

Zimbabwe Platinum Mines Limited



REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2004

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ore mined 15% above business plan.
- Ore grade affected by disruption of pit operations during period of industrial action.
- Final loan instalment paid.
- High local costs continue to impact on profitability.

SAFETY

There was one LTI during the quarter when a mining contractor employee sustained fractures of two right toes whilst trying to replace a drill bit on the hammer.

Regrettably, at the time of writing, there was a fatality at Ngezi Mine on 25 October 2004. A mining contractor dump truck driver was tipping waste rock into the pit and accidentally reversed a fully loaded truck over the side. The truck overturned and rolled several times down the high wall. The individual sustained multiple injuries resulting in his death. A full investigation into the accident is currently being undertaken.

PRODUCTION – Makwiro Platinum Mines (Private) Limited – “Makwiro”

Ngezi Platinum Mine

		September Quarter 2004	June Quarter 2004	March Quarter 2004	December Quarter 2003
Production days		73	70	77	79
Total volume mined	BCMs (million)	2.3	1.8	1.9	1.9
Ore mined – opencast	Tonnes (000's)	524	409	458	534
Grade – opencast	4E (average) g/t	3.16	3.14	3.20	3.25
Ore mined - underground	Tonnes (000's)	68	61	48	39
Grade – underground	4E (average) g/t	3.35	3.23	3.49	3.42

Since the end of the industrial action in early July 2004, the opencast mine has operated satisfactorily. There was an improvement in availability of prime movers resulting in above business plan bulk waste movement. There has also been a significant improvement in availability of the 165mm drill rigs although drilled metres remained below target. The two new 165mm rigs were only commissioned in October and there has been a noticeable improvement in availability and metres drilled in the second quarter. Ore mined was 15% above business plan.

The ore grade was slightly higher than the previous quarter, although it was 3% below business plan. This was a result of the industrial action in July which disrupted the pit operation sequence necessitating the processing of low grade semi-oxidised material.

The underground mine has continued to perform well, with both ore tonnage and grade in excess of targets.

Selous Metallurgical Complex

Concentrator

	September Quarter 2004	June Quarter 2004	March Quarter 2004	December Quarter 2003
Production days	92	84	91	84
Tonnes milled	525,356	494,541	531,584	452,022
Grade g/t	3.19	3.12	3.21	3.25
Recovery	80.7	82.0	83.1	83.0
Metal 4E ounces	43,344	40,743	45,617	39,224

Tonnes milled were satisfactory and slightly ahead of business plan due to the rescheduling of the SAG mill re-line from September to October. The lower recovery was a result of the processing of partially oxidised material.

Smelter

	September Quarter 2004	June Quarter 2004	March Quarter 2004	December Quarter 2003
Production days	92	92	91	91
Concentrate filtered – tonnes	19,838	17,094	19,461	17,710
Concentrate to furnace – tonnes	19,843	17,855	25,345	20,813
Recovery	99.3	99.4	99.3	99.3
Metal 4E ounces in matte	43,914	42,859	47,878	52,677
4E ounces per tonne concentrate	2.21	2.40	1.89	2.53

The smelter operated satisfactorily during the quarter and processed all the available concentrates.

Metal Sales

	September Quarter 2004	June Quarter 2004	March Quarter 2004	December Quarter 2003
Platinum – ounces	21,289	21,172	25,195	21,607
Palladium – ounces	18,010	18,125	21,773	18,554
Gold – ounces	2,410	2,443	2,824	2,428
Rhodium – ounces	<u>1,979</u>	<u>1,919</u>	<u>2,336</u>	<u>1,959</u>
4E total – ounces	<u>43,687</u>	<u>43,659</u>	<u>52,129</u>	<u>44,549</u>
Nickel – tonnes	373	401	479	448
Copper – tonnes	263	290	328	315

Metal despatches were in line with production.

FINANCIAL – Makwiro Platinum Mines (Private) Limited – “Makwiro”

Operating cash flow	September Quarter 2004 US\$ 000's	June Quarter 2004 US\$ 000's	March Quarter 2004 US\$ 000's	December Quarter 2003 US\$ 000's
Revenue	25,784	26,866	34,909	23,219
Operating Cost	(19,574)	(18,818)	(19,709)	(16,029)
Operating Profit	6,210	8,048	15,200	7,190

Although the volume of metal sales was similar to the June quarter, revenue was 4% lower. The rapid increase of metal prices in early 2004 resulted in significant revenue adjustments which were accounted for in the June quarter. Due to the generally stable metal prices from April onwards, there were no material revenue adjustments in the September quarter.

The increase in operating cost is due to the opencast mine having returned to normal levels of operation after the disruption of the June industrial action when stocks were depleted to maintain mill throughput. In addition the artificially strong Zimbabwe Dollar in a high inflation environment continues to negatively affect company profitability.

Cash and total cost of production	September Quarter 2004 US\$	June Quarter 2004 US\$	March Quarter 2004 US\$	December Quarter 2003 US\$
Cash cost of production per 4E ounce	405	422	345	315
Less by-product credits	(115)	(100)	(129)	(98)
Net cash cost per 4E ounce	290	322	217	217
Amortisation and depreciation	33	34	32	50
Total cost per 4E ounce *	323	356	249	267
Surplus per 4E ounce**	153	187	249	154

* (Net of by-product revenue)

** (Total Revenue, less total cost per 4E ounce)

Cash cost of production per 4E ounce was 4% lower than the previous quarter mainly as a result of the higher 4E ounces produced. The lower cash cost and higher by-product credits resulted in a net cash cost of \$290, 10% lower than for the previous quarter.

Due to the lower metal prices per 4E ounce realised, the surplus per 4E revenue was however \$34 lower than for the June quarter.

The final instalment of the ABSA loan was repaid in September 2004.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

As previously reported, the SMC processing plant lost one shift due to an illegal work stoppage instigated by the Associated Mine Workers of Zimbabwe, the union representing mining industry employees. The union has since called off the strike and wage negotiations have resumed.

The industrial relations situation remains difficult due to the socio-economic conditions prevailing in the country.

PGM PRICES

The average pgm and gold prices for the past 4 quarters are as follows:

	September 2004 Quarter	June 2004 Quarter	March 2004 Quarter	December 2003 Quarter
Platinum	838	837	867	769
Palladium	218	261	243	201
Rhodium	1155	832	630	500

Source: Johnson Matthey, monthly average price.

Gold	408	394	409	392
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Source: Monthly average of the daily London am/pm fixes.

In the quarter under review, the Zimplats long term investment proposal was submitted to the Government of Zimbabwe.

The Zimplats board has approved the first phase of this investment proposal subject to certain conditions precedent, both corporate and involving Government. The corporate issues affecting the first phase are to be put before shareholders at a General Meeting scheduled for 5 November 2004. At the time of writing the detailed negotiations with Government had not been concluded.

The Zimplats board has also approved pre-project funding of \$13 million to ensure that certain critical elements of the project are progressed so that once all conditions precedent are finalised, development can be expedited.

As previously advised, the Government of Zimbabwe has nominated Nkululeko-Rusununguko Mining Company of Zimbabwe Limited (NRM CZ) as the proposed empowerment partner to take up the 15% shareholding in Zimplats. Discussions with NRM CZ are on-going and satisfactory progress has been made.

INVESTMENT INFORMATION

Capital Structure

Major shareholders as at the end of September

Impala Platinum Holdings Limited	83.55%
Corporate Holdings Limited	3.71%
Mr. Adrian Vanderspuy	3.02%

Shareholder enquiries

Matters relating to the shareholdings should be directed to the share registry at: Computershare Registry Services Pty Ltd, GPO Box 7054, Sydney NSW 1115, Australia. Tel: +61 2 8234 5222, Fax: +61 2 8234 5070.

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In the report Zimplats refers to Zimbabwe Platinum Mines Limited and/or its subsidiaries.