

Monday, 03 December 2012

Standard Bank wins *Global Finance's* Best Forex Provider in Africa award

Latest accolade reaffirms group's leading position on the continent

Standard Bank, also trading as Stanbic Bank in selected African countries, has been awarded the prestigious *Global Finance* award for 2013 Best Foreign Exchange Provider in Africa.

Standard Bank was also named the Best Foreign Exchange Provider in four African countries, namely South Africa, Nigeria, Botswana and Zambia.

SJ Kok, Standard Bank's Head of Global Markets Sales in Africa, says the awards serve as recognition of Standard Bank's status as Africa's leader in the provision of foreign exchange services. He says Africa continues to be at the core of Standard Bank's growth strategy and to play a leading role in local market development on the continent.

"The *Global Finance* awards are further testament to Standard Bank's expertise in foreign exchange across Africa and demonstrates our commitment to the continent and international trading partners," says Mr Kok.

"Winning the awards is particularly significant because they reflect Standard Bank's success in investing in the development of on-the-ground banking capabilities in various African markets. Being successful in providing foreign exchange services requires so much more than an intention to expand into Africa. Standard Bank is delivering successfully because the bank has invested not only funds, but many years in steadily building our African presence and capabilities."

Standard Bank is not only the leading foreign exchange provider in its home market of South Africa with a 30% market share, it also has a network that spans 18 countries in Africa and 13 countries outside of Africa. The group has more than 1 000 branches on the African continent and is present in key global financial centers as London, New York and Hong Kong.

Standard Bank also has the ability to provide foreign exchange pricing in 40 of the 54 African countries and to provide foreign exchange settlement and capabilities in 22 other countries where it has no presence.

"Standard Bank's African roots and physical onshore presence enable a deeper understanding of local market dynamics and the various regulatory frameworks within which we operate. This also enables Standard Bank to provide local market solutions that differentiate our offering from others, as we leverage our trading capability in these markets," says Mr Kok.

"In the foreign exchange business, Standard Bank's risk appetite in Africa is a true differentiator," Mr Kok says.

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Notes to Editors

Standard Bank Group is the largest African bank by assets and earnings. Our strategy is to build the leading African financial services organisation using all our competitive advantages to the full. We will focus on delivering superior sustainable shareholder value by serving the needs of our customers through first-class, on-the-ground operations in chosen countries in Africa. We will also connect other selected emerging markets to Africa and to each other, applying our sector expertise, particularly in natural resources, globally. We operate in 18 countries on the African continent, including South Africa, and 12 countries outside Africa with an emerging market focus

Standard Bank has a 150 year history in South Africa and started building a franchise outside southern Africa in the early 1990s. In recent years, Standard Bank has concluded key acquisitions on the African continent in Kenya and Nigeria. Africa is at our core and we will continue to build first-class on-the-ground banks. The group has more than 1 200 branches on the African continent and representation in key global financial centres.

The group's 52 000 employees across all regions deliver a complete range of services across personal and business banking, corporate and investment banking and wealth management. Standard Bank's Corporate & Investment Banking division offers its clients banking, trading, investment, risk management and advisory services to connect selected emerging markets to Africa and to each other. It has specific global sectoral expertise, particularly in natural resources, with value propositions in: mining and metals; oil and gas; power and infrastructure; and telecoms and media.

Standard Bank Group had total assets of over R1 497-billion (about US\$185 billion) at 31 December 2011. Standard Bank's market capitalisation at 31 December 2011 was R157 billion (approximately \$19 billion)

The group's largest shareholder is Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), the world's largest bank, with a 20,1% shareholding. In addition, Standard Bank Group and ICBC share a strategic partnership that facilitates trade and deal flow between Africa, China and select emerging markets.

Standard Bank Plc in London is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority, and is a member of the London Stock Exchange, the London Bullion Market Association, the London Metal Exchange, the London Platinum and Palladium Market and the New York Mercantile Exchange (COMEX Division).

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