Bowler Metcalf Limited

BOWLER METCALF LIMITED
(Registration number 1972/005921/06)
Share code: BCF ISIN number: ZAE000030797
("Bowler" or "the Company" or "the Group")

UNAUDITED INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 AND DIVIDEND DECLARATION

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Rmil	Notes	31 December 2023 Unaudited	% Change	30 June 2023 Audited
Non-current Assets		**379.1**		348.7
Property, plant & equipment	1	**294.7**	+11	265.9
Investment properties		**7.9**		8.0
Intangible assets		**2.0**		2.0
Other investments	2	**71.6**	+4	68.6
Right of use assets	3	**1.1**	-62	2.9
Deferred tax		**1.8**		1.8
Current Assets		**487.9**		494.8
Inventories	4	**120.3**	-13	138.1
Trade and other receivables	5	**158.8**	+14	139.1
Prepayments	6	**10.4**	+160	4.0
Cash and cash equivalents		**196.2**		207.9
Taxation	7	**2.2**	-61	5.7
Total Assets		**867.0**		843.5
Total Equity		**761.7**		728.1
Non-current liabilities		**31.5**		30.6
Deferred Tax		**31.5**		30.6
Current Liabilities		**73.8**		84.8
Trade and other payables	8	**67.9**	-17	81.7
Short term lease liability	3	**1.1**	-63	3.0
Taxation	7	**4.8**	+4700	0.1
Total Equity & Liabilities		**867.0**		843.5

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Rmil	Notes	31 December 2023 Unaudited	% Change	31 December 2022 Unaudited
Revenue	9	**434.0**	+21	358.3
Raw materials and operating costs	10	**(264.5)**	+22	(216.7)
Depreciation	11	**(12.5)**	+10	(11.4)
Rental Cost		**(0.3)**		(0.2)
Staffing Cost	12	**(100.1)**	+9	(91.5)
Profit from operations		**56.6**	+47	38.5
Net finance income	13	**12.6**	+46	8.6
Net profit before tax		**69.2**	+47	47.1
Taxation		**(18.7)**		(13.2)
Profit for period		**50.5**	+49	33.9
Attributable to equity holders of parent		**50.5**		33.9
Earnings & diluted earnings per share (c)		**73.49**	+52	48.39

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

Rmil	Stated Capital	Retained Earnings	Treasury Shares	Total Equity
Balance as at 30 June 2022*	-	732.3	(28.0)	704.3
Purchase of Treasury shares	-	-	(11.4)	(11.4)
Comprehensive income for the six months ending 31 December 2022	-	33.9	-	33.9
Dividends paid		(18.7)	-	(18.7)
Balance as at 31 December 2022	-	747.5	(39.4)	708.1
Balance as at 30 June 2023*	-	757.7	(29.6)	728.1
Comprehensive income for the six months ended 31 December 2023		50.5	-	50.5
Dividends paid	-	(16.9)	-	(16.9)
Balance as at 31 December 2023	**-**	**791.3**	**(29.6)**	**761.7**

* The balances as at 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2022 are audited, with the remaining movements in the Statement of Changes in Equity unaudited.

HEADLINE EARNINGS RECONCILIATION

Rmil	31 December 2023 Unaudited	% Change	31 December 2022 Unaudited
HEADLINE EARNINGS			
Earnings attributable to parent	**50.5**		33.9
Adjustments	**-**		-
Headline Earnings	**50.5**	+49	33.9
Basic & diluted headline earnings per share	**73.49**	+52	48.39

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Rmil	Notes	31 December 2023 Unaudited	% Change	31 December 2022 Unaudited
Operating activities		**35.3**		6.0
Cash generated by operations		**49.2**		31.1
Net finance income	13	**12.6**	+46	8.6
Taxation paid		**(9.6)**		(15.0)
Dividends paid		**(16.9)**		(18.7)
Investing activities		**(45.1)**		(18.4)
Property, plant and equipment – additions	1	**(45.1)**	+145	(18.4)
Financing activities		**(1.9)**		(13.2)
Repayment of lease liabilities		**(1.9)**		(1.8)
Treasury shares - acquisitions	14	**-**	-100	(11.4)
Net cash outflow		**(11.7)**		(25.6)
Opening balance		**207.9**		180.9
Closing balance		**196.2**		155.3
Comprising:				
Cash & cash equivalents		**196.2**	+26	155.3

NOTES TO THE CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS -STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Rmil		31 December 2023 Unaudited	% Change	30 June 2023 Audited
1.	**Property, plant and equipment**	**294.7**	+11	265.4
	The increase is due mainly to capital expenditure on plant, equipment and moulds for the expansion of the manufacturing capacity and alternative energy solutions (solar and generators) in the Packaging segment.			
2.	**Other Investments**			
	Cash unit trusts			
	Made up as follows:			
	- Income Fund	**48.3**		46.2
	- Dividend Income Fund	**23.3**		22.4
		71.6	+4	68.6

The Income Fund investment is in the Ashburton Stable Income Fund Portfolio, under the management of Ashburton Investments, which is part of the FirstRand Group, and at period end the investment represented only 0.20% of the fund value.

The fund is an actively managed cash fund with the underlying investments being mainly floating rate notes and cash, which can be liquidated within 48 hours and has annualised returns of 8.26% (2022: 6.84%) for the year.

The fair value of the investment is derived from the market value of the underlying instruments in the unit trust portfolio.

The investment has been classified as a level 2 fair value in terms of the hierarchy.

Rmil	31 December 2023 Unaudited	% Change	30 June 2023 Audited
The Dividend Income Fund investment is in the Gryphon Dividend Income Fund and at period end, the investment represented only 0.82% of the fund value.			
The Dividend Income fund is an actively managed fund with annualised effective after-tax returns of 7.26% (2022: 5.28%). Capital risk is restricted as the fund has no exposure to equities. Capital gains are of an incidental nature. The portfolio is permitted to invest in any equity or non- equity securities that generate a dividend return and may be included in the portfolio.			
The investment in the unit trusts is in unconsolidated structures and the value is based on the fair value of the shares.			
Investments are fully secured by bank deposits with the top five SA banks, i.e. Standard Bank, ABSA, Nedbank, Investec and FirstRand.			
The fair values of these investments are derived from the market values of the underlying instruments making up the portfolios.			
The investments have been classified as a level 2 fair value in terms of the hierarchy.			
3. Right of use assets and short-term lease liability			
Right of use asset	**1.1**	-62	2.9
Short term lease liability	**(1.1)**	-63	(3.0)
These two interlinked items have reduced as a result of the related property leases nearing end of term.			
4. Inventories	**120.3**	-13	138.1
The reduction in inventories is mainly related to the timing of period end deliveries and a reduction in Raw Material inventory levels which have been very high in the past few reporting periods due to supply chain risk mitigation.			
5. Trade and other receivables	**158.8**	+14	139.1
Whilst the trade receivables are higher than then comparative traditionally slower mid-year trading period, the balance is higher than the same period last year, and this is a direct result of higher trading levels in the 3 months ended December 2023 compared to the comparative period ended December 2022.			

Rmil		31 December 2023 Unaudited	% Change	30 June 2023 Audited
6.	**Prepayments**	**10.4**	+160	4.0
	The increase in Prepayments relates mainly to the period end timing of imported bought-in Finished Goods, critical spares and services.			
7.	**Taxation**			
	Taxation receivable	**2.2**		5.7
	Taxation payable	**(4.8)**		(0.1)
	Net tax (payable)/receivable	**(2.6)**	-146	5.6
	The increased net tax payable is mainly attributable to the timing differences between the last assessment on which the provisional tax payment was made, and the trading results for the current period.			
8.	**Trade and other payables**	**67.9**	-17	81.7
	The reduction in Trade Payables is in line with the reduction in Inventories, combined with the settlement of capital expenditure that existed at year end. Payroll related provisions that existed at year end (mainly leave related), were also paid out during the reporting period, reducing Other Payables.			

Rmil		31 December 2023 Unaudited	% Change	31 December 2022 Unaudited
9.	**Revenue**			
	Increased Revenue in the Packaging segment was mainly volume related and operationally, the Packaging segment managed higher capacity utilisation than the previous year, which had been significantly affected by the negative impact of loadshedding.			
9.1	**Disaggregate Revenue Sources**			
	Plastic Packaging and related Products	**430.5**	+21	354.9
	Property Leases	**3.5**	+ 4	3.4
		434.0	+21	358.3
9.2	**Revenue by Region**			
	Coastal Regions	**153.9**	+15	133.8
	Inland	**280.1**	+25	224.5
		434.0	+21	358.3
10.	**Raw materials and operating costs**	**264.5**	+22	216.7
	Slightly higher raw material costs in the Packaging segment were offset by factory and warehouse cost reductions through improved economies of scale. Planned maintenance costs on the properties led to a large cost increase in the Property segment.			

Rmil		31 December 2023 Unaudited	% Change	31 December 2022 Unaudited
11.	**Depreciation**			
	Comprising:			
	Property, plant and equipment	**10.7**		9.7
	Right of use asset	**1.8**		1.7
		12.5	+10	11.4
	The increased depreciation stems mainly from the investments in plant, equipment and moulds over the last year that has come into operation.			
12.	**Related party transactions**	**5.3**	+8	4.9
	Directors' emoluments			
	Other than the above information on related parties, there have been no other transactions with related parties.			
13.	**Net finance Income**	**12.6**	+46	8.6
	Finance income is up mainly from higher daily cash balances combined with higher commercial interest rates in the market vs the previous year.			
14.	**Treasury share acquisitions**	**-**	-100	(11.4)
	Despite being active in the market for share purchases, no opportunities matched our buying criteria during the reporting period, and there was an overall lack of meaningful share trade volumes.			

CONDENSED SEGMENTAL ANALYSIS

Rmil	Plastic Packaging	Property Investment	Holdings	Eliminations	Total
31 December 2023 (Unaudited)					
Total Revenue	430.5	18.5	-	(15.0)	434.0
- External Revenue	430.5	3.5	-	-	434.0
- Intersegment	-	15.0	-	(15.0)	-
Other income	1.5	-	-	(1.5)	-
Expenses	(378.6)	(13.4)	(0.4)	15.0	(377.4)
Operating profit(loss)	53.4	5.1	(0.4)	(1.5)	56.6
Net finance income	-	-	12.6	-	12.6
Profit/(loss) before tax	53.4	5.1	12.2	(1.5)	69.2
Taxation	(14.0)	(1.4)	(3.3)	-	(18.7)
Net profit/(loss) for the period	39.4	3.7	8.9	(1.5)	50.5
Attributable to parent	39.4	3.7	8.9	(1.5)	50.5

Rmil	Plastic Packaging	Property Investment	Holdings	Eliminations	Total
Revenue by region					
Coastal regions	150.4	3.5	-	-	153.9
Inland	280.1	-	-	-	280.1
Total	430.5	3.5	-	-	434.0
Total Assets	798.0	106.9	262.0	(300.0)	867.0
Total Liabilities	121.4	48.3	240.7	(305.1)	105.3
Capital expenditure	44.6	0.5	-	-	45.1
30 June 2023 (Audited)					
Total Assets	833.5	102.0	267.7	(359.7)	843.5
Total Liabilities	113.8	47.0	236.9	(282.3)	115.4
31 December 2022 (Unaudited)					
Total Revenue	354.9	17.8	-	(14.4)	358.3
- External Revenue	354.9	3.4	-	-	358.3
- Intersegment	-	14.4	-	(14.4)	-
Other Income	1.9	-	-	(1.9)	-
Expenses	(329.5)	(4.3)	(0.4)	14.4	(319.8)
Operating profit(loss)	27.3	13.5	(0.4)	(1.9)	38.5
Net finance (expense)/ income	(0.1)	-	8.7	-	8.6
Profit/(loss) before tax	27.2	13.5	8.3	(1.9)	47.1
Taxation	(7.1)	(3.8)	(2.3)	-	(13.2)
Net profit/(loss) for the period	20.1	9.7	6.0	(1.9)	33.9
Attributable to parent	20.1	9.7	6.0	(1.9)	33.9
Revenue by region					
Coastal regions	130.4	3.4	-	-	133.8
Inland	224.5	-	-	-	224.5
Total	354.9	3.4	-	-	358.3
Total assets	714.7	91.4	218.9	(241.9)	783.1
Total liabilities	93.8	45.3	184.1	(248.2)	75.0
Capital expenditure	18.4	-	-	-	18.4
30 June 2022 (Audited)					
Total assets	781.3	85.4	237.6	(296.4)	807.9
Total liabilities	116.0	49.0	188.3	(249.7)	103.6

	31 December 2023 Unaudited	% Change	31 December 2022 Unaudited
Additional Information			
Ordinary dividend/share paid (c)	24.60	-9	27.00
Ordinary dividend/share proposed (c)	24.00	+52	15.80
Basic ordinary dividend cover (times)	3.06		3.06
Weighted shares in issue ('000)	68.777		70.047
Capital expenditure (Rmil)	45.1	+145	18.4
Capital commitment (Rmil)	67.9	+456	12.2
Closing share price (c)	950	+2	930

CEO'S COMMENTARY

This reporting period stands in stark contrast to its comparative reporting period. During the first six months of the previous financial year, the operations of the Packaging Segment, as well as customer operations, were severely impacted by an unstable and unreliable electricity supply. Supply chains were significantly interrupted.

Over the last 12 months, substantial effort has been put into building an operating environment that can deal robustly with energy supply uncertainties and its peripheral economic and social risks and disruptions. On the back of slightly reduced load-shedding, these dynamic business contingency plans, which extend beyond just backup generators and solar energy supply, have enabled the business to restore operating capacity and supply chain reliability.

This provided much-needed confidence and attracted additional sales volumes, resulting in a sales growth of 21% over the comparative period. Increased units through the business and the commensurate economies of scale drove improved productivity and cost performances. Reasonable inflationary recoveries in pricing balanced the operational challenges resulting from the infrastructural challenges and uncertainties within our country. Sadly, these do not show any real signs of improvement and remain volatile.

Significant new business projects have been contracted. In total, R45.1m of the capital commitments have been spent in this reporting period on plant and machinery, moulds, motor vehicles, backup generators, and solar installations. Costs related to contingency considerations and risk mitigation are a factor. These expenditures are mainly focused on energy management and new business capacity. An element of this capital expenditure will only commence payback in the second half of the financial year.

We continue to focus on creating an environment in which our Bowler family team members are recognised, valued, and acknowledged for their skills and talents, but above all, for their longstanding and unwavering commitment to the business during some very trying times. Ultimately, all our stakeholders benefit from a truly engaged workforce, and we will continue to evolve our people policies and practices to attract and retain talent.

The Property segment incurred R9m of planned roof maintenance on its sites in Cape Town. Higher Finance Income arose from higher interest rates and higher average daily cash balances. The basic and diluted headline earnings per share grew by 52% from the previous reporting period, and the Board is pleased to announce a record interim ordinary dividend of 24c (2022: 15.80c) per share.

The operations will continue their focus on transforming the project and substantial capital commitments into good business performances. With this level of investment behind a dynamic and enthusiastic workforce and a trusting customer base, the business is well-positioned to satisfy the envisaged market demand and remain a favoured supplier to the South African packaging market.

PF SASS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BASIS OF PREPARATION
The condensed consolidated results have been prepared in accordance with and containing the information required by IAS 34 Interim Financial Reporting and the Financial Reporting Pronouncements as issued by the International Financial Reporting Standards Council. The results comply with the JSE Listings Requirements and the Companies Act, 2008 of South Africa.

This announcement itself has not been audited or reviewed by the Group's auditors, Moore Cape Town Incorporated.

These condensed consolidated results were prepared by Mr AC September CA (SA) in his capacity as group financial manager.

The accounting policies and methods of computation applied in the preparation of these condensed consolidated results are consistent with IFRS and those applied in the most recently issued audited annual financial statements.

The information included in this announcement, including any forward-looking information, has not been reviewed or reported on by the Group's auditors.

ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSALS
There have been no business additions or disposals during the period under review.

ISSUE AND REPURCHASE OF SHARES
There have been no new issues or repurchases of ordinary shares during the period.

STANDARDS AND INTERPRETATIONS EFFECTIVE AND ADOPTED IN THE CURRENT YEAR
No new standards and interpretations have been adopted during the period under review.

CASH DIVIDEND DECLARATION
An interim gross cash dividend, as defined by the Income Tax Act, of 24.00 cents per share ("cps") for the six months ended 31 December 2023 (2022: 15.80 cps) has been declared and is payable to shareholders on Monday, 25 March 2024. The last day to trade will be Monday, 18 March 2024, the ex-date is Tuesday, 19 March 2024 and the record date will be Friday, 22 March 2024. Share certificates may not be dematerialised or re-materialised between Tuesday, 19 March 2024 and Friday, 22 March 2024, both days inclusive.

The directors confirm that at the date of this report they are satisfied with the solvency and liquidity test.

The dividend will be made from income reserves. The gross dividend is 24.00 cps. Dividend Withholding Tax ("DWT") is 20%. The net local cash dividend to shareholders liable for DWT will therefore be 19.20 cps.

Number of shares in issue at the date of declaration is 74 703 569 shares.

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS
No significant events occurred subsequent to 31 December 2023.

COMPANY TAX NUMBER
9775130710

PF Sass (Chief Executive Officer)
GA Böhler (Chief Financial Officer)

Cape Town
6 February 2024

Prepared by:
AC September CA(SA)

REGISTERED AUDITOR
Moore Cape Town Incorporated - Director A. Smit
Second Floor, Block 2, Northgate Park,
c/o Section Street and Koeberg Rd
Paarden Eiland, Brooklyn, 7441

SPONSOR
AcaciaCap Advisors Proprietary Limited
20 Stirrup Lane, Woodmead office Park
Woodmead, 2191