sept 26	Sept 27	Oct 8
TBL	20 Butus	Apr 18	Apr 19	Apr 30
TOTAL	GHC0.69	Jul 18	Jul 19 - 24	Jul 26
UNIL	GHC0.2560	Apr 10	April 11 - 24	May 24
UTB	GHC0.02	Apr 12	Apr 15 - 17	May 31

COMPANIES THAT HAVE DECLARED INTERIM DIVIDENDS FOR 2013

Company	Final Dividend Per Share	Qualifying date	Book Closure	Payment Date
EGL	GHC0.020	Oct 1	Oct 2 - 3	Nov 4
TOTAL	GHC0.0771	Dec 18	Dec 19 - 20	Dec 24

Listed Equities	% of Market Capitalization	Week Opening Price (GH¢)	Week Closing Price (GH¢)	Price Change (GH¢)	Weekly Return (%)	Year-to-Date Return (%)	P/E Ratio	Dividend Yield (%)	Return on Assets (%)	Price/Book Value	Price/Revenue
	31.01.14	24.01.14	31.01.14		31.01.14	31.01.14	31.01.14	31.01.14	31.12.12	31.01.14	31.01.14
ACI	0.004	0.06	0.06	-	-	-	-	-	-11.48	0.37	0.49
AGA	23.90	37.00	37.00	-	-	-	-	0.24	-19.21	2.07	1.67
ALW	0.02	0.05	0.05	-	-	-	-	-	-2.66	0.10	0.06
AYRTN	0.06	0.17	0.17	-	-	-	19	0.74	4.94	1.79	3.08
BOPP	0.18	3.19	3.25	0.06 ▲	1.88	1.25	19	2.37	10.29	2.66	3.99
CAL	0.88	1.00	1.00	-	-	3.09	6	3.50	34.67	0.95	1.00
CLYD	0.002	0.04	0.04	-	-	-	8	-	1.10	0.02	0.002
CMLT	0.002	0.16	0.16	-	-	-	9	3.75	2.54	0.63	0.36
CPC	0.07	0.02	0.02	-	-	-	-	-	-2.68	-7.77	0.66
EBG	3.01	6.06	6.38	0.32 ▲	5.28	13.73	11	4.55	3.20	2.94	3.02
EGL	0.41	1.93	1.97	0.04 ▲	2.07	4.79	5	0.81	7.91	0.42	0.68
ETI	5.91	0.23	0.23	-	-	21.05	6	-	1.16	0.63	0.76
FML	1.29	6.80	6.89	0.09 ▲	1.32	4.08	37	0.87	18.86	11.20	8.04
GCB	2.14	5.02	5.02	-	-	3.51	7	2.79	4.16	3.50	2.79
GGBL	2.11	6.20	6.20	-	-	-	-	-	9.59	6.11	4.17
GOIL	0.36	0.89	0.89	-	-	-	16	1.69	5.52	3.20	0.03
GSR	1.13	2.75	2.75	-	-	-	-	-	1.09	0.01	0.03
GWEB	0.002	0.04	0.04	-	-	-	-	-	2.25	-0.60	2.48
HFC	0.45	0.94	0.94	-	-	-2.08	8	-	2.26	0.85	1.81
MLC	0.03	0.33	0.35	0.02 ▲	6.06	-7.89	10	4.29	1.66	0.16	0.25
PKL	0.003	0.06	0.06	-	-	-	-	-	-35.20	-1.47	1.70
PBC	0.13	0.17	0.17	-	-	-	6	3.65	0.92	1.48	0.21
PZ	0.18	0.69	0.68	0.01 ▼	-1.45	-13.92	-	-	11.44	2.96	1.21
SCB	3.04	15.63	16.36	0.73 ▲	4.67	9.50	10	2.87	4.14	0.74	0.80
SIC	0.12	0.39	0.39	-	-	-	17	-	1.09	1.07	0.90
SPL	0.005	0.04	0.04	-	-	-	7	-	6.14	1.04	0.64
SOGEGH	0.41	0.76	0.77	0.01 ▲	1.32	2.67	7	5.19	2.40	1.39	1.94
SWL	0.001	0.03	0.03	-	-	-	12	-	7.65	1.00	0.19
TBL	0.10	0.30	0.30	-	-	-14.29	7	-	2.11	2.19	0.01
TOTAL	0.91	5.03	5.03	-	-	-0.59	14	13.72	8.16	0.68	0.07
TRANSOL	0.004	0.03	0.03	-	-	-	16	-	11.50	-0.70	13.71
TLW	50.87	34.85	34.85	-	-	-0.37	27	-	7.10	5.92	13.44
UNIL	1.82	18.10	18.10	-	-	-1.15	47	1.41	12.68	33.26	4.84
UTB	0.33	0.44	0.45	0.01 ▲	2.27	-	10	4.44	0.54	0.99	2.37
Depository Shares											
AADS	0.08	0.52	0.52	-	-	-	-	0.17	-	-	-
Preference Shares											
SCB-PREF	0.01	0.52	0.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ETF											
GLD	0.02	26.13	26.13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Key ABL—Accra Brewery Ltd, ACI—African Champion Industries, AGA—AngloGold Ashanti Ltd, ALW—Aluworks Ltd, AYRTN—Ayrton Drug Manufacturing Ltd, BOPP—Benso Oil Palm Plantation Ltd, CAL—CAL Bank Ltd, CFAO—CFAO Ghana Ltd, CLYD—Clydestone Ghana Ltd, CMLT—Camelot Ghana Ltd, CPC—Cocoa Processing Company Ltd, EBG—Ecobank Ghana Ltd, EGL—Enterprise Group Ltd, ETI—Ecobank Transnational Incorporated, FML—Fan Milk Ltd, GCB—Ghana Commercial Bank Ltd, GGBL—Guinness Ghana Breweries Ltd, GOIL—Ghana Oil Company Ltd, GSR—Gold Star Resources Ltd, GWEB—Golden Web Ltd, HFC—HFC Bank Ltd, MLC—Mechanical Lloyd Company Ltd, PKL—Pioneer Kitchenware Ltd, PBC—Produce Buying Company Ltd, PZ—PZ Cussons Ghana Company Ltd, SCB—Standard Chartered Bank Ltd, SIC—SIC Insurance Company Ltd, SPL—Starwin Products Ltd, SOGEGH—Societe Generale Ghana Ltd, SWL—Sam Woode Ltd, TBL—Trust Bank (The Gambia) Ltd, TOTAL—Total Petroleum Ghana Ltd, TRANSOL—Transaction Solutions Ghana Ltd, UNIL—Unilever Ghana Ltd, UTB—UT Bank Ltd, AADS—AngloGold Ashanti Depository Shares, SCB-PREF—Standard Chartered Bank Preference Shares, ETF—Exchange Traded Fund, GLD—New Gold

■ As at September 2013 ■ As at June 2013 ■ As at May 2013 ■ As at March 2013 ■ As at December 2012 ■ As at September 2012 ■ As at September 2012 ▲ Price Gainers ▼ Price Decliners