

In Lesotho, the competitive environment resulted in higher-than-expected inbound settlements, which hindered the Group's market share growth. We did however see a subsequent improvement in disbursements since quarter three. Lesana, has however grown by 11.4% on a profit before-tax line compared to June 2023, while the IMF projected the economy to only grow by 2.7% in 2024. The excellent result in Lesana demonstrated the ability to deliver substantial growth to the SBC Group, while management expects this trend to continue in the foreseeable future.

We have seen a continuous improvement in the Group's residential rental offering in Pine Acres, consisting of 147 units, ending on 95% occupancy (June 2023: 80%), indicative of the success of our residential offering in Eswatini. The retail centre remains fully occupied through long-term leases in place.

As a result of the success of our property portfolio, management has executed on the next phase of our longer term strategy to develop between 400 and 500 residential units in the foreseeable future. Complementing our existing 147 completed residential apartments and the 8 Embassy Town Houses will be the new development of between 100 and 150 affordable 1 and 2-bedroom units, which will be specifically designed and built:

- conventional sale (under the sectional title act)
- a "mortgage-to-own product" will be provided by the Select Group to successful applicants and
- for additional rental stock.

This offering will be a first in Eswatini and will provide opportunities for home ownership to a sector of the market that has traditionally not qualified, due to restrictions in traditional bank finance.

In addition to the above-mentioned apartments, Pine Acres has commenced the building of 10 Town Houses. These will be available for rent, sale and Rent to Own and are intended for individuals who seek more than what the apartments offer. Construction commenced during June of this year and is planned to be completed by May 2025.

As a result of the success of our initial retail offering, management is also planning to develop the second phase retail centre at Malkerns Park View, Eswatini. The approximately 5,863 sqm of lettable space will be a high-end retail centre, with a predominant focus on high quality brand tenants. It is Pine Acres' intention to continue to build developments of high quality in design and finish to ensure they have long term tenants and financial sustainability.

In summary, regardless of the challenging market conditions, SBC Limited's commendable financial performance given the circumstances reflects its commitment to delivering value to shareholders through the execution of its strategic objectives. These objectives include the strategic intent to grow both its residential and commercial property portfolio and the underlying mortgage type loan products by leveraging off its existing loan book business and resources.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Throughout the review period, the socio-economic environment in Eswatini and Lesotho remained stable. Nonetheless, we noticed a general reduction in the local Eswatini market, affecting both of our market segments as well as some of African Alliance Group's retail operations.

Despite facing challenges, SBC demonstrated resilience and achieved a reasonable outcome for the period ended 30 June 2024. Management focused on maintaining a strong liquidity position to support the growth of the loan book driven by disbursements which amounted to E209.2m (June 2023: E244.5m) for the period under review. Total disbursements in Eswatini decreased by 6.1% to E113.8m (June 2023: E121m), although stronger growth was experienced in the higher yielding shorter term products compared to June 2023. Disbursements in Lesotho ended on a disappointing E95.6 (June 2023: E123.5), whilst a higher yielding shorter term product was introduced in Lesana during the second quarter of 2024 which is expected to yield stronger returns for the remainder of the 2024 year. As a result, the SBC aggregated gross loan book increased by approximately 2.1% to E1.43b (June 2023: E1.4b).

The SBC Group's consumer lending revenue grew by 2.4% to E207.1m (June 2023: E202.3m). This marginal loan book growth was due to the lower than anticipated growth in Lesana together with the high inbound settlements from competition, whilst our Eswatini business only maintained their market share. In both Eswatini and Lesotho, an all-inclusive yield of approximately 29.5% was maintained, which is expected to increase to the 30% levels in the foreseeable future after the reintroduction and growth strategy of the higher yielding shorter term products.

The SBC Group's revenues increased by 3.2% to E216.4m (June 2023: E209.8m), inclusive of revenue of E9.2m (June 2023: E7.5m) generated from the retail and residential rentals of our Malkerns Square property development.

The SBC Group's total operating expenses increased by 9.2% to E93.3m (June 2023: E85.4m), mainly as a result of investing in resources in Lesana to support the growth trajectory of this business. The Group's approach and strategy is to consistently empower and improve the capabilities of all stakeholders, including the investment in our staff complement.

The book profit margin in both Eswatini and Lesotho was diluted compared to the prior comparable period due to the higher cost of debt, including both interest and debt-raising costs. Although a marginal increase can be noted in the bad debt provisions as a % of gross loan book, management was comfortable with the overall collection rate in Eswatini and Lesotho. The reasonably stable collection performance enabled the total SBC Group's impairment provision to end at 3.0% of the gross loan book, marginally higher than the June 2023 comparable period of 2.84%.

Due to the current high interest rate cycle and the investment made in Ezabeni Property Holdings during the 2023 financial year, Finance costs (excluding interest income) of E146.3m (June 2023: E130.9m) increased by 11.8%, which was higher than the loan book growth. E24.8m (June 2023: E23.9m) of the total interest expense is attributed to the funding cost of the Malkerns Square project. The balance of this increase is attributed to growth in the consumer lending business coupled with the cost of carrying excess funding. As a percentage of revenue, consumer lending (excluding the impact of the investment made in Ezabeni Property Holdings) net interest expense amounted to 33.7% (June 2023: 30.4%).

Although the current period under review's profit after tax of E7.9m is indicative of a decline (June 2023: E16.9m), this was mainly attributable to the following three factors:

I. The high interest rate cycle resulting in higher interest cost of approximately E4.6m, which is not a permanent occurrence and should start to move back to normalised rates over the next 12 to 18 months.

II. The impact of the movement in provision for bad debts of E5.9m (June 2023: E1.9m).

III. Additional investment made in Ezabeni Property Holdings, resulting in a lower interest income through related party loan receivables of approximately E11.7m, although future fair value gains through capital appreciation are expected.

OUTLOOK

Property Outlook:

As previously communicated, Select Group's long-term strategy, specifically in Eswatini, aims to diversify its loan-book by providing a "mortgage-type" financing to customers who are not currently being serviced by traditional banks. This will result in Select building a loan book backed by an underlying asset in the form of property.

The Group is currently exploring the feasibility of offering a "Rent to Own" housing product, whereby the customer would enter a long-term retail contract for a housing unit, with ultimate ownership transferring to the client upon the last rental instalment being paid. This new loan offering carries a materially different lending risk from our current loan book offerings, with a substantial advantage being that each loan is secured by an asset in the form of a Pine Acres developed property, which remains under the ownership of the Group up to the point that the last "Rent to Own" loan instalment is settled by the client.

Within the broader SBC Group, Pine Acres has successfully developed a residential property development known as "Malkerns Square". The first two phases of this development were completed between 2021 and 2022, and the project has achieved excellent occupancy rates. The total occupancy rate ended on 91% in December 2023 and reached the 95% levels during quarter one of 2024. This strengthens the potential for further development of 400 to 600 residential units on the Malkerns Square property in the future. Management is prepared to execute on the 2024 planning and development of an additional 100 to 150 units, to be started in 2025. We are also planning to improve the already exceptional amenities by adding "Padel Courts" to the Malkerns Square public offering, which will be Eswatini's first professionally constructed Padel Courts in the Kingdom of Eswatini. Additionally, the company plans to commence the development of the second phase of its retail expansion, which is expected to be nearly three times more profitable than the current retail development.

As the current and future property developments will be completed under the Pine Acres stable, it is appropriate to consider restructuring the current Loan Book Company ("Select Ltd") and the Property Development Company ("Pine Acres") to achieve efficiencies and synergies in line with the long-term strategy.

General Outlook:

Although the Eswatini payroll market has become saturated in recent years whilst still expecting inflationary growth, management is anticipating significant growth in the Lesotho payroll market to continue. Lesana aims to grow its current payroll-segment market share from 20% to 23% or more in 2024/25. As part of the 2024/25 strategy, the Group continues to aggressively expand various higher yielding short term products across Eswatini and Lesotho, in addition to its current product offerings.

Management retains an optimistic outlook for the SBC Group, owing to the various investments made in resources and the dedicated focus on liquidity management. As a result, SBC is in an excellent position to navigate the ever-changing business environment and take advantage of new opportunities as they arise. The management expresses confidence that SBC will continue to provide favourable, above inflationary returns to its shareholders for the foreseeable future.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The interim annual financial statements for the period ended 30 June 2024 have not been audited, although SNG Grant Thornton Chartered Accountants (Eswatini) did perform an independent review. The full 31 December 2024 financial results will however include an audit report.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The directors and management of SBC Limited confirm their continued commitment to the principles of openness, integrity and accountability as advocated by sound principles of Corporate Governance contained in the King Reports. By order of the Board

T Dladla, Chairperson

1st Floor, Matsapha Link, Portion 3 of Plot 562 along College Road & Ushaw Street, Matsapha, Eswatini.

Directors: Hon. T Dladla (Chairperson), MM Dlamini, SM Gwinda, SK S'khosho ("South African")



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Kai Grant Road, Mbabane

AUDITORS
SNG Grant Thornton
Umkhwa House, Lot 195,
Kai Grant Road, Mbabane

Total segment assets, borrowings and Total segment liabilities are after the elimination of cross holdings between the segments.

The segments are aligned with management's approach to the business. As a result in the increased investment in housing, it is deemed appropriate to identify Property as a distinct segment from the existing consumer lending business.

Gross loan book growth of 2.1% ▲				Group revenue growth of 3.2% ▲				Earnings per share decrease of 55.6% ▼				Residential occupancy growth of 18.8% ▲			
Figures in Emalangeni				Figures in Emalangeni				Figures in Emalangeni				Figures in Emalangeni			
6 months to 30 June 2024 Reviewed				12 months to 31 December 2023 Audited				6 months to 30 June 2023 Reviewed*				6 months to 30 June 2023 Reviewed*			
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME															
Revenue				216 351 808				433 954 911				209 789 801			
Operating expenses				(93 163 446)				(197 645 342)				(85 419 116)			
Impairment loss on loan and advances				(5 889 412)				(1 450 088)				(7 935 603)			
OPERATING PROFIT				117 298 950				234 859 481				116 435 082			
Other income				34 974 975				88 501 813				45 663 589			
Finance costs				(146 304 521)				(273 337 037)				(130 943 388)			
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION				5 969 404				50 022 257				31 155 283			
Taxation				1 960 727				(21 078 199)				(14 174 225)			
PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD/YEAR				7 930 131				28 944 058				16 981 058			
Other comprehensive income				-				-				-			
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				7 930 131				28 944 058				16 981 058			
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO:															
Owners of the parent				7 930 131				28 944 058				16 982 685			
Non-controlling interest				-				-				(1 627)			
Earnings per share (cents)				8				30				18			
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION															
ASSETS															
NON-CURRENT ASSETS															
Investment property				347 109 771				347 085 871				345 302 763			
Property, plant and equipment				4 628 819				3 971 469				4 257 307			
Goodwill				209 448 253				209 448 253				209 448 253			
Intangible assets				4 460 924				4 796 778				4 690 615			
Amounts owing by related parties				64 240 196				63 000 000				105 016 376			
Other financial assets				261 351 414				261 351 414				105 354 270			
Deferred tax asset				45 022 082				40 596 748				35 309 108			
Loans and advances				1 062 667 766				1 045 091 545				1 058 218 014			
Right of use assets				3 806 708				3 757 455				4 697 901			
				2 002 735 933				1 979 099 533				1 872 294 634			
CURRENT ASSETS															
Amounts owing by related parties				519 286 514				473 986 227				512 947 226			
Loan to contractor				11 877 368				11 430 648				10 111 854			
Current tax receivable				11 180 487				6 182 708				1 589 601			
Work in progress				2 355 110				1 952 388				766 076			
Loans and advances				328 338 371				319 527 682				322 416 277			
Trade and other receivables				32 953 012				60 265 254				53 067 747			
Cash and cash equivalents				81 660 208				91 275 966				94 648 036			
				987 651 650				964 620 873				995 752 807			
TOTAL ASSETS				2 990 387 583				2 943 720 406				2 868 047 441			
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES															
EQUITY															
Share capital				348 329 629				348 329 629				348 329 629			
Retained earnings				107 239 440				122 531 071				130 569 498			
				455 569 069				470 860 700				478 899 327			
Non-controlling interest				-				-				38 858			
				455 569 069				470 860 700				478 938 185			
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES															
Amount owing to related parties				335 650 941				288 296 093				246 772 301			
Other financial liabilities				900 854 236				1 048 979 006				987 544 140			
Trade and other payables				-				-				11 423 734			
Deferred income				17 471 728				-				-			
Lease liabilities				2 487 960				2 323 026				3 142 452			
				1 256 444 865				1 339 598 125				1 248 882 627			
CURRENT LIABILITIES															
Amounts owing to related parties				502 557 462				412 636 973				284 100 804			
Other financial liabilities				760 970 672				690 716 716				836 537 396			
Current tax payable				-				-				3 233 255			
Trade and other payables				7 314 613				28 129 479				14 513 114			
Deferred income				5 823 909				-				-			
Lease liabilities				1 686 993				1 778 413				1 842 060			
				1 278 353 649				1 133 261 581				1 140 226 629			
TOTAL LIABILITIES				2 534 818 514				2 472 859 706				2 389 109 256			
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				2 990 387 583				2 943 720 406				2 868 047 441			
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY															
SHARE CAPITAL				9 649				9 649				9 649			
Balance at the beginning of the year				9 649				9 649				9 649			
SHARE PREMIUM				348 319 980				348 319 980				348 319 980			
Balance at the beginning of the year				348 319 980				348 319 980				348 319 980			
RETAINED EARNINGS				107 239 440				122 531 071				130 569 498			
Balance at the beginning of the year				122 531 071				143 587 013				143 587 013			
Dividends declared				-				(50 000 000)				(30 000 000)			
Profit for the year				7 930 131				28 944 058				16 982 685			
Prior year adjustment				(23 221 762)				-				-			
NON-CONTROLLING INTEREST				-				-				38 858			
Balance at the beginning of the year				-				40 485				40 485			
Movement for the year				-				(40 485)				(1 627)			
TOTAL EQUITY				455 569 069				470 860 700				478 938 185			
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS															
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES															
Cash generated from/(used in) operations				131 177 529				45 062 067				(103 439 172)			
Interest income				34 974 975				88 501 813				40 683 240			
Interest paid				(101 707 347)				(180 436 655)				(82 034 744)			
Tax paid				(7 462 586)				(37 337 098)				(11 820 342)			
NET CASH GENERATED FROM/(USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES				56 982 571				(84 209 873)				(156 611 018)			
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES															
Purchase of property, plant and equipment				(1 564 767)				(1 796 749)				(1 205 150)			
Proceeds on sale of property, plant and equipment				20 000				68 983				21 461			
Expenditure incurred on investment property				(426 622)				(2 124 010)				(340 902)			
Purchase of other intangible assets				(969 520)				(2 876 191)				(1 417 068,00)			
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES				(2 940 909)				(6 727 967)				(2 941 659)			
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES															
Repayment of loans from Group and related party companies				(42 801 757)				(97 669 509)				-			
Proceeds from loans from Group and related party companies				137 035 000				135 200 000				115 000 000			
Repayment of other financial liabilities				(168 223 601)				(242 574 610)				(56 023 151)			
Proceeds from other financial liabilities				11 444 450				280 103 109				66 458 197			
Repayment of lease liabilities				(1 111 512)				(1 926 121)				(315 270)			
Dividends paid				-				(50 000 000)				(30 000 000)			
NET CASH (USED IN/ GENERATED BY) FINANCING ACTIVITIES				(63 657 420)				23 132 869				95 119 776			

Figures in Emalangeni

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (CONT.)

TOTAL CASH MOVEMENT FOR THE YEAR	(9 615 758)	(67 804 971)	(64 432 901)
Cash at the beginning of the period/ year	91 275 966	159 080 937	159 080 937
TOTAL CASH AT END OF THE PERIOD/ YEAR	81 660 208	91 275 966	94 648 036

*Prior period figures were restated between financing and operating activities to appropriately disclosed the nature of the cash flows. Furthermore, cash flows presented as part of financing activities have been restated to be presented on a gross basis, showing gross cash receipts and gross cash payments in accordance with the requirements of IAS 7. The net effect on the cash flow statement equated to £ nil.

NOTES

1. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The interim financial results have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and IAS 34, in the manner required by the Companies Act of Eswatini. The accounting policies and methods of compilation applied in these financial results are consistent with those applied in the preparation of the prior year annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial results have been prepared under the supervision of the Group Chief Financial Officer, Mr. S. Leas CA(SA).

2. HEADLINE EARNINGS

2.1 EARNINGS PER SHARE (CENTS)

Earnings per share (cents)	8	30	18
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2.2 NUMBER OF ORDINARY SHARES OF E0.0001 EACH IN ISSUE

Actual	98 490 000	96 490 000	98 490 000
Weighted average	98 490 000	96 490 000	98 490 000
Diluted	98 490 000	96 490 000	98 490 000

3. LOANS AND ADVANCES

Advances	1 434 361 853	1 402 860 524	1 421 201 540
Impairment for credit losses of loans and advances	(43 355 336)	(38 241 297)	(40 371 232)
	1 391 006 517	1 364 619 227	1 380 830 308

4. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	81 660 208	91 275 966	94 648 036
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5. OTHER FINANCIAL LIABILITIES

5.1 HELD AT AMORTISED COST

Medium term notes	800 555 068	853 256 743	940 686 224
Term loans	328 808 244	341 344 174	310 031 925
Promissory notes	532 461 596	545 094 805	573 363 387
	1 661 824 908	1 739 695 722	1 824 081 536

5.2 MEDIUM TERM NOTE PROGRAMME

The Group raises funds through Promissory Notes and Medium Term Note Programmes (MTNs). The MTNs are listed on the Eswatini Stock Exchange in the name of SBC Limited and Select Limited, and in total, had an available facility of E502 150 578 as at 30 June 2024 (June 2023: E395 323 233).

6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Transactions with holding company and fellow subsidiaries:

Administration and management fees	(33 721 286)	(57 057 716)	(29 261 081)
IT infrastructure	(1 907 724)	(3 379 307)	(1 488 530)
Net interest income	76 166 816	138 956 401	15 450 002
Rental income	2 311 425	4 456 406	2 130 858

There have been no guarantees provided or received for any related party receivables or payables. The Group has not recorded any impairment of receivables relating to amounts owed by related parties during the period.

7. CASH GENERATED FROM OPERATIONS

Profit before tax	5 969 404	50 022 257	31 155 283
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation	14 957 758	7 563 486	2 993 741
Write offs	4 407 034	15 636 184	6 064 604
Interest income	(36 974 975)	(88 501 813)	(45 663 589)
Finance costs	146 304 521	273 337 037	130 943 388
Assets recognised under new lease	-	-	-
Profit on disposal of assets	(20 000)	(98 434)	(21 461)
Gains on exchange differences	(128 558)	(11 061)	-
Provision for/(reversal of) impairment for credit losses of loans and advances	(5 889 412)	(1 450 088)	1 868 999
Changes in working capital:			
(Decrease)/increase in trade and other receivables	26 865 522	(34 306 656)	(9 694 148)
(Decrease)/increase in trade and other payables	(28 129 479)	8 061 254	(911 473)
Increase in deferred income	23 295 637	-	-
Increase in prepayments to contractor	-	-	(596 873)
Increase in loans and advances	(32 276 702)	(111 591 620)	(134 288 213)
Movement from related party loans	10 796 779	(75 050 567)	(85 300 427)
	131 177 529	45 062 067	(103 439 172)

COMMENTARY

INTRODUCTION

SBC Limited is listed on the Eswatini Stock Exchange and is the majority shareholder of Select Limited, Pine Acres and Lesana Lesotho Limited.

From an operational and management structure:

- the Eswatini consumer lending business is housed in Select Limited;
- the Lesotho consumer lending business is housed in Lesana Lesotho Limited; and
- Pine Acres houses the property development business in Eswatini and is also reported on separately.

CORPORATE TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR

There were no corporate transactions during the period under review. Reference is however made to the below two corporate transactions which were executed in the prior financial year ended 31 December 2023:

- SBC Limited's acquisition of the 100% share capital of Lesana Lesotho Limited from Select Limited:
 - This transaction had no impact on the current period under review's financial performance due to the transaction being executed within the SBC Group.
- Select Limited's acquisition of a 10.51% minority stake in Ezabeni Property Holdings (Pty) Limited:
 - As this prior year transaction involved parties outside of the SBC Group, this financial impact can be noted in the current period under review.
 - As a result of the purchase consideration payable by Select of E231m for its 10.51% equity stake in Ezabeni being offset by a receivable from Ezabeni's shareholder to Select, the financial impact of lost interest income from this intergroup receivable in Select's financial information was noted in the 2024 period under review.
 - As noted in prior communications, although the short to medium term impact of the lost interest income in Select's and SBC's profitability can be noted, management is confident that substantial future growth will be extracted from this investment which is further aligned to the Select Group's long term property strategy.

OPERATIONAL REVIEW

The financial results for the period ending on 30 June 2024 reflect a challenging market environment that impacted SBC Limited's financial performance. The higher interest cost cycle of the market had a significant impact on our financial performance. Management anticipates a reduction in the high interest rate cycle during quarter four of 2024, which is expected to improve the Group's future profitability.