

FULL YEAR 2024

AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS

DECEMBER 2024

The Board of Directors of Letshego Africa Holdings Limited ("the Group"/"Letshego Africa") herewith presents an extract of the audited consolidated financial results for the year ended 31 December 2024.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

The Group's Profit before taxation improved by 110% year on year for the financial year ending 2024, to BWP255 million. While still in a loss after taxation position, the loss decreased from BWP149 million in 2023 to BWP93 million in 2024, reflecting the recovery path the business is on.

Operating income for the year increased 26% against the prior year on the back of strong top-line growth. Double digit Interest income growth of 15% was strongly driven by the Group's mainstay Deduction at Source ("DAS") and Short Term Loans. Strong performance from Botswana, Namibia and Mozambique supported DAS growth while Ghana continued to dominate the mobile lending space. Insurance arrangements in Mozambique and Namibia continued to be a significant contributor to our non-funded income, with fee and commission income driven by Ghana's Mobile Loan products. Interest expense was down 4% year on year as reference rates remained stable in most countries, while other economies saw rates reduced.

While net advances growth was muted at 1% against 6% year on year growth in the prior year, Mobile lending made up 6% of the Group's gross advances for the year ended 31 December 2024, against an 84% contribution of DAS. To mitigate ongoing credit risk, lending products the Group took a strategic decision to derisk vulnerable MSE portfolios in Tanzania and Kenya at the start of the year. Deposit growth was strong at 40% year on year, with borrowings increasing marginally by 1% year on year.

In the last financial year, the Group further adjusted its ECL methodology by incorporating assessment of Time in Default (TID) in the Loss Given Default (LGD) computation, and ceased discounting of Stage 3 ECL. The Group also tightened its provisioning and write-off policy in the year. The Group's net impairment increased by 71% in 2024 partly due to writing off qualifying non performing portfolios that were originated in 2022/23. Overall, Stage 3 coverage increased to 69% in 2024 from 58% the prior year. The outstanding test and learn balances had their Stage 3 coverage increase from 66% in the previous year to 77% in 2024 while Ghana instant loan coverage increased from 46% to 60% as a result of the implementation of TID in the year. Ghana remains a hyperinflationary economy for 2024 financial year reporting. However, with the stability in the Ghana Cedi and a positive outlook for the economy, we expect that Ghana should come out of hyperinflationary reporting in 2025. No inflation adjusted restatements were incorporated for Nigeria as international economic bodies and accounting firms continued to hold the view that the economy had not entered Hyperinflation as at December 2024.

Regional Performance

(Southern Africa/East and West Africa)

Southern Africa markets showed good performance in 2024, supported by strong top line performance and profitability in Namibia and Mozambique. Letshego Botswana saw a gradual recovery, following the losses experienced on the Non-DAS Individual Loans in 2023. Botswana wrote off a significant part of this portfolio in line with the Group's prudent approach on Expected Credit Losses and the strict application of the revised write-off policy in 2024.

Namibia, Mozambique and Botswana subsidiaries recorded an increase in profit after taxation of 32%, 15% and 123% respectively. Southern African markets collectively saw a steady 4% net loan book growth year on year.

Some green shoots were experienced in East and West Africa during the year. Short Term Loans showed good performance in Ghana and Tanzania, with Ghana's disbursements growing threefold. Through Ghana's effective deposit mobilisation strategy, institutional deposit and retail deposits grew 17% and 25%, respectively. As reported in 2023, the Group reset its MSE product and maintained disbursement trends in countries which met minimum performance thresholds, including Rwanda, Uganda and Nigeria. We provide more detail on specific income statement components below.

Profit Performance

The Group's Profit before taxation improved by 110% year on year for the financial year ending 2024, to BWP255 million. While still in a loss after taxation position, the loss reduced by 37% from BWP149 million in 2023 to BWP93 million in 2024.

Operating income

The Group's Operating income grew 26% year on year to BWP2.88 billion on the back of strong top-line growth. Interest income for the year of BWP3.9 billion reflected double-digit growth, with Interest from Advances to customers up

15% year on year, driven mainly by DAS and Mobile lending. Interest on Deposits with banks increased 27% year on year. Interest expense of BWP1.59 billion reduced 4% year on year. Non-funded income increased 5% year on year, with strong performance on administrative fees increasing 243%, driven by the Ghana mobile lending book.

Total operating expenses

Total Operating expenses increased 8% year on year - these comprise employee costs which decreased 15% and other operating expenses which increased 21% year on year. Included in other operating costs were collection commission and direct costs which increased 62% and 217% respectively. Ghana made up a significant part of this increase with a year on year increase in government e-leaves for mobile loan disbursements and collection commissions. Ghana also recorded a hyperinflationary net monetary loss of BWP87 million, down from BWP149 million in the previous year. Other cost increases included recharge costs of BWP50 million, BWP19 million provision was made for an ongoing regulatory review in Mozambique. Licence and Subscriptions increased by BWP36 million, primality for licensing of systems while professional fees increased by BWP15 million.

The Group is undergoing a rigorous cost rationalisation exercise aimed at right sizing the holding company, before reviewing the operating model across the Group. This will assess any areas of possible inefficiency between the Group and subsidiaries including an assessment of possible decentralisation of some services. The Group will also undertake a country review of local costs to create a sustainable cost base overall.

Effective Tax Rate ("ETR")

Although historically high for the Group, the ETR for 2023 and 2024 exceeded 100% due to the impact of ECLs and hyperinflationary accounting introduced in the last two years. ETR is driven by the tax charge and the profit before taxation of the business, and in 2024, reduced from 223% in 2023 to 137% in the current year. Although the Profit before taxation increased 110% year on year, the tax charge increased by 29% year on year due to the following reasons:

- ▶ Current Tax increased by 15% due to improved profitability from Mozambique, Namibia and Botswana,
- ▶ Withholding tax decreased by 37% due to a decrease in dividends, management fees and interest income received by Letshego Africa Holdings Ltd from the subsidiaries.
- ▶ Dividend extraction decreased by 44% due to muted performance in some subsidiaries.

In addition, the Group incurred prior year adjustments of BWP79million, the biggest contributors being extraordinary prior year tax matters in Kenya and Tanzania totalling BWP52 million. The Group is reviewing options around jurisdictions to optimise tax efficiency for our collective operations.

Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) and Credit Quality

As of December 2024, the Group's Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) ratio decreased to 8.4% of the gross loan book, compared to 9.6% for the previous period. Similarly, the Portfolio at Risk (PAR) over 30 days improved to 11.6%, down from 14.4% in FY 2023, marking a significant reduction in credit risk exposure.

A reduction in NPLs and PAR was partly driven by the strategic write-offs of underperforming loans that include Short Term Loans and Non-DAS Loans. There was a notable improvement in collections and recoveries, particularly from new bookings initiated in 2024.

Despite the positive trends, flows into NPLs increased in certain markets, notably Botswana, Kenya and Lesotho. Non-DAS Loans in both Botswana and Lesotho fell short of original credit performance forecasts, resulting in a higher than expected default rate. In Kenya, challenging macroeconomic conditions, including elevated environmental risks and increased collection challenges, particularly concerning Non-DAS Loans and legacy Micro and Small Enterprise (MSE) portfolios, have resulted in higher write-offs and a further deterioration in the risk profile for the portfolio as a whole.

Remediation efforts have seen gradual recovery for portfolios experiencing higher trends in default, including Non-DAS Loans and Short Term Loans in Kenya and Eswatini.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Interest income
up **15%**
yoy to P3.94 billion
(2023: P3.42 billion)



Non funded income
up **5%**
yoy to P541 million
(2023: P514 million)



Operating income
up **26%**
yoy to P2.88 billion
(2023: P2.28 billion)



Interest expense
down **4%**
yoy to P1.60 billion
(2023: P1.66 billion)



Profit before tax
up **110%**
yoy to P255 million
(2023: P121 million)



Net customer advances
up **1%**
yoy to P13.57 billion
(2023: P13.49 billion)

PROFIT AFTER TAXATION

EAST & WEST AFRICA MARKETS

TANZANIA*
up **>200%**

2024 BWP43.4 million
(2023: BWP6.3 million)

* Tanzania
(Letshego Faidika Bank)

RWANDA
up **>200%**

2024 BWP7.9 million
(2023: BWP0.3 million)

UGANDA
up **>200%**

2024 BWP25.2million
(2023: Loss BWP15.4 million)

SOUTHERN AFRICA MARKETS

BOTSWANA
up **123%**

2024 BWP173.7 million
(2023: BWP77.8million)

NAMIBIA
up **32%**

2024 BWP310.2 million
(2023: BWP234.9 million)

MOZAMBIQUE
up **15%**

2024 BWP198.9 million
(2023: BWP173.5 million)



"Our purpose is consistent in improving lives by delivering simple and affordable solutions that achieve a tangible social impact. The Group's top line growth shows sound business resilience, while our governance structures provide a solid foundation for future sustainable returns. We are now refining our focus on enhancing execution and increasing efficiencies."

Group Chairman **PHILIP ODERA**



"Strong double digit growth in both PBT and operating income affirms that our business foundations remain sound. We are also encouraged by how well our short term loans have grown in Ghana and Tanzania. Our net loss position, although improved, shows we still have more work to do on balancing tax efficiencies."

Interim Group Chief Executive **BRIGHTON BANDA**

Portfolio Outlook

The Group's Credit Risk Management Framework continues to evolve and adapt to changing environments and business trends. The Group's focus on enhanced credit evaluation tools, along with increasing efficiencies in collections and recovery strategies is expected to yield continued improvements in the quality of credit origination going forward. The Group has intensified its Collections and Recoveries efforts and strategies to accelerate improvement in asset quality and optimize recoveries in 2025.

Macro Economic Outlook

As per the World Bank outlook, Sub Saharan Africa GDP growth is projected to accelerate to 4.1% in 2025 and 4.3% in 2026 on the back of declining inflation and easing monetary policy. South Africa and Nigeria's growth rate will be somewhat lower than the rest of the region. The Group considers potential downside pressure on economic recoveries from events such as US Sanctions, Anti-Immigration policies, Aid cuts, tariffs, attendant trade wars and lingering geopolitical tensions. Potential ripples from such global events could affect fiscal deficits, domestic currencies and debt positions across a number of Letshego subsidiaries in 2025 through to 2026. In line with Letshego's long standing experience gained from operating in emerging markets, the Group consistently stress tests its business strategy against current and emerging risks, proactively implementing mitigating actions where necessary.

Strategic Outlook

Our business fundamentals remain strong, reinforced by the sustained momentum observed in the latter half of the review year. In 2024, our operations continued to be affected by foreign exchange fluctuations, inflationary volatility, elevated direct costs and tax. We will continue to mitigate risks by enhancing collections and recoveries, accelerating portfolio remediation efforts, and enforcing stringent cost controls.

Our priority is executing our refreshed strategy, building on previous experience and lessons learnt to generate higher returns. The focus is to enhance our core Deduction at Source product, scale short-term credit solutions, and accelerate payment capabilities to drive deposit growth. This will be underpinned by disciplined risk and cost management.

We will review our market participation in East and West Africa, assessing opportunities that leverage our strength. We are committed to optimising internal processes and leveraging strategic partnerships to reduce costs and improve service efficiency.

Despite challenges in 2024, we are strategically positioned to restore long-term profitability. With a focused product strategy, disciplined risk management, and stringent cost management, we are taking steps to build resilient growth and creating lasting value for our stakeholders.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements from which the financial information is set out in this announcement have been audited by Ernst & Young, Letshego Group's external auditors. Their unmodified audit report is available for inspection at the Group's registered office and on the Group's website.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors:

Philip Odera
Group Chairman
14 April 2025

Brighton Banda
Interim Group Chief Executive
14 April 2025

FINANCIAL METRICS



Net interest income
up
up **32%**
to BWP2.34 billion
(FY 2023: BWP1.77 billion)



Loss after tax
of BWP93 million
down
down **37%**
(FY 2023: BWP149 million)



Net advances
up
up **1%**
to BWP13.6 billion
(FY 2023: BWP13.5 billion)



Customer deposits
up
up **40%**
to BWP2.1 billion
(FY 2023: BWP1.5 billion)



Loan loss ratio
of
up **5.4%**
(FY 2023: 3.3%)



Cost-to-income ratio
of
down **64%**
(FY 2023: 74%)



Effective tax rate (ETR)
of
down **137%**
(FY 2023: 223%)



Basic loss per share
of
down **(7.4) thebe**
(FY 2023 (9.3) thebe)



Loss on Equity (ROE)
of
down **(2%)**
(FY 2023: (3%))



Capitalisation ratio
24%
(FY 2023: 24%)



Debt-to-equity ratio
of
up **196%**
(FY 2023: 183%)

