



**Zenith Bank Plc**  
**Group Audited Results for Year ended 31 December, 2017**

**ZENITH BANK PLC RELEASES FINANCIAL YEAR END 2017 RESULTS**

LAGOS, NIGERIA - 12 March, 2017 - Zenith Bank Plc, (Bloomberg: ZENITHBA NL) (“Zenith” or the “Bank”), the Nigerian bank headquartered in Lagos, announces its Audited results for year ended 31 December 2017.

**Financial Highlights**

<i><b>In millions of Naira</b></i>			
	<b>Dec 2017</b>	<b>Dec 2016</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b><i>Income statements</i></b>			
Gross earnings	745,189	507,997	46.7%
Interest income	474,628	384,557	23.4%
Net interest income	257,991	240,179	7.4%
Non interest income	270,561	123,440	119.2%
Operating income	430,325	331,629	29.8%
Operating expenses	226,864	174,521	30.0%
Profit before tax	203,461	156,748	29.8%
Profit after tax	177,933	129,652	37.2%
Earnings per share (N)	5.66	4.12	37.4%
<b><i>Balance sheet</i></b>	<b>Dec 2017</b>	<b>Dec. 2016</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Gross loans and advances	2,252,172	2,360,809	-4.6%
Customers' deposits	3,437,915	2,983,621	15.2%
Total assets	5,595,253	4,739,825	18.0%
Shareholder's funds	821,658	704,465	16.6%
<b><i>Key ratios</i></b>	<b>Dec 2017</b>	<b>Dec 2016</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Net interest margin	9.00%	7.70%	16.9%
Cost-to-income ratio	52.70%	52.70%	0.0%
Loan-to-deposit ratio	60.50%	67.80%	-10.8%
Cost of funds	5.20%	4.20%	23.8%
Cost of risk	4.30%	1.40%	207.1%
Return on average assets (ROAA)	3.40%	3.00%	13.3%
Return on average equity (ROAE)	23.30%	20.00%	16.5%
Liquidity ratio	69.70%	59.60%	16.9%
Capital adequacy ratio (CAR)	27.00%	23.00%	17.4%
Non performing loan ratio (NPL)	4.70%	3.02%	55.6%



*The management of the Zenith Bank Group stated: “Zenith Bank’s performance in 2017 financial year end shows the Group’s leadership in the Nigerian financial services industry.*

*In 2017, the Group generated a record gross earnings of N745 billion representing a 46.7% increase compared to the prior year. This growth in gross earnings was driven by a 23.4% and 119.2% increase in interest income and non-interest income respectively. The growth in interest income was largely due to income from investments in government securities. For the year, the Group recorded a N147.1 billion increase in non-interest income, driven by record processing volume of transactions coupled with the growth in the size of our trading book. The Group’s income diversification strategies have begun to yield gains evidenced with a 31.7% increase in fees and commission income over the prior year.*

*The Group’s Profit Before Tax (PBT) for FY 2017 was N203.5 billion, a 29.8% increase from N156.7 billion in the prior year. The Group achieved net interest margin (NIMs) of 9.0% (adjusted) for FYE 2017 compared to 7.7% (adjusted) for FYE 2016, reflecting significant improvements in the Group’s efficiency. Also, the Group was able to keep its cost-to-income ratio flat at 52.7% for the second year running. For the FY 2017 the Group’s cost of funds increased from 4.2% in 2016 to 5.2% in 2017 due to the high yielding environment. Critically, cost of risk was 4.3% for FY 2017, reflecting the Group’s conservative disposition in credit risk management. The return on average assets (RoAA) and average equity (RoAE) were 3.4% and 23.3% respectively.*

*The Group maintained its healthy balance sheet as its loan to deposit ratio, liquidity ratio and capital adequacy ratio were 60%, 69% and 27% respectively and were all better than the regulatory requirements.*

*Despite the challenging competitive operating environment, management’s outlook continues to be positive. Furthermore, the Group is strategically positioned to explore opportunities to grow its customer base and risk assets in strategic sectors.”*

*- ENDS -*



*Notes to editors:*

#### *About Zenith Bank Plc*

*Zenith Bank Plc offers its clients a wide range of corporate, investment, business and personal banking products and solutions. It is one of the biggest and most profitable banks in Nigeria. The bank was established in May 1990 and started operations in July same year as a commercial bank. It became a public limited company on September 17, 2004 and was listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange on October 21, 2004 following a highly successful Initial Public Offering (IPO). Zenith Bank listed on the London Stock Exchange via a non-capital raising GDR on March 21, 2013. The Bank presently has a shareholder base of over one million, an indication of the strength of the Zenith brand.*

*It is headquartered in Lagos, Nigeria. With over five hundred (500) branches and business offices nationwide Zenith Bank has presence in all the state capitals, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and major towns and metropolitan centres in Nigeria. The Bank's expansion is not limited to Nigeria as Zenith became the first Nigerian bank in 25 years to be licensed by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) in the UK for the commencement of banking operations by Zenith Bank (UK) Limited in April, 2007. This is in addition to its presence in Ghana, Zenith Bank (Ghana) Limited, Sierra Leone, Zenith Bank (Sierra Leone) Limited, Gambia, Zenith Bank (Gambia) Limited and a representative office in Johannesburg, South Africa, Beijing, China and Dubai branch of Zenith Bank UK.*

*More information can be found at [www.zenithbank.com](http://www.zenithbank.com)*



*Conference Call Details:*

*Zenith Bank Plc (Bloomberg: ZENITHBA : NL) will have a teleconference call on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 2pm Lagos Time (1pm London/ 3pm Johannesburg/ 9am New York) with its senior management to announce Zenith Bank Plc's audited financial results for the year ended 31 December, 2017. There will be an opportunity at the end of the call for management to take questions from investors and analysts.*

*The presentation to investors and analysts will be posted to Zenith Bank's website before the conference call on Wednesday.*

*The audio conference call can be accessed by dialling the following numbers:*

*Nigeria Toll: +234 (1) 903 0080*

*United Kingdom: +44 (0) 3333 000 804*

*Unites States: +1 631 913 1422*

*South Africa: +27 21 672 4118*

*And then quoting the following access code: 81134062#*

*If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the below.*

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