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Access Bank Commences Acceptance of VISA Cards at ATMs

Today, Access Bank PLC, a leading Nigerian Bank announced that it had commenced acceptance of VISA International and domestic V-Pay cards on its ATMs (Automated Teller Machines). The Bank is also set to be the first Nigerian bank to commence issuance of **V-Pay**, a Visa Chip and PIN domestic debit card.

With the commencement of these services, Access Bank has joined the VISA global network. VISA international is a leading payments solutions provider, with presence in about 160 countries globally. The product offerings allow VISA cardholders carry out transactions on the ATMs deployed by the Bank at strategic locations as well as at PoS terminals where they see the Visa Acceptance sign. VISA ATM terminals deployed by the bank accept any foreign card connected to the VISA network and pays customers the requested amount in local currency.

Speaking at the ATM launch ceremony, Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, Managing Director, Access Bank said that the commencement of the acceptance of VISA chip cards on the ATMs of the bank is consistent with the bank's intent of introducing world-class card services into the Nigerian market and is an integral part of its soon-to-be-launched world class Retail Banking strategy. *"This occasion has brought about the actualisation of our target as an organisation".*

He added that *"the entry of Access Bank into the card market will radically change the face of the market in Nigeria, as the bank plans to saturate the Nigerian market with millions of high quality cards that will bring satisfaction to customers through our high quality banking services".*

The bank will issue **VPay** cards to all its customers to ensure round-the-clock service in line with the bank's intent of becoming the #1 Visa card issuer in Nigeria. This effort will be complemented by an aggressive ATM rollout strategy.

“Today marks yet another milestone towards an ever expanding Visa acceptance network in Nigeria, for both international and domestic Visa card holders,” Filipe Dos Santos, Senior Vice President (Joint Ventures & Engagements), VISA International said. “Access Bank is one of the leading Visa Member banks in Nigeria and I would like to congratulate the Access team on this fine achievement”.

“The team at Access has been working hard to implement a card systems platform which would allow them to implement innovative and flexible solutions across a number of market segments. We all understand that increased electronic payments in Nigeria will contribute towards increased efficiencies and a reduction in cash associated costs, and Access bank is well positioned to offer it’s customers a wide range of VISA payment solutions”, added Mr. Dos Santos.

This announcement follows the commencement of VISA electronic Point-of-Sale facilities at merchant outlets in Nigeria by ValuCard Nigeria Plc. ValuCard Nigeria PLC, the VISA Joint Point-of-Sale acquiring company in Nigeria, embarked upon a campaign to rollout VISA electronic Point-of-Sale facilities, ensuring wide acceptance of international and domestic VISA cards in Nigeria.

“The high degree of efficiency and speed of deployment displayed by Access Bank in hooking up to the VISA processing platform hosted by ValuCard is a clear testimony to Access Bank’s clear strategy to provide world-class services to its customers anchored on the latest and most secure e-payment technology” says Mr. Kyari Bukar, Managing Director, ValuCard Nigeria Plc.

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About Access Bank

Access Bank Plc is a full service commercial bank operating through a network of over 80 branches and service outlets located in all major commercial centres and cities across Nigeria. The Bank has been at the forefront of economic diplomacy, cultivating deep strategic relationships with key international financial institutions and multilateral agencies such as the International Finance Corporation (The IFC), FMO, European International Bank, US EXIM and others.

The bank has consistently been at the fore front of industry defining initiatives. It will be recalled that amongst others, Access Bank recently launched the Gender Empowerment Programme for Nigerian women in partnership with the IFC, signed a joint venture partnership with the Dutch FMO and ABN Amro Bank for the management of Nigeria's foreign reserves and introduced the on-line shipping documents solution, an innovative product powered by Flexcube 6.2, the worlds most advanced banking application platform, which reinforces Access Bank's position as an industry leader in international trade finance transactions in Nigeria.

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