

**Nairobi, February 5, 2021**

## ***NSE Transitions to a New Broker Network***

On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021, The Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) successfully transitioned to a new state of the art broker connectivity solution powered by Safaricom as the technology partner.

The Software Defined Wide Area Network commonly referred to as SD-WAN, replaces the pure Multi-Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) network that has been in use since 2011. SD-WAN is a virtual Wide Area Network (WAN) architecture that allows businesses to leverage any combination of transport services, including MPLS, Long Term Evolution (LTE) and broadband internet services – to securely connect users to business applications.

The network interconnects the NSE, the Central Depository and Settlement Corporation (CDSC) and all the Trading Participants in the market to offer higher trading platform availability. The SD-WAN will be transformational for the market as it will reduce connectivity costs to the brokers by approximately thirty percent (30%), ensure higher uptime and performance and increase network security.

The NSE is leveraging on Safaricom’s experience and excellent service support to ensure a stable, secure and resilient network infrastructure for securities trading. Commenting on the same Peter Ndegwa, CEO, Safaricom noted, *“We are excited to extend our range of capabilities and technology to the Nairobi Securities Exchange to empower them in their next phase of growth. This investment will provide the NSE with modern and future proof solutions to achieve cost efficiencies, tap new opportunities and innovate for their customers in a digital era.”*

The Chief Executive of the NSE Mr. Geoffrey Odundo, noted, *“The transition to the SD-WAN Network is in line with our corporate strategy to offer best in class services to our customers. The success of our business is underpinned by use of the innovative and efficient technology. The new network will reduce the lags and delays that may be experienced during trading, enhancing performance and overall service support to the market.”*

The Chief Executive of the CSDC, Mr. Nkoregamba Mwebesa reiterated that, *“The SD-WAN solution offers network stability, agility and resilience with enhanced information security capabilities while reducing the cost of connectivity for all stakeholders. The adoption of this solution further augments Kenya as a preferred investment destination in the region and the continent as a whole.”*

As the network offers lower costs of connectivity and higher availability, the NSE is poised to see an increase in trading activity and a better customer experience by its stakeholders.

**-ENDS-**

## Notes to the Editor

### About The Nairobi Securities Exchange

The Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) is the principal securities exchange in Kenya. It offers a world class trading facility for local and international investors and issuers looking to gain exposure to Kenya's and Africa's economic growth. NSE plays a vital role in the growth of Kenya's economy through mobilization of domestic resources and international capital. The NSE is a founder member of the African Securities Exchanges Association and the East African Securities Exchanges Association. It is a full member of the World Federation of Exchanges and the Association of Futures Markets, and a partner Exchange in the United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative (SSE). NSE operates under the jurisdiction of the Capital Markets Authority of Kenya.

### About CDSC

The Central Depository & Settlement Corporation Limited (CDSC) is a limited liability Company approved by the Capital Markets Authority to provide automated clearing, delivery and settlement facilities in respect of transactions carried out at Nairobi Securities Exchange as well as holding of listed and non-listed securities including other documents of title on behalf of investors. CDSC has a subsidiary Company, CDSC Registrars; a private company duly incorporated in Kenya in 2009, and a sister company incorporated in Rwanda in 2010. The CDSC Registry combines experience, innovation and customer centricity approach to offer timeouts and meticulous services to businesses, Issuers, their shareholders and other stakeholders. For more information, please contact Irene Mutiso, Head of HR and Corporate Affairs, Central Depository and Settlement Corporation, Email: [imutiso@cdskenya.com](mailto:imutiso@cdskenya.com)

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