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Interim unaudited condensed financial statements for the period ended 30 September 2013



Interim consolidated statement of financial position

Total equity and liabilities

Notes 30 September 2013 R000 % Change R000 R000 Assets Non-current assets 2 926 456 9,6% 2 669 806 2	31 March 2013 R000
R000 % Change R000 Assets	R000
Non-current assets 2 026 456 0 6% 2 660 906	
2 920 430 3,0 /0 2 009 000 2	707.000
Investment properties 848 689 14,1% 744 088	787 609
Loans and receivables 4 1 810 403 8,1% 1 674 754	736 156
Investments in associates 79 083 4,8% 75 492	76 938
Property and equipment 87 230 -2,3% 89 304	88 402
Defined benefit pension fund surplus 101 051 17,3% 86 168	90 593
Current assets 443 309 2,1% 434 054	467 095
Loans and receivables 4 341 733 4,1% 328 233	324 643
Assets held for resale 6 605 -40,7% 11 131	8 829
Accounts receivable 24 995 -2,6% 25 659	33 777
Current income tax asset - 3 347	-
Cash and cash equivalents 69 976 6,5% 65 684	99 846
Total assets 3 369 765 8,6% 3 103 860 3	3 246 793
Equity and liabilities	
Capital and reserves 2 586 210 4,7% 2 469 333 2	2 543 477
Share capital 5 173 001 -3,3% 178 835	173 001
Treasury shares 5 - (15 292)	-
Fair value and other reserves 44 528 -7,3% 48 040	38 659
Retained earnings 2 368 681 4,9% 2 257 750 2	331 817
Non-controlling shareholders' interest 1 052 -9,2% 1 159	1 053
Non-current liabilities 560 369 3,6% 540 827	578 933
Borrowings 6 429 327 -0,4% 430 987	454 124
Post-retirement medical aid obligation 95 758 23,5% 77 558	93 518
Deferred tax liability 35 284 9,3% 32 282	31 291
Current liabilities 222 134 >100% 92 541	123 330
Borrowings 6 152 286 >100% 29 611	36 004
Accounts payable 38 555 6,3% 36 260	45 484
Provisions 29 348 16,3% 25 244	39 719
Current income tax liability 1 411	2 040
Shareholders for dividend 534 -62,6% 1 426	83

3 369 765

8,6%

3 103 860

3 246 793

Interim consolidated statement of comprehensive income

		Unaudited results for the period ended			Audited
	Notes	30 September 2013		30 September	31 March
		R000	% Change	2012 R000	2013 R000
Net interest revenue	7	106 575	-3,7%	110 702	214 845
Interest income		125 070	-1,6%	127 104	248 992
Interest expense		(18 495)	12,8%	(16 402)	(34 147)
Fee revenue		5 603	>100%	2 297	5 972
Investment income and gains	8	37 069	63,0%	22 747	87 587
Net property revenue		39 648	0,3%	39 540	83 657
Property revenue		80 438	10,5%	72 784	152 208
Property expenses		(40 790)	22,7%	(33 244)	(68 551)
Management and service fee income		10 137	-2,3%	10 377	18 429
Other income		3 509	-26,9%	4 802	18 044
Total income		202 541	6,3%	190 465	428 534
Net credit losses	9	(14 963)	-37,6%	(23 973)	(44 908)
Staff costs	10	(79 574)	17,1%	(67 926)	(143 781)
Other operating expenses		(22 917)	-17,9%	(27 928)	(54 839)
Profit before taxation		85 087	20,5%	70 638	185 006
Income tax expense		(22 274)	26,1%	(17 657)	(48 606)
Profit for the period		62 813	18,6%	52 981	136 400
Other comprehensive income after tax					
Actuarial movement on post-retirement benefits		4 633	>100%	(1 811)	(11 104)
Fair value adjustment of available-for-sale instruments		(1)	-50,0%	(2)	10
Foreign currency translation reserve movement		1 326	>100%	210	796
Share of associates' other comprehensive results		(89)	>100%	91	(595)
Total comprehensive income for the period		68 682	33,4%	51 469	125 507
Profit attributable to: Equity holders of Business Partners Limited		62 812	18,9%	52 822	136 347
Non-controlling interests		1	-99,4%	159	53
Non-controlling interests		62 813	18,6%	52 981	136 400
			. 5,6 %	02 00 .	
Total comprehensive income attributable to:					
Equity holders of Business Partners Limited		68 681	33,9%	51 310	125 454
Non-controlling interests		1	-99,4%	159	53
		68 682	33,4%	51 469	125 507
Earnings per share					
Basic earnings per share (cents)	11.1	36,3	19,0%	30,5	78,8
Headline earnings per share (cents)	11.2	22,4	-8,1%	24,4	51,4

Interim consolidated statement of changes in equity

	Notes	Share capital R000	Fair value and other reserves R000	Retained earnings R000	Total R000
Balance at 1 April 2012		163 543	49 552	2 227 418	2 440 513
Total comprehensive income for the period			(1 512)	52 822	51 310
Profit for the period				52 822	52 822
Other comprehensive income for the period			(1 512)		(1 512)
Movement in retained earnings of associates					-
Dividend	12			(22 490)	(22 490)
Balance at 30 September 2012		163 543	48 040	2 257 750	2 469 333
Balance at 1 April 2013		173 001	38 659	2 331 817	2 543 477
Total comprehensive income for the period			5 869	62 812	68 681
Profit for the period				62 812	62 812
Other comprehensive income for the period			5 869		5 869
Dividend	12			(25 948)	(25 948)
Balance at 30 September 2013		173 001	44 528	2 368 681	2 586 210

Interim consolidated statement of cash flows

		Unaudited results for the period ended			Audited
	Notes	30 September 2013 R000	% Change	30 September 2012 R000	31 March 2013 R000
Cash flow from operating activities					
Cash received from clients		243 097	13,0%	215 053	440 641
Cash paid to suppliers and employees		(160 955)	14,2%	(140 938)	(256 631)
Cash generated from operating activities	13.1	82 142	10,8%	74 115	184 010
Finance cost		(18 495)	34,2%	(13 781)	(31 291)
Taxation paid		(17 836)	18,7%	(15 029)	(33 346)
Dividends paid		(25 497)	20,6%	(21 135)	(22 478)
Net cash flow from operating activities		20 314	-16,0%	24 170	96 895
Cash flow from investing activities					
Capital expenditure on					
 investment properties 		(47 662)	-24,2%	(62 856)	(88 362)
 property and equipment 		(908)	-54,3%	(1 985)	(3 257)
Proceeds from sale of					
 investment properties 		2 000	-75,9%	8 300	12 300
 property and equipment 		1 778	>100%	87	124
Loans and receivables advanced		(296 625)	57,0%	(188 940)	(474 102)
Loans and receivables repaid		180 720	-5,1%	190 393	391 585
Proceeds from sale of investments in associates		15 724	>100%	4 490	39 752
Interest received from other investments		2 459	16,9%	2 104	4 790
Dividends received from investments in associates		845	-89,1%	7 721	8 626
Net cash flow from investing activities		(141 669)	>100%	(40 686)	(108 544)
Cash flow from financing activities					
Utilisation of long-term borrowings		110 000	-56,0%	250 000	290 000
Repayment of long-term borrowings		(18 515)	20,6%	(15 349)	(26 054)
Net cash flow from financing activities		91 485	-61,0%	234 651	263 946
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents		(29 870)	>100%	218 135	252 297
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period		99 846	>100%	(152 451)	(152 451)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	13.2	69 976	6,5%	65 684	99 846

Notes to the interim financial statements

1. Basis of preparation

The condensed consolidated interim financial statements for the six months ended 30 September 2013 were prepared in accordance with IAS 34, 'Interim financial reporting', and the Companies Act 71 of 2008. The condensed consolidated interim financial statements should be read in conjunction with the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2013, which were prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the previous financial year.

2. Estimates

The preparation of the interim financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

In preparing these condensed consolidated interim financial statements, the significant judgements made by management and the key sources of estimation uncertainty were similar to those that applied in preparing the consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2013.

3. Financial risk management

The Group's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks such as credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk (which includes interest rate risk and foreign currency risk). There have been no material changes in the risk management systems nor in any risk management policies since year-end.

For a comprehensive overview of the Group's risk management practices, the interim financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Group's annual financial statements as at 31 March 2013.

		Unaudited r	Unaudited results for the period ended		
		30 September 2013 R000	% Change	30 September 2012 R000	31 March 2013 R000
4.	Loans and receivables				
	Investment in En Commandite partnerships	5 830	-45,7%	10 746	8 147
	Available-for-sale financial assets	335	5,7%	317	333
	Gross loans and receivables	2 314 022	7,6%	2 150 660	2 210 865
	Less: Allowance for impairment	(168 051)	5,9%	(158 736)	(158 546)
	Carrying value of loans and receivables	2 152 136	7,4%	2 002 987	2 060 799
	Long-term portion	1 810 403	8,1%	1 674 754	1 736 156
	Short-term portion	341 733	4,1%	328 233	324 643
		2 152 136	7,4%	2 002 987	2 060 799
	Reconciliation of allowance for impairment:				
	Specific impairments				
	Balance at the beginning of the period	114 547	-13,0%	131 677	131 677
	Net movement in allowance for specific impairments	4 709	>100%	(9 408)	(17 130)
	Balance at the end of the period	119 256	-2,5%	122 269	114 547
	Portfolio impairment				
	Balance at the beginning of the period	43 999	21,8%	36 128	36 128
	Net movement in allowance for portfolio impairment	4 796	>100%	339	7 871
	Balance at the end of the period	48 795	33,8%	36 467	43 999
	Total	168 051	5,9%	158 736	158 546

		Unaudited results for the period ended			Audited	
		30 September 2013 R000	% Change	30 September 2012 R000	31 March 2013 R000	
5 .	Share capital					
	Authorised					
	400 000 000 ordinary shares	400 000	-	400 000	400 000	
	Issued					
	173 000 594 (2012: 178 834 594) ordinary shares of R1 each	173 001	-3,3%	178 835	173 001	
	5 834 000 treasury shares held by the employee share trust	-	-100,0%	(15 292)	-	
	173 000 594 ordinary shares	173 001	5,8%	163 543	173 001	
6.	Borrowings					
	Non-current					
	Interest-free long-term loans	173	-	173	173	
	Interest-bearing long-term borrowings	429 154	-0,4%	430 814	453 951	
		429 327	-0,4%	430 987	454 124	
	Current					
	Short-term portion of long-term borrowings	152 286	>100%	29 611	36 004	
		152 286	>100%	29 611	36 004	
		581 613	26,3%	460 598	490 128	

The interest-bearing long-term loans are secured by bonds over properties and a cession of the loans and receivables. The loans incur interest at rates between prime minus 0,5 percent and prime minus 1,5 percent. The remaining repayment terms are between 10 and 102 months. A capital redemption of R 125 million is due in 10 months and is in an advanced stage of being refinanced by the same institution.

7. Net interest revenue

Interest income
Interest on loans and receivables
Royalty fees
Interest on surplus funds
Interest expense

125 070	-1,6%	127 104	248 992
98 527	-0,5%	99 042	192 390
24 084	-7,2%	25 958	51 812
2 459	16,9%	2 104	4 790
(18 495)	12,8%	(16 402)	(34 147)
106 575	-3,7%	110 702	214 845

8. Investment income and gains

Investment income
Surplus on realisation of unlisted investments
Surplus on realisation of investment properties
Dividends received
Investment gains
Income from associated companies
Fair value movement of investment properties
Impairment of investment property: insured loss
Net foreign exchange rate differences

14 409	>100%	4 408	28 235
12 599	>100%	2 995	25 729
1 805	28,0%	1 410	2 500
5	66,7%	3	6
22 660	23,6%	18 339	59 352
7 580	-21,2%	9 624	29 203
15 145	20,9%	12 526	30 043
-	-100,0%	(3 928)	-
(65)	>100%	117	106
37 069	63,0%	22 747	87 587

Notes to the interim financial statements

	Unaudited results for the period ended		riod ended	Audited	
	30 September		30 September	31 March	
	2013 R000	% Change	2012 R000	2013 R000	
9. Net credit losses					
Loans and receivables written off	(12 526)	-68,1%	(39 225)	(68 214)	
Legal expenses incurred on recovery	(2 230)	7,4%	(2 076)	(3 692)	
Impaiments (created) / released	(9 505)	>100%	9 069	9 259	
Portfolio impairments created	(4 796)	>100%	(339)	(7 871)	
Specific impairments (created) / released	(4 709)	>100%	9 408	17 130	
Recovery of loans and receivables written off	9 298	12,6%	8 259	17 739	
	(14 963)	-37,6%	(23 973)	(44 908)	
10. Staff costs					
Salaries	(58 040)	7,6%	(53 917)	(108 699)	
Bonuses and provisions	(14 954)	46,0%	(10 241)	(25 068)	
Defined benefit pension fund gain	3 852	-33,7%	5 808	9 243	
Retirement fund contributions	(4 909)	5,9%	(4 637)	(9 294)	
Post retirement medical aid costs	(3 962)	11,0%	(3 568)	(7 136)	
Indirect staff costs	(1 561)	13,9%	(1 371)	(2 827)	
	(79 574)	17,1%	(67 926)	(143 781)	
11. Earnings per share					
11.1 Basic earnings per share					
Profit attributable to equity holders of Business Partners Limited	62 812	18,9%	52 822	136 347	
Weighted number of ordinary shares in issue ('000)	173 001	· -	173 001	173 001	
Basic earnings per share (cents)	36,3	19,0%	30,5	78,8	
11.2 Headline earnings per share					
Determination of headline earnings					
Profit attributable to equity holders of Business Partners Limited	62 812	18,9%	52 822	136 347	
Adjustments net of tax	02 0 12	10,9 /0	32 822	130 347	
Surplus on sale of property and equipment	(7)	-85,1%	(47)	44	
Surplus on realisation of unlisted investments	(10 250)	>100%	(2 436)	(2 034)	
Surplus on realisation of investment properties	(1 468)	28,0%	(1 147)	(20 931)	
Fair value movement of investment properties	(12 321)	20,9%	(10 190)	(27 610)	
Impairment of investment property: insured loss	-	-100,0%	3 169	3 169	
Headline earnings	38 766	-8,1%	42 171	88 985	
Headline earnings per share (cents)	22,4	-8,1%	24,4	51,4	

12. Dividend

A dividend in respect of the year ended March 2013 of 15 cents per share (2012:13 cents per share) was declared on 29 May 2013 and paid on 23 August 2013 to shareholders registered on 13 August 2013. The dividend was subject to a withholding tax of 15 percent or 2,25 cents per share. A net dividend of 12,75 cents per share was paid to shareholders who are not exempt from dividends withholding tax, or subject to a reduced rate.

Consistent with the prior year interim period, no interim dividend has been declared.

Notes to the interim financial statements

	30 September 2013 R000	% Change	30 September 2012 R000	31 March 2013 R000
Cash flow statement				
Cash generated from operating activities				
Profit before taxation	85 087	20,5%	70 638	185 006
Adjustments for non-cash items	(22 476)	>100%	(5 469)	(25 090)
Income from associated companies	(7 580)	-21,2%	(9 624)	(29 203)
Dividends received	(5)	66,7%	(3)	(6)
Surplus on sale of assets	(14 412)	>100%	(4 464)	(28 176)
Fair value adjustment of investment properties	(15 145)	76,1%	(8 598)	(30 043)
Fair value adjustment of financial instruments	(1 733)	-63,1%	(4 700)	(9 764)
Depreciation	1 841	-3,0%	1 898	4 439
Credit losses	25 385	-28,0%	35 238	69 189
Movement on post-retirement benefits	(1 783)	-55,7%	(4 025)	(2 107)
Foreign currency movements	1 326	>100%	210	796
Provisions	(10 370)	-9,0	(11 401)	(215)
Changes in working capital	3 495	>100%	(5 352)	(5 263)
Decrease / (increase) in assets held for resale	2 224	>100%	(5 510)	(3 208)
Decrease / (increase) in accounts receivable	8 200	>100%	(85)	(8 210)
(Decrease) / increase in accounts payable	(6 929)	>100%	243	6 155
Net finance cost	16 036	12,2%	14 298	29 357
Cash generated from operating activities	82 142	10,8%	74 115	184 010
(Decrease) / increase in accounts payable Net finance cost	(6 929) 16 036	>100%	243	3 8

Unaudited results for the period ended

Audited

13.2 Cash and cash equivalents

13.13.1

Cash and cash equivalents for the purpose of the cash flow statement includes deposits, bank current and call accounts.

14. Commitments and contingent liabilities

Loans and receivables approved not yet advanced	410 513	8,7%	377 702	295 262
Capital committed to En Commandite partnerships	15	-	15	15
Capital committed in respect of purchase of building	36 796	>100%	15 250	45 843
Unexpired portion of lease agreements	18 458	>100%	4 528	3 138

15. Related parties

15.1 Loans to / from related parties

Loans to associates	892 502	11,9%	797 447	836 356

All other loans to and from related parties (subsidiaries) were eliminated on consolidation to determine the Group's interim results.

15.2 Directors' remuneration

Directors' remuneration will be disclosed in the Annual Financial Statements.

16. Reclassifications

During the year, comparative information disclosed in the previous year was reclassified to be consistent with the current year's expanded disclosure. The reclassification did not affect total comprehensive income for the prior year.

Comments

Business Activities

Business Partners Ltd is a specialist investment group providing risk finance, mentorship as well as property accommodation and management services to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in South Africa. In addition to the South African operations, investment funds – earmarked for the risk-based financing of SMEs – are managed in other African countries on behalf of international investors. An operational presence has been established in Kenya, Rwanda, Namibia, Zambia and Malawi.

Operational Results

During the period under review, 198 investments, amounting to R531,5 million, were approved (September 2012: 164 investments amounting to R510,0 million). Investments advanced amounted to R368,5 million, 37,2 percent more than the R268,6 million advanced for the period ended September 2012, a satisfactory improvement considering the current market conditions.

Commitments – investments approved, but not yet advanced – increased by 26,1 percent from the R341 million under commitment at the end of March 2013 to R430 million at the end of September 2013. The level of investments advanced during the latter half of the financial year is expected to exceed the level disbursed in the first half of the financial year.

The credit risk in the investment portfolio has improved. Investments with repayment obligations in default, decreased from 22,0 percent of the investment portfolio in September 2012 to 20,8 percent of the portfolio in September 2013.

Financial Overview

Total income increased by 6,3 percent to R202,5 million for the period (September 2012: R190,5 million). Net interest revenue decreased marginally by 3,7 percent, largely due to the 50 basis points decrease in the prime interest rate in July 2012. Property revenue increased by 10,5 percent, a result of increased rental revenue as well as additions to the investment property portfolio.

The decrease of 37,6 percent in net credit losses to R15,0 million for the period reflects the improvement in the credit quality of the investment portfolio. Investments written off during the period decreased by 68,1 percent and amounted to R12,5 million (September 2012: R39,2 million). The increase in the total allowance for impairment of loans and receivables from R158,5 million (7,1 percent of the portfolio) as reported in March 2013, to R168,1 million (7,2 percent of the portfolio) in September 2013, provides adequate cover for potential future credit losses.

Salaries amounted to R58,0 million for the period, an increase of 7,6 percent compared to the period ended September 2012. Total staff costs amounted to R79,6 million, a 17,1 percent increase in total staff costs, which is mainly attributable to the provision for bonuses and other staff payments increasing by 46,0 percent to R15,0 million (September 2012: R10,2 million) and net retirement contributions increasing by R2,6 million to R5,0 million (September 2012: R2,4 million).

The net profit attributable to equity holders of Business Partners Ltd amounts to R62,8 million for the period, a R10,0 million (18,9 percent) improvement on the R52,8 million profit reported for the same period last year. However, headline earnings decreased by R3,4 million (8,1 percent) from R42,2 million in September 2012 to R38,8 million for the current period. The adjustment made to profit to arrive at headline earnings relates mainly to the re-measurement of assets and the disposal of investments, which increased by 74,0 percent from R13,8 million to R24,0 million.

Future prospects

The SME lending and investment environment remains uncertain. Achieving the R840 million target for new investments for the financial year ending March 2014 will be challenging.

The risk profile of the investment portfolio, as measured by the portion of the portfolio classified as non-performing investments, has improved. Debt collection, as well as turnaround and value adding initiatives, continue to enhance the credit quality of the investment portfolio. However, the continued improvement in credit quality will be dependent on broader economic conditions not deteriorating materially, especially since SMEs are vulnerable to economic shocks and adverse economic developments.

Improvement programmes focused on client service, efficiency and cost effectiveness continued during the period and delivered satisfactory results. Profit realised during the second half of the financial year usually exceeds the profit realised during the period under review. It is reasonable to expect that, based on the results of the period under review, the profit for the full financial year ending March 2014 should exceed the profit realised for the financial year ended March 2013.

On behalf of the board

T van Wyk

Chairman

5 November 2013

N Martin

Managing Director

The Condensed Consolidated Interim Financial Statements have been reviewed by the Chief Financial Officer, BD Bierman.

Directors: T van Wyk (Chairman), N Martin (Managing Director)*, C Botes*, JW Dreyer, Dr E Links, ZJ Matlala, F Meisenholl, D Moshapalo, SST Ncgobo, Dr ZZR Rustomjee, SEN Sebotsa, VO Twala, G van Biljon*, NJ Williams.

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^{**} Property Management Services only