

## **CLARIFICATION NOTE**

### **Bimha Mine underground collapse**

Further to an announcement by Zimplats on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX) this morning, Implats wishes to clarify the impacts of the major underground collapse at the Bimha Mine, which has affected nearly 50% of the current mining footprint at this operation. No injuries or damage to mobile equipment were reported.

The collapse was triggered by the accelerated deterioration of ground conditions associated with a major shear, the Mutambara Shear, that transgresses through half of the mining area. The fault was first identified in 2011 but has become more problematic over the last year both along the declines and within the stoping footprint of the Bimha Mine. A number of initiatives to address regional ground stability and employee safety have been undertaken during this period. Despite these efforts, significant and accelerated ground deterioration was observed from May this year, leading to a decision to abandon and permanently close approximately half of the Bimha mining footprint in areas where major falls of ground have occurred.

As a result, 50% of production from the Bimha Mine, equating to approximately 45 000 ounces of platinum in matte production, has been impacted. Preliminary estimates indicate that it will take approximately 15 months to restore full production of eight mining fleets at this mine (90 000 platinum ounces design capacity). Two of the eight mining fleets that were deployed at the Bimha Mine will be reallocated to open up the bottom roadways to shaft bottom which is expected to take 50 months. The remaining six fleets will be absorbed either within Bimha or the other mines to recover lost production as far as possible.

Zimplats was expected to reach 270 000 ounces of platinum in 2015 as the Phase 2 expansion project completed its ramp up. As a consequence of this event, this target will now only be achieved in 2016. Management is assessing all viable opportunities to further mitigate this impact and will advise accordingly as soon as possible.

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