

## SUN INTERNATIONAL MAKES SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC PLAN

## SUN INTERNATIONAL MAKES SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC PLAN

Revenue + 15% E to R12.2 billion to

EBITDAR +6% to R3.4 billion EBITDA +4% to R3.2 billion Diluted Adjusted HEPS -21% to 628 cents Final gross cash dividend of 135 cents per share

## STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

- Additional 25% acquisition of GPI Slots gives company control
- Dreams merger completed; 55% interest in merged entity
- Disposal of a 10% interest in SunWest
- Sun City upgrade nears completion
- Conclusion of agreements for disposal of remaining interests in southern Africa
- Good progress with construction of R4-billion Time Square development in Tshwane
- Commencement of International VIP gaming business (IB)
- Food and beverage now fully insourced
- Funding secured for developments underway; refinancing of SA and Latam debt completed

[Johannesburg 22 August 2016] Sun International today released its results for the year ending 30 June 2016. The Group grew revenue 15.5% to R12.2 billion (growth of 20% in the second half), with the strong growth mostly driven by new businesses, particularly the insourcing of food and beverage in South Africa, the introduction of international VIP gaming at Sun City, and the properties opened in Panama and Colombia. These new businesses are yet to contribute meaningfully to EBITDA, while at a HEPS level, start-up losses, interest charges and the associated depreciation charges have had a negative impact on earnings.

Growth in its core casino gambling market in South Africa was fairly static, reflecting persistent economic challenges. Low growth in South Africa was partially offset by relatively strong results from Monticello in Chile, where the positive earnings growth in local currency was further enhanced by the currency translation during the year under review.

Group CE Graeme Stephens said: "We have achieved significant milestones during the year, including the conclusion of the Dreams merger in Latin America in which we now own 55%. The new company, Sun Dreams, is now the largest gaming company in Latin America. We also acquired a further 25% in GPI slots, giving us control of the company with 50.1%. The sale of our southern Africa portfolio to MINT was also concluded in the second half of the year.



"We have made excellent progress with the construction of our R4-billion Time Square development at Menlyn Maine, Tshwane, with the first phase, the casino, due to open in April 2017. Related to this initiative was the potential acquisition of the Peermont Group which was terminated in March and a settlement payment of R675 million made in May 2016.

"We have also made significant progress with the R1-billion renovation of Sun City. The major component, the refurbishment and upgrade of the conferencing facilities, is being undertaken during this calendar year and the new facilities are on track to open in November 2016."

The Group achieved 6% growth in EBITDAR for the year, with a growth of 13% in the second six months offsetting the 1% decline reported at the half year. After rentals, at an EBITDA level, the company achieved 4% growth for the year (9.6% second half growth offsetting a decline of 1.5% at the half year).

Increased depreciation from new businesses and refurbishments led to operating profit remaining almost flat year on year. The various strategic initiatives have all been funded with debt and significantly increased interest costs and certain tax adjustments led to a fall in adjusted headline earnings. The group also incurred a number of one off or abnormal items which have been adjusted for in adjusted headline earnings. Adjusted headline earnings of R654 million for the year were 21% below the prior year with adjusted headline earnings per share down 21% to 628 cents.

In South Africa, with the inclusion of a full year's revenue from the insourced F&B operations and the revenue from IB (commenced June 2015), the SA business reflected strong growth in revenue. The weak local economy and general negative sentiment, however, resulted in the core casino revenue (excluding IB) being only 0.8% up at R7 billion. This was offset by rooms' revenue, up strongly by 14%, benefitting from the weak Rand, with strong growth in international business in particular at the Table Bay and Sun City. Food and beverage revenue at R807m was up 67% on last year as a result of the insourcing of these operations.

EBITDAR on a comparable basis was only 0.3% down reflecting good cost control. The EBITDA margin, down 3.6%, was impacted by the insourcing of the food and beverage business and the acquisition of GPI Slots. Both of these businesses operate at lower margins, and this will be a feature of the group going forward.

GrandWest's revenue was 1.2% ahead of last year at R2 178 million. Costs were well managed with the drop in EBITDA contained to 2.5%. GrandWest's EBITDA margin was down 2.0% to 40.4%. Sun City's revenue was up 17% compared to last year, including IB (VIP gaming) revenue and Vacation club sales. While casino revenue was down on last year, rooms' revenue benefited from a good increase in international rooms revenue. EBITDA was impacted by a once-off rental cost of R33 million for a temporary conference facility incurred to preserve the resort's conferencing business while the Entertainment Centre is being renovated.



Sibaya's revenue was up 3%, with EBITDA impacted by cost escalations higher than the rate of revenue growth and higher property costs attributed to repairs and maintenance and the purchasing of ported water due to the drought and disruptions in the municipal water supply. A number of improvements will be made in the next year and plans are being developed to upgrade and add new features to Sibaya to keep it competitive and relevant. Carnival City's revenue was 5.8% up, and a number of initiatives are underway to refurbish the property and increase footfall.

Boardwalk's revenue was 6.3% up, with casino revenue down 4.7% and rooms' revenue up 50.7%. Casino revenue was impacted by a challenging economy but particularly by a new Electronic Bingo Terminal operation opening and another one being expanded within the Boardwalk's catchment area. The decline in casino revenue and cost pressures resulted in EBITDA declining 25% to R126 million. Emfuleni, the owner of the Boardwalk, has launched a High Court action challenging the Eastern Cape Gambling and Betting Board decision to authorise electronic bingo licences (effectively casinos) within the Boardwalk's casino catchment area.

GPI Slots continues to perform well with revenue up 17.2% and EBITDA up 20.3% for the year. Despite the good performance, challenges are being experienced with obtaining approvals from gaming boards for the roll out of new sites.

In Latin America, the implementation of the merger with Dreams has finally been achieved following a protracted process to obtain regulatory approval. The merger is effective from 1 June 2016 and Sun International has 55% (and control) of the merged business. Dreams contributes a significant portfolio of Chilean casinos to complement the group's flagship Chilean property, Monticello. The Dreams portfolio has only been included in group results for one month but it has achieved good growth in both revenue and profit over the past year. From the date of merger, the group's share of profits and losses in its old Latam portfolio will reduce from 100% to 55%. Monticello achieved revenue growth of 6.9% in local currency. EBITDA was up 32.7%, with the abnormal increase due to the non-payment of management fees, unlike the year prior.

Excluding the impact of the management fees, EBITDA was up 8.1% despite significantly higher energy costs. Panama's Ocean Sun Casino achieved revenue growth of 60% on the prior year which included 9.5 months trading compared to a full year in 2016. EBITDA for the period was a loss of US\$1.7 million compared to last year's loss of US\$3.8 million. This property has been well received by the VIP segment of the market and now has a very dominant market share in tables. Challenges currently being faced with local banks receiving or paying out money are being discussed with the banks to resolve as soon as possible. Progress is being made to open bank accounts outside of Panama which will facilitate the international business.

Sun Nao Casino in Cartagena, Colombia, started trading in May 2015. Revenues are still well below expectations, partly due to the shopping centre in which it is located still not being fully occupied and the related Intercontinental Hotel not being 100% complete. The project was undertaken on a short term (five-year) lease to test the Colombian market and to date the experience has been disappointing.



The new management team post the merger is devising strategies to improve both Panama and Colombia.

The Federal Palace in Nigeria continues to be affected by a Nigerian economy facing a number of crises including the low oil price, Boko Haram and a weakening Naira. Apart from this, issues specific to the local Nigerian partners in the Federal Palace have exacerbated the problem. The Board has decided to exit Nigeria and steps will be taken to achieve this in a manner that does not erode further value.

Looking ahead, Stephens said: "A large number of our strategic initiatives have now been implemented which will start to reflect in full in the next financial period. The acquisition of an additional 20% in GPI Slots will increase the proportion of the consolidated results that flow to shareholders and the opening of the new conferencing facilities at Sun City is expected to improve the resorts performance from January 2017. The major remaining large project currently in progress is Time Square at Menlyn Maine. As the Time Square project opens in phases, commencing with the casino in April 2017 and culminating with the hotel in March 2018, it will still be some time before we have two financial periods that are directly comparable.

"Despite a slowdown in the Chilean economy we expect continued growth from our portfolio of properties in that country. With the new Latam management team in place we also expect that the recent restructuring of Panama and Colombia should start to deliver improved performance from those properties.

"In South Africa, the economic environment remains a serious concern. We do not anticipate any meaningful growth in gaming revenue until there is a recovery in the economy and renewed consumer confidence. Rooms and food & beverage are expected to achieve growth but these are relatively small components of the overall business. We continue to focus on cost control and in this way we hope to at least maintain EBITDA despite low anticipated gaming revenue growth. We anticipate a slight improvement in performance from the existing business during the current 6 month period (due to extracting efficiencies) but with the opening of the Time Square casino in April next year we anticipate meaningful growth in revenue and EBITDA for the full period."

## **NOTE TO EDITORS**

For further details on our results announcement, please refer to the statement issued on SENS on 22 August 2016. You can also visit our website at <u>www.suninternational.com</u>.