

# press release

## **STANDARD CHARTERED BANK HOSTS DEBATE MATE FOR HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS**

**8 August 2013 – Lusaka, Zambia:** Standard Chartered Bank Zambia Plc has partnered with a UK based NGO, Debate Mate, to host Debate Clubs in three different schools across Lusaka. Debate Mate is an empowerment programme that uses debating skills to empower youths.

Debate Mate is a unique programme that works in communities, offering regular sessions to adolescents who may or may not attend school and are subsisting on a low family income. The two week programme teaches youths the critical facts about communication, to help them transform not just their own lives, but also those of their families, friends and future generations. The Debate Mate mentors arrived in Zambia on 13th August, 2013 and have been working with Debate clubs from St. Mary's Secondary School, Kamwala Secondary School and Roma Girls Secondary School. The grand finale competition saw Roma Girls emerge as overall winners after a thoroughly entertaining 4 hour debating session.

Speaking at the grand finale, Arjuna Balasingham, Head of Origination and Client Coverage for Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana, Standard Chartered Bank said,

*"We, as a Bank, are very excited and honoured to have hosted and sponsored Debate Mate 2013. Last year we hosted the same event and we saw Roma Girls Secondary School emerge as winners. I would like to thank all the schools for the fantastic debate styles and in my eyes they are all winners."*

Mr Balasingham added, *"Education is a key priority under our sustainability agenda and as a Bank we will continue to make a difference in our communities. Standard Chartered Bank has been operating in Zambia for over 107 years and this demonstrates that we are, indeed, 'Here for Good.'"*

Speaking at the same event was Mrs Christine Mayondi, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education. Mrs Mayondi highlighted that youth development is central to Zambia's development and that the government places great importance on the education sector.

**ENDS.**

For further information please contact:

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## NOTES TO EDITORS:

### **Standard Chartered Bank in Zambia**

- Zambia is a core part of the Standard Chartered Bank's Africa strategic footprint and has consistently been among the top five revenue contributors for the region.
- In Zambia, the Bank was established in 1906 and has since grown to be one of the most profitable banks in the country primarily as a result of organic growth.
- The Bank services both wholesale and retail banking customers
- Standard Chartered Bank Zambia (SCBZ) accounts for 19% of the market share.
- The Bank is consistently among the top 3 banks in profitability and balance sheet size.
- The Bank is a leader in providing access to finance for the mining, agriculture, telecommunications and SME sectors.