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# UNAUDITED **INTERIM RESULTS**

FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2017

**Maiden interim** dividend R9,82m

24 July 2017

Revenue

**47%** 

to R449m

Operating profit **★145%** 

> from R74m to R181m

**Earnings** per share **110%** 

> from 14.04c to 29.48c

Headline earnings per share

**111%** 

rom R1 535n to R1 841m to 29.53c

Net asset value

**\$34%** 

from R847m to R1 138m

Net cash generated from operating activities

> **121%** from R29m

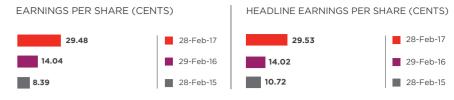
to R35m

Dividend paid

R16,20m

to shareholders on 13 February 2017







#### GROUD DEDECRMANCE

The Group delivered excellent revenue and profit growth as a result of the strong contributions from all its underlying operations and investments for the interim period under review

Group revenue increased by 47% from R305m to R449m, mainly due to the significant revenue from the Technology division, which is in line with its growth and acquisition plans.

Group operating profit increased by 145% from R74m to R181m compared to the prior interim period.

Group earnings grew by 142% from R57m to R138m compared to the prior interim period.

Headline earnings per share ("HEPS") increased by 111% from 14.02c to 29.53c and earnings per share ("EPS") increased by 110% from 14.04c to 29.48c for the six months under review.

Profit before tax for the period increased by 150% from R74m to R185m with improved returns from our

The Group's asset base increased by 20% from R1 535m to R1 841m, mainly due to the increase in performance of its operations and the increase in its investments since the comparative interim period.

Net asset value ("NAV") of the Group increased by 34% from R847m to R1138m as a result of the excellent operational performance of all our underlying operations and investments. The NAV per share increased by 38%

As a result of the solid financial performance from the underlying businesses, net cash generated from operating activities increased by 21% from R29m to R35m for the period under review.

#### STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS

The Group's strategic investments consist of Pioneer Foods Group Ltd ("Pioneer"), Sygnia Ltd ("Sygnia") and Saab Grintek Defence (Pty) Ltd ("SGD") and BT Communications Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd ("BT") (is now managed and reported under Technology).

AEEI has minority equity stakes in SGD, Sygnia and Pioneer and these investments have shown improvement in its investment value since the date of the acquisitions. Consistent growth in earnings and regular dividends are received from all the strategic investments.

### **FOOD AND FISHING**

The Food and Fishing division delivered the expected growth in revenue and earnings - a 7% increase in revenue from R170m to R182m. Improved catch rates and greater sales volumes also had a positive impact, increasing operating profit by 14% from R22m to R25m. The diversification in the various fish species supported the diversification strategy. Due to its seasonal nature, this division has a stronger performance during the second half of the year. Based on these results, the Food and Fishing division is expected to meet its forecasts.

The abalone division continues to focus on increasing production capacity and efficiencies. The planning and design for the expansion project will commence shortly on the Gansbaai farm

On 2 March 2017, Premier Food and Fishing Ltd ("PFF") listed on the main board of the JSE. The company was able to raise capital in the amount of R526m on the listing date through the issue of 117 million new shares to the public, hence increasing the issued shares of the company from 143 million ordinary shares to 260 million ordinary shares in issue. The capital raised will be used for the expansion of the abalone farm and further acquisitions of fishing and related products as part of its growth strategy.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Operating profit/(loss)

The Information Communication Technology ("ICT") division focuses on the growth and development of nichemarket ICT companies

The ICT division delivered strong organic growth and is delivering on its acquisition strategy by having acquired two Information Technology ("IT") companies to bolster its product portfolio with revenues increasing by 119% from R107m to R234m, as well as an increase in the operating profit by 17% from R169m to R197. The economies of scale are in line with our Vision 2020 Vision strategy in preparing this division for its potential listing in the short to medium term.

169 062

#### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Total assets

**20%** 

	Unaudited Group to 28 February 2017 R'000	Unaudited Group to 29 February 2016 R'000	Audited Group to 31 August 2016 R'000
Revenue	448 785	305 318	752 203
Profit before taxation	185 382	73 768	292 102
Profit after tax (including portion attributable to non-controlling interest)	138 201	57 507	208 527
Headline earnings	145 116	68 897	211 930
Net asset value	1 137 993	847 171	1 001 035
Net cash generated from operating activities	35 115	28 723	75 377
Earnings per share (cents)	29.48	14.04	44.09
Headline earnings per share (cents)	29.53	14.02	43.13
Net asset value per share (cents)	216.47	156.47	186.52

The diversification in our various ICT businesses will complement its existing portfolio and enhance its future offerings to its greater customer base

During the period under review, the Group obtained significant influence over its investment in BT. This resulted in the division recognising the investment as an associate from November 2016. The fully paid-up investment in BT is well positioned to grow consistently over the next few years. Earnings and dividends have grown consistently and this is expected to continue in the foreseeable future.

The companies under the Health Care division, focuses on the manufacturing, sales and marketing of an extensive range of natural products for the food, agriculture, hygiene as well as general health and beauty products

The Health Care division achieved growth in revenue by increasing its footprint in other regions and promoting its product portfolio to other food and hygiene sectors.

### BIOTECHNOLOGY

Genius Biotherapeutics ("Genius"), South Africa and Africa's largest medical biotechnology company, continues with its research and development activities

The dendritic cell vaccine project awaits final approval from the Medicines Control Council ("MCC") to commence with Phase 1 clinical trials on breast cancer. The research team continues with research and development to commence pre-clinical trials on extreme drug-resistant tuberculosis.

Genius' management team focused their plans to update all regulatory work and intellectual property by employing the necessary human resources required to meet MCC compliance standards for the production of Repotin

#### **EVENTS AND TOURISM**

(1 916)

(4 397)

The Events and Tourism division owns and manages an events planning and production company, espAfrika (Pty) Ltd ("espAfrika"), a travel services company, Tripos Travel (Pty) Ltd ("Tripos"), and a radio station, Magic 828 (Pty) Ltd ("Magic 828").

espAfrika, a Group subsidiary, owns and hosted a very successful 18th Cape Town International Jazz Festival post-interim period. In 2016, espAfrika also launched its own annual event called "The Royal Escape Experience" at Sun City and this will be held again in July 2017. The company's performance for the six months is in line with expectations as espAfrika has most of its events and profitability during the second half of the financial year.

(2 530)

(109 114)

Additionally, Magic 828, which has been in existence for less than 20 months, increased its listenership by 43% in the Western Cape region to approximately 100 000 listeners.

Tripos has increased its market share since the previous period with revenues increasing by 69% from R16m to R27m.

The Group will continue with its strategic focus to grow the value of the core operational investments and improve the value-add to our strategic investments.

The AEEI Group has built a solid platform for further organic growth and has positioned itself well to increase its investments by acquisition. Management is focused on its five-year strategic plan ("Vision 2020 Vision") and has firmed up its acquisition pipeline for both its Food and Fishing and IT companies.

The Group's auditors have not reviewed nor reported on any comments relating to prospects.

Dividends have been declared and approved by the board of directors on 26 October 2016. These dividends of R16.20m were paid to shareholders on 13 February 2017.

The Board of directors are pleased to announce that it has approved and declared a gross maiden interim dividend of 2.00 cents per share for the six-month period ended 28 February 2017 from income reserves. The interim dividend amount, net of South African dividend tax of 20% which equates to 0.40 cents per share, is therefore a net 160 cents per share for those shareholders that are not exempt from dividend tax

The number of ordinary shares in issue at declaration date is 491 339 434 and the income tax number of the Company is 9314001034.

The salient dates of this dividend distribution are:

Gross dividend (cents per share)

Dividend net of dividend withholding tax (cents per share)

Last day to trade cum dividend Trading ex-dividend commences

Record date

Date of payment

Share certificates may not be dematerialised between Wednesday, 19 July 2017 and Friday, 21 July 2017, both days inclusive

# **APPRECIATION**

We wish to thank our staff. Group executives, management, our Board of directors as well as our strategic partners, stakeholders and business partners for their loyalty and dedication in contributing to the success of the Group

Prof Vukile Mehana

Non-executive chairman

Mr Khalid Abdulla Chief executive officer

Cape Town

11 May 2017

# NOTE TO SHAREHOLDERS

This announcement contains only a summary of the information of the full announcement made on SENS on Thursday, 11 May 2017, and is the responsibility of the directors. Please refer to the full announcement for additional information. The full announcement is available for viewing on AEEI's website at www.aeei.co.za, or may be requested and obtained in person, at no charge, at the registered office of the Company and its sponsor during office hours. Any investment decisions by investors and/or shareholders should be based on consideration of the full announcement made on SENS.

# SUMMARISED GROUP SEGMENTAL INFORMATION

28 February 2017	Technology Unaudited R'000	Food and Fishing Unaudited R'000	Health Care Unaudited R'000	Biotechnology Unaudited R'000	Events and Tourism Unaudited R'000	Corporate Unaudited R'000	Group Unaudited R'000
Revenue	233 683	182 527	2 647	4	26 788	3 136	448 785
Operating profit/(loss)	197 177	25 311	(966)	(8 079)	(3 502)	(29 261)	180 680
29 February 2016	Technology Unaudited R'000	Food and Fishing Unaudited R'000	Health Care Unaudited R'000	Biotechnology Unaudited R'000	Events and Tourism Unaudited R'000	Corporate Unaudited R'000	Group Unaudited R'000
Revenue	107 136	170 378	2 024	_	19 346	6 434	305 318

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### AFRICAN EQUITY EMPOWERMENT INVESTMENTS LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

Registration number: 1996/006093/06 Share code: AEE and ISIN: ZAE000195731

("AEEI" or "the Group" or "the Company") - A SEKUNJALO GROUP COMPANY

Directors: Khalid Abdulla\* (chief executive officer); Prof Vukile Mehana (non-executive chairman);

Salim Young (deputy chairman): Johannes Mihe Gaomab: Aziza Amod: Takudzwa Hove: Cherie Felicity Hendricks\*: Chantelle Ah Sing\*: Zenariah Barends

\*executive directors

73 603

Company secretary: Nobulungisa Mibaliseli Registered address: Quay 7 Fast Pier V&A Waterfront Cape Town 8001 Email: nobulungisa@aeei.co.za Transfer secretaries: Link Market Services South Africa (Ptv) Ltd. 13th Floor Rennie House 19 Ameshoff Street Braamfontein, Johannesburg 2000

Auditors: Grant Thornton Cape Inc. Sponsor: PSG Capital, Stellenbosch

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Tuesday, 18 July 2017

Friday, 21 July 2017

Monday, 24 July 2017

Wednesday, 19 July 2017