

MEDIA RELEASE

9 May 2019

AEEI DELIVERS EXCELLENT INTERIM RESULTS WITH INCREASES IN PROFIT AND ASSETS

Highlights

- Revenue increased by 31% from R604m to R792m
- Profit after tax for the period increased by 246% from R158m to R546m
- Headline earnings per share (HEPS) increased by 37% from 28.32c to 38.67c
- Earnings per share increased by 238% from 28.32c to 95.77c
- Total assets increased by 32% from R7.3bn to R9.7bn
- Net asset value increased by 8% from R4.9bn to R5.3bn
- Net cash from operating activities increased to R123m
- Declaration of an interim dividend of 11.00c per share

Cape Town, 9 May 2019 - JSE-listed African Equity Empowerment Investments Limited (AEEI), a diversified investment and empowerment group today announced its interim results for the six months ended 28 February 2019. The Johannesburg Stock Exchange's (JSE) largest Black Economic Empowered (BEE) listed entity continues to show consistent growth and increases in revenue and profits.

The Group's financial performance is attributed to strong contributions from all its divisions, with a combination of organic and acquisitive growth, especially in the fishing and brands and technology divisions.

The consistent increase in earnings and asset growth during a period of ongoing economic volatility demonstrates the Group's efficient and effective business model during challenging market conditions.

AEEI said in a statement today that Group revenue increased by 31% from R604m to R792m. This was mainly due to significant revenue growth achieved from AEEI's holding in the fishing and technology divisions.

Profit after tax increased by 246% from R158m to R546m, which is a testament to the solid performance of the underlying businesses and management thereof.

Headline earnings per share (HEPS) increased by 37% from 28.32 cents to 38.67 cents, while Earnings per share (EPS) increased by 238% from 28.32 cents to 95.77 cents for the period under review.

AEEI's strategy to increase its asset base and broaden its portfolio is evident in the 32% growth in total assets from R7.3bn to R9.7bn. This is mainly due to the growth in the fishing and technology divisions. Net Asset Value (NAV) for the Group increased by 8% from R4.9 bn to R5.3 bn.

With the solid financial performance derived from the underlying businesses, net cash generated from operating activities for the period increased to R123m.

Group chief executive of AEEI, Mr Khalid Abdulla, noted: "It is reassuring to see the Group's dedication and commitment to perform. For the past few years, we have consistently referred to our 'Vision 2020 Vision' strategy and it is apparent that our goals and targets are being met and in most instances, exceeded."

Abdulla believes that the minority equity stakes in its strategic investments have all shown improvements in its investment value since the date of the acquisitions, while the companies demonstrate consistent growth in earnings and earn regular dividends for AEEI.

The AEEI Board agreed to dispose of the Pioneer Foods Group Limited and Quantum Foods Holding Limited shares on 15 March 2019. The disposal effective date is expected to be before 31 May 2019.

AEEI is pleased to announce an interim dividend declaration of 11.00 cents per share to shareholders.

The Group is a diversified investment and empowerment company and currently employs thousands of people throughout the country. AEEI is 73.7% black-owned, of which 38% constitutes female ownership. The Group's commitment to B-BBEE and accelerated transformation, application of good corporate governance, transparent reporting, ethical business practices and its drive to further increase shareholder value, make it a pioneer for other businesses to follow.

The Group is excited about the potential for growth via an acquisition pipeline and we are confident that further announcements will be made soon.

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