



# ABRIDGED AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

### ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

The Zimbabwe economic environment remained subdued in 2016 with Gross Domestic Product ("GDP") growth estimated at 0.6% compared to 1.1% in 2015 owing to persistent liquidity constraints, shortage of foreign currency and the negative impact of the 2015-6 drought on agricultural output. Cash shortages and declining nostro account balances had a negative impact on the banking sector. In November 2016 the adoption of plastic money and the issuance of bond notes alleviated the impact of cash shortages. Bank lending and deposit rates continued to decline during the year. The year-on-year inflation rate stood at a negative 0.9% compared to a negative 2.5% in December 2015. During the nine months to September 2016, the equity market traded in the negative due to liquidity constraints, weak aggregate demand and reduced business confidence. The introduction of the bond notes led to the rebound of the stock market as investors shifted focus towards real assets amid fears of inflationary pressures. The property market remained constrained during the year 2016 due to low demand for rental space, increasing voids mainly from voluntary space surrenders and evictions, growing arrear levels and downward rental review requests from tenants.

### FINANCIAL RESULTS

The financial highlights for the year ended 31 December 2016 (compared to December 2015) are shown below:

|  | AUDITED<br>31-Dec-16<br>US\$000 | AUDITED<br>31-Dec-15<br>US\$000 | Change<br>% |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME HIGHLIGHTS</b>    |                                 |                                 |             |
| Total Gross Premium Written ("GPW")                    | 116 480                         | 116 095                         | 0%          |
| Pensions business                                      | 22 525                          | 18 744                          | 20%         |
| Life assurance   | 16 208                          | 17 047                          | -5%         |
| Health insurance                                       | 52 209                          | 52 482                          | -1%         |
| Property and casualty                                  | 25 538                          | 27 822                          | -8%         |
| Net premium earned                                     | 107 556                         | 106 604                         | 1%          |
| Technical result                                       | 24 305                          | 21 407                          | 14%         |
| Operating profit                                       | 9 284                           | 4 452                           | 109%        |
| Profit/(loss) before income tax                        | 10 857                          | (3 717)                         | 392%        |
| Profit for the year                                    | 9 304                           | 131                             | 7002%       |
| <b>FINANCIAL POSITION HIGHLIGHTS</b>                   |                                 |                                 |             |
| Investment property                                    | 124 302                         | 122 027                         | 2%          |
| Equity securities at fair value through profit or loss | 19 863                          | 11 483                          | 73%         |
| Debt securities - prescribed assets                    | 20 292                          | 14 730                          | 38%         |
| Cash and balances with banks                           | 37 657                          | 28 140                          | 34%         |
| Total assets   | 229 707                         | 209 019                         | 10%         |
| Life insurance and investment contract liabilities     | 110 227                         | 96 405                          | 14%         |
| <b>STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS HIGHLIGHTS</b>              |                                 |                                 |             |
| Cash generated from operating activities               | 21 293                          | 14 643                          | 45%         |
| Cash and cash equivalents                              | 35 550                          | 13 446                          | 164%        |

### FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

#### Statement of comprehensive income

GPW for the year ended 31 December 2016 at US\$116.5 million was marginally ahead of the prior year figure of US\$116.1 million as premium decline in the Property and Casualty segments were ameliorated by increased GPW in the Life and Pension business.

Consolidated rental income decreased by 8% from US\$7.3 million in 2015 to US\$6.7 million, reflecting the current challenges faced by tenants. Although the average rental per square metre increased from US\$7.41 in 2015 to US\$7.47 in 2016, the occupancy rate for the year was 71% compared to 79% for 2015.

Operating profit, which reflects the Group's performance before taking into account the out-turn on the investment portfolio, improved to US\$9.3 million compared to a profit of US\$4.5 million in 2015. This improvement was largely due to lower claims, reduction in impairment allowances and reduction in acquisition expenses. The robust operational performance was also reflected in the increase in cash generated from operations of US\$21.3 million for the year, compared to US\$14.6 million in previous year.

The Group had an investment profit of US\$8.8 million in 2016 compared to investment losses of US\$4.7 million in 2015 mainly due to the increase in fair value gains on quoted equities following the recovery of the stock market in the fourth quarter of 2016, a lower negative fair value adjustment on investment property and increased interest income arising from higher money market investments.

The Group achieved an overall profit after tax of US\$9.3 million for the year compared to US\$0.1 million in the previous period. Total comprehensive income attributable to the equity holders of the parent company for the year was US\$8.8 million (2015: US\$0.2 million).

#### Statement of financial position

The Group's total assets increased from US\$209 million at 31 December 2015 to US\$229.7 million at 31 December 2016. The growth was mainly a result of increases in cash and balances with banks (US\$9.5 million), equity investments (US\$8.4 million) and debt securities (US\$5.6 million) driven by the significantly improved cash generated from operations.

#### FIRST MUTUAL IN THE COMMUNITY

The First Mutual Foundation, whose objective is to raise the standard of living of communities in which we operate, continues to support selected children from throughout the country with educational assistance and necessary ancillary services. As the Foundation continues to gain momentum, its aim is to increase its support in the education arena. In line with this, the First Mutual Foundation has committed support to the Reformed Church University by availing a bursary worth US\$80 000 over a four year period.

### OUTLOOK

The macroeconomic environment is expected to improve from a slowdown mode on the back of the modest growth in mining as mineral prices are expected to recover on the international market and agriculture due to the good 2016-7 rainy season. The Board is determined to preserve and create value for stakeholders through further process efficiencies, robust cost management and continued innovation.

Renewed focus has been placed on the risk management framework across the Group in view of vulnerabilities in key sectors of the economy to protect stakeholder value.

The individual life assurance sector is expected to register modest growth benefiting from demand for retail products. Pensions are projected to experience negative growth on account of reduced formal employment and economic contraction. Similarly, short-term insurance will be adversely affected by the current economic challenges.

The Group will maintain a cautious approach in the management of its investment portfolio with core focus on value preservation. Money market interest rates are expected to decline as banks move to contain cost of funds in the wake of reduced lending and decline in fee and transactional income. The fixed interest market is expected to partially counter the pressure on investment income as interest rates have remained relatively high.

### DIRECTORATE

Mr Gareth Baines was appointed as non-executive director, effective 9 September 2016. On behalf of the Board, I welcome him and look forward to his positive contribution.

### DIVIDEND

In view of the focus on current initiatives and the need to consolidate the operations of group companies, the directors recommend that no dividend be paid from the profit of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2016.

### APPRECIATION

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to convey my profound gratitude to our clients, management and staff, the regulatory authorities and other stakeholders for their continued support and confidence in us to deliver sustainable value. I would like to thank my fellow Directors for their continued support.

**Oliver Mtasa**  
Chairman

17 March 2017

## GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

The Group continues to deliver on its strategic pillars of risk management, wealth creation and wealth management. This is becoming increasingly important in a political, economic, social and technological environment that is fraught with change and evolution. Key to this is management's commitment to delivering value without losing strategic intent. As such, our focus as a Group is going beyond our diverse customer expectations, keeping our promises, fulfilling our obligations outlined in our strategic pillars, and remaining aligned to availing economic dignity through our business units. Heightened customer service, Information & Communication Technology ("ICT") process efficiencies, greater customer convenience and cost containment have been the bedrock which has driven the business this year. Greater emphasis will be placed on these pillars in the year ahead.

The Group achieved a significantly improved financial performance for the year of US\$9.3 million compared to a profit of US\$0.1 million in 2015, mainly as a result of improved claims experience, lower impairment allowances and a positive investment portfolio out-turn relative to the prior year.

### Systems and processes

In line with ensuring the Group maintains secure and efficient ICTs that are geared towards effectively supporting its business processes, a network upgrade exercise was undertaken. Optimisation of all core network equipment was achieved through replacement of hardware. This process was imperative as the network infrastructure constitutes the backbone for all ICT operations and group communications. Internet bandwidth was also reviewed upwards to assure optimal utilisation of all the business systems in line with improved service delivery standards.

### OPERATIONS REVIEW

Except where indicated, the commentary below refers to unconsolidated figures.

### HEALTH INSURANCE

#### First Mutual Health Company (Private) Limited

The GPW for First Mutual Health Company (Private) Limited declined slightly by 0.1% to US\$52.3 million (2015: US\$52.5 million) mainly due to the decline in individual non-corporate members. Valid membership as at 31 December 2016 was 108 360 compared to 113 056 members as at 31 December 2015. This decline was mitigated by the increase in average monthly premium per member for the year to US\$40.15 compared to the 2015 average monthly premium of US\$38.68. Total claims incurred during the year decreased by 6% from US\$43.9 million to US\$41.3 million, resulting in the claims ratio decreasing to 79% (2015: 84%). The Company will continue to seek new business through providing quality service, demonstrated claims paying ability, wellness campaigns, innovative products and competitive pricing.

### LIFE AND PENSIONS BUSINESS

#### First Mutual Life Assurance Company (Private) Limited

The business achieved GPW of US\$36.6 million which was a growth of 12% relative to the comparative prior period. The shareholder risk business GPW, comprising Group Life Assurance and Individual Life Assurance products, grew by 2% to US\$14.1 million compared to the prior year GPW of US\$13.9 million. The increase in shareholders' risk business was mainly a result of an increase in premium collected from individual funeral business, particularly the recently launched mobile-based eFML.

The policyholder business achieved GPW of US\$22.5 million, a growth of 20% over the prior year figure of US\$18.7 million. Policyholder gross premium growth was driven by an increase in single premiums of pensions policyholders, new business acquired and improved persistence of recurring business in the Individual Business cash accumulation products. The growth in single premiums is a reflection of market confidence in the First Mutual brand. Claims and benefits at US\$11.5 million went up by 29% compared to 31 December 2015 due to an increase in retrenchment claims and benefits.

#### First Mutual Reinsurance Company Limited Life and Health Segment

GPW decreased by 31% to US\$2.5 million (2015: US\$3.6 million). Health business premium was 73% below prior year due to the reduction in business generated from the region. At the beginning of 2016, the company took a deliberate decision to reduce its exposure to regional health business due to higher than expected claims and difficulties in collecting the premium. However, the decline in the regional health business was mitigated by the growth in Group Life Assurance business in the local market which grew by 28%. Despite the decline in revenue, the operating profit improved.

### PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE

#### First Mutual Reinsurance Company Limited Property and Casualty Segment

The GPW declined to US\$17.2 million (2015: US\$ 19.8 million) as premium was lost on major accounts mainly due to increased retentions by cedants following the increase in minimum capital levels and lower rates by cedants due to the deteriorating economy as well as increased competition. Claims and expenses were contained within expectations resulting in an underwriting profit for the year. Regional business grew by 8% and contributed 22% of the total GPW compared to 18% in 2015. The ability to attract the regional market business was constrained by concerns about foreign currency shortages in the second half of the year.

#### FMRE Property and Casualty (Proprietary) Limited (Botswana)

The GPW for the year at US\$5.4 million (BWP58.3 million) was 34% above the prior year figure of US\$4.0 million (BWP40.8 million). The regional market contributed 41% of the premium with the balance coming from the Botswana market. The growth in premium from the region was attributable to an increase in agriculture business from both Zambia and Zimbabwe. The business continues to be prudent in underwriting local business to ensure rates are consistent with risk and claims experience.

#### Tristar Insurance Company Limited

The GPW decreased by 20% to US\$3.6 million compared to US\$4.6 million in 2015. The decrease was a result of deliberate non-renewal of some non-paying policies as part of portfolio restructuring. The dominant classes continue to be motor, fire and accident, in terms of contributions to GPW at 50%, 22% and 13% respectively.

### PROPERTY

#### Pearl Properties (2006) Limited

Revenue for the year ended 31 December 2016 declined by 6% to US\$8.0 million (2015: US\$8.5 million) mainly due to rental income declining by 7% to US\$7.7 million (2015: US\$8.3 million). The decrease was driven by increased voids and reduced rental rates across the property portfolio. The occupancy level declined to 72% (2015: 79%) with voids occurring largely within properties in the Central Business District.

An independent valuation of the investment property portfolio was conducted by Knight Frank as at 31 December 2016 resulting in a fair value loss of US\$1.5 million (2015: US\$6.6 million). The loss was driven by rising vacancies that have added downward pressure on rentals, increasing tenant defaults and an illiquid property sale market.

During the year, the company reclassified George Square Mews from inventory to investment property. The residential housing units are now held to earn rentals and for capital appreciation.

### HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

The business continues to monitor the effectiveness of the employee engagement and organisational culture change initiative (the First Mutual Way). The organisational culture and employee engagement streams are ongoing and include entrenching a customer centric culture following implementing and evaluating the effectiveness of the Customer Service Charter. The Group is continuously reviewing the efficacy of its human resources policies to ensure they are delivering value to the employees, businesses and ultimately our customers.

### LOOKING AHEAD

The Group achieved an overall improved performance with a 1% growth in net premium earned compared to the prior year and attained an overall profit for the year of US\$9.3 million from a profit position of US\$0.1 million in 2015. The Group will continue to focus on customer centricity supported by product relevance and increased convenience to customers driven by robust and agile ICT systems and efficiencies. This will be augmented by cost containment and preservation of value driven by sound investment policies.

**Douglas Hoto**  
Group Chief Executive Officer

17 March 2017



