

MARKETING & CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Lagos, November 21, 2013**

**FirstBank Supports Golf Open.**

**Golf players and aficionados will this Friday converge at the Golf section of the Ikoyi Club to attend the press conference that will herald the 2013 edition of the FirstBank Lagos Amateur Open Golf Championship.**

**The Championship, sponsored by FirstBank since 1961, is one of the oldest and most prestigious Golf tournaments in West Africa. Every golf player dreams of participating in this tournament, which is played at the Ikoyi Golf Club 1938. Apart from the expected huge attendance, the tournament is a highly competitive event among the best golf teams in Nigeria.**

**This edition of the prestigious tournament tees off on Friday with practice, while the championship qualifiers will kick off at 6am on Saturday, November 23. Coaching clinic will also take place on Saturday, November 23 for children above the ages of 14 and adults who are interested in the sport.**

**The grand finale and award presentation will take place on Sunday, November 24, 2013. The championship is a 36-hole event to be played over two days, at 18 holes each. Since it began over 50 years ago, the tournament has produced 33 winners. FirstBank Lagos Open has also produced professional golfers such as Sunday Okpe, Willy Gift, Oche Odoh and I. Ocheje among others. Samuel Amadi and J. Ajiboye hold the record title of highest winners of the trophy, with five trophies each. While Ajiboye won in 1969, 1972, 1973, 1975 and 1979; Amadi won the trophy in 1997, 1999, 2001, 2007 and 2010. In 2011, A. Moruf won the tournament with a total of 158 gross; while, in 2012, 19-year-old Abdullahi Y. of Ada club won the coveted title.**

In the last three years, FirstBank has brought in two professional players from Sweden who will coordinate the coaching clinic for special guests, spectators and children. They will also coordinate the golf exhibition and golf simulator.

The tournament sponsors said the choice of the two PGA members was informed by their commitment to groom young players to excel in the game. 'These attributes resonate with what FirstBank stands for; the heritage of giving back to the society and inspiring individuals to reach for their dreams,' said the sponsors in a statement.

#### **About FirstBank**

First Bank of Nigeria Limited is Nigeria's leading financial services institution by total assets and gross earnings and one of the largest corporate and retail banking financial institutions in sub-Saharan Africa (excluding South Africa). Since its establishment in 1894, the Bank has consistently built relationships with customers focusing on fundamentals of good corporate governance, strong liquidity, risk management and strong capitalization.

First Bank operates an extensive distribution network with over 750 business locations (623 branches, 61 quick service points and 69 cash centers/agencies), over 2,397 ATM's and over 9 million customer accounts. The Bank has five (5) subsidiary companies, providing a comprehensive range of financial services.

The Bank has an international presence through its subsidiaries, FBN Bank (UK) Limited in London, and Banque International de Credit (B.I.C) in the Republic of Congo, as well as its Representative Offices in Johannesburg, Beijing and Abu Dhabi.

FirstBank is the recipient of many awards. In 2013, the Bank clinched the "Best Bank in Nigeria" in the Euromoney Awards for Excellence, "Best Bank in West Africa" in the African

**Banker Awards, “Best Bank in Nigeria” in the EMEA Finance African Banking Awards for the fourth time, “Best Foreign Exchange Services in Africa” in the EMEA Finance Treasury Services Awards, “Best Company in Infrastructure” in the Social Enterprise Reports and Awards (SERAs), “Most Innovative Africa Investor SRI 50 Company” in the Africa Investor Index Series Awards, as well as “The Best Company to Work for in Nigeria” and the “Most Innovative Human Resource Structure in Nigeria” by the Great Place to Work Award. Additionally, for two consecutive years, 2012 and 2013, the Bank has been named “Nigeria’s Number One Banking Brand” by Brand Finance Top 500 Banking Brands and “Best Retail Bank in Nigeria” by the Asian Banker International Excellence in Retail Financial Services Awards. Some other recent awards include “Best Banking Group in Nigeria” by World Finance Banking Awards, “Best Financial Reporting Company” by Africa Investor, “Most Innovative Bank in Africa” by African Banker Awards, “The Bank of the Year in Nigeria” by The Banker Magazine.**

**Signed**

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