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PRESS RELEASE

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**NSE Admits First Hostee onto the Ibuka
Program**

January 31, 2019

Nairobi, January 31, 2019 - The Nairobi Securities Exchange Plc (NSE) has today admitted APT Commodities Limited as the first company to join the Ibuka Program; NSE's incubation and acceleration program.

The admission comes following a rigorous evaluation and vetting process that resulted in APT Commodities Ltd. becoming the first company among an elite cadre of enterprises expected to join the program.

APT Commodities Ltd. is a leading tea exporter with a vision of becoming the most attractive tea company in Kenya. It focuses in export of both straight line and blend teas and boasts of a wide portfolio of brands such as Jambo Chai Tangawizi, Hassan Tea and Equity Green Tea consumed in various markets across the world.

Speaking during the admission ceremony, Mr. Geoffrey Odundo, the NSE Chief Executive noted that, *"This admission is a key milestone for both APT Commodities Ltd. and the NSE. It underscores APT Commodities' potential for growth as companies on the program are evaluated by a team of highly qualified expert consultants and financial advisors with high levels of experience in capital markets. For NSE this is just the beginning of an exciting journey as 15 companies have already expressed interest in the program and 10 companies are undergoing a thorough vetting process."*

Ibuka is aimed at growing visibility whilst enhancing brand recognition and business opportunities among hostee companies. Additionally, the program will assist in inculcating improved corporatization, develop capabilities to access capital markets as well as provide a roadmap to long term corporate sustainability.

Commenting on their admission, Mr. Peter Gitata, APT Commodities Ltd. Chief Executive Officer noted that, *"We are delighted to join the Ibuka program in line with our strategic objective of growing our leading brands locally and internationally. This platform will enable us to scale higher in the already popularized Tea Industry. APT Commodities Ltd. prides itself as a fully owned Kenyan tea trading company that exhibits a hunger for selecting the best produce available in the market."*

The admission comes in the wake of improved market performance in 2019 where the Exchange has recorded increase in turnover posting a daily average of Kshs. 0.5 billion and 1.9 billion for Equity and Bonds respectively. The NSE benchmark index, The NSE 20 has increased by 4.18% whilst the NSE 25 and the NASI posted an 8.1% and 5.8% increase to settle at 3,819.00 and 148.30 points respectively. This is indeed a great time to come to market.

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Notes to the Editor

About NSE

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 the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), and a partner Exchange in the United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative (SSE).

About Ibuka Program

Ibuka is an incubation and acceleration program designed for aspirational companies with growth prospects. It will enable select Kenyan companies fast-track their developments by accessing financial advisors and consultants to help them structure their businesses, enhance visibility and get exposure among local and international investors.

About APT Commodities Limited

APT Commodities Ltd. is a leading Kenyan tea exporter based in Mombasa with a special focus in exportation of straight lines and blend teas. With a vision of becoming the most attractive tea company in Kenya, it boasts of a wide portfolio of tea brands such as Jambo Chai Black, Jambo Tangawizi, Hassan Tea, Sinbad Tea and Equitor Green Tea. APT Commodities Ltd. enjoys considerable market share in various markets across the Middle East among and other continents. It is a member of the Tea Directorate and East African Tea Trade Association.

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