

# NEWS RELEASE

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## IMPLATS DELIVERS SOLID FULL-YEAR PRODUCTION AND COST PERFORMANCE

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**Johannesburg, 29 August 2024** – Impala Platinum Holdings Limited (Implats) delivered solid production and commendable cost control for its financial year ended 30 June 2024 (FY2024), despite navigating several serious challenges and a constrained operating environment characterised by macroeconomic headwinds and persistently low prices for platinum group metals (PGMs). The journey to zero harm suffered a significant setback, with the Group’s safety performance dominated by the devastating 11 Shaft tragedy at Impala Rustenburg in November 2023.

The Group generated EBITDA of R12.4 billion, headline earnings of R2.4 billion or 269 cents per share and recorded a free cash outflow of R4.0 billion, after incurring cash capital spend of R12.3 billion in the period. The Group’s strong balance sheet positioning was sustained, with closing adjusted net cash of R6.9 billion. No dividend was declared.

The acquisition of the remaining shareholding in Royal Bafokeng Platinum Limited (RBPlat), now Impala Bafokeng, was also concluded and a landmark broad-based black economic empowerment (B-BBEE) transaction was completed for value and broadened economic participation in the Groups’ mining and processing assets.

During FY2024, a Group restructuring process commenced to rationalise and optimise labour deployment and achieve appropriate staffing levels across corporate and operational functions. Labour restructuring at Impala Canada and Zimplats was completed, and a Section 189(3) consultation process was initiated during the fourth quarter across the South African managed operations — Impala Rustenburg, Impala Bafokeng, Marula and the corporate office. The labour restructuring process in South Africa was concluded in July 2024. Natural attrition, together with re-deployment, reskilling efforts and the uptake of voluntary separation packages, ensured no employees were forcibly retrenched.

Implats CEO, Nico Muller, said: *“Implats has benefitted from past investment into our people and assets, which underpinned the strong operational delivery at our key mining and processing assets during the year and provided the flexibility to take measured action in response to soft metal pricing.*

*“Key strategic projects at our mining and processing operations were successfully advanced and the construction of our flagship renewable energy project — the largest solar power plant in Zimbabwe — was completed. Together with the water security and community investment initiatives progressed, we continued to demonstrate our commitment to environmental stewardship and long-term sustainability.*

*“Significantly weaker US dollar sales revenue offset the benefit of strong operational delivery in FY2024 — average palladium and rhodium pricing dropped sharply, negating higher sales volumes and compressing operating margins and free cash flow generation. Financial metrics were further impacted by several once-off cash and non-cash charges arising from impairments resulting from lower PGM pricing as well as the conclusion of the RBPlat and B-BBEE transactions and labour restructuring during the period.*

*“FY2025 started with the labour restructuring completed, Group operations set up to deliver free cash flow — despite the assumption of continued near-term PGM pricing weakness — and our suite of processing assets well capitalised and able to draw down previously accumulated inventory and release cash to the Group.”*

## **OUTLOOK AND GUIDANCE**

Implats remains focused on delivering safe and profitable production – operational planning and capital investment is structured to enhance the competitive positioning of each asset to maximise returns and limit the use of the balance sheet to cross-subsidise loss-making operations.

Following the significant setback in fatalities in FY2024, the focus on improving the Group’s safety performance and eliminating fatal injuries remains steadfast, reinvigorated by targeted initiatives to enhance our safety culture, individual employee compliance and visible felt leadership.

Key mining and processing assets operated well in FY2024, however some failed to deliver to expectations and a series of interventions are underway at each of Marula, Two Rivers and Styldrift to ensure these operations revert to plan and realise their inherent potential during FY2025.

PGM miners continue to face challenging — and sometimes competing — stakeholder expectations from host communities, governments, organised labour and investors. Given persistent socioeconomic challenges and financial constraints across our operating geographies, Implats will continue to prioritise labour stability, and constructive engagement with its mine communities, regulators and other key stakeholders.

### **Guidance**

Group production in FY2025 will be supported by sustained operating momentum at each of Impala Rustenburg, Zimplats and Mimosa. Performance at Two Rivers is expected to stabilise as the Merensky project is placed on care and maintenance and UG2 production is prioritised. At Impala Bafokeng, production at Styldrift will be consolidated at a lower labour complement, while third-party receipts reflect expected volumes from pre-existing contracts. Refined volumes will benefit from the partial release of previously accumulated excess inventory, with Group sales in line with refined and saleable production.

Group 6E refined and saleable production is expected to be between 3.45 and 3.65 million ounces. Group unit costs are forecast to rise by up to 5% to be between R21 000 and R22 000 per 6E ounce on a stock-adjusted basis. Group capital expenditure is forecast to be between R8 billion and R9 billion, inclusive of growth capital of between R0.9 billion and R1.1 billion. This guidance assumes exchange rates of R18.25/US\$ and C\$1.33/US\$, respectively.

## KEY FEATURES FOR THE 12 MONTHS

### Safety and sustainability

- Safety performance dominated by the 11 Shaft tragedy, with 19 fatalities at managed operations
- LTIFR\* improved by 1% to 3.89 from 3.92 in FY2023
- TIFR\* improved by 10% to 8.29 from 9.25 in FY2023
- No major, significant or limited environmental incidents
- Third consecutive inclusion in the S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook (2024)

### Operational

- Achieved volumes benefitted from maiden annual inclusion of Impala Bafokeng
- 21% increase in managed 6E production to 2.92Moz
- 1% higher JV 6E production of 547koz
- 34% decrease in third-party 6E receipts to 191koz
- Refined and saleable 6E production increased 14% to 3.38Moz
- 6E sales volumes rose 16% to 3.44Moz
- Group 6E stock-adjusted unit costs increased 5% to R20 922/oz
- Consolidated Group capital expenditure of R14.0bn
- Excess 6E inventory of c.390koz at year end

### Financial

- RBPlat acquisition completed and landmark B-BBEE transaction concluded
- Reported financial metrics impacted by weak pricing and several once-off expenses
- Gross profit of R5.5bn at a gross profit margin of 6%
- EBITDA of R12.4bn and EBITDA margin of 14%
- Basic loss of R17.3 billion or 1 929cps
- Headline earnings of R2.4bn or 269cps
- Free cash outflow of R4.0bn
- R6.9bn in closing adjusted net cash

### Market

- Dollar revenue per 6E ounce sold down 34% to US\$1 350
- Rand revenue per 6E ounce sold declined 30% to R25 257
- Precious metal pricing heavily impacted by industrial and automotive destocking and poor investor sentiment amid an uncertain macroeconomic and geopolitical landscape
- Platinum, palladium and rhodium markets to remain in deficit in 2024

*\*per million man-hours worked*

## SAFETY

Implats' safety performance was dominated by the 11 Shaft tragedy in the first half of the year, in which 13 employees lost their lives and a further 73 employees were injured following an accident involving a personnel conveyance. With deep regret, we report that an additional six employees lost their lives in unrelated incidents at managed operations in FY2024, bringing the Group's reported fatalities to 19 in the period. As a result, Implats' fatal-injury frequency rate deteriorated to 0.127 per million man-hours worked (FY2023: 0.040).

The board of directors and management team have extended their heartfelt condolences to their families and the Group offers them ongoing support. Investigations into the 11 Shaft incident are ongoing while investigations into the remaining incidents were completed and remedial actions implemented.

The lost-time injury frequency rate (LTIFR) improved by 1% to 3.89 per million man-hours worked and the Group recorded a 10% improvement in the total-injury frequency rate (TIFR) of 3.89 per million man-hours worked in FY2024.

While Implats' safety and operational risk strategy compares favourably with other leading miners and addresses all relevant key safety enablers, the Group interrogated its safety procedures and intensified measures to further embed fatal risk prevention in the operating culture at all operations. Among others, the focus areas include improving the methodology and quality of planning, enhanced early entrance examinations, accelerating the fatal risk control protocols, capacitating managers and supervisors and addressing the high turnover in these roles, and an increased focus on the critical safe behaviours for each role, particularly those in high-risk work areas. Visible felt leadership was increased, as was on-the-job training and frontline coaching. These initiatives were supported by Group-wide safety summits held in November 2023, facilitated by independent third parties, and a second summit in May 2024.

## STRATEGIC DELIVERY

Constrained PGM pricing required a critical focus on capital expenditure. Projects key to advancing Implats' strategic aspirations in both beneficiation and renewable energy were prioritised for completion and near-term spend is geared towards ensuring asset integrity, preserving operational flexibility and efficiency, maintaining ore reserve flexibility and ensuring statutory compliance..

*Read more about our ongoing growth, mine replacement, beneficiation and decarbonisation projects in our FY2024 reporting suite at [www.implats.co.za](http://www.implats.co.za)*

Operational strategies for several assets were amended in response to constrained PGM pricing:

- High-grade ore sources were prioritised at Impala Canada, resulting in a lower operating cost and shorter life-of-mine
- A decision was taken by the JV partners at Two Rivers to place the Merensky mine expansion project on care and maintenance post initial commissioning. This limits the funding requirements that would have been required to ramp-up production during a weak pricing environment and allows for a refocus on UG2 operations
- The North Hill project at Mimososa was not approved by the JV partners. The South Hill mine will be optimised to improve operational efficiencies and options to extend life-of-mine are under evaluation
- At Impala Bafokeng's Styldrift operation, performance continued to lag expectations and production parameters were reset to match current performance, and to establish the operational readiness needed to deliver improved efficiencies and increase production to steady-state levels. Monthly milled throughput of 230 000 tonnes is targeted for the end of FY2027

- The integration of processing facilities across the Western Limb operations of Impala Rustenburg and Impala Bafokeng started, resulting in improved plant availability and recovery.
- The two operations have accelerated the process to realise synergies.

Construction on several key capital projects will start in FY2025 to improve operational efficiency and flexibility, including a chrome recovery plant and a tailings retreatment plant at Impala Bafokeng, a ventilation upgrade at Impala Rustenburg's 14 Shaft, an additional matte ball mill at the base metal refinery and Phase 2 of the solar installation at Zimplats.

Against the backdrop of a challenging year, Implats was proud to conclude a strategic B-BBEE transaction ensuring broad based ownership in the mine-to-market PGM value chain. Equity ownership at Impala (including Impala Refining Services), and Impala Bafokeng is via an employee share ownership trust (4%), a community share ownership trust (4%) and a strategic empowerment consortium, Bokamoso (5%), led by Siyanda Resources Proprietary Limited (Siyanda).

## SUSTAINABILITY

The PGMs produced from the Group's geographically diverse operations play an important role in the global imperative to achieve net zero. Implats is progressively reducing and mitigating its environmental impact at its own operations and across its value chain, while also investing in developing thriving communities to sustain livelihoods beyond mining. The Group's sustainability activities and initiatives contribute towards 14 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### Health and wellbeing

- Superb progress was made on reducing the incidence of tuberculosis (TB) among Implats' workforce to a rate of 162 per 100 000 – less than half the national incidence rate in South Africa and Zimbabwe
- Hearing conservation programmes and focused efforts to address the Covid-19 backlog in noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) screenings led to a 33% decrease in new NIHL cases
- The adherence rate to HIV treatment was sustained at over 95%. A daily single-dose anti-retroviral treatment regime was introduced to improve HIV management and measurably improve productivity and quality of life, with a year-on-year 3.7% improvement in viral suppression
- Support for the mental health and wellness of employees and dependents was increased.

### Environment

- There were no major (level 5), significant (level 4) or limited-impact (level 3) environmental incidents (FY2023: 0, 0 and 7, respectively) and no fines or non-monetary sanctions were imposed for non-compliance with environmental regulations, licences or permits at any Group operation
- Total carbon emissions increased by 6% to 4 298kt CO<sub>2</sub> following the incorporation of Impala Bafokeng operations
- Carbon emission and energy use intensities improved by 6% to 0.154 CO<sub>2</sub> tonnes per tonne milled (FY2023: 0.171) and by 10% to 0.783 GJ per tonne milled (FY2023: 0.835), respectively, due to a 16% increase in milled tonnes
- Zimplats completed the first 35MW of its intended 185MW solar power complex
- Zimplats' hydro-power offtake agreement with the Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation was increased to 70MW from 1 January 2024, raising the operation's consumption of renewable energy sources to 88% of its total energy usage.
- In total, the Group's FY2024 renewable electricity consumption was 37% (FY2023: 30%), which resulted in Implats avoiding 356 406 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (FY2023: 127 000)
- During the period, 56% (FY2023: 52%) of water used at the operations was re-used or recycled against the FY2024 target of 54%.

## Social

- The Groups' social performance framework is directed at four key focus areas — community wellbeing; education and skills development; enterprise and supplier development (ESD) and inclusive procurement; and infrastructure development.
- Focused spend on key, high-impact and strategic community investment projects
- Social economic spend of R375 million in FY2024, benefitted more than 140 000 people and supporting some 4 800 employment opportunities.

*The Group's sustainability performance is more fully explored at [www.implats.co.za](http://www.implats.co.za)*

## GROUP OPERATIONAL REVIEW

Implats navigated several serious challenges and a constrained operating environment to deliver guided production volumes and commendable cost controls. Achieved volumes benefitted from the maiden annual consolidation of Impala Bafokeng. However, notable performances were achieved on a like-for-like basis (excluding Impala Bafokeng's contribution) at the Group's key mining and processing operations.

- Group 6E production increased by 13% to 3.65 million ounces (FY2023: 3.25 million) and was 1% lower on a like-for-like basis:
  - 6E production at managed operations increased by 21% to 2.92 million ounces (FY2023: 2.42 million), with like-for-like gains of 2% with higher volumes at Zimplats and Impala Rustenburg offsetting the impact of rebased production at Impala Canada and safety-impacted throughput at Marula
  - JV operations increased 6E concentrate production by 1% to 547 000 ounces (FY2023: 541 000). Mimosa benefitted from plant optimisation but Two Rivers delivered lower volumes due to constrained mining flexibility from challenging geological conditions.
  - Third-party 6E concentrate receipts declined by 34% to 191 000 ounces (FY2023: 287 000) as two contracts terminated in Q3 FY2023.
- Refined 6E production, which includes saleable ounces from Impala Bafokeng and Impala Canada, increased by 14% to 3.38 million 6E ounces (FY2023: 2.96 million) and was 2% higher on a like-for-like basis.

Mining and processing performances benefitted from a notable reduction in load curtailment in South Africa, but Zimbabwe experienced heightened electricity supply constraints. As a result, Implats estimates production of circa 21 000 6E ounces was foregone across southern African managed and JV operations in the period, while a further 12 000 6E ounces were deferred (FY2023: 36 000 foregone and 101 000 deferred).

Group processing capacity was limited by the rebuild of the Number 5 furnace at Impala Rustenburg. Maintenance was initiated in December 2023 with the furnace successfully recommissioned as planned in April 2024. All three furnaces at Impala Rustenburg were successfully rebuilt between FY2022 and FY2024, with excess concentrates and matte stockpiled for future refining and sale.

Implats ended the period with excess inventory of approximately 390 000 6E ounces (FY2023: 245 000). Group processing capacity will benefit from higher annual available capacity at Impala Rustenburg and will be bolstered by the commissioning of the new furnace at Zimplats in H1 FY2025. This will facilitate the steady release of excess inventory over the FY2025, FY2026 and FY2027 reporting periods.

Capital expenditure at managed operations rose by 22% to R14.0 billion (FY2023: R11.5 billion) as annual spend at Impala Bafokeng was consolidated in the period and expenditure on growth projects at Zimplats accelerated, offsetting reduced capital expenditure at Impala Rustenburg, Impala Canada and Marula.

*Please visit [www.implats.co.za](http://www.implats.co.za) for the detailed breakdown per operation.*

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

The benefit of strong operational delivery in FY2024 was offset by significantly weaker US dollar sales revenue. Sharply lower average palladium and rhodium pricing negated higher sales volumes and the benefit of a weaker average rand. Reported financial metrics were also negatively impacted by several once-off cash and non-cash charges in the period.

- **Revenue** of R86.4 billion was 19% lower than the prior comparable period largely due to lower dollar metal prices, partly offset by a weaker rand, and despite a 16% increase in 6E sales volumes
- **Cost of sales** declined by 4% to R80.9 billion as the impact of the maiden annual consolidation of Impala Bafokeng, Group mining inflation of 5.6% and the translation of foreign subsidiaries' costs at a weaker rand was offset by the lower cost of metals purchased by IRS due to softer prevailing rand PGM pricing
- **Stock-adjusted unit costs** increased by 5% to R20 922 per 6E ounce, benefitting from moderating inflation and improved volume delivery from managed operations
- The Group generated **gross profit** of R5.5 billion (FY2023: R22.3 billion) at a gross profit margin of 6% (FY2023: 21%)
- Implants accounted for several significant **once-off**, non-cash items in profit before tax in FY2024:
  - A R1.9 billion (no tax impact) IFRS 2 (share-based payment) B-BBEE non-cash charge arising on the implementation of the empowerment transaction at Impala Rustenburg and Impala Bafokeng in June 2024, reflecting the facilitation provided to empowerment parties including employees, communities and the Siyanda-led broad-based empowerment consortium, Bokamoso
  - The impairment of goodwill (R6.3 billion), pre-paid royalty (R3.2 billion) and property, plant and equipment (R10.6 billion) at Impala Rustenburg of R20.2 billion (pre-tax), due to lower rand PGM pricing
  - The impairment of property, plant and equipment of R1.6 billion (no tax impact) at Impala Canada, reflecting the change in the operation's planned operating parameters effected during the period
  - The R987 million post-tax attributable share of a property, plant and equipment impairment at the Two Rivers JV (included in loss from associates) due to the combined valuation impact of lower rand PGM pricing and elevated near-term capital expenditure from the Merensky project
  - The R686 million post-tax attributable share of a property, plant, and equipment impairment at the Mimosa JV (included in loss from associates) due to the combined valuation impact of lower rand PGM pricing and the deferral of the North Hill life-of-mine replacement project.
- **EBITDA** was R12.4 billion (FY2023: R36.0 billion) at an EBITDA margin of 14% (FY2023: 34%) negatively impacted by the non-cash IFRS 2 charge and once-off cash expenses associated with concluding the RBPlat acquisition and Group-wide labour restructuring
- The **tax** credit for the period amounted to R3.3 billion, resulting in an effective tax rate of 16% (FY2023: R3.6 billion charge and 37%)
- **Headline earnings** of R2.4 billion or 269 cents per share were 87% and 88% lower, respectively
- **Basic earnings** declined to a loss of R17.3 billion or 1 929 cents per share, from basic earnings of R4.9 billion and 577 cents per share in the prior year
- Implants closed the period with **adjusted net cash**, excluding finance leases, of R6.9 billion (FY2023: R25.0 billion) and **liquidity headroom** of R17.7 billion.
- No final **dividend** was declared, in line with the Group's dividend policy, which is premised on a minimum distribution of 30% of adjusted free cash flow, pre-growth capital.

## **PGM MARKET REVIEW (calendar years unless otherwise stated)**

All three major PGM markets are likely to remain in fundamental deficits in 2024, although market shortfalls are expected to ease from those witnessed in 2023 – automotive production growth is expected to moderate, industrial demand is expected to be marginally lower as capacity expansions ease, and supply is expected to stage a modest recovery on improved auto catalyst scrap collections. However, the pricing impact of continued industrial and automotive original equipment manufacturer (OEM) destocking will continue to heavily influence physical market tightness and pricing over the remainder of the calendar year, as will the trajectory of monetary policy and interest rates in major developed economies.

Visit [www.implats.co.za](http://www.implats.co.za) for the full market review.

## **Ends**

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## **About Implats**

Impala Platinum Holding Limited (Implats) is a leading, fully integrated platinum group metals (PGMs) producer. Implats is structured around seven mining operations and Impala Refining Services, a toll-refining business. The Group's mining operations are located on the Bushveld Complex in South Africa, the Great Dyke in Zimbabwe and the Canadian Shield.

Implats' stated purpose is to create a better future. Our vision is to be the most valued and responsible metals producer, creating a better future for our stakeholders. Implats is committed to a value-focused strategy and places a strong emphasis on developing a portfolio of long-life, low-cost, shallow, mechanised or mechanisable mining assets to sustainably deliver improved returns for all its stakeholders. The Group aspires to deliver value through excellence and execution and through its commitment to responsible stewardship and long-term value creation.

The Group maintains a primary listing on the JSE in South Africa, a secondary listing on South Africa's A2X, and a level one American Depositary Receipt programme in the US.