



FINAL RESULTS

for the year ended 30 June 2002

- Turnover increased by 32,1% to R1,51 billion
- Headline earnings increased by 86,8% to R252,9 million
- Strong results from Assmang

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

	Year ended 30 June 2002 Audited R'000	Year end 30 June 2001 Audited R'000
Turnover	1 514 406	1 146 082
Net operating profit	416 319	236 000
Finance costs	(35 207)	(35 762)
Dividends received	4 839	3 622
Net profit before taxation	385 951	203 860
Taxation	(131 894)	(67 265)
Net profit from ordinary operating activities	254 057	136 595
Outside shareholders' share of net operating (profit)/loss	(381)	2 447
Net profit from ordinary activities	253 676	139 042
Exceptional item	248 278	-
Attributable earnings	501 954	139 042
Earnings per share (cents)	1 792,7	496,6
Headline earnings per share (cents)*	903,2	483,6
Dividends per share (cents)	60,0	32,0
Ordinary shares in issue (million)	28,0	28,0
Net asset value per share (rand)	47,8	29,3
Capital expenditure (million)	193,1	318,0
Capital commitments (million)	349,0	395,7
*Determination of headline earnings		
Attributable earnings per income statement	501 954	139 042
Exceptional item	(248 278)	-
Net profit on disposal or impairment of other fixed assets	(788)	(3 636)
Headline earnings	252 888	135 406

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

	At 30 June 2002 Audited R'000	At 30 June 2001 Audited R'000
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	952 198	828 766
Intangible assets	4 752	7 294
Environmental rehabilitation trust funds	12 829	11 021
Investments	179 051	105 494
	1 148 830	952 575
Current assets		
Cash resources	84 633	78 023
Other current assets	773 057	535 668
Total assets	2 006 520	1 566 266
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Share capital and reserves		
Ordinary shareholders' interest	1 325 020	810 781
Outside shareholders' interest	13 796	10 386
Share capital and reserves	1 338 816	821 167
Non-current liabilities		
Deferred taxation	173 261	115 452
Long-term liabilities	32 032	29 579
	1 544 109	966 198
Current liabilities		
Non-interest bearing	109 010	121 985
Interest bearing	353 401	478 083
Total liabilities	2 006 520	1 566 266

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Year ended 30 June 2002 Audited R'000	Year end 30 June 2001 Audited R'000
SHARE CAPITAL AND NON-DISTRIBUTABLE RESERVES		
Balance at beginning of year	52 952	26 769
Net increase in the market value of listed investments	41 951	24 747
Deferred taxation on listed investments	(8 176)	-
Foreign exchange gain transferred	-	(95)
Foreign currency translation reserve	3 411	1 531
Balance at end of year	90 138	52 952
DISTRIBUTABLE RESERVES		
RETAINED INCOME		
Balance at beginning of year	749 728	627 652
Attributable earnings	501 954	139 042
Foreign exchange gain transferred	-	95
Ordinary dividend	-	-
No's 89 and 90 aggregating 60 cents per share (2001: 32 cents per share)	(16 800)	(8 960)
Balance at end of year	1 234 882	757 829
Per balance sheet	1 325 020	810 781

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	Year ended 30 June 2002 Audited R'000	Year end 30 June 2001 Audited R'000
Cash retained from operating activities	100 584	142 667
Cash generated/(utilised) in investing activities	30 495	(316 429)
Cash (utilised)/generated from financing activities	(124 469)	167 768
Increase/(decrease) in cash for the year	6 610	(5 994)
Cash resources at beginning of year	78 023	84 017
Cash resources at end of year	84 633	78 023

DECLARATION OF FINAL DIVIDEND

Final dividend No 91 of 40 cents per share was declared on Tuesday, 17 September 2002. The last date to trade "cum" dividend in order to participate in the dividend will be Friday, 4 October 2002. The company's ordinary shares will commence trading "ex" dividend from the commencement of business on Monday, 7 October 2002 and the record date will be Friday, 11 October 2002. Share certificates may not be dematerialised or rematerialised between Monday, 7 October 2002 and Friday, 11 October 2002 (inclusive of both days) and the dividend is payable on Monday, 14 October 2002.

COMMENTARY

Results

The group's operating profit rose by 76,4% off a 32,1% rise in revenue, reflecting further improvement in margins. Earnings from ordinary activities increased by 82,4% to R253,7 million and an exceptional item amounting to an additional R248,3 million was earned as the group's share of the profit on the disposal of Assmang's Dwaarsrivier PGM mineral rights during the year. This brought total attributable income for the year to R502,0 million. Headline earnings per share grew by 86,8% to 903,2 cents a share.

Assore's fortunes remain closely linked to those of its principal investments, particularly the 45,7% holding in Assmang which it controls jointly and is partially consolidated. Assmang, which published its final results on 6 September, had another very successful year, assisted by the particularly favourable US dollar/SA rand exchange rate which was a feature of much of the financial year ended 30 June 2002.

Assore received additional income from its role as sole marketing agent for Assmang's products. Sales of those products over the year showed improvement in all sectors except for manganese alloys which reported a modest decrease.

Sales Volumes

	2002 '000 metric tons	2001 '000 metric tons
Iron ore	4 775	4 315
Manganese ore (excluding deliveries to the Cato Ridge Works)	993	979
Manganese alloys	187	193
Charge chrome	190	125
Chrome ore (excluding deliveries to Machadodorp Works)	39	-

Income from these products increased significantly in most cases as a function of the US dollar/SA rand exchange rate over the year.

Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure was targeted primarily at Assmang's mines and alloy works, comprising the following capital projects:

- the new charge chrome smelter and pelletising facilities at Machadodorp which were commissioned in January of this year.
- construction of the new shaft complex at Nchwaning manganese mine which is on schedule, within budget and planned for completion in the second half of 2003.

Borrowings

As forecast at the time, last year's relatively high level of interest bearing borrowings, amounting to R478 million, have been reduced to R353,4 million, following receipt of the proceeds on the sale of the PGM mineral rights.

Outlook

While overall sales of the Group's products remain fairly buoyant and this trend appears likely to continue into the new financial year, international and local economic conditions remain volatile. The influence imparted by the SA Rand/US Dollar exchange rate upon the Group's performance should constantly be borne in mind in attempting to forecast future prospects. Clearly, the extent of such influence depends upon the volatility of movement in the exchange rate and that is a matter for individual conjecture and difficult to predict with any certainty at this stage.

Currently circumstances suggest that this will be another good year for world-wide steel production, and both iron and manganese ore sales should remain at about the same levels but with lower US dollar prices than in the past year. The group's share of manganese alloy sales is anticipated to increase in line with the higher production planned at the Cato Ridge works. US dollar prices

have improved markedly since the year end, but are expected to come under pressure when supply disruptions are overcome. The improvement in the ferrochrome market should at least be sustained and volumes could be substantially raised by major contractual negotiations with better margins flowing from improved utilisation of available capacity.

Dividends

An increased interim dividend of 40 cents per share was declared on 11 March 2002. This included a once-off distribution flowing from the receipt of the proceeds on the disposal of the PGM's which were received in December 2001. An increased final dividend of 40 cents (2001: 20 cents) per share has been declared, based on the improved headline earnings. The dividend has not been reflected in the results for the year as it was declared after the reporting date of 30 June.

Accounting policies

The Group's financial information has been extracted from the audited Group annual financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with statements of Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in South Africa and International Accounting Standards. The accounting policies used in the preparation of the annual financial statements are consistent with those used in the previous year.

Audited results

Ernst & Young has audited the Group annual financial statements and their unqualified audit report is available for inspection at the Company's registered office.

Earnings per share

Attributable earnings per share is calculated by dividing the earnings attributable to shareholders by the weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue during the year.

To calculate the headline earnings per share, the attributable earnings to shareholders is adjusted for the exceptional item and net profit on disposal or impairment of other assets.

On behalf of the board

Desmond Sacco
Chairman

R J Carpenter
Deputy Chairman

Johannesburg
17 September 2002

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Directors

Desmond Sacco (Chairman and Managing Director)
R J Carpenter (Deputy Chairman), C J Cory (Financial), P C Crous (Technical),
R A Chute, B M Hawksworth, J S de Wet.
Alternate: J W Lewis (British)

Company secretaries:

African Mining and Trust Company Limited

Assore Limited

Company registration number 1950/037394/06
Share code: ASR ISIN: ZAE000017117