



## PRESS RELEASE

### EQUITY KNUT HOUSE BRANCH GREENS THIKA HIGH SCHOOL

- 1,000 trees planted at Thika High School during the school's thanksgiving ceremony
- Equity is committed to working with learning institutions in Kenya in its efforts towards promoting environmental conservation.

**Nairobi, 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2021** – Equity KNUT House Branch planted 1,000 trees at Thika High School in Kiambu County as part of Equity's 35 million trees tree –planting initiative.

The tree planting exercise took place during the school's thanksgiving ceremony attended by Equity Group Board Chairman Prof. Isaac Macharia.

Equity through its tree planting initiatives is committed to working with learning institutions in Kenya in its efforts towards promoting environmental conservation. By planting trees with students, the Bank seeks to encourage responsibility and nurture a passion for environment by young people. The trees planted were a mix of fruit, exotic and indigenous.

“Two years ago, Equity celebrated 35 years and committed to planting 35 million trees to contribute and rally the country towards the achievement of 10% forest cover. Out of the 35 million trees, we have so far planted about 5 million trees. We are a purpose driven organization, and our purpose is to transform lives, give dignity and expand opportunities for wealth creation. We have to pay attention to our environment to alleviate poverty, that's why through our Energy and Environment pillar, we have allocated a lot of resources in tree planting. My challenge to you is to hold the tree that you plant from the time it's put in the ground till it grows.” said Prof. Macharia.

In addition to tree planting activities, Equity through its foundation encourages conservation measures especially in schools and smart use of natural resources by expanding forest cover, improving water security, access to clean energy products and promoting the use of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies.

Thika High School Chief Principal Mr. Julius Muraya said, “We are grateful for the support we have received today from Equity. These trees have been planted not for ourselves but for future generations. Trees contribute to the development of a healthier environment for students; this exercise has created an opportunity to educate our students on the benefits of tree planting.”

Equity's tree-planting initiatives in Kenya undertaken through its network of 190 branches, is in support of the government initiative to achieve the 10% forest cover. Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and the Ministry of Environment & Forestry are supporting Equity through technical assistance on seedlings requirements for different geo-ecological zones, adoption of forest blocks that require rehabilitation and other logistical support.

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## **Equity Group Foundation**

Equity Group Foundation (EGF), the corporate implementing foundation of Equity Group Holdings Plc, has as its mission to champion the transformation of lives and livelihoods for 100m people in Africa by 2024 through the design and implementation of innovative programs that leverage Equity Group's infrastructure and partnerships to create shared value. Established in 2008 as the Group's social engine, the Foundation delivers economic opportunities, capacity, tools, and technologies that enable individuals and businesses to increase productivity, resilience and share in socio-economic growth. EGF responds to the continuum of issues that challenge the socio-economic advancement of the people of Africa, especially low-income individuals, and families. EGF's Creating Shared Value [CSV] strategy provides social development initiatives in Education and Leadership Development, Food and Agriculture, Health, Financial Inclusion and Entrepreneurship Development, Energy and Environment and Social Protections for the most vulnerable citizens. EGF's programs are underpinned by technology, innovation, and synergy as a central means to launch, nurture, and scale up Africa's next generation of successful leaders and entrepreneurs delivered to all communities in which Equity has operations.

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