



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NSE to Evaluate and Recognize Listed Companies with Highest Standards of Diversity and Inclusion

Nairobi - July 31, 2018 - The Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) in partnership with New Faces New Voices (NFNV) Kenya has launched the 2018 NSE Leadership and Diversity Dialogue Series. The Series is an initiative aimed at promoting diversity on Boards of listed companies for business growth and sustainability in the long term.

This year, the NSE and NFNV have jointly invited all the listed companies to submit a case study showcasing efforts and initiatives that underscore the company's commitment to enhancing diversity and inclusion. The study will feature companies' progress and achievements both at board and management level and highlight any initiatives beyond this level with special focus on aspects such as age, gender, education, disability, nationality and professional diversity.

Research demonstrates that diversity and inclusion improves decision making and competitiveness, contributes to businesses gaining deeper insights and enables them to identify and mitigate the potential risks in a dynamic business environment. The case studies will be evaluated by a diverse panel of experienced judges in the fields of leadership, corporate governance, diversity and inclusion.

The study will culminate with a CEO's forum to be held on **September 12, 2018** where the top three listed companies will be awarded and recognized as models of best practice in the area of diversity and inclusion.

Now in its fifth year, the Series has matured into a corporate social responsibility programme which spearheads dialogue to enhance various aspects of leadership and diversity within listed companies and the capital markets at large.

Commenting on this year's Series, the NSE Chief Executive, Geoffrey Odundo noted, *"The NSE is committed to improving diversity and inclusion within the Capital Markets. This year we wish to applaud and recognize listed companies that have purposed to drive this agenda in their organizations, both at management and board level. We are cognizant that diversity & inclusion promotes corporate governance, business operations and profitability."*

"New Faces New Voices actively engages key stakeholders to achieve its goals - increasing women's access to finance, building the capacity and skills of women as entrepreneurs and as industry executives and fast-tracking the number of women in leadership positions, " said NFNV - Kenya Chapter Chair Andia Chakava adding that the NSE leadership and Diversity Dialogue Series acts as a catalyst in promoting the diversity agenda.

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Notes to the Editor

About Nairobi Securities Exchange

The Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) is the principal securities exchange of Kenya. Besides equity securities, the NSE offers a platform for the issuance and trading of debt securities. The NSE is a member of the African Securities Exchanges Association (ASEA) and the East African Securities Exchanges Association (EASEA). It is a full member of the Association of Futures Markets (AFM) and an affiliate member of the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), and a partner Exchange in the United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative (SSE).

About New Faces New Voices

New Faces New Voices (NFNV) was conceived in 2009 as the business and finance pillar of “Multiplying Faces Amplifying Voices”, an initiative founded by Graça Machel to give African women a platform to influence change across different sectors. NFNV was founded on the belief that women are an under-utilized resource and that investing in women can have a significant development impact that will accelerate economic growth on the African continent. Currently, NFNV has 17 chapters in Africa.

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