

SMART BUDGETING 101



Creating a solid and practical budget is a great way to take control of your money. If you have ever felt like your money finished before you even received it, welcome to class!

Our first lesson will be to **track expenses**: where exactly is the money going to? You can make a list that shows what you have spent money on in time past and you may just see that you really need to make some changes and FAST!

Create a plan

Allocate certain percentages of your income to address your needs, for example, 40% for necessities (food, housing, utilities, etc), 20% for discretionary spending, 20% for saving, 15% for pleasure and 5% for emergencies (unexpected expenses). While creating a plan, remember to prioritise needs over wants. Focus on essential expenses before spending on luxuries, set a savings goal for the year and keep at it because consistency is key. A great approach is to automate your savings by setting up automatic transfers to your savings account/portfolio ensuring that you save before spending.

Be your own judge

Now that you see that the *Odogwu* doings is a little above your income, you should scrutinise every expense. You must be honest with yourself on this one and make the bold step to cut the unnecessary spendings such as subscription services, entertainment, impulse purchases, dining out. Yes, occasional indulgence is fine, but dear *Achalugo*, it might be beneficial to cook more often!

By adopting the above strategies, you will discover that an extra portion of your income can be channelled to your savings and investments. What better way to utilise that extra fund than to secure your future with it. You can make additional voluntary contributions into your retirement savings account to enjoy benefits like potential reduction in taxable income, increase the amount of money you can access for equity contribution for a mortgage, competitive investment returns and many more. To find out how to get started, simply call us on **0700 0060 0700** or **0201 271 6000** today.

So *Odogwus* and *Achalugos*, we already know how this will end, every small step counts. From spending less on takeouts to setting aside even a tiny fraction of your income as VC, these habits compound over time to create financial stability. Stay committed and watch your savings—and peace of mind—grow steadily!

Smart shopping

Compare prices when buying, buy in bulk especially in our current reality where price changes too often, seek alternative brands that can offer same value as the premium brands.

Reduce utility costs

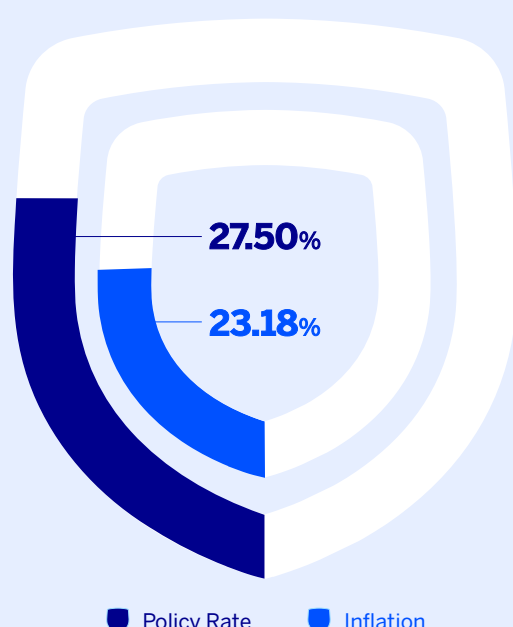
Conserve energy by switching off appliances when not in use, our Band A users can absolutely relate to this and consider energy-efficient alternatives.

Embrace side hustles

Seek and explore freelance opportunities, monetise your hobbies to supplement income. Multiple streams of income allow you grow your wealth faster.



Fund Performance for Q1 2025

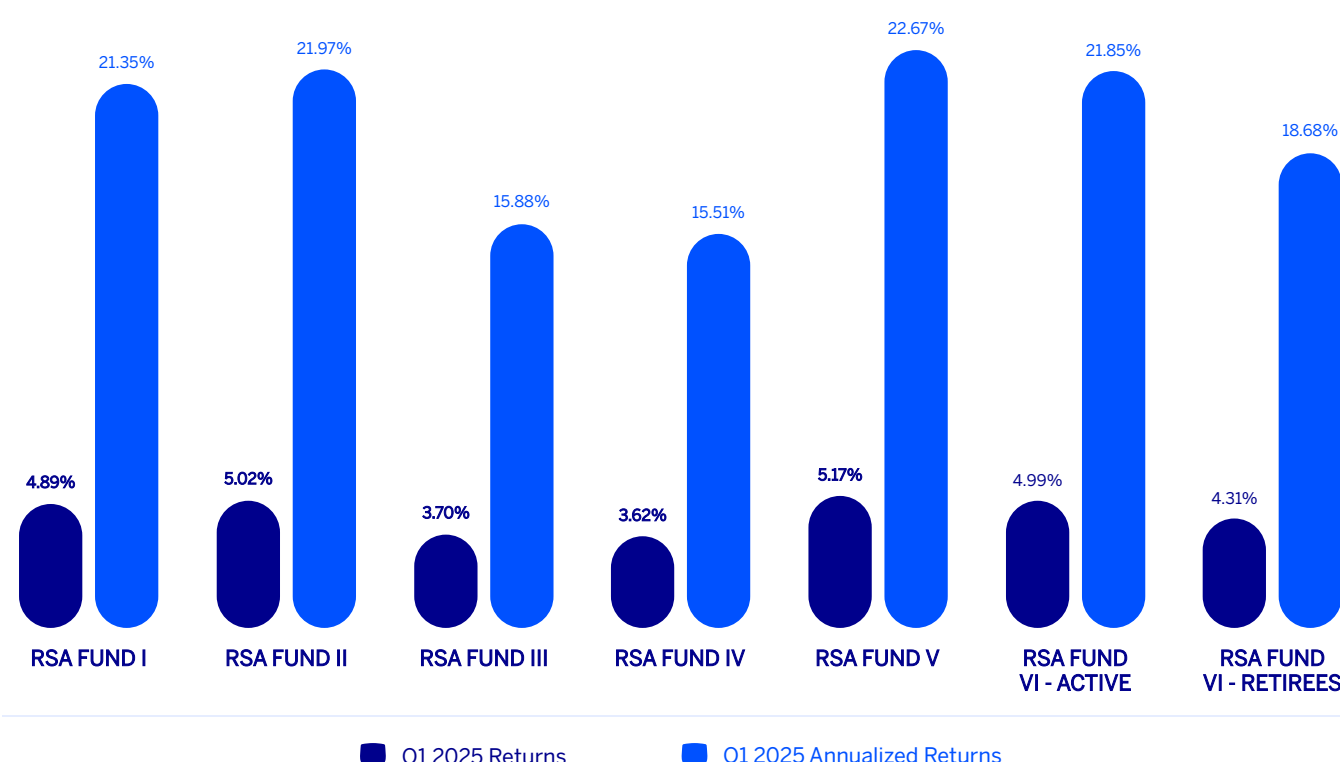


The global economy showed signs of resilience despite elevated geopolitical uncertainties and trade tensions as consumer spending drove growth in major economies like the US, China and the EU zone. Inflationary pressure however persisted in the first quarter of 2025, prompting central banks to maintain cautious monetary policies.

In the same vein, the Monetary Policy Committee (“MPC”) of the CBN held policy rate constant at 27.50% at its February MPC meeting. This is against the need to balance economic growth and curb inflation which touched 23.18% in February 2025. While volatility in global oil prices did not bode well for government revenue, the improvement in local production of the commodity has supported the build-up of the country's oil reserve, hence the observed stability in the currency.

Early indications of an improving macroeconomy drove a largely positive sentiment and investors' confidence in the first quarter of the year as the equity market posted a return of 2.66% while yields on fixed income assets also remained elevated. These factors underpinned a sturdy performance of funds under the management of Stanbic IBTC Pension Managers, hence the marked improvement in the returns on your contributions in Q1 2025 and our expectation for good performance through the year 2025 – please see as shown in the chart

YTD Returns Profile



*Returns are computed based on funds' unit prices for specified period

Disclaimer: The content of this document is historical, analytical, predictive, and forward-looking. It is based on assumptions about future events. While we consider these predictions and assumptions to be somewhat reasonable, they are inherently subject to significant business, economic, regulatory and market risks, contingencies, and uncertainties, most of which are difficult to predict and beyond our control. The content therefore is for information purposes, and does not constitute an offer, solicitation, recommendation, guarantee of investment return or an investment advice, nor does it constitute, expressly or impliedly, a suggestion either solely or in conjunction with any other information disclosed either verbally or in writing, a promise, warranty or guarantee on future outcomes, performance or expected returns. Therefore, the decision you make based on the presentation is solely at your discretion and the Fund Managers shall not take responsibility or be held liable for such decision. Please note that past performance is not necessarily an indication of future performance.