# ROYAL BAFOKENG PLATINUM LIMITED QUARTERLY REVIEW AND PRODUCTION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2017

#### **OVERVIEW**

- No fatal accidents recorded during the quarter
- 17.1% increase in tonnes delivered
- 13.7% increase in tonnes milled
- 6.5% increase in 4E metals in concentrate produced
- 7.2% increase in cash operating cost per 4E ounce
- 56.6% increase in capital expenditure

#### **SAFETY**

No fatalities were recorded during the reporting period. A total of 5 serious and 13 lost time injuries were recorded during the quarter compared to the 1 serious and 8 lost time injuries recorded during the comparative period in 2016. This resulted in our serious injury and lost time injury frequency rates increasing by 420.0% and 132.0% respectively. These remain a key concern to management, notwithstanding still being at levels below the industry average.

Zero harm remains one of RBPlat's primary and most important goals and is key to achieving the Company's strategic objective of operational excellence. As such we remain fully committed to our revised safety strategy in order to achieve our targeted year-on-year improvements in our key safety performance metrics and the establishment of a resilient operating culture.

## **PRODUCTION**

Total tonnes delivered to concentrators increased by 17.1% to 721kt with BRPM contributing 597kt and Styldrift 124kt representing a 7.8% and 100.0% increase from the operations respectively. Total tonnes milled for the reporting period ended 13.7% higher at 690kt with BRPM contributing 571kt and Styldrift 119kt, representing a 5.0% and 88.9% increase from the respective operations. The UG2 contribution to overall tonnes milled reduced by 6.8% from 22.0% to 20.5%.

The built-up head grade reduced by 6.2% from 4.04g/t (4E) to 3.79g/t (4E) compared to the first quarter in 2016. The reduction in built-up head grade is mainly attributable to higher than planned on-reef dilution at Styldrift associated with the negotiation of a known fault structure to the south and west of the shaft infrastructure on 600 level. Grades at Styldrift are expected to stabilise at around 3.30g/t (4E) during the second quarter as negotiation of the fault structure is completed. BRPM grades reduced marginally by 0.7% and remain in line with expectation.

The improvement in tonnes milled combined with the reduced built-up head grade, yielded a 6.5% and 6.2% year-on-year respective increase in 4E and platinum ounce production to 72.3koz and 46.3koz.

#### **CASH OPERATING COSTS**

Cash operating costs for the quarter increased by 12.2% to R701 million in line with increased production volumes and labour cost related inflation. Cash operating unit cost per tonne milled and 4E ounce were 6.8% and 7.2% higher than the comparative 2016 period at R1 227 per tonne milled and R10 823 per 4E ounce respectively.

A key operational focus for the business is to improve the fixed/variable cost ratio of our operations to target below CPI unit increases for the year. As such we have initiated a formal review process of the entire business to identify opportunities and develop a detailed strategy to implement the changes required. A progress update in this regard will be communicated to shareholders and other stakeholders in the interim results planned for release on or about 1 August 2017.

## **CAPITAL**

Capital expenditure ended 56.6% higher at R370.6 million compared with the first quarter of 2016. Expansion capital expenditure increased by 87.5% to R346.1 million in line with mining and construction activities geared towards achieving the 150ktpm ramp-up at Styldrift. Replacement capital expenditure reduced by 92.0% to R2.5 million in line with current project construction activities. Stay-in-business capital expenditure increased marginally from R20.9 million to R22.0 million.

# **PROJECTS**

#### **BRPM Phase III project (replacement)**

Project progress and expenditure is aligned with the current construction schedule requirements to complete the scope of work outstanding on 14 and 15 levels' ore handling infrastructure. Project expenditure for the quarter amounted to R2.5 million bringing the total project expenditure to date to R1.039 billion.

# Styldrift I project (expansion)

Mining and infrastructure construction activities during the quarter were aligned with the revised project mining and construction programme to meet the 150ktpm ramp-up schedule. Project activities during the quarter were focussed on:

- Continuing with decline access to the north and south development on both 600 and 642 levels to establish stoping sections
- On-going development and construction works on 600 level to establish workshops, stores and material bays
- Mining and construction activities to support raise-boring as well as sliping and lining of rock passes and water handling infrastructure on 642 and 708 levels
- Services shaft equipping
- Overland belt construction

Capital expenditure for the quarter amounted to R346.0 million bringing total expenditure on the project to R6.80 billion.

Description	Unit	Unaudited quarter ended 31 March 2017	Unaudited quarter ended 31 March 2016	March 2017 vs. March 2016
Safety				
SIFR (/200,000 hrs)	rate	0.26	0.05	(420.0%)
LTIFR (/200,000 hrs)	rate	0.58	0.25	(132.0%)
Production				
Tonnes delivered to concentrators	kt	721	616	17.1%
BRPM	kt	597	554	7.8%
Styldrift	kt	124	62	100.0%
Total tonnes milled	kt	690	607	13.7%
BRPM	kt	571	544	5.0%
Styldrift	kt	119	63	88.9%
% UG2 of total tonnes milled	%	20.5%	22.0%	6.8%
4E built-up head grade	g/t	3.79	4.04	(6.2%)
BRPM	g/t	4.07	4.10	(0.7%)
Styldrift	g/t	2.47	3.50	(29.4%)
Merensky	g/t	3.76	4.12	(8.7%)
UG2	g/t	3.94	3.75	5.1%
Recovery (4E) total concentrating	%	85.93	86.14	(0.2%)
Recovery (4E) BRPM concentrator	%	86.93	86.78	0.2%
Closing stocks	kt	48	30	60.0%
Metals in concentrate produced*				
4E **	koz	72.3	67.9	6.5%
Platinum**	koz	46.3	43.6	6.2%
Palladium	koz	19.5	18.3	6.6%
Rhodium	koz	4.3	4.0	7.5%
Gold	koz	2.1	2.0	5.0%
4E + Ruthenium and Iridium	koz	78.8	74.0	6.5%
Nickel	kt	0.425	0.417	1.9%
Copper	kt	0.272	0.265	2.6%
Cash operating costs (Excl Styldrift on-reef development)***				
Cash operating costs	R'm	701	625	(12.2%)
Cash operating cost / tonne milled	R/t	1 227	1 149	(6.8%)
Cash operating cost / 4E oz	R/oz	10 823	10 095	(7.2%)
Cash operating cost / Pt oz	R/oz	16 922	15 718	(7.7%)
Capital expenditure				
Total capital	R'm	370.6	236.7	(56.6%)
Expansion	R'm	346.1	184.6	(87.5%)
Replacement	R'm	2.5	31.2	92.0%
Stay-in-business (SIB)	R'm	22.0	20.9	(5.3%)
SIB as a percentage of operating costs	%	3.1%	3.3%	6.1%

<sup>\*</sup> Metals in concentrate produced include Styldrift I on-reef development ounces

<sup>\*\*</sup> Includes ounce contribution from Styldrift I for Q1 2017: 7.6koz (4E) and 4.9koz (Pt) - Q1 2016: 5.9koz (4E) and 3.9koz (Pt)

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Costs are calculated excluding Styldrift I on-reef development tonnes, ounces and costs

The information set out in this announcement has not been reviewed and reported on by the Company's external auditors.

Johannesburg

12 April 2017

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