

17 May 2019

BAT Kenya marks 50 years on the Nairobi Securities Exchange



The Kenya Stock Markets were today opened by the Managing Director of BAT Kenya Beverley Spencer-Obatoyinbo and Board Chairman George Maina, to celebrate the Company's 50th anniversary of being quoted on the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE).

BAT Kenya is the first company in the history of the NSE to commemorate its golden jubilee in this way. The Company has a rich and long history in Kenya dating back to 1907 when it started operations in the market, eventually being listed on the Nairobi Securities Exchange in 1969.



Speaking when she opened trading at the NSE this morning, BAT Kenya Managing Director Beverly Spencer-Obatoyinbo said:

"We are proud of our Kenyan heritage, which goes back over 100 years in this market. Our longevity and success would not have been possible without the efforts and dedication of our past and present employees, partners and stakeholders. Looking ahead, we remain committed to building a sustainable business through our 'Transforming Tobacco' ambition, delivering sustainable value to our shareholders, developing local talent and providing our customers with a future-fit brand portfolio."

BAT Kenya's commitment to Kenya over the last 111 years, and in particular over the last five decades, is clear for all to see. Our tobacco growing operations partner with over 5,000 contracted farmers and generate direct and indirect employment and business opportunities for more than 80,000 Kenyans.

As the Business has grown, the Company's operations have been underpinned by our sustainability agenda, which includes mitigation of the environmental impacts of our business. To date, we have planted over 50 million trees since 1978 (that's more than one tree for every Kenyan), and are exploring other initiatives to contribute to the development of the communities in which we operate, which will be unveiled in due course.



In addition, over the last five years the Company has also invested over Kshs. five billion in tobacco farming and processing including at the Green Leaf Threshing Plant in Thika and the cigarette manufacturing factory in Nairobi. This is currently being taken further with continued investment in the refurbishment of our Likoni Road factory offices and operations in general, signaling our commitment to the Government's "Big Four" Agenda.

As a strategic manufacturing hub for BAT's operations in East and Central Africa, BAT Kenya exports over 60% of its factory output to over 13 markets in the region. As such, the Company contributes significantly to the development of the Kenyan economy as a leading exporter and major foreign currency earner.

Certainly, the future is bright. With our eyes firmly set on leading the transformation of the tobacco industry, we look forward to yet another 50 years of building a sustainable business.

