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PRESS RELEASE

|For Immediate Release|

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ACCESS BANK ANNOUNCES ITS EXPANSION TO BOTSWANA AT BSE OPENING BELL CEREMONY

Gaborone: Access Bank Plc., the largest retail bank in sub-Saharan Africa, made its first official announcement on its expansion into the Botswana market at the Opening Bell Ceremony of the Botswana Stock Exchange held on the 7th of October, 2021.

The Bank is set to officially expand its operations into Botswana, one of the world's fastest-growing economies, after completing the acquisition of over 78% stake of BancABC Botswana. This acquisition is in line with the Group's myriad of expansionary projects in line with its strategic plan to expand into African countries that represent the trade corridors on the continent.

Speaking on the acquisition during the Opening Bell Ceremony, the Governor of the Central Bank of Botswana, Mr Moses Pelaelo, expressed his satisfaction at Access Bank's entry into Botswana.

"It is important to appreciate that the coming into the market by the new entity, especially an internationally active banking group such as Access Bank Plc, requires a careful and extensive evaluation that involves several elements. These include evaluation of ownership and governance structures, scales of operations, financial strength and performance, strategic intent, market and developmental business impact, and integrity issues as reflected in their overall performance direction. In this context, the supervisory parameters take a consolidated view of the banking group, not only to identify sources of financial conditions, reputation and overall safety and soundness of the financial system of Botswana. Critically, this evaluation also entails consultation confirmations and validation with the home supervisor, in this case, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), through which we also made adjustments. I can confirm definitively that in all these aspects, the assessments are positive, and this has led the Bank of Botswana board concluding that Access Bank met the licensing and credential requirements to be licensed as its own bank in Botswana."

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Also speaking at the ceremony, the Bank's Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Dr Herbert Wigwe, detailed the company's plans to achieve excellence in Botswana as well as expressed his excitement at the successful entry into the market. According to him, it is a step further in the Access Bank's strategic expansion plan to become Africa's Gateway to the World.

"One of the problems we see across the continent is the low level of financial deepening and financial inclusion, and so coming to Botswana, we will deploy our digital technology to ensure that we deepen the level of financial inclusion in Botswana. If we increase the level of financial deepening in this country, apart from having the strongest risk rating in the continent, perhaps we can also start to have an increase in Botswana's GDP. The second thing we'll focus on is our support for SMEs. We support SMEs in their growth because they are the fundamentals of growth in every economy, particularly in emerging economies like Botswana, Nigeria, etc. We will bring all our skills to the fore as we support SMEs in Botswana."

Continuing, he stated the organization's plan to pursue its support for women:

"Also, one of the things we are well known for across the world is how we support women. We've received awards in different parts of the world for the things we do to support female-owned businesses, aspiring female entrepreneurs, female professionals who chose to start a family and are looking to re-entry into business, etc. We have done it time and time again, and we are bringing a very established and broad network that Batswana can do their business across the continent. We will adhere to global standards as we have always done but more importantly, we want you to know that Access Bank is home for all people in Botswana."

Also present at the Opening Bell Ceremony were the Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Hon. Peggy Serame; High Commissioner of Nigeria to Botswana, Alhaja Wosilat Adedeji; Board Chairman of Botswana Stock Exchange, and some staff of Access Bank.

Access Bank is presently one of Africa's largest retail institutions in terms of assets, loans, deposits and branch network. It is a strong financial institution with A1 and A+ Credit Ratings by Moody's and Fitch respectively and is part of the World's 500 most valuable banking brands. With over 40 million customers, over 2,900 automated teller machines, 9.8million unique mobile and internet banking users, 49,417 point of sales terminals, 8 million USSD users, over 58,000 agents, and operations from 675 branches. The Bank has branches spread across the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Zambia, and the

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United Kingdom. The Bank also operates representative offices in China, United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, and India.

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About Access Bank

Access Bank Plc (NSE: ACCESS) is a leading full-service commercial bank operating through a network of more than 600 branches and service outlets, spanning three continents, 12 countries and over 40 million customers which is more than 82% of the population of African countries. The Bank employs 28,000 thousand people in its operations in Nigeria, Sub-Saharan Africa and the United Kingdom, with representative offices in China, Lebanon, India and the UAE. Listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange since 1998, Access Bank is a diversified financial institution which combines a strong retail customer franchise and digital platform with deep corporate banking expertise and proven risk management and capital management capabilities. The Bank services its various markets through five business segments: Personal, Business, Operations and IT, Commercial and Corporate & Investment Banking.

The Bank has over 800,000 shareholders, including several Nigerian and International Institutional Investors, and has enjoyed what is arguably Africa's most successful banking growth trajectory in the last 18 years. Following its merger with Diamond Bank in March 2019,

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Access Bank became one of Africa's largest retail banks. As part of its continued growth strategy, Access Bank is focused on mainstreaming sustainable business practices into its operations. The Bank strives to deliver sustainable economic growth that is profitable, environmentally responsible, and socially relevant, helping customers to access more and achieve their dreams.

Access Bank boasts of 3,080 ATMs, 49,086 POS, over 58,000 agents, 7.8mn USSD users and 675 branches. Over the last decade, we have grown to become a leading bank in Africa (# 15 rank) and we aspire to be a top 3 bank in each market we operate in.

In 2020, **Access Bank joined the list of top 500 most valuable banks in the world**, displacing 3 other Nigerian banks to become number 14 out of 19 African banks that made the list of 500 in 2020.

We have been able to garner the under listed awards over the years:

- Winner of the Int'l Finance Award 2020 for Best African Trade Finance Bank – **Access UK**
- Winner of the Capital Finance Int'l Award 2020 for Best Africa Trade Finance Bank – **Access UK**
- Winner, Project of the Year (Health) Sustainability and Social Investment Award – **Access Ghana**
- Winner of the 2020 Global Finance Awards – **Best Trade Finance Provider, Nigeria**
- Winner of IFC Global Trade Awards – **Best Issuing Bank Partner, Africa**
- Winner of the International Investors Awards – **Best Bank, Nigeria Sustainable Bank of the Year, Africa.**
- Winner of Leadership Newspaper Awards – **Bank of the Year**
- **African Banker of the Year – Herbert Wigwe**
- **Best Issuing Bank Partner, Africa** - IFC Global Trade Awards winner

As captured above Access Bank is clearly an industry leader and we intend to continue to blaze the trail and continue to contribute to causes we are passionate about. For further information, please visit <https://www.accessbankplc.com/>

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