

# BASIL READ



REVIEWED PROVISIONAL RESULTS FOR  
THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

# Key results

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R5.5 billion

**Revenue** from continuing operations  
(2014: R6.3 billion)

15.2%

**Return on equity**  
(2014: (51.9%))

143.87 cents

**Headline earnings per share** from continuing operations  
(2014: headline loss per share of 292.08 cents)

R171.2 million

**Profit after tax**  
(2014: loss after tax of R820.9 million)

R10.7 billion

**Order book**  
(2014: R10.5 billion)

4 fatalities

**Safety**  
(2014: 2 fatalities)

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# Condensed consolidated income statement

|   | Reviewed<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2015<br>R'000 | Audited<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2014<br>R'000 |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Continuing operations</b>  |   |  |
| Revenue   | 5 519 979   | 6 261 441  |
| Operating profit/(loss) for the year                                  | 226 197   | (803 289)  |
| Finance income  | 21 077  | 30 206   |
| Finance costs   | (56 468)  | (52 705)   |
| Share of profits of investments accounted for using the equity method | 40 536  | 31 736   |
| Profit/(loss) for the year before taxation                            | 231 342   | (794 052)  |
| Taxation  | (39 704)  | 147 916  |
| Profit/(loss) for the year after taxation                             | 191 638   | (646 136)  |
| <b>Discontinued operations</b>  |   |  |
| Net loss for the year from discontinued operations                    | (20 425)  | (174 743)  |
| Net profit/(loss) for the year  | 171 213   | (820 879)  |
| <i>Profit/(loss) for the year attributable to the following:</i>      |   |  |
| Equity shareholders of the company                                    | 180 761   | (789 938)  |
| Non-controlling interests   | (9 548)   | (30 941)   |
| Net profit/(loss) for the year  | 171 213   | (820 879)  |
| Earnings/(loss) per share (cents)                                     | 137.27  | (599.86)   |
| Diluted earnings/(loss) per share (cents)                             | 137.27  | (599.86)   |
| Earnings/(loss) per share from continuing operations (cents)          | 152.78  | (467.16)   |
| Diluted earnings/(loss) per share from continuing operations (cents)  | 152.78  | (467.16)   |
| Loss per share from discontinued operations (cents)                   | (15.51)   | (132.70)   |
| Diluted loss per share from discontinued operations (cents)           | (15.51)   | (132.70)   |

# Condensed consolidated statement of comprehensive income

|  | Reviewed<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2015<br>R'000 | Audited<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2014<br>R'000 |
|--|---|--|
| Net profit/(loss) for the year   | 171 213   | (820 879)  |
| Other comprehensive income for the year:   |   |  |
| Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss                                | –   | –  |
| Items that may be subsequently reclassified to profit or loss                        | 16 787  | 12 860   |
| Movement in foreign currency translation reserve                                     | 16 811  | 12 936   |
| Movement in fair value adjustment reserve  | (24)  | (76)   |
| <b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year</b>                                | <b>188 000</b>  | <b>(808 019)</b>                                     |
| <i>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year attributable to the following:</i> |   |  |
| Equity shareholders of the company   | 198 738   | (775 921)  |
| Retained income  | 180 761   | (789 938)  |
| Other reserves   | 17 977  | 14 017   |
| Non-controlling interests  | (10 738)  | (32 098)   |
| <b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year</b>                                | <b>188 000</b>  | <b>(808 019)</b>                                     |

# Condensed consolidated statement of financial position

|   | Reviewed<br>31 December<br>2015<br>R'000 | Audited<br>31 December<br>2014<br>R'000 |
|---|--|---|
| <b>ASSETS</b>   |  |   |
| <b>Non-current assets</b>   | <b>1 500 501</b>                         | 1 669 708                               |
| Property, plant and equipment   | 915 856                                  | 1 080 248                               |
| Investment property   | 6 590                                    | 5 826                                   |
| Intangible assets   | 91 640                                   | 99 938                                  |
| Investments accounted for using the equity method                                   | 136 400                                  | 131 800                                 |
| Available-for-sale financial assets   | 51 289                                   | 51 289                                  |
| Deferred income tax asset   | 298 726                                  | 300 607                                 |
| <b>Current assets</b>   | <b>2 017 657</b>                         | 2 552 957                               |
| Inventories   | 25 939                                   | 33 067                                  |
| Development land  | 262 679                                  | 268 022                                 |
| Trade and other receivables   | 769 586                                  | 905 494                                 |
| Work in progress  | 433 237                                  | 378 466                                 |
| Current income tax asset  | 19 371                                   | 57 093                                  |
| Cash and cash equivalents   | 506 845                                  | 910 815                                 |
| Non-current assets held-for-sale  | 104 203                                  | 53 112                                  |
|   | <b>3 622 361</b>                         | 4 275 777                               |
| <b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>   |  |   |
| <b>Capital and reserves</b>   | <b>1 223 552</b>                         | 1 035 552                               |
| Stated capital  | 1 048 025                                | 1 048 025                               |
| Retained income   | 155 720                                  | 61 513                                  |
| Other reserves  | 41 983                                   | 24 006                                  |
| Non-controlling interests   | (22 176)                                 | (97 992)                                |
| <b>Non-current liabilities</b>  | <b>221 087</b>                           | 259 965                                 |
| Interest-bearing borrowings   | 182 134                                  | 215 898                                 |
| Deferred income tax liability   | 38 953                                   | 44 067                                  |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>  | <b>2 155 388</b>                         | 2 970 241                               |
| Trade and other payables  | 734 163                                  | 1 180 249                               |
| Amounts due to customers  | 715 432                                  | 1 102 385                               |
| Current portion of borrowings   | 157 798                                  | 273 594                                 |
| Provisions for other liabilities and charges  | 497 523                                  | 318 766                                 |
| Current income tax liability  | 15 034                                   | 5 011                                   |
| Bank overdraft  | 35 438                                   | 90 236                                  |
| Liabilities directly associated with non-current assets classified as held-for-sale | 22 334                                   | 10 019                                  |
|   | <b>3 622 361</b>                         | 4 275 777                               |

# Condensed consolidated statement of changes in equity

|  | Reviewed<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2015<br>R'000 | Audited<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2014<br>R'000 |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Issued capital</b>                            |   |  |
| Ordinary share capital                           |   |  |
| Balance at the beginning and end of the year     | 1 048 025   | 1 048 025  |
| <b>Retained income</b>                           |   |  |
| Balance at the beginning of the year             | 61 513  | 851 451  |
| Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year   | 180 761   | (789 938)  |
| Transactions with non-controlling interests      | (86 554)  | –  |
| Balance at the end of the year                   | 155 720   | 61 513   |
| <b>Other reserves</b>                            |   |  |
| Balance at the beginning of the year             | 24 006  | 9 989  |
| Total comprehensive income for the year          | 17 977  | 14 017   |
| Balance at the end of the year                   | 41 983  | 24 006   |
| <b>Non-controlling interests</b>                 |   |  |
| Balance at the beginning of the year             | (97 992)  | (38 207)   |
| Total comprehensive loss for the year            | (10 738)  | (32 098)   |
| Transactions with non-controlling interests      | 86 554  | –  |
| Disposal of subsidiary                           | –   | 1 777  |
| Contribution to non-controlling interest parties | –   | (29 464)   |
|  | (22 176)  | (97 992)   |

# Condensed consolidated statement of cash flows

|  | Reviewed<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2015<br>R'000 | Audited<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2014<br>R'000 |
|--|---|--|
| Operating cash flow  | 439 275   | (244 333)  |
| Movements in working capital   | (555 330)   | 126 003  |
| Net cash generated by operations   | (116 055)   | (118 330)  |
| Net finance costs  | (35 869)  | (25 310)   |
| Dividends paid   | (32)  | (4)  |
| Taxation received/(paid)   | 1 265   | (58 011)   |
| Cash flow from operating activities  | (150 691)   | (201 655)  |
| Cash flow from investing activities  | 104 766   | (45 593)   |
| Cash flow from financing activities  | (325 456)   | (116 838)  |
| Effects of exchange rates on cash and cash equivalents                           | 10 393  | (2 734)  |
| Movement in cash and cash equivalents  | (360 988)   | (366 820)  |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year                           | 835 664   | 1 202 484  |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year                                 | 474 676   | 835 664  |
| Included in cash and cash equivalents as per the statement of financial position | 471 407   | 820 579  |
| Included in the assets of the disposal group                                     | 3 269   | 15 085   |
|  | <b>474 676</b>  | 835 664  |

# Additional information to the condensed consolidated financial statements

|   | Reviewed<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2015 | Audited<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2014 |
|---|--|---|
| Ordinary and special dividend paid per share (cents)                          | –  | –   |
| Ordinary and special dividend declared per share (cents)*                     | –  | –   |
| <i>* Based on the year to which the dividend relates</i>                      |  |   |
| Number of ordinary shares in issue ('000)                                     | <b>131 686</b>                               | 131 686                                     |
| Headline earnings/(loss) per share (cents)                                    | <b>120.28</b>                                | (362.08)                                    |
| Diluted headline earnings/(loss) per share (cents)                            | <b>120.28</b>                                | (362.08)                                    |
| Headline earnings/(loss) per share from continuing operations (cents)         | <b>143.87</b>                                | (298.08)                                    |
| Diluted headline earnings/(loss) per share from continuing operations (cents) | <b>143.87</b>                                | (298.08)                                    |
| Headline loss per share from discontinued operations (cents)                  | <b>(23.59)</b>                               | (64.00)                                     |
| Diluted headline loss per share from discontinued operations (cents)          | <b>(23.59)</b>                               | (64.00)                                     |
| <b>Reconciliation of basic earnings to headline earnings</b>                  | <b>R'000</b>                                 | R'000                                       |
| Basic earnings/(loss)   | <b>180 761</b>                               | (789 938)                                   |
| Adjusted by – (Profit)/loss on sale of subsidiary                             | <b>(20 046)</b>                              | 1 479                                       |
| – Loss on sale of associate   | –  | 8 010                                       |
| – Profit on sale of property, plant and equipment                             | <b>(9 926)</b>                               | (730)                                       |
| – Impairment of goodwill  | <b>7 438</b>                                 | 304 370                                     |
| – Impairment of associate   | <b>165</b>                                   | –   |
| Headline earnings/(loss)  | <b>158 392</b>                               | (476 809)                                   |
| Basic earnings/(loss) from continuing operations                              | <b>201 186</b>                               | (615 195)                                   |
| Adjusted by – Loss on sale of subsidiary                                      | –  | 1 479                                       |
| – Profit on sale of associate   | –  | (567)                                       |
| – Profit on sale of property, plant and equipment                             | <b>(11 896)</b>                              | (454)                                       |
| – Impairment of goodwill  | –  | 222 212                                     |
| – Impairment of associate   | <b>165</b>                                   | –   |
| Headline earnings/(loss) from continuing operations                           | <b>189 455</b>                               | (392 525)                                   |
| Basic loss from discontinued operations                                       | <b>(20 425)</b>                              | (174 743)                                   |
| Adjusted by – Profit on sale of subsidiary                                    | <b>(20 046)</b>                              | –   |
| – Loss on sale of associate   | –  | 8 577                                       |
| – (Loss)/profit on sale of property, plant and equipment                      | <b>1 970</b>                                 | (276)                                       |
| – Impairment of goodwill  | <b>7 438</b>                                 | 82 158                                      |
| Headline loss from discontinued operations                                    | <b>(31 063)</b>                              | (84 284)                                    |



|  | Reviewed<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2015 | Audited<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2014 |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Reconciliation between weighted average number of shares and diluted average number of shares</b> | '000   | '000  |
| Weighted average number of shares  | 131 686                                      | 131 686                                     |
| Adjusted by –“A” ordinary shares   | –  | –   |
| Adjusted by – Share Incentive Scheme   | –  | –   |
| Diluted average number of shares   | 131 686                                      | 131 686                                     |
| Net asset value per share (cents)  | 945.98                                       | 860.79                                      |
| Tangible net asset value per share (cents)   | 876.39                                       | 784.90                                      |
| Capital expenditure for the year (R'000)   | 247 503                                      | 339 074                                     |
| Depreciation (R'000)   | 269 523                                      | 342 404                                     |
| Impairment of goodwill (R'000)   | 7 438  | 304 370                                     |
| Impairment of associate (R'000)  | 165  | –   |
| Amortisation of intangible asset (R'000)   | 860  | 860   |

## Note on discontinued operations

The following entities have been included as discontinued operations in the year under review:

- LYT Architecture (Pty) Ltd – disposed on 1 February 2015
- Matomo (Pty) Ltd – closure is substantially complete
- Basil Read Energy (Pty) Ltd – disposed on 1 September 2015
- SprayPave (Pty) Ltd – disposed on 1 February 2016

The comparative information included in the income statement has been restated for the effects of the discontinued operations for all periods presented.

|  | Reviewed<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2015<br>R'000 | Audited<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2014<br>R'000 |
|--|---|--|
| Reconciliation of net loss for the year from discontinued operations |   |  |
| Net loss for the year from discontinued operations                   | (37 628)  | (92 585)   |
| Profit on disposal of discontinued operations                        | 24 641  | –  |
| Impairment of goodwill   | (7 438)   | (82 158)   |
|  | <b>(20 425)</b>                                       | <b>(174 743)</b>                                     |

## Note on non-current assets held for sale

The disposal of SprayPave (Pty) Ltd was completed on 1 February 2016 and is therefore disclosed as being held for sale at the reporting date.

The disposal of LYT Architecture was completed on 1 February 2015 and the company was therefore disclosed as held for sale as at 31 December 2014.

In terms of IFRS 5 "Non-Current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations", discontinued operations must be tested for impairment. The carrying amount of SprayPave, disclosed as a discontinued operation, exceeds the fair value of the discontinued operation and goodwill of R7.4 million has been impaired as a result.

|   | Reviewed<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2015<br>R'000 | Audited<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2014<br>R'000 |
|---|---|--|
| <b>ASSET AND LIABILITIES</b>                              |   |  |
| <b>Assets of company classified as held for sale</b>      |   |  |
| Property, plant and equipment                             | 77 315  | 3 700  |
| Intangible asset  | –   | 8 352  |
| Deferred income tax asset                                 | 8 462   | 205  |
| Contract and trade debtors                                | 9 458   | 21 310   |
| Inventories   | 5 611   | –  |
| Receivables and prepayments                               | 88  | 3 514  |
| Current income tax asset                                  | –   | 860  |
| Cash and cash equivalents                                 | 3 269   | 15 171   |
|   | <b>104 203</b>  | <b>53 112</b>  |
| <b>Liabilities of company classified as held for sale</b> |   |  |
| Interest-bearing borrowings                               | 2 813   | –  |
| Trade and other payables                                  | 14 160  | 9 933  |
| Provisions for other liabilities and charges              | 5 361   | –  |
| Bank overdraft  | –   | 86   |
|   | <b>22 334</b>   | <b>10 019</b>  |

|   | Reviewed<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2015<br>R'000 | Audited<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2014<br>R'000 |
|---|---|--|
| <b>INCOME STATEMENT OF DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS</b>                          |   |  |
| Revenue   | 101 430   | 323 369  |
| Expenses  | (119 174)   | (422 612)  |
| Impairment of goodwill  | (7 438)   | (82 158)   |
| Share of (loss)/profit of investments accounted for using the equity method | (900)   | 7 802  |
| Net finance costs   | (478)   | (2 811)  |
| Loss before taxation of discontinued operations                             | (26 560)  | (176 410)  |
| Taxation  | 6 135   | 1 667  |
| Loss after taxation of discontinued operations                              | (20 425)  | (174 743)  |
| Movement in fair value adjustment reserve                                   | –   | –  |
| Loss for the year from discontinued operations                              | (20 425)  | (174 743)  |

The condensed consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the JSE Limited Listings Requirements for provisional reports and the requirements of the Companies Act of South Africa. The Listings Requirements require provisional reports to be prepared in accordance with the framework concepts and the measurement and recognition requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and the SAICA Financial Reporting Guides as issued by the Accounting Practices Committee and Financial Pronouncements as issued by the Financial Reporting Standards Council and to also, as a minimum, contain the information required by IAS 34 *Interim Financial Reporting*. The accounting policies applied in the preparation of the condensed consolidated financial statements are in terms of IFRS and are consistent with those applied in the previous consolidated annual financial statements.

The condensed consolidated financial statements were prepared under the supervision of the chief financial officer, Amanda Wightman, CA(SA).

The board of directors take full responsibility for the preparation of the provisional report. The financial information presented has been correctly extracted from the underlying financial statements.

## REVIEW REPORT

These condensed consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 have been reviewed by the group's auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc., who expressed an unmodified review conclusion. A copy of the auditor's review report is available for inspection at the company's registered office together with the financial statements identified in the auditor's report.

## FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENT

Statements made throughout this announcement regarding the future financial performance of the company have not been reviewed or audited by the company's external auditors. The company cannot guarantee that any forward-looking statement will materialise and accordingly, readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements. The company disclaims any intention and assumes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement even if new information becomes available as a result of future events or for any other reason, other than as required by the JSE Listings Requirements.

## OVERVIEW

Basil Read reported a much-improved performance for the 12 months to December 2015, achieving its financial forecasts despite a subdued construction sector and competitive tendering. The restructuring, which was largely completed in 2014, yielded results with Basil Read returning to profitability. Despite a contraction in revenue of 12% to R5.5 billion, the company reported earnings of R180.8 million or 137.27 cents per share.

Decisive management action throughout the year to rightsize the business is producing significant benefits in terms of our strategic thrusts, including:

- **Growing the business:** we are concentrating on organic growth in our divisions to counter the impact of two major projects winding down, St Helena Airport and the Olifants River water resource development project. The St Helena project made history when the first flight landed in September 2015. This marked the start of calibration flights ahead of the airport certification process and the first commercial flight expected in May 2016. Lessons learned at the Olifants River water resource development project will be instructive in future multi-party, complex projects.
- **Making the assets sweat:** in an industry where margins are low, competition high and finance expensive, improving the quality and effectiveness of delivering our projects is critical for success. Cost management has been enhanced, including the sale or closure of non-core assets, while better operating performance at site level has incrementally improved margins over the year. We are also pursuing claims to ensure fair compensation for Basil Read. The contractual process is however lengthy, and we understand the need to balance pursuing claims against our working capital requirements. While we follow due process on legacy claims, we are now focused on resolving contractual disputes as they arise for mutual benefit.
- **Modernise the corporate culture:** by working against an agreed set of corporate values that are aligned with our strategy, we harness the collective and disciplined efforts of a representative Basil Read team in building a significantly better and more valuable business.

Progress against targets set:

|                  | 2015 actual                   | 2015 target         |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Profit after tax | <b>R171.2 million</b>         | R160 million        |
| Turnover         | <b>R5.5 billion</b>           | R5 billion          |
| Order book       | <b>R10.7 billion</b>          | R10 billion         |
| HEPS             | <b>120.28 cents per share</b> | 120 cents per share |
| ROE              | <b>15.2%</b>                  | 14%                 |
| Safety           | <b>Four fatalities</b>        | Zero fatalities     |

## CORPORATE ACTIVITY

On 1 February 2015, the company concluded the disposal of LYT Architecture for a purchase consideration of R42 million, resulting in the recognition of a loss on disposal of R3.0 million.

On 25 September 2015, the company concluded the disposal of Basil Read Energy for a purchase consideration of R70 million, resulting in the recognition of a profit on disposal of R27.7 million.

## **OPERATIONAL REVIEW**

### **Safety, health and environmental (SHE)**

At Basil Read, our intent and commitment is defined in our SHE policies. This is practically implemented via a SHE management system that integrates hazard identification, risk analysis and risk management into all our activities, while our annual SHE plan is aligned with our business strategy and ensures the continuous improvement of the system.

Following a recertification audit in November 2015, Basil Read retained its OHSAS 18001 certification for occupational health and safety.

At Basil Read, our intention is to eliminate injury and death from our operations and we set challenging safety objectives every year. In addition to complying with safety regulations and putting necessary systems, policies and corporate standards in place, we also promote individual responsibility for safety throughout the organisation.

Regrettably, Basil Read recorded four fatalities in two accidents during the year. Three people died in a trench collapse and another in a heavy vehicle accident.

We again extend our sincere condolences to their families, friends and colleagues. All incidents, regardless of the severity of the injury sustained, are exhaustively investigated and lessons learned communicated to all sites across the company to prevent similar incidents.

### **Divisional review**

Basil Read is making progress with its focus on returning to its core business of heavy construction. Any acceleration in government spending on infrastructure projects will support this focus and the division is actively positioning itself to participate in these projects.

During the year, we completed an important element of our company strategy, making our assets sweat, by consolidating certain companies and service functions to streamline operating costs. Ongoing work on this element includes negotiating contracts to accommodate changes to the scope of work, which will avoid claims and improve relationships with clients. Despite an improved core operating performance, results were affected by further losses on historically poor-performing contracts. Improved processes and oversight at operational management level meant that corrective measures were timeously implemented to limit these losses. No further losses are expected, with only one of these loss-making contracts extending into 2016.

## Buildings and developments

|                                 | Reviewed<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2015 | Audited<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2014 |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Revenue (R'000)                 | 1 016 635                                    | 1 349 030                                   |
| Operating profit/(loss) (R'000) | 18 847                                       | (304 492)                                   |
| Operating margin (%)            | 1.85   | (22.57)                                     |
| Order book (R'000)              | 1 301 715                                    | 1 667 075                                   |

Work on the Kusile and Medupi contracts for Eskom continued. The Medupi contract is expected to be complete by mid-2016 and the claims process is under way. Work on miscellaneous buildings at Kusile is scheduled to continue until 2019.

New contracts awarded in 2015 include:

- Nokuthula School in Alexandra, a R248 million, 27-month contract for the Gauteng Department of Infrastructure Development
- R70 million Julius Sebolae school in Marshalltown for the Gauteng Department of Infrastructure Development – a design-and-construct project of 18 months
- R52 million Nissan incubation centre, for the Automotive Industry Development Centre.

Despite the limited new work coming to tender, this division has a solid order book. To mitigate the weak market conditions, greater focus will be placed on buildings work in our property developments, including top-structure construction.

Our developments business focuses on large-scale mixed-income integrated housing developments. These also generate construction work for the company. This is an integral part of our social licence to operate and we work with government at all levels, parastatals and non-governmental organisations to support national imperatives focused on improving the quality of life of South Africa's people. Key current projects include Savanna City (over 18 000 planned housing opportunities) and Malibongwe Ridge, as an extension to Cosmo City (about 5 500 planned housing opportunities).

Savanna City – Unit sales continue to exceed expectations, underscoring the demand for affordable housing. We are installing internal bulk services to support the continued roll-out of stands. Along with our partner, Old Mutual's Housing Impact Fund of South Africa, we are working with the Gauteng department of human settlements and Midvaal local municipality to ensure this 1 400ha project sets a benchmark in economic development and housing. Over the next 10-year construction period, it will create approximately 55 000 jobs, with around 13 000 permanent jobs post-construction.

Malibongwe Ridge – Servicing for the first phase – 486 fully subsidised residential stands – is complete, and top structures were completed in 2015. While this development is generating revenue for Basil Read divisions, it is running at a small loss at company level (albeit decreasing) until sales exceed development costs.

Klipriver Business Park – Stand sales to date have exceeded forecasts, reflecting rising interest in this vibrant work node south of Johannesburg.

| Civils and plant                |  |   |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
|                                 | Reviewed<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2015 | Audited<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2014 |
| Revenue (R'000)                 | 852 423                                      | 1 309 926                                   |
| Operating profit/(loss) (R'000) | 503  | (388 942)                                   |
| Operating margin (%)            | 0.06   | (29.69)                                     |
| Order book (R'000)              | 796 740                                      | 1 064 616                                   |

Performance improved year-on-year despite the impact of late contract awards, community disruptions at the Olifants River water resource development project and a three-month strike at Medupi power station. Despite incurring further losses on the Olifants River water resource development project in the amount of R88 million, the division performed well to achieve a breakeven position.

During the year, we focused on entrenching initiatives to raise safety awareness and ensure compliance with legislative changes after a tragic incident in September where three employees died and two were injured in a trench collapse. More positively, in July 2015 the Kusile civils team reached 10 million hours without a lost-time injury.

As the majority of civils projects will be complete or nearing completion in the year ahead, securing new work is a priority. The civils team is targeting areas where a significant amount of work is expected to be generated over the longer term, such as water and sanitation purification projects.

Until sufficient new work is secured, we are deploying excess capacity to assist other Basil Read divisions with civils-related work.



## Pipelines

|                        | Reviewed<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2015 | Audited<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2014 |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Revenue (R'000)        | 95 444                                       | 30 112                                      |
| Operating loss (R'000) | (21 563)                                     | (2 554)                                     |
| Operating margin (%)   | (22.59)                                      | (8.48)                                      |
| Order book (R'000)     | 49 404                                       | 87 495                                      |

The pipeline division struggled during the reporting period to secure new contracts and was challenged by community disruptions and access to site. We have reviewed our mitigation measures and impact-prediction processes to deal with these challenges more effectively in future.

Given that this is a specialised field requiring specific skills, we are focused on training and development, capitalising on a deep pool of existing experience in transferring skills to a growing team.

## Roads

|                                 | Reviewed<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2015 | Audited<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2014 |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Revenue (R'000)                 | 1 358 923                                    | 1 500 312                                   |
| Operating profit/(loss) (R'000) | 49 198                                       | (181 791)                                   |
| Operating margin (%)            | 3.62   | (12.12)                                     |
| Order book (R'000)              | 2 617 204                                    | 2 245 750                                   |

The steady roll-out of work by key national and provincial clients has maintained the order book at prior-year levels, with two new projects extending into 2018. Encouragingly, the size of projects has increased, with project durations exceeding three years regularly coming to tender.

An emerging risk, given the nature of this work, is growing community disruption as local residents become more frustrated with the lack of service delivery and employment opportunities. This is particularly pronounced in rural areas, where the need for basic services is high. To mitigate the potential impact, we are partnering with our clients and their professional teams to proactively engage with communities to address their concerns, with an encouraging level of success.

Two road deaths on our roads sites – accidents involving members of the public – highlight a concerning trend where public road users are increasingly ignoring traffic control measures such as stop-go points, risking their own lives and those of our employees. We are urgently exploring ways to improve safety on our sites for all.

### St Helena airport project

|                          | Reviewed<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2015 | Audited<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2014 |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Revenue (R'000)          | <b>961 016</b>                               | 876 338                                     |
| Operating profit (R'000) | <b>95 654</b>                                | 101 120                                     |
| Operating margin (%)     | <b>9.95</b>                                  | 11.54                                       |
| Order book (R'000)       | <b>1 316 173</b>                             | 1 700 338                                   |

Widely considered our current flagship project, the St Helena contract proves we have the internal operational capacity and capabilities to successfully execute a design-build-operate project of this magnitude. Given the scale of this project, we report on it separately: phase 1 of this R4.6 billion contract began in December 2011 and is largely complete; phase 2 will run to February 2026.

The highlight of 2015 was undoubtedly the historic landing in September of the first flight to St Helena, one of the most isolated islands in the world and 2 000km off the coast of Africa. This marked the start of calibration flights ahead of the airport certification process and the first commercial flights scheduled for May 2016.

Despite the significant safety hazards presented by earthmoving equipment in difficult terrain, this contract has accumulated 4.7 million working hours, with only 391 hours lost to injury. In the past four years, it has reached the milestone of one million lost-time injury-free hours on three occasions.

### Mining

|                                 | Reviewed<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2015 | Audited<br>12 months<br>31 December<br>2014 |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Revenue (R'000)                 | <b>1 235 538</b>                             | 1 195 723                                   |
| Operating profit/(loss) (R'000) | <b>83 558</b>                                | (26 630)                                    |
| Operating margin (%)            | <b>6.76</b>                                  | (2.23)                                      |
| Order book (R'000)              | <b>4 659 957</b>                             | 3 773 675                                   |

Calendar 2015 was another challenging period for mineral resources companies due to declining commodity prices which reduced the number of opportunities coming to market with existing mine projects being delayed, scaled back or stopped. The mining division delivered another solid performance despite these challenges by implementing its asset optimisation and maintenance strategies across all its projects to protect margins.

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The engineering subsidiary, Basil Read Matomo, was closed in March 2015 to reduce overhead costs as it had not been able to secure work in competitive markets.

The Majwe Mining joint venture in Jwaneng Mine, Botswana, exceeded the client's target of 80 million tonnes mined in the Cut 8 project for the second year running.

In Namibia, the Tschudi project ramped up well, exceeding the client's expectations and underpinning the success of the new mines despite depressed copper prices.

The mining contracts with De Beers Consolidated Mines at Venetia and Voorspoed mines in South Africa were extended by 24 to 60 months, reflecting our good safety performance and cost-effective services.

The division continues to pursue growth opportunities in the contract mining market by expanding and extending services with existing customers.

New contracts:

- Lerala Diamond Mine, in Botswana, R550 million over five years for comprehensive mining services
- Venetia Mine drilling contract, extended for 60 months and valued at R600 million.

## PROSPECTS

At R10.7 billion, the order book is satisfactory and our focus will be on at least maintaining the order book at its current level. With a strong need for infrastructure development, we believe that South Africa still offers opportunities for growth and Basil Read will seek to capitalise on this, while being mindful of opportunities across the African continent. To capitalise on our strengths and position for future growth, we have changed our operating structure as detailed below.

During 2016, the bulk of the work on the St Helena airport project phase I (design and construct) as well as the Olifants River resource development project will come to an end. Plans are already in place to grow our other divisions to maintain our turnover at current levels. Encouraging growth can already be seen by the awarding of new projects in our mining and roads divisions.

As part of the areas of focus for the 2016 financial year, a decision was made to separate the buildings and developments division into two separate reporting divisions. The developments division is viewed as a strategic differentiator due to the package that the Basil Read mixed-use integrated housing development proposes for an integrated society. This model also generates work for our other construction divisions in the form of bulk infrastructure, road infrastructure, civils and buildings works. The division is perfectly aligned with government's intention to accelerate housing delivery over the next five years.

The civils division is core to Basil Read and includes plant that can be used across the company. With the Olifants River water resource development project housed in the civils division and given the overlap in skills and other projects, the pipelines division has been consolidated into the civils division. The combination of skills and resultant synergies leave Basil Read well placed to tender successfully on civils work, particularly relating to our focus area of water and sanitation purification projects, where the need for improved infrastructure is high.

In the short term, consensus expectations are that the industry will continue to face challenges, with margins under pressure and real liquidity pressures. In the long term, however, the infrastructure need in South Africa and the African continent as a whole should support growth in the sector. We believe that to be successful in the current market, we need to grow our skills base and develop geographical diversification to capitalise on these opportunities.

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The directors and senior management of the company endorse the Code of Governance Principles and Report on Governance, together referred to as King III. Considering the size of the company, the board believes it substantially complies with King III as well as with the Listings Requirements of the JSE Limited. The company regularly reviews its corporate governance policies and practices, striving for continued improvement.

The following changes to the board took effect in the review period:

- Mr Paul Cambo Baloyi was appointed independent non-executive chairman on 1 January 2015
- Mr Terence Desmond Hughes was appointed non-executive director on 1 January 2015
- Mr Mahomed Salim Ismail Gani was appointed independent non-executive director on 15 April 2015.

## **POST-BALANCE SHEET REVIEW**

Basil Read concluded the disposal of SprayPave (Pty) Ltd on 1 February 2016 for a maximum purchase consideration of R78 million.

## **DIVIDENDS**

Due to the difficult trading environment and the need to retain working capital, the board of directors has resolved not to declare a dividend.

On behalf of the board

**PC Baloyi**

*Chairman*

**NF Nicolau**

*Chief executive officer*

## **BASIL READ HOLDINGS LIMITED**

Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa

(Registration number 1984/007758/06)

("Basil Read" or "the company")

ISIN: ZAE000029781

Share code: BSR

### **Company Secretary**

A Ndoni

### **Registered office**

The Basil Read Campus, 7 Romeo Street, Hughes Extension, Boksburg, 1459

### **Auditors**

PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc.

### **Transfer secretaries**

Link Market Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd

### **Sponsor**

Grindrod Bank Limited

### **Directors**

PC Baloyi\*<sup>†</sup> (Chairman), NF Nicolau (Chief Executive Officer),  
AC Wightman (Chief Financial Officer), DLT Dondur\*<sup>†</sup>, MSI Gani\*<sup>†</sup>, TD Hughes\*, Dr CE Manning\*<sup>†</sup>,  
ACG Molusi\*, SS Ntsaluba\*, TA Tlelaj\*  
(\*Non-executive, <sup>†</sup>Independent)



**BASIL READ**

[www.basilread.co.za](http://www.basilread.co.za)