

**Atlas Mara Limited, ABC Holdings Limited and Access Bank Plc sign share purchase agreement for the acquisition of 78.15% stake in African Banking Corporation of Botswana Limited**

*Complementary transaction that combines Access Bank's wholesale finance capabilities with BancABC Botswana's strong retail banking operations*

Gaborone 19 April 2021 – Atlas Mara Limited (“Atlas Mara”), ABC Holdings Limited (“ABCH”) and Access Bank Plc (“Access Bank”) announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement regarding a proposed acquisition of 78.15% of the issued share capital of African Banking Corporation of Botswana Limited (“BancABC Botswana”) by Access Bank. The transaction is expected to conclude in the first half of 2021, subject to the fulfillment of various customary conditions precedent including certain regulatory requirements by the Bank of Botswana and consents from other relevant authorities and certain counterparties.

Key highlights include:

- A complementary transaction that combines BancABC Botswana’s strong retail banking operation with Access Bank’s wholesale banking capabilities, providing significant scope for revenue diversification and growth in the corporate and SME banking segment.
- BancABC Botswana’s customers to benefit from best-in-class digital platforms and product suites, leveraging Access Bank’s group IT infrastructure.

Commenting on the transaction, BancABC Botswana Managing Director Mr. Kgotso Bannalotlhe, said: “We are delighted to have Access Bank on board as a shareholder and strategic partner as we continue to execute on our medium-term growth objectives. This transaction represents an opportunity for BancABC Botswana to be part of one of the largest banking groups in Africa and benefit from Access Bank’s strong corporate banking franchise, digital banking capabilities, and innovative product offering, as well as trade finance and international banking that leverage Access Bank’s footprint across Southern Africa and the SSA region more broadly.

“I want to assure our clients that the safety of their accounts, the stability of banking operations, and high-quality customer service will remain our top priorities during the transition. We are grateful for the trust of our customers, who can look forward to new products and services as the bank pursues sustainable growth. Our mission, to serve and support our customers during this challenging time and continue to contribute much more meaningfully to economic development of the country, will benefit greatly from this transaction.”

Michael Wilkerson, Executive Chairman of Atlas Mara, said, “BancABC Botswana has achieved

a great deal since Atlas Mara's initial investment, including in digital adoption and in growing a high-quality retail operation. Management have shown strong resilience and further innovation during the pandemic-related economic slowdown of 2020, and we thank the team for their hard work. By combining with Access Bank's infrastructure, including its digital offerings and its corporate and SME capabilities, the bank will be well positioned to continue the positive trajectory and succeed in the macroeconomic recovery to come."

Speaking on today's announcement Herbert Wigwe, GMD/CEO Access Bank said: "The establishment of Access Bank in the Republic of Botswana, one of Africa's most stable and highest income countries, through the acquisition of BancABC Botswana, will position Access Bank to deliver a more complete set of banking solutions to its clients active in and across the SADC and COMESA regions. This transaction complements our recent strategic growth transactions in South Africa, Zambia and Mozambique. We are building a bank of the future that Africans across Africa and the world will be proud of and look forward to welcoming the employees, customers and other stakeholders of BancABC Botswana to Access Bank."

### **About BancABC Botswana**

BancABC Botswana (BSE: ABC) is a retail focused bank commercial banking institution listed on the Botswana Stock Exchange. It commenced operational as a commercial bank in 2009 and has since grown to become a top 5 bank in Botswana. The bank offers various products and services to over 60,000 customers including personal banking, business and wholesale banking through its network of 12 branches and service centres and 13 ATM's in 9 cities across the country.

### **About Atlas Mara Limited**

Atlas Mara Limited (LON: ATMA) is a financial institution listed on the London Stock Exchange. Atlas Mara aims to be a positive disruptive force in the markets in which we operate by leveraging technology to provide innovative and differentiated product offerings, deliver excellent customer service and accelerate financial inclusion. For more information, visit [www.atlasmara.com](http://www.atlasmara.com).

### **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, 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 underlisted 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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