

# Stanbic Launches USD Unit Trust Fund, Expands Investment Options for Ugandan Investors



The SBG Securities team led by the Chief Executive Grace Semakula(left). Right is Stanbic Bank's Country Manager for Communication and Reputation, Kenneth Agutamba



SBG Securities Chief Executive Grace Semakula and Investment Manager Salima Asha Katamba launching the USD Fixed Income Fund at Crested Towers

**SBG Securities Uganda** has officially launched a USD Fixed Income Unit Trust Fund, marking a significant milestone in the evolution of Uganda's investment landscape and broadening opportunities for investors seeking diversified, dollar-denominated assets.

The launch, held at the Stanbic main branch, signals a strategic expansion by the firm, which operates under Standard Bank Group, to offer multi-currency investment solutions tailored to the changing needs of investors in a volatile global environment. The new fund complements the company's existing Uganda Shilling (UGX) unit trust, giving clients the option to invest in either local or foreign currency instruments. This dual offering is expected to enhance portfolio flexibility and attract a wider pool of investors ranging from individuals and SMEs to institutional players.

Speaking at the launch recently, Grace Ssemakula, Chief Executive of SBG Securities Uganda, described the USD fund as a timely and strategic addition to the market.

"The Uganda Shilling remains a strong and important foundation for local investment. However, in today's dynamic global environment, it is increasingly important for investors to diversify thoughtfully," he said.

"Our USD Fixed Income Unit Trust Fund complements our UGX offering by giving clients flexibility as they navigate their different investment needs."

The introduction of the USD fund comes against a backdrop of global economic

uncertainty, driven by geopolitical tensions and fluctuating energy prices, which continue to influence currency movements and investment returns. By offering a dollar-based investment vehicle, Stanbic is positioning investors to better manage currency risks while accessing stable income-generating assets.

The fund is structured to invest in high-quality fixed income instruments, allowing investors to earn returns in dollars while benefiting from professional fund management. It also offers a high degree of liquidity, enabling clients to subscribe and redeem their investments with relative ease.

Ssemakula noted that the launch is part of a broader strategy to deepen Uganda's capital markets and build a comprehensive suite of investment products.

"We are committed to building a robust, multi-product investment offering for our clients. Today, we are providing both UGX and USD options, and we will continue to innovate to meet the evolving needs of Ugandan investors," he said.

The move places Stanbic in competition with other asset managers such as Old Mutual and Sanlam, which have also introduced dollar-denominated unit trust products in the Ugandan market. However, Stanbic's integrated banking and investment platform is expected to provide a competitive edge in terms of accessibility and client reach. Clients can access the new USD fund alongside the UGX

option through Stanbic Bank Uganda branches, digital platforms, and SBG Securities offices nationwide, making it easier for investors across the country to participate.

According to Salima Asha Katamba, an Investment Manager, a unit trust essentially brings together different categories of investors with a shared objective of earning returns while spreading risk.

"The key beauty with this product is the flexibility that it has," Katamba said, noting that investors can add funds whenever they have surplus cash and redeem their investments at short notice. "We are working with timelines of returning funds within 24 hours to a registered account of the client's choice."

She added that unit trusts harness the power of compounding, with returns generated daily and reinvested to grow the portfolio over time. While returns are not fixed, the product remains secure, operating under the oversight of the Capital Markets Authority.

The launch further aligns with Stanbic's broader ambition of driving financial inclusion and supporting wealth creation by equipping investors with tools to navigate an increasingly complex financial environment. With the introduction of the USD Fixed Income Unit Trust Fund, Stanbic is not only expanding its product portfolio but also reinforcing its role as a key player in Uganda's investment ecosystem—offering investors new pathways to preserve value, manage risk, and grow wealth in both local and global contexts.