



Nairobi: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

**PRESS RELEASE: BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO KENYA PLC APPOINTS RITA KAVASHE AS THE CHAIR OF ITS BOARD TO OVERSEE ITS AMBITION TO TRANSFORM THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY**

British American Tobacco Kenya plc (BAT Kenya) has today announced the appointment of Ms. Rita Kavashe, MBS, as the Chair of the Company's Board, effective 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. She replaces the outgoing Chair, Mr. George Maina, who served as a Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Board for nine years.

Rita is currently the Managing Director of Isuzu East Africa, the largest motor vehicle assembler in East Africa.

**BAT Kenya Managing Director, Mrs. Beverley Spencer-Obatoyinbo stated on behalf of the Board**

“George has contributed immensely to the growth of BAT Kenya. He has led the Company through a period of major transformation, including overseeing the Company's first step in its ambition to build A Better Tomorrow for its stakeholders. He leaves behind a much stronger and more sustainable organisation.

“Rita's appointment comes at an ideal time, when the Company is accelerating its transformation agenda. BAT's evolved corporate strategy and purpose - to deliver A Better Tomorrow for our stakeholders - is underpinned by an ambition to reduce the health impacts of our business. Our new tobacco-free oral nicotine products are central to this ambition and Rita's rich experience in the manufacturing and private sector will be invaluable as we look to localise manufacturing of the product through a KSh 2.5bn factory investment.

“Rita's appointment marks the first time in BAT Kenya's history that it has had a woman chairing the Board. It means that we now have 40% female representation on the Board - a significant step in furthering the Company's Gender diversity agenda, following BAT's adoption of the UN Global Compact in 2019.

“As BAT Kenya focuses on building a modern company for a modern Kenya, we will continue to invest in the country in support of the Government's Big 4 Agenda. The Board is confident that under Rita's stewardship, alongside our talented employees, high quality brands and evolved corporate purpose, BAT Kenya is well poised to continue delivering sustained value to its shareholders and the larger economy.

**-Ends**

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## **ABOUT BAT KENYA**

British American Tobacco Kenya plc (BAT Kenya), was established in Kenya in 1907 and has been listed on the Nairobi Securities Exchange (formerly Nairobi Stock Exchange) since 1969. It has approximately 5,000 shareholders, of whom around 4,000 are local shareholders. The Company is in the business of tobacco farming, tobacco processing, cigarette manufacture and the exporting and selling of cigarettes, other tobacco products and modern oral nicotine products.

As part of BAT Kenya's tobacco growing operations, we partner with over 4,300 contracted farmers in the counties of Bungoma, Busia, Migori, Homa Bay, Meru, Embu and Tharaka Nithi. In the 2019 tobacco growing season, our farmers delivered 8.9 million tonnes of leaf and received KSh 1.5 billion in payment. BAT Kenya has generated direct and indirect employment opportunities for more than 80,000 Kenyans through tobacco farming, tobacco processing, cigarette manufacturing, tobacco product distribution, urban and rural retailing, wholesale trade, transport, logistics and domestic procurement. BAT Kenya currently employs about 400 permanent employees and has a manufacturing plant in Nairobi. This is a strategic manufacturing hub for the British American Tobacco Group, exporting more than 60% of its finished products to 11 countries in Africa.

BAT Kenya has contributed to Kenya's economic growth through its continued and systematic year-on-year investments. Over the past 5 years, it has invested over KSh 8 billion in tobacco farming and processing including at the Green Leaf Threshing Plant in Thika and the cigarette manufacturing factory in Nairobi. In the past 5 years, BAT Kenya contributed over KSh 90 billion to national revenue through various taxes (Excise Duty, Value Added Tax (VAT), Pay as You Earn (PAYE) and Corporation Tax).

BAT Kenya operates a sustainable business and invests in various initiatives to reduce the impacts of its business and contribute to the development and protection the communities and ecosystems in which it operates. The Company drives various programmes in Sustainable Agriculture and Environmental conservation, including afforestation activities through which it has recorded over 50 million surviving trees planted since 1978.

In 2019, BAT Kenya became a signatory to the UN Global Compact. This is a set of principles aimed at promoting the empowerment of women by helping participating companies set robust targets and take action to advance women's leadership in their organisations.

