



# Unaudited interim results for the six months ended 30 June 2008 ("the period")



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## Commentary

### Introduction

The inclusion of the new Silverstar Casino for the full period saw group revenue increase 29,4% compared with the same period in the previous year, notwithstanding challenging trading conditions and pressure on disposable income that impacted on footfall at the casinos. Increased finance and depreciation costs, emanating from the newly developed Silverstar and Queens Casinos and the upgrade of Gold Reef City and Goldfields Casinos, impacted growth in group earnings.

Earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation, amortisation and rentals ("EBITDAR") reflected 8,5% growth over the same period in 2007. EBITDAR margins were lower as a result of operational expenditure escalating at a higher rate than revenue growth. Inflation increased at rates unprecedented in recent years. This was the major contributing factor to inevitable increases in expenditure. Nonetheless, costs continued to be well-controlled relative to inflation. In response to the general economic downturn, focus has been intensified on improving margins. Aggressive cost controls have been implemented at all casinos.

As anticipated, the 69,2 million new shares issued by Gold Reef pursuant to the successful conclusion of its BEE share exchange and top-up transactions ("the BEE transactions"), effective 1 July 2007, had a dilutionary effect on earnings per share ("EPS") and headline earnings per share ("HEPS"). This was exacerbated by current economic conditions. Notwithstanding the short term dilution in earnings, the BEE transactions have resulted in Gold Reef having a direct black shareholding of more than 25,1% and gaining 100% control of cash flows from material subsidiaries.

### Corporate Activity

As announced on 4 February 2008, the scheme of arrangement proposed by Fluxrab Investments No.159 (Proprietary) Limited ("BidCo") to acquire all the Gold Reef shares held by shareholders failed due to the non-fulfilment of certain conditions precedent to the proposed transaction, namely the approval of regional gambling boards had not been secured by the extended deadline of 17h00 Friday 1 February 2008. As BidCo elected not to extend the deadline to accommodate these approvals, the proposed transaction lapsed.

As announced on 21 February 2008 Gold Reef entered into discussions with the Tsogo Sun group regarding a possible offer to acquire the entire issued share capital of the company. As further announced on 25 April 2008 the discussions with Tsogo Sun were terminated.

### Securities Regulation Panel ("SRP")

On 14 April 2008 the SRP released the reasons for the ruling handed down on 1 February 2008. Based on legal advice the group has launched review proceedings in the High Court to obtain an order

reviewing, correcting or setting aside the decision of the SRP. Shareholders will be informed of the outcome of the application in due course.

### Financial Results

#### Basis of Preparation

The unaudited interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with IAS34, International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the South African Companies Act, 1973. The accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the most recent audited annual financial statements, save for the early adoption of IFRIC 13 - *Customer Loyalty Programmes*. IFRIC 13 is only required for periods beginning on or after 1 July 2008 but Gold Reef has elected to amend its accounting policies in accordance with IFRIC 13 effective 1 January 2008. Gold Reef now deducts the cost of customer loyalty programmes from net gaming win rather than including this cost in promotional and marketing costs.

Had this accounting policy been applied in the previous comparative period, revenue would have amounted to R831,8 million, R7,4 million lower than the R839,2 million then reported. All revenue values reported for the previous reporting periods have been restated to show the effect of the change in accounting policy. The change will have no effect on EPS and EBITDAR. The income statement for the year ended 31 December 2007, prior to the restatement was audited. The restatement has not yet been reviewed by the company's auditors.

#### Consolidated Results

Consolidated revenue increased 29,4% to R1,1 billion from the restated R831,8 million for the previous comparative period, driven mainly by the inclusion for the full six months trading of Silverstar Casino. Net gaming win was up 28,9% to R984,6 million.

Adjusted EBITDAR rose 9,7% to R399,9 million (2007: R364,7 million). Adjusted HEPS amounted to 58,6 cents (2007: 70,6 cents). Adjustments were made to EBITDAR and HEPS to eliminate once-off charges relating to pre-opening expenses at Silverstar and Queens Casinos, various transaction costs incurred on the BEE transactions and costs relating to the scheme of arrangement proposed by BidCo and to the discussions with Tsogo Sun. EPS was 55,0 cents compared to 67,8 cents in the same period in 2007. HEPS declined from 67,4 cents to 54,8 cents.

In addition to the 65 cents per share dividend for the year ended 31 December 2007 declared on 14 March 2008, a special dividend of 35 cents was declared on the same day. Total dividends, amounting to R277,2 million, were paid during the period.

## Segmental Analysis

	Revenue			Adjusted EBITDAR			Adjusted EBITDAR %		CAPEX	
	June 2008 R'000	Restated June 2007	%	June 2008 R'000	June 2007	%	June 2008 %	June 2007	June 2008 R'000	June 2007
		R'000			R'000			R'000		R'000
Gold Reef City Casino	487 995	497 647	(1,9)	167 105	193 671	(13,7)	34,2	38,9	47 774	74 867
Gold Reef City Theme Park	34 022	32 465	4,8	(1 122)	3 128	(135,9)	(3,3)	9,6	3 108	12 250
Silverstar Casino	240 826	-	-	76 234	-	-	31,7	-	213 519	115 073
Golden Horse Casino	117 442	110 804	6,0	54 416	50 123	8,6	46,3	45,2	9 445	2 079
Mykonos Casino	56 128	57 399	(2,2)	24 019	26 026	(7,7)	42,8	45,3	1 582	541
Garden Route Casino	81 445	80 575	1,1	39 401	40 638	(3,0)	48,4	50,4	1 922	1 744
Goldfields Casino	57 709	51 411	12,3	25 557	24 076	6,2	44,3	46,8	2 950	33 102
Queens Casino	20 035	-	-	798	-	-	4,0	-	26 635	-
Management companies	30 281	30 131	0,5	5 319	9 537	(43,5)	17,6	31,7	16	-
Gold Reef Resorts	-	-	-	10 722	24 735	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidation	(49 879)	(28 587)	-	(2 595)	(7 281)	-	-	-	(26 635)	-
	1 076 004	831 845	29,4	399 854	364 653	9,7	37,2	43,8	280 316	239 656

### Operations

#### Gold Reef City

The Gauteng gaming market grew by 7,3% during the period. The introduction of Silverstar Casino and its achieving an 8,0% market share resulted in negative year on year growth in revenue for the balance of the aggregated Gauteng market.

Gold Reef City Casino's revenue of R486,0 million was marginally lower than the previous comparative period as the loss of market share to Silverstar Casino outweighed growth in the Gauteng market. EBITDAR of R167,1 million decreased by 13,7% due to higher maintenance costs and increased payroll, driven by higher inflation and the impact on trading of the electricity outages. The newly-opened theatre incurred a loss of R14,2 million for the period. As the theatre was opened only in the latter half of the previous year, direct comparison to EBITDAR for the six months ended 30 June 2007 is not meaningful. The improved Salon Privé was opened during the period to very positive feedback.

Theme Park revenue increased by 4,2% to R32,3 million, notwithstanding generally negative economic conditions exacerbated by unusually heavy rainfall, which impacted on footfall.

#### Silverstar Casino

The new casino opened for trading on 11 December 2007, with food and entertainment facilities and the hotel coming on stream at the end of March 2008. The spa facility is due to open shortly, completing the development. Silverstar Casino features 756 slots and 26 tables.

Revenue at the casino increased steadily through the first six months of operation as additional facilities were successively opened, reflecting good trade and generating improving profitability. EBITDAR margins for the casino were lower than the group average during the period, as anticipated, due to the initial low revenue base and costs related to the opening. Margins improved steadily through the period resulting in a closer alignment with the group average in June 2008. Revenue growth for the six months ahead is expected to outperform the first half of the year once all facilities are complete. De-gearing should also have a positive impact on earnings.

Capital expenditure for the period amounted to R214,0 million. A further R49,3 million is anticipated bringing the total expected cost of the project to R1,1 billion, well within budget.

#### Golden Horse Casino

Revenue increased 6,0% to R117,4 million from the restated R110,8 million. The refurbished Salon Privé contributed to growth, attracting an increased number of patrons from Durban. Tables showed a 16,4% improvement in revenue. The casino posted an improved EBITDAR margin of 46,3%.

Golden Horse Casino is launching a R75,0 million improvement project scheduled for completion in June 2009. This will include a revamp of the gaming floor, hotel, restaurants and conference facilities.

#### Garden Route Casino

Garden Route Casino recorded revenue of R81,4 million compared to the restated R80,6 million for the period ended 30 June 2007. EBITDAR declined by 3,0% to R39,4 million (2007: R40,6 million) representing a 48,4% margin on revenue. A development project is in the planning phase and will include additional food and beverage and entertainment facilities.

#### Mykonos Casino

Mykonos Casino faced challenging trading conditions which put pressure on gaming revenue. Revenue fell by 2,2% to R56,1 million compared to the restated R57,4 million, with EBITDAR down 7,7% to R24,0 million from R26,0 million. A R10 million refurbishment plan has been launched to enhance the property. Subject to gambling board approval, 22 slots will be added to relieve capacity constraints during the busy holiday season.

#### Goldfields Casino

Following the successful conversion from a temporary to a permanent casino, which helped Goldfields Casino to gain increased market share, revenue rose 12,3% to R57,7 million from the restated R51,4 million. EBITDAR was up 6,2% to R25,6 million. The addition of non-gaming facilities during the conversion had the effect of increasing costs and reducing margins.

#### Queens Casino

The casino opened on 21 December 2007 with the conference centre, hotel and other entertainment facilities opening during the course of the period. Queens Casino features 180 slots and 6 tables.

Gaming revenue has reflected growth as the new facilities have opened. The casino posted revenue of R20,0 million and EBITDAR of R0,8 million for the period. An improved performance is expected in the six months ahead now that all facilities are complete.

The review proceedings instigated against, amongst others, the Eastern Cape Gambling and Betting Board regarding the award of the Queens Casino license continues.

#### Future Developments

##### Vaal River Casino

Gold Reef continues to hold a controlling stake in Vaal River Casino Company (Proprietary) Limited, the only applicant for a license in the Sasolburg area. Amendments to the casino licence application were submitted to the Free State Gambling and Racing Board during the third quarter of 2008.

#### Directorate

On 24 July 2008 John Farrant and Zanele Matlala were appointed to the board as independent directors. With effect from 3 September 2008 the board has reconstituted the Audit and Risk Committee and the Remuneration and Nominations Committee to comprise Mrs Matlala and Mr Farrant.

The board is cognisant of the need to appoint further independent directors and continues to actively identify suitable candidates. In line with best practice the board intends appointing an independent Chairman once an independent director has been able to familiarise him/herself with the group.

Reuel Khoza and Barend Schutte resigned as non-executive directors with effect from 6 February 2008 and 25 July 2008, respectively. The board thanks them for their contributions.

#### Prospects

Notwithstanding the current economic downturn, Gold Reef remains optimistic that its business can withstand negative economic indicators and continues to position the group for growth. Further, the revamp of two existing casinos and opening of two new casinos have effectively ensured that Gold Reef has a largely 'new' portfolio to accelerate growth in an economic upturn. The two new casinos will continue to contribute in the current year when the benefits of the first full year of trading will be realised. All remaining operations are expected to perform soundly.

Gearing is at a manageable level. Virtually all of the group's interest rate exposure was hedged prior to the increases in interest rates in 2007/8. Future de-gearing is expected to impact positively on earnings. Gold Reef continues to investigate expansion opportunities both in South Africa and abroad and has adequate borrowing capacity to facilitate future growth.

#### Dividend

No dividend has been declared for the interim period.

Steven Joffe  
Chief Executive Officer

Jarrold Friedman  
Financial Director

On behalf of the board  
3 September 2008

