



Reviewed interim results for the half-year ended 31 March 2012

GROWING DEMAND IN MOST SOUTH AFRICAN REGIONS

GOOD CASH GENERATION

HEADLINE EARNINGS INCREASED BY 8%

INTERIM DIVIDEND INCREASED BY 9% TO 38 CENTS PER SHARE

Paul Stuiwer, CEO, said: "Our results improved despite being tempered by weak demand in the Western Cape and Botswana and fierce competition on cement prices in all our regions. Administered price increases on electricity and fuel made cost containment difficult. We have made significant progress on African projects but are not yet at a stage where we can disclose details. Overall, cement demand in southern Africa has turned positive and we expect this to continue as the building and construction industries recover."

Commentary

Cement sales volumes declined 3%, for the period under review, mainly as a result of weak demand in the Western Cape and Botswana markets. Group revenue increased by 8% to R3 529 million (2011: R3 257 million) as a result of favourable pricing on cement and lime products.

Costs of sales of R2 347 million were 11% higher than in 2011. The group continues to be significantly impacted by higher energy costs with electricity prices increasing by 30% and diesel prices by 30% compared to last year. These administered price increases were partially offset by successful coal price negotiations and a decrease in salary costs following our staff reduction programmes during 2011.

Administration and other operating expenditure increased by 3% to R324 million (2011: R314 million). While there was benefit from the staff reduction programme at our head office during 2011, a 40% appreciation in our share price resulted in additional IFRS 2 charges to the company's long-term retention schemes and we incurred additional expenditure on our African expansion and other projects.

EBITDA increased by 5% to R1 093 million (2011: R1 037 million) and operating profit by 4% to R858 million (2011: R823 million). Our inability to fully recover input cost inflation reduced the group's EBITDA margin to 31% from 32% achieved during the corresponding period in 2011 and the group's operating margin to 24% (2011: 25%). These margins however improved from those achieved during the latter part of 2011.

Tax of R281 million was in line with the comparable period during 2011 and the group's effective tax rate improved to 41% (2011: 43%). Included in tax is an STC charge of R53 million, accounting for 8 percentage points of the effective tax rate, that will be eliminated next year following recent changes to tax legislation.

Headline earnings per share ended 8% higher at 77.6 cents per share (2011: 71.8 cents per share). The company's dividend policy is an annual dividend cover of between 1.2 and 1.5 times. The directors have declared an interim dividend of 38 cents per share (2011: 35 cents per share).

The group continued to generate strong cash flow with cash generated from operations of R889 million (2011: R897 million) and a conversion from EBITDA to operating cash flow of 81% (2011: 86%). Capital investment during the period amounted to R277 million (2011: R231 million) and the group's net debt position remains conservative at R3 731 million (2011: R3 759 million).

Cement

PPC's South African cement sales volumes lagged increases reported by the overall cement industry over the same period. This was partly due to a continuing decline in cement demand in the Western Cape region and partly due to market share losses in inland regions where competitor pricing was particularly fierce. Volumes in the Eastern Cape which were a concern last year, improved significantly during the reporting period on the back of new infrastructure projects.

Although our average cement selling prices increased by 6% compared to the same period last year, margins remained under pressure as selling price increases were inadequate to recover rising input costs.

Zimbabwe's domestic sales continued to increase due to growing demand in the country. A strong performance during the first four months of the financial year was eroded by a major transformer failure during February and March that necessitated clinker imports from South Africa at considerable expense. The Zimbabwean operation has also been experiencing similar energy price pressures as in South Africa.

PPC cement sales in Botswana declined significantly compared to last year, mainly as a result of a substantial reduction in government expenditure on infrastructure projects but also due to the impact of a prolonged civil service strike and increased competitor activity. Exports to Mozambique were also impacted by increased competition, largely due to cement originating out of Asia being imported into the Mozambique market.

The modernisation of our Western Cape factories is progressing well. Following the R280 million upgrade we expect to re-commission De Hoek Kiln 6 during June 2012. Initial feedback from the authorities has also been received on the EIA report for the Riebeeck Kiln upgrade and we are addressing the items raised.

Lime and aggregates

Lime volume increased 6% following higher demand from the local steel and alloys industries and increased exports to Zambia and the DRC. This, together with increased selling prices and good cost control, resulted in operating profit increasing to R95 million (2011: R61 million).

The aggregates division experienced growth in sales volumes in South Africa and Botswana but pricing remained very competitive. The integration of Quarries of Botswana, acquired in October 2011, was completed during the period and we expect a normalised contribution going forward. This acquisition resulted in increased aggregate sales volumes in Botswana despite challenging trading conditions.

Board changes

As a representative of the PPC consortium of strategic black partners, Mr Sydney Mhlarhi was appointed to the board on 1 March 2012 as a non-executive director and as a member of the deal and remuneration committees. Mr Mhlarhi replaces Mr Jerry Vlakazi whose three year term as a representative of the PPC consortium of strategic black partners ended on 1 March 2012.

The nominations committee of the board is currently engaged in the process of finding a successor for the current CEO, Mr Paul Stuiwer, who has agreed to continue in his current role until 31 December 2012.

Prospects

In-line with our strategy to increase revenue from the rest of the African continent, we have made significant progress on some projects.

The acquisition of Pronto Holdings that was approved by the Competition Commission is being finalised. Due to the timing and structure of the transaction it will make a modest contribution to results during the remainder of the financial year.

We expect the positive trend in South African cement demand to continue in the near to medium term. The South African government's continued commitment to increase infrastructure spend and their initiatives to unlock delivery constraints, are encouraging.

Having complied with the Department of Mineral Resources 2009 empowerment requirements, PPC is currently in discussions to meet the 2014 HDSA ownership requirements in order to secure its mining rights. PPC will communicate with shareholders as soon as key terms have been finalised.

Cement demand in Zimbabwe continues to grow and our operations there should make an improved contribution to the group in the second half. We have made good progress towards finalisation of our indigenisation plan.

On behalf of the board

BL Sibiya Chairman
P Stuiwer Chief executive officer
17 May 2012

Dividend announcement

Notice is hereby given that an interim ordinary gross dividend of 38 cents per share has been declared payable to ordinary shareholders in respect of the six months ended 31 March 2012. This dividend will be paid out of profits as determined by the directors.

In terms of the dividends tax, effective 1 April 2012, the following additional information is disclosed:
– the dividend will be subject to a local dividend tax rate of 15%
– no STC credits have been utilised in this declaration and accordingly the dividend to utilise in determining the dividends tax is 38 cents per share

– the dividends tax to be withheld by the company amounts to 5.7 cents per share where no exemption is applicable
– the net dividend payable to shareholders who are not exempt from dividends tax amounts to 32.3 cents per share
– the issued share capital of the company at the declaration date comprises of 586 170 372 shares
– the company's income tax number is 9460015606

The important dates pertaining to this dividend for shareholders trading on the JSE Limited are as follows:
Declaration date Thursday, 17 May 2012
Last day to trade Friday, 1 June 2012
Shares trade Ex dividend Monday, 4 June 2012
Record date Friday, 8 June 2012
Payment date Monday, 11 June 2012

Share certificates may not be dematerialised or rematerialised between Monday, 4 June 2012 and Friday, 8 June 2012, both dates inclusive. Transfers between the South African and Zimbabwean registers may not take place between Monday, 4 June and Friday, 8 June 2012.

Zimbabwe
The important dates pertaining to this dividend for shareholders trading on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange are as follows:
Shares trade Ex dividend Monday, 4 June 2012
Record date Friday, 8 June 2012
Payment date, on or shortly after Monday, 11 June 2012

The register of members in Zimbabwe will be closed from Monday, 4 June 2012 to Friday, 8 June 2012, both days inclusive, for the purpose of determining those shareholders to whom the dividend will be paid. The dividend payable to shareholders registered in Zimbabwe will be paid in South African rand.

By order of the board
JHDLR Snyman Group company secretary
17 May 2012 Sandton

Pretoria Portland Cement Company Limited
(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)
(Company registration number: 1892/000667/06)
JSE code: PPC JSE ISIN: ZAE000125886 ZSE code: PPC ZSE ISIN: ZWE000096475

Directors
BL Sibiya (Chairman), P Stuiwer* (Chief executive officer), S Abdul Kader, P Esterhuysen, SG Hlezi, ZJ Kganyago, AJ Lamprecht, NB Langa-Royds, MP Malungani, S Mhlarhi, B Modise, MMT Ramano, TDA Ross, J Shimbambo
* Dutch

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Transfer secretaries Link Market Services SA (Pty) Limited
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(PO Box 4844, Johannesburg, 2000 South Africa)

Transfer secretaries: Zimbabwe Corpserve (Private) Limited
4th Floor, Intermarket Centre
Corner First Street/Kwame Nkrumah Avenue
Harare, Zimbabwe
(PO Box 2208, Harare, Zimbabwe)

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

	Six months ended			Year ended
	31 March 2012 Reviewed Rm	31 March 2011 Unaudited Rm	% Change	30 Sept 2011 Audited Rm
Revenue	3 529	3 257	8	6 826
Cost of sales	2 347	2 120	(11)	4 500
Gross profit	1 182	1 137	4	2 326
Administration and other operating expenditure	324	314	(3)	627
Operating profit	858	823	4	1 699
Finance costs	186	184	(1)	353
Investment income	14	14		28
Profit before exceptional items	686	653	5	1 374
Exceptional items	—	—		(4)
Share of associates' retained profit	2	7		15
Profit before taxation	688	660	4	1 385
Taxation	281	282		520
Profit for the period	407	378	8	865
Attributable to:				
Ordinary shareholders	369	343	8	785
Other shareholders	38	35	8	80
	407	378	8	865
Earnings per share (cents)				
– basic	77.6	71.8	8	164.4
– diluted	76.7	71.3	8	163.3

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	31 March 2012 Reviewed Rm	31 March 2011 Unaudited Rm	30 Sept 2011 Audited Rm
Profit for the period	407	378	865
Other comprehensive income, net of taxation	(28)	6	97
Effect of translation of foreign operations	(43)	(15)	95
Effect of cash flow hedges	14	21	(1)
Revaluation of available-for-sale financial investments	—	—	4
Taxation on other comprehensive income	1	—	(1)
Total comprehensive income	379	384	962

*Profit for the period is apportioned between ordinary and other shareholders based on the number of shares held by each category of shareholders as a ratio of total shares issued (Refer note 5).

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	31 March 2012 Reviewed Rm	31 March 2011 Unaudited Rm	30 Sept 2011 Audited Rm
ASSETS			
Non-current assets	4 655	4 482	4 585
Property, plant and equipment	4 318	4 182	4 287
Intangible assets	129	96	94
Non-current financial assets	117	117	115
Investments in associates	91	87	89
Current assets	1 819	1 787	1 834
Inventories	802	660	709
Trade and other receivables	896	867	901
Cash and cash equivalents	121	260	224
Total assets	6 474	6 269	6 419
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Capital and reserves			
Share capital and premium	(1 180)	(1 091)	(1 091)
Other reserves	147	62	125
Retained profit	1 784	1 581	1 921
Total equity	751	552	955
Non-current liabilities	3 853	3 670	3 837
Deferred taxation liabilities	754	635	740
Long-term borrowings	2 686	2 641	2 699
Provisions and other non-current liabilities	413	394	398
Current liabilities	1 870	2 047	1 627
Short-term borrowings	1 166	1 378	811
Trade and other payables and provisions	704	669	816
Total equity and liabilities	6 474	6 269	6 419
Net asset value per share (cents)	144	105	181

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Six months ended			Year ended
	31 March 2012 Reviewed Rm	31 March 2011 Unaudited Rm	30 Sept 2011 Audited Rm	30 Sept 2011 Audited Rm
Total equity				
Balance at beginning of the period	955	858	858	
Total comprehensive income	379	384	962	
Purchase of treasury shares in terms of the FSP share scheme*	(89)	—	—	
Dividends paid	(505)	(695)	(876)	
IFRS 2 charges	11	5	11	
Balance at end of the period	751	552	955	

*Refer note 5.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Six months ended			Year ended
	31 March 2012 Reviewed Rm	31 March 2011 Unaudited Rm	30 Sept 2011 Audited Rm	30 Sept 2011 Audited Rm
Cash flow from operating activities				
Operating cash flows before movements in working capital	1 091	1 054	2 127	
Net increase in working capital	(202)	(157)	(25)	
Cash generated from operations	889	897	2 102	
Net finance costs paid	(105)	(109)	(226)	
Taxation paid	(261)	(284)	(441)	
Cash available from operations	523	504	1 435	
Dividends paid	(505)	(695)	(876)	
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	18	(191)	559	
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment and other movements	(277)	(231)	(483)	
Purchase of shares in terms of the FSP share scheme (refer note 5)	(89)	—	—	
Acquisition of quarries in Botswana (refer note 8)	(42)	—	—	
Other investing movements	—	—	(21)	
Net cash outflow from investing activities	(408)	(231)	(504)	
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities	287	442	(71)	
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents	(103)	20	(16)	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period	224	240	240	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the period	121	260	224	
Cash earnings per share (cents)*	100	96	272	

*Cash earnings per share is calculated using cash available from operations divided by the weighted average number of shares in issue for the period.

NOTES TO THE REVIEWED HALF-YEAR RESULTS

1. Basis of preparation
The condensed interim financial report has been prepared in accordance with the framework concepts and the measurement and recognition requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (in particular International Accounting Standard 34 Interim Financial Reporting), the AC 500 standards as issued by the Accounting Practices Board, the JSE Limited's listing requirements and the requirements of the South African Companies Act, 2008, as amended. This report was compiled under the supervision of the chief financial officer, MMT Ramano.
The accounting policies and methods of computation used are consistent with those applied in the preparation of the annual financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2011, except for the following revised accounting standards and interpretations that were adopted during the period, and which did not have an impact on the reported results:
IFRS 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures (Clarification of disclosures)
IFRS 7 (amendment) Financial Instruments: Disclosures about transfers of financial assets
IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements (Clarification of statement of changes in equity)
IAS 19 (amendment) The Limit on a Defined Benefit Asset, Minimum Funding Requirements and their Interactions
IAS 24 Related Parties Disclosures (Revised definition of related parties)
IAS 34 (amendment) Interim Financial Reporting (Significant events and transactions)
IFRIC 13 (amendment) Customer Loyalty Programmes (Fair value of award credit)
IASB Improvements to IFRS 2010
The condensed interim financial information for the period ended 31 March 2012 has been reviewed by the group's auditors, Deloitte & Touche. The review was conducted in accordance with International Standard on Review Engagement 2410 'Review of Interim Financial Information performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity'. A copy of their unmodified review report is available for inspection at the company's registered office. Any reference to future financial performance included in this announcement, has not been reviewed or reported on by the group's auditors.

	31 March 2012 Reviewed Rm	31 March 2011 Unaudited Rm	30 Sept 2011 Audited Rm
2. Profit before taxation			
Included in profit before taxation are:			
Amortisation of intangible assets	11	9	19
Depreciation	219	200	417
IFRS 2 charges:			
– BBBEE IFRS 2 charges	5	5	11
– FSP IFRS 2 charges	6	—	(4)
Impairment losses on financial assets	—	—	(4)
Restructuring costs	—	13	31

NOTES TO THE REVIEWED HALF-YEAR RESULTS continued

	31 March 2012 Reviewed Rm	31 March 2011 Unaudited Rm	30 Sept 2011 Audited Rm
3. Finance costs			
Bank and other borrowings	24	29	55
Long-term loans	83	82	166
BBBEE funding transaction	62	58	118
– dividends on redeemable preference shares	29	29	57
– long-term borrowings	33	29	61
Finance lease interest	2	2	5
Fair value losses/(gains) on financial instruments	5	4	(9)
Unwinding of discount on rehabilitation provisions	11	9	18
	187	184	353
Capitalised to plant and equipment	(1)	—	—
	186	184	353
4. Earnings per share and headline earnings per share			
Earnings per share (cents)			
– basic	77.6	71.8	164.4
– diluted	76.7	71.3	163.3
Headline earnings per share (cents)			
– basic	77.6	71.8	164.8
– diluted	76.7	71.3	163.8
Determination of headline earnings per share (cents)			
Earnings per share	77.6	71.8	164.4
Adjusted for:			
– Impairment losses on financial assets	—	—	0.7
– Profit on disposal of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets	—	—	(0.3)
Headline earnings per share (cents)	77.6	71.8	164.8
Headline earnings attributable to ordinary shareholders (Rm)			
Profit for the period attributable to ordinary shareholders	369	343	785
Impairment losses on financial assets	—	—	4
Profit on disposal of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets	—	—	(1)
Headline earnings attributable to ordinary shareholders (Rm)	369	343	788
5. Share capital and premium			
Number of shares and weighted average number of shares	Shares (000)	Shares (000)	Shares (000)
Number of shares			
Total shares in issue	586 170	586 170	586 170
Less: Treasury shares owned by wholly-owned group subsidiary company	(20 140)	(20 140)	(20 140)
Less: Shares held by consolidated BBBEE trusts and funding SPVs treated as treasury shares			