

Standard Bank PLC

Results Announcement

For the six months ended 30 June 2020



FINANCIAL REVIEW

We present the unaudited financial results of the Group for the six months ended 30 June 2020.

Economic highlights

Despite foreign exchange market disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the local currency still held its ground to trade at just under MK750 to the US Dollar during the first half of the year. Headline inflation found relief in the second quarter from low food prices and depressed global oil prices. Accordingly, the policy rate was maintained at 13.5% and the reference rate stayed in the 13.1%-13.4% range. On the local money markets, yields on Treasury bills edged higher to an average of 8.84% largely in response to a rise in domestic borrowing and tight liquidity conditions.

Performance

The Group registered good performance in the first half notwithstanding a challenging operating environment that was characterised by unstable political environment and COVID-19 pandemic. Total assets grew by 8% when compared with same period in the prior year. The total asset growth was as a result of the Groups focus on growing its customer base which grew by 5% year on year. Growth of the funding base in the first half resulted in a corresponding increase in loans and advances to customers which grew by 22% year on year and financial investments which also grew by 22% year on year.

The low interest rate environment prevailed in the first half and resulted in a modest 2% growth in net interest income despite sizeable growth of interest earning assets. Non interest revenue grew by 17% year on year arising from the Groups focus on growing the transactional business as well as one off gain on disposal of securities.

Credit impairments were significantly below prior year due a significant recovery on a credit facility that was previously written off. The Group will continue its efforts to recover previously written off loans as well as focus on prudent risk taking and management.

Operating costs were 11% above prior year mainly due to increase in prices of goods and services. The Group will continue with its cost management drive to ensure a healthy cost to income ratio.

Consequently, profit after tax for the first half of the year went up by 56% year on year.

Outlook

Foreign exchange supply is expected to remain weak which will continue to exert pressure on the Kwacha. The impact of COVID-19 on supply chains and the exchange rate dynamics will have strong influence on the direction of the inflation rate and interest rates. Therefore, economic growth is expected to be muted.

Dividend

The Board of directors has resolved to pay an interim dividend of **MK10.65** (2019: MK8.95) per ordinary share representing **MK2.5 billion** (2019: MK2.1 billion). The interim dividend will be paid on 25th September 2020 to shareholders whose names will appear on the Register of Members as at close of business on 4th September 2020. The Register of Members will be closed from 4th to 7th September 2020. During this period, no share transactions will be conducted.

By order of the Board.

Date: 29 July 2020

	Name	Designation	Signature	Date
1.	N. Kanyongolo	Chairperson		29 July 2020
2.	A. Chioko	Director		29 July 2020
3.	W. le Roux	Chief Executive		29 July 2020
4.	T. Simwaka	Chief Financial Officer		29 July 2020