

HIGHLIGHTS

- 18% increase in gross written premium
- 52% improvement in underwriting surplus
- Headline earnings per share based on long-term rate of return increases by 9%
- Strong cash flow generated by operating activities

Santam Limited and its subsidiaries
INTERIM REPORT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2002

INCOME STATEMENT

	Notes	Unaudited		Audited
		Six months ended 30 June 2002 R millions	Six months ended 30 June 2001 R millions	Year ended 31 December 2001 R millions
				% Change
Gross written premium		3 429	2 898	18
Net written premium		2 549	2 325	10
Net earned premium		2 568	2 311	11
Claims incurred		1 807	1 637	
Acquisition costs		682	622	
Underwriting surplus		79	52	52
Investment return on insurance funds		48	43	
Operating profit		127	95	34
Investment return based on the long-term rate of return	2	217	193	
Income from associates		(12)	–	
Income before taxation		332	288	15
Taxation	4	82	63	
Minority interest		5	3	
Headline earnings based on the long-term rate of return		245	222	10
Short-term investment fluctuations	3	(98)	90	
Attributable earnings to shareholders		147	312	(53)
		Cents	Cents	Cents
Headline earnings per share based on the long-term rate of return		220	202	9
Attributable earnings per share		132	284	(53)
Dividends per share		65	59	10

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BALANCE SHEET

	Unaudited		Audited
	As at 30 June 2002 R millions	As at 30 June 2001 R millions	As at 31 December 2001 R millions
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Fixed assets	34	41	36
Investments	3 245	3 534	3 600
Listed at market value	2 581	3 033	2 939
Unlisted at directors' valuation	629	445	620
Investment in associated companies	35	56	41
Technical assets	1 576	1 239	1 800
Current assets	2 497	1 970	2 022
Amounts due by debtors, reinsurers and outstanding premiums	921	885	935
Cash and cash equivalents	1 576	1 085	1 087
Total assets	7 352	6 784	7 458
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Capital and reserves	3 283	3 019	3 230
Minority shareholders' interest	32	23	29
Deferred taxation	135	162	116
Technical provisions	3 200	3 104	3 458
Current liabilities and provisions	702	476	625
Total equity and liabilities	7 352	6 784	7 458
Number of shares in issue (millions)	111,4	110,1	110,9
Weighted average number of shares in issue (millions)	111,1	109,8	110,2
Net asset value per share (cents)	2 946	2 742	2 914
Solvency margin (%)	68	68	71

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Unaudited		Audited
	Six months ended 30 June 2002 R millions	Six months ended 30 June 2001 R millions	Year ended 31 December 2001 R millions
Balance as at beginning of period	3 230	2 795	2 795
Shares issued	12	8	24
Attributable income to shareholders	147	312	571
Dividends paid	(106)	(96)	(160)
Balance as at end of period	3 283	3 019	3 230

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CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	Unaudited	Audited	
	Six months ended 30 June 2002 R millions	Six months ended 30 June 2001 R millions	Year ended 31 December 2001 R million
Cash generated from operations	163	73	(89)
Income before taxation	332	288	585
Depreciation charged	8	16	25
Other non-cash adjustments	12	2	(7)
Investment income	(154)	(154)	(315)
Net investment surplus	(25)	(184)	(311)
Long-term rate of return adjustment	(86)	102	140
Change in working capital	76	3	(206)
Dividends and interest received	140	134	315
Cash generated by operating activities	303	207	226
Taxation paid	(81)	(33)	(70)
Dividends paid	(106)	(95)	(162)
Cash retained from operating activities	116	79	(6)
Proceeds from ordinary shares issued	12	8	24
Investment in associated companies	(5)		
Cash utilised in addition to fixed assets	(5)	(3)	(2)
Increase in investments and liquid assets	118	84	16

ACCOUNTING POLICY AND BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The interim consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with the South African Statements of Generally Accepted Accounting Practice on interim reporting (AC 127) and are consistent with those used in the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2001 except for the change in the accounting policy as mentioned further on.

Where necessary, comparative figures have been restated to conform to changes in presentation in the current year.

The investment return on insurance funds represents the interest earned on the funds generated from insurance activities.

CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

During the year, the company changed its accounting policy with respect to the treatment of investment income. Previously, the net unrealised surplus resulting from the revaluation of investments, and the realised surplus resulting from the sale of investments, were directly transferred to equity as non-distributable and distributable reserves respectively.

From this year, the realised and unrealised surplus are recognised in the income statement. The comparative amounts have been appropriately restated. As there has been no change to the opening reserve balances, the effect of this change on attributable earnings is as follows:

	Six months ended 30 June 2002 R millions	Six months ended 30 June 2001 R millions	Year ended 31 December 2001 R millions
Gross increase in attributable earnings	25	184	311
Taxation	(38)	(28)	(50)
Net decrease in attributable earnings	(13)	156	261
Reconciliation of headline earnings			
Attributable income	147	312	571
Net investment surplus	(25)	(184)	(311)
Taxation on investment surplus	38	28	50
Headline and attributable earnings as stated in terms of previous policy	160	156	310
Headline and attributable earnings per share (cents)	144	142	282

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

I ACCOUNTING POLICY FOR THE LONG-TERM RATE OF RETURN ADJUSTMENT

The long-term rate of return adjustment represents the difference between the actual investment return earned on shareholders' funds during the year and the long-term investment return calculated on the basis described below. The long-term investment return is determined by the directors and is based on historical experience and current market conditions having regard to inflation expectations and consensus economic and investment forecasts.

The long-term investment return of 13% pre-tax is calculated on a monthly basis on the fair value of the investments held in the shareholders' funds, excluding holdings in associated companies. The directors are of the opinion that this rate of return is appropriate and has been selected with a view to ensuring that investment returns credited to headline earnings are consistent with the actual returns expected to be earned over the long-term.

The directors are also of the opinion that the change to this method appropriately discloses total earnings of the company.

	Unaudited Six months ended 30 June 2002 R millions	Six months ended 30 June 2001 R millions	Audited Year ended 31 December 2001 R millions
2 INVESTMENT RETURN BASED ON THE LONG-TERM RATE OF RETURN			
Interest	53	53	102
Dividends	57	62	133
Net investment surplus	25	184	311
Investment management fee	(4)	(4)	(8)
Investment return: shareholders	131	295	538
Long-term rate of return adjustment	86	(102)	(140)
Investment return based on the long-term rate of return	217	193	398
3 NET LONG-TERM RATE OF RETURN ADJUSTMENT			
Gross investment return	86	(102)	(140)
Tax	12	12	14
Net long-term rate of return adjustment	98	(90)	(126)
A comparison of the aggregate actual and calculated long-term returns after tax since 1 January 2001 is set out below:			
Actual returns	536	252	458
Long-term returns	(508)	(162)	(332)
Excess aggregate short-term fluctuations	28	90	126
4 TAXATION			
Analysis of income tax			
Operating profit	41	32	62
Investment return	53	43	80
Long-term rate of return adjustment	(12)	(12)	(14)
Income tax on headline earnings based on the long-term rate of return	82	63	128

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SEGMENTAL REPORT

	Gross premiums Unaudited		Underwriting surplus Unaudited	
	Six months ended 30 June 2002 R millions	Six months ended 30 June 2001 R millions	Six months ended 30 June 2002 R millions	Six months ended 30 June 2001 R millions
Insurance class				
Property	1 219	1 042	23	21
Transportation	122	105	9	5
Motor	1 431	1 298	31	4
Accident and health	104	90	8	13
Guarantee	107	37	9	10
Liability	191	126	5	7
Engineering	124	79	(5)	8
Miscellaneous	131	121	(1)	(16)
	3 429	2 898	79	52

Note:

Due to the general nature of the balance sheet, segmental reporting is limited to the income statement.

COMMENTS

The group has changed its reporting format to conform to international trends and to enable industry comparison. Headline earnings per share based on the long-term rate of return increased by 9% to 220 cents per share.

Apart from market related premium increases, a steady growth in market share in selected areas has brought about the increase in gross written premium. The 34% increase in operating profit to R127 million was mainly as a result of the improvement in the underwriting surplus. No catastrophic losses were experienced during the period and the claims in both the corporate and niche business sectors were unusually low. As a result, an underwriting surplus of R79 million (June 2001: R52 million) was achieved.

Unfortunately, the group could not escape the impact of adverse market movements and its investment portfolios performed significantly below the assumed long-term rate of return of 13%. However, on a relative basis, the portfolio managers have performed well and outperformed their benchmarks. Over an 18 month-period the actual return earned still exceeds the long-term target.

Cash flows generated by operating activities improved mainly due to better management of working capital.

The solvency margin has decreased slightly from 71% at the previous year-end to 68%, predominantly as a result of the increased premium volume.

Against the background of the strong cash flow and healthy solvency margin, the interim dividend is increased to 65 cents per share, in terms of the dividend policy.

PROSPECTS

The group is pursuing various initiatives to increase stakeholders' wealth. Negotiations are in progress to acquire a majority interest in a specialist UK insurer at a cost of approximately R350 million. This transaction is subject to final contractual arrangements and regulatory approval. Successful consummation will have a beneficial financial impact on the group, and is an important strategic step towards diversification of its income base.

Storm and flood damages were experienced during July and August. There has also been an alarming increase in the cost of imported components for motor vehicle repairs. Provided that these conditions do not continue, performance will be in line with set goals. Reduced costs and improved underwriting discipline are expected to support achievement of targeted results.

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND (NUMBER 96)

Notice is hereby given that the board has declared an interim dividend of 65 cents per share (2001: 59 cents). Shareholders are advised that the last day to trade "cum dividend" will be Thursday, 19 September 2002. The shares will trade "ex dividend" from the commencement of business on Friday, 20 September 2002. The record date will be Friday, 27 September 2002 and the payment date will be Monday, 30 September 2002. Share certificates may not be dematerialised or rematerialised between Friday, 20 September 2002 and Friday, 27 September 2002, both dates inclusive.

On behalf of the board

L VERMAAK
Chairman
27 August 2002

J VAN ZYL
Chief executive

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NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

L Vermaak (Chairman), JJ Geldenhuys*,
EM Groeneweg*, JG le Roux*,
NM Magau*, AR Martin*,
JE Newbury*, P De V Rademeyer,
GE Rudman, DK Smith, BP Vundla*

*Independent non-executive directors

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

J van Zyl (Chief executive), JA van Tonder,
JW Wilken

COMPANY SECRETARY

VF Malie

TRANSFER SECRETARIES

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