

# press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Standard Chartered Opens Belmont Branch in Bulawayo

**Bulawayo [6<sup>th</sup> March], 2013** – Standard Chartered officially opened a second Branch in Bulawayo today. The new branch, called the Belmont branch, opened its doors to the public on the 26<sup>th</sup> December 2012 bringing the total number of Standard Chartered branches in Zimbabwe to 25. The opening of this branch further demonstrates the Bank's commitment to supporting industry revival initiatives in Bulawayo, a key industrial hub for Zimbabwe.

Standard Chartered has operated in Zimbabwe since 1892 and is the country's oldest financial institution. Through the Bank's total branch network of 25 branches, and 36 ATMs, the Bank has remained at the forefront of providing access to financial services for over 90,000 customers in both Consumer Banking and Wholesale Banking. Despite the challenging operating environment, the Bank has remained fully committed to its staff, customers and the community in which it operates.

In order to improve accessibility to the Bank's products and services, Standard Chartered offers mobile banking on all networks (Netone, Econet and Telecel) as well as internet banking for customer convenience. Standard Chartered Bank is also in the process of upgrading its ATMs throughout the country.

Officially opening Belmont Branch, Standard Chartered Bank Chairman, Mr Samuel Rushwaya, said "***Whilst the economic environment has been challenging, we have been part of the fabric of the community in Zimbabwe for the past 120 years. Standard Chartered has a unique brand – we***

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*combine our international expertise and capabilities with deep-rooted local knowledge and experience, enabling the Bank to deliver on superior financial performance and customer service. The opening of this branch is testimony that the Bank is living up to its brand promise to be Here for good. We will continue to support and build our franchise in the country going forward and remain committed to our customers and the people of Zimbabwe.”*

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**Note to editors:**

For further information please contact:

Lillian Hapanyengwi  
Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe  
[Lillian.Hapanyengwi@sc.com](mailto:Lillian.Hapanyengwi@sc.com)  
+263 4 752 853

**Standard Chartered – leading the way in Asia, Africa and the Middle East**

Standard Chartered PLC is a leading international bank, listed on the London and Hong Kong stock exchanges. It has operated for over 150 years in some of the world's most dynamic markets and earns around 90 per cent of its income and profits in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. This geographic focus and commitment to developing deep relationships with clients and customers has driven the Bank's growth in recent years.

With 1700 offices in 70 markets, Standard Chartered offers exciting and challenging international career opportunities for its 75,000 staff. It is committed to building a sustainable business over the long term and is trusted worldwide for upholding high standards of corporate governance, social responsibility, environmental protection and employee diversity. The Bank's heritage and values are expressed in its brand promise, 'Here for good'.

Standard Chartered has operated in Africa for over 150 years and the region remains a core part of the Bank's Group Strategic Intent. Standard Chartered Bank has over 170 branches in 15 African countries and over 7,000 staff. Standard Chartered Africa is a highly respected, well established household name, with deep-rooted local knowledge and experience. The Bank also has a unique international footprint which enables it to facilitate the growth of international trade corridors between Africa and the rest of the world. With a world-class suite of products, services, distribution channels and systems, the Bank provides customers with increasingly sophisticated and pioneering banking services – unrivalled in Africa

For further information please visit [www.standardchartered.com](http://www.standardchartered.com). Follow Standard Chartered at [www.facebook.com/standardchartered](http://www.facebook.com/standardchartered) and on Twitter @StanChart.

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