# **ENABLING SMEs TO FLOURISH**

Ensuring long-term success through considered partnerships, investment and mentorship





# Interim consolidated statement of financial position

		Unaudite	Audited		
	Notes	30 September 2014 R000	% Change	30 September 2013 R000	31 March 2014 R000
Assets					
Non-current assets		3 210 505	9,7%	2 926 456	3 199 128
Investment properties		965 719	13,8%	848 689	958 943
Loans and receivables	4	1 928 359	6,5%	1 810 403	1 947 356
Investments in associates		89 079	12,6%	79 083	82 139
Property and equipment		95 931	10,0%	87 230	86 498
Defined benefit pension fund surplus		131 417	30,1%	101 051	124 192
Current assets		561 046	26,6%	443 309	460 912
Loans and receivables	4	322 387	-5,7%	341 733	326 790
Assets held for resale		4 903	-25,8%	6 605	5 316
Accounts receivable		23 917	-4,3%	24 995	26 037
Cash and cash equivalents	13.2	209 839	> 100%	69 976	102 769
Total assets		3 771 551	11,9%	3 369 765	3 660 040
Equity and liabilities					
Capital and reserves		2 748 334	6,3%	2 586 210	2 706 018
Share capital	5	173 001	-	173 001	173 001
Fair value and other reserves		73 374	64,8%	44 528	72 300
Retained earnings		2 501 959	5,6%	2 368 681	2 460 717
Non-controlling shareholders' interest	L	1 044	-0,8%	1 052	1 006
Total Equity		2 749 378	6,3%	2 587 262	2 707 024
Non-current liabilities		889 435	58,7%	560 369	826 965
Borrowings	6	746 945	74,0%	429 327	691 289
Post-retirement medical aid obligation		79 238	-17,3%	95 758	77 143
Deferred tax liability		63 252	79,3%	35 284	58 533
Current liabilities		132 738	-40,2%	222 134	126 051
Borrowings	6	32 476	-78,7%	152 286	26 680
Accounts payable		68 598	77,9%	38 555	50 748
Provisions		28 651	-2,4%	29 348	48 197
Current income tax liability		2 293	62,5%	1 411	325
Shareholders for dividend		720	34,8%	534	101
Total liabilities		1 022 173	30,6%	782 503	953 016
Total equity and liabilities		3 771 551	11,9%	3 369 765	3 660 040

# Interim consolidated statement of comprehensive income

		Unaudi	e period ended	Audited	
	Notes	30 September 2014 R000	% Change	30 September 2013 R000	31 March 2014 R000
Net interest revenue	7	117 432	10,2%	106 575	231 233
Interest income		148 036	18,4%	125 070	274 744
Interest expense		(30 604)	65,5%	(18 495)	(43 511)
Fee revenue		4 702	-2,8%	4 837	10 785
Investment income and gains	8	41 723	12,6%	37 069	122 380
Net property revenue		48 158	19,2%	40 414	83 552
Property revenue		88 109	8,5%	81 204	170 938
Property expenses		(39 951)	-2,1%	(40 790)	(87 386)
Management and service fee income		14 116	39,3%	10 137	17 311
Other income		1 905	-45,7%	3 509	4 851
Total income		228 036	12,6%	202 541	470 112
Net credit losses	9	(17 912)	19,7%	(14 963)	(46 770)
Staff costs	10	(79 935)	0,5%	(79 574)	(162 626)
Other operating expenses		(35 379)	54,4%	(22 917)	(54 474)
Profit before taxation		94 810	11,4%	85 087	206 242
Income tax expense		(24 120)	8,3%	(22 274)	(51 405)
Profit for the period		70 690	12,5%	62 813	154 837
Other comprehensive income after tax					
Actuarial movement on post-retirement benefits		771	-83,4%	4 633	32 676
Fair value adjustment of available-for-sale instruments		19	> 100%	(1)	14
Foreign currency translation reserve movement		(109)	> 100%	1 326	1 041
Share of associates' other comprehensive results		393	> 100%	(89)	(90)
Other comprehensive income for the period		1 074	-81,7%	5 869	33 641
Total comprehensive income for the period		71 764	4,5%	68 682	188 478
Profit attributable to:					
Equity holders of Business Partners Limited		70 652	12,5%	62 812	154 850
Non-controlling interests		38	> 100%	1	(13)
		70 690	12,5%	62 813	154 837
Total comprehensive income attributable to:					
Equity holders of Business Partners Limited		71 726	4,4%	68 681	188 491
Non-controlling interests		38	> 100%	1	(13)
		71 764	4,5%	68 682	188 478
Earnings per share					
Basic earnings per share (cents)	11.1	40.8	12,4%	36.3	89.5
Headline earnings per share (cents)	11.2	27.6	23,4%	22.4	45.2
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# 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 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
Balance at 1 April 2014		173 001	72 300	2 460 717	2 706 018
Total comprehensive income for the period			1 074	70 652	71 726
Profit for the period				70 652	70 652
Other comprehensive income for the period			1 074		1 074
Dividend	12			(29 410)	(29 410)
Balance at 30 September 2014		173 001	73 374	2 501 959	2 748 334

## Interim consolidated statement of cash flows

		Unaudito	ed results for the	e period ended	Audited
Ne	otes	30 September 2014 R000	% Change	30 September 2013 R000	31 March 2014 R000
Cash flow from operating activities					
Cash received from clients		261 176	7,4%	243 097	493 205
Cash paid to suppliers and employees		(160 017)	-0,6%	(160 955)	(288 985)
Cash generated from operating activities	13.1	101 159	23,2%	82 142	204 220
Finance cost		(28 481)	54,0%	(18 495)	(41 374)
Taxation paid		(14 340)	-19,6%	(17 836)	(29 749)
Dividends paid		(28 791)	12,9%	(25 497)	(25 932)
Net cash flow from operating activities		29 547	45,5%	20 314	107 165
Cash flow from investing activities Capital expenditure on					
- investment properties		(1 959)	-95,9%	(47 662)	(110 896)
– property and equipment		(1 240)	36,6%	(908)	(2 225)
Proceeds from sale of					
- investment properties		2 225	11,3%	2 000	4 600
– property and equipment		27	-98,5%	1 778	1 838
Loans and receivables advanced		(213 200)	-28,1%	(296 625)	(674 043)
Loans and receivables repaid		212 860	17,8%	180 720	394 824
Proceeds from sale of investments in associates		13 837	-12,0%	15 724	40 359
Interest received from other investments		5 123	> 100%	2 459	5 337
Dividends received from investments in associates		521	-38,3%	845	10 262
Net cash flow from investing activities		18 194	> 100%	(141 669)	(329 944)
Cash flow from financing activities					
Utilisation of long-term borrowings		78 933	-28,2%	110 000	251 721
Repayment of long-term borrowings		(19 604)	5,9%	(18 515)	(26 019)
Net cash flow from financing activities	_	59 329	-35,1%	91 485	225 702
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents		107 070	> 100%	(29 870)	2 923
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period		102 769	2,9%	99 846	99 846
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	13.2	209 839	> 100%	69 976	102 769

#### 1. Basis of preparation

The condensed consolidated interim financial statements for the six months ended 30 September 2014 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 2014, 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 2014.

### 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 2014.

	Unaudite	Unaudited results for the period ended		
-	30 September 2014 R000	% Change	30 September 2013 R000	31 March 2014 R000
4. Loans and receivables				
Investment in En Commandite partnerships	5 766	-1,1%	5 830	7 002
Available-for-sale financial assets	380	13,4%	335	353
Gross loans and receivables	2 413 099	4,3%	2 314 022	2 429 121
Less: Allowance for impairment	(168 499)	0,3%	(168 051)	(162 330)
Carrying value of loans and receivables	2 250 746	4,6%	2 152 136	2 274 146
Long-term portion	1 928 359	6,5%	1 810 403	1 947 356
Short-term portion	322 387	-5,7%	341 733	326 790
	2 250 746	4,6%	2 152 136	2 274 146
Reconciliation of allowance for impairment:				
Specific impairments				
Balance at the beginning of the period	116 278	1,5%	114 547	114 547
Net movement in allowance for specific impairments	9 644	> 100%	4 709	1 731
Balance at the end of the period	125 922	5,6%	119 256	116 278
Portfolio impairment				
Balance at the beginning of the period	46 052	4,7%	43 999	43 999
Net movement in allowance for portfolio impairment	(3 475)	> 100%	4 796	2 053
Balance at the end of the period	42 577	-12,7%	48 795	46 052
Total	168 499	0,3%	168 051	162 330

		Unaudite	Unaudited results for the period ended		
		30 September 2014 R000	% Change	30 September 2013 R000	31 March 2014 R000
5.	Share capital				
	Authorised				
	400 000 000 ordinary shares of R1 each	400 000	-	400 000	400 000
	Issued				
	173 000 594 (2013: 173 000 594) ordinary shares of R1 each	173 001	-	173 001	173 001
6.	Borrowings				
	Non-current				
	Interest-free long-term loans	173	-	173	173
	Interest-free Jobs Fund grant	7 682	-	-	1 960
	Interest-bearing long-term borrowings	739 090	72,2%	429 154	689 156
		746 945	74,0%	429 327	691 289
	Current				
	Short-term portion of long-term borrowings	32 476	-78,7%	152 286	26 680
		32 476	-78,7%	152 286	26 680
		779 421	34,0%	581 613	717 969

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 0,8 percent and prime minus 1,5 percent. The repayment terms are 10 years. The capital redemption of R 125 million that was due within 10 months from the prior interim period was refinanced by the same institution.

#### 7. Net interest revenue

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

148 036	18,4%	125 070	274 744
114 405	16,1%	98 527	205 560
28 508	18,4%	24 084	63 847
5 123	> 100%	2 459	5 337
(30 604)	65,5%	(18 495)	(43 511)
117 432	10,2%	106 575	231 233

## 8. Investment income and gains

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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 on investment properties
Net foreign exchange rate differences

11 416	-20,8%	14 409	38 878
10 927	-13,3%	12 599	35 770
485	-73,1%	1 805	2 725
4	-20,0%	5	383
30 307	33,7%	22 660	83 502
13 657	80,2%	7 580	27 909
16 627	9,8%	15 145	55 748
23	> 100%	(65)	(155)
41 723	12,6%	37 069	122 380

	Unaudit	Unaudited results for the period ended		
	30 September 2014 R000	% Change	30 September 2013 R000	31 March 2014 R000
9. Net credit losses				
Loans and receivables written off	(15 932)	27,2%	(12 526)	(54 858)
Legal expenses incurred on recovery	(2 330)	4,5%	(2 230)	(3 742)
Impairments created	(6 169)	-35,1%	(9 505)	(3 784)
Portfolio impairments released / (created)	3 475	> 100%	(4 796)	(2 053)
Specific impairments created	(9 644)	> 100%	(4 709)	(1 731)
Recovery of loans and receivables written off	6 519	-29,9%	9 298	15 614
	(17 912)	19,7%	(14 963)	(46 770)
10. Staff costs				
Salaries	(62 099)	7,0%	(58 040)	(116 041)
Bonuses and provisions	(12 773)	-14,6%	(14 954)	(34 415)
Defined benefit pension fund gain	6 151	52,9%	4 023	9 074
Retirement fund contributions	(5 334)	5,0%	(5 080)	(9 694)
Post retirement medical aid costs	(3 883)	-2,0%	(3 962)	(7 923)
Indirect staff costs	(1 997)	27,9%	(1 561)	(3 627)
	(79 935)	0,5%	(79 574)	(162 626)
11. Earnings per share				
11.1 Basic earnings per share				
Profit attributable to equity holders of Business Partners Limited	70 652	12,5%	62 812	154 850
Weighted number of ordinary shares in issue ('000)	173 001	-	173 001	173 001
Basic earnings per share (cents)	40,8	12,4%	36,3	89,5
11.2 Headline earnings per share				
Determination of headline earnings				
Profit attributable to equity holders of Business Partners Limited	70 652	12,5%	62 812	154 850
Adjustments net of tax				
Surplus on sale of property and equipment	(11)	57,1%	(7)	(37)
Surplus on realisation of unlisted investments	(8 889)	-13,3%	(10 250)	(29 099)
Surplus on realisation of investment properties	(395)	-73,1%	(1 468)	(2 216)
Fair value movement of investment properties	(13 526)	9,8%	(12 321)	(45 352)
Headline earnings	47 831	23,4%	38 766	78 146
Headline earnings per share (cents)	27,6	23,4%	22,4	45,2

## 12. Dividend

A dividend in respect of the year ended March 2014 of 17 cents per share (2013: 15 cents per share) was declared on 27 May 2014 and paid on 22 August 2014 to shareholders registered on 12 August 2014. The dividend was subject to a withholding tax of 15 percent or 2,55 cents per share. A net dividend of 14,45 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.

	Unaudit	Unaudited results for the period ended		
	30 September 2014 R000	% Change	30 September 2013 R000	31 March 2014 R000
13. Cash flow statement				
13.1 Cash generated from operating activities				
Profit before taxation	94 810	11,4%	85 087	206 242
Adjustments for non-cash items	(37 918)	68,7%	(22 476)	(56 716)
Income from associated companies	(13 657)	80,2%	(7 580)	(27 909)
Dividends received	(4)	-20,0%	(5)	(383)
Surplus on sale of assets	(11 425)	-20,7%	(14 412)	(38 540)
Fair value adjustment of investment properties	(16 627)	9,8%	(15 145)	(55 748)
Fair value adjustment of financial instruments	(1 424)	-17,8%	(1 733)	(11 112)
Depreciation	1 863	1,2%	1 841	3 506
Credit losses	27 071	6,6%	25 385	68 542
Movement on post-retirement benefits	(4 059)	> 100%	(1 783)	(1 151)
Foreign currency movements	(109)	> 100%	1 326	1 041
Provisions	(19 547)	88,5%	(10 370)	5 038
Changes in working capital	18 786	> 100%	3 495	16 519
Decrease in inventory and assets held for resale	413	-81,4%	2 224	3 513
Decrease in accounts receivable	523	-93,6%	8 200	7 741
Increase / (decrease) in accounts payable	17 850	> 100%	(6 929)	5 265
Net finance cost	25 481	58,9%	16 036	38 175
Cash generated from operating activities	101 159	23,2%	82 142	204 220

#### 13.2 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes deposits and bank current and call accounts.

## 14. Commitments and contingent liabilities

Loans and receivables approved not yet advanced	409 928	8,4%	378 086	319 664
Capital committed to En Commandite partnerships	15	-	15	15
Capital committed in respect of purchases of property	106 967	> 100%	52 094	19 759
Unexpired portion of lease agreements	15 985	-13,4%	18 458	18 645

## 15. Related parties

#### 15.1 Loans to / from related parties

Loans to associates	938 391	5,1%	892 502	952 908
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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 Group's South African operations, SME investment funds 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**

The macro-economic environment continues to negatively impact on SMEs' business confidence, contributing to a very challenging investment environment. During the period under review, 191 investments, amounting to R507,0 million, were approved (September 2013: 198 investments amounting to R531,5 million). Investments advanced amounted to R246,9 million, 33,0 percent less than the R368,5 million advanced for the period ended September 2013.

Commitments – investments approved, but not yet advanced – increased by 20,2 percent from the R430,2 million under commitment at the end of September 2013 to R516,9 million at the end of September 2014. It is anticipated that the level of investments advanced during the latter half of the financial year will 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 20,8 percent of the investment portfolio a year ago to 19,0 percent of the portfolio in September 2014.

#### **Financial Overview**

Total income increased by 12,6 percent to R228,0 million for the period (September 2013: R202,5 million). Net interest revenue increased by 10,2 percent, largely due to the 75 basis points increase in the prime interest rate during the interim period. Net property revenue increased by 19,2 percent, a result of increased rental revenue as well as additions to the investment property portfolio.

Management and service fee income increased by 39,3 percent, the result of various Southern African operations starting operations.

Net credit losses increased by 19,7 percent to R17,9 million for the period (September 2013: R15,0 million). Investments written off during the period increased by 27,2 percent and amounted to R15,9 million (September 2013: R12,5 million). The allowance for impairment of loans and receivables increased from R162,3 million in March 2014 (6,7 percent of the portfolio), to R168,5 million in September 2014 (7,0 percent of the portfolio), providing adequate cover for potential future credit losses. Other operating expenses increased by 54,4 percent from R22,9 million in September 2013 to R35,4 million in September 2014, mainly due to the investment in a brand repositioning project.

The net profit attributable to equity holders of Business Partners Ltd amounts to R70,7 million for the period, a R7,9 million (12,5 percent) improvement on the R62,8 million profit reported for the same period last year. Headline earnings increased by R9,0 million (23,4 percent) from R38,8 million in September 2013 to R47,8 million for the current period.

#### **Future Prospects**

The current uncertainties in the SME lending and investment environment means that achieving the R890 million target for new investments during the financial year ending March 2015, will be a challenge.

Debt collection, as well as turnaround and value adding initiatives, protected and enhanced the credit quality of the investment portfolio. Further improvement in the credit quality of the investment portfolio will be dependent on improvements in macro-economic conditions and SMEs' business confidence.

Programmes aimed at improving 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 2015 should exceed the profit realised for the financial year ended March 2014.

On behalf of the board

T van Wyk

Chairman

4 November 2014

N Martin

**Managing Director** 

Nacati

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\*, F Knoetze, Dr E Links, ZJ Matlala, F Meisenholl, D Moshapalo, SST Ncgobo, Dr ZZR Rustomjee, SEN Sebotsa, VO Twala, G van Biljon\*, NJ Williams.

Company Secretary: CM Gerbrands

\* Executive Director



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