



ADAMANTEM



MATUSON  
ASSOCIATES

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**Basil Read Limited (in business rescue)**

**Registration number 1962/002313/06**

**("The Company")**

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**December 2019**

**Report to the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission**

**and to all Affected Persons**

**In Terms of Section 132 (3) (a) of the Companies Act 71 of 2008**

Prepared by:

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**Joint Business Rescue Practitioners ("BRPs")**



## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Company was placed under the supervision of the BRPs in business rescue proceedings on 15 June 2018, and the Business Rescue Plan (“the Plan”) proposed by the BRPs was approved by 99% of all creditors and 98% of independent creditors on 27 September 2018.
- 1.2. The business rescue proceedings of the Company have not been concluded within three months of the date of commencement thereof, and therefore as required, this report, being the **Tenth Update Report**, is being tabled in terms of Section 132 (3) (a) of the Companies Act 71 of 2008 (“the Act”).
- 1.3. Reference is made in this report to the Plan, it is therefore important that this report be read in conjunction with the Plan and the previous update reports.
- 1.4. Please refer to [www.matusonassociates.co.za/basilread/](http://www.matusonassociates.co.za/basilread/) for further information on the business rescue proceedings of the Company.

## 2. Current Status

### 2.1. Construction Contracts (“Contracts”)

2.1.1. The following Contracts are still to be completed:

- 2.1.1.1. Rosetta
- 2.1.1.2. Zuikerbosch

### 2.2. Performance Guarantees

2.2.1. The BRPs are pleased to report that the aggregate contingent liability of **R1.1 billion** at the date of business rescue has been reduced by **R567 million** to **R575 million** as at 30 November 2019.

2.2.2. The reduction in the performance guarantee exposure has been achieved by way of the following:

- 2.2.2.1. completion of Contracts;
  - 2.2.2.2. termination of onerous Contracts;
  - 2.2.2.3. de-scoping of works that are deemed to be onerous;
  - 2.2.2.4. cession of loss-making contracts.
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**2.2.3.** Of the seven (7) Contracts that have been cancelled, either by Employers or the Company, performance guarantees have been called in three instances, being the St. Helena Airport project, the N3TC and Mthatha road projects.

**2.2.4.** Negotiations are in being put in place to mitigate the losses arising from the call of these performance guarantees.

### **2.3. Contract Claims**

**2.3.1.** The processes and procedures for resolving contract claims continues to be time consuming, tedious and costly. The Company has however managed significant success in the resolution of many such claims.

**2.3.2.** Whilst we have had some negative rulings by the DAB, we have also had some noticeable successes, namely TCTA and Transnet.

**2.3.3.** The Company and BRPs continue to pursue the other outstanding claim. The aggregate sum of these claims is substantial and the degree of success in their recovery will impact materially on the end result of the business rescue process.

**2.3.4.** It must be pointed out that going forward, the Company is heavily reliant on realising Claims in order to meet post-commencement commitments.

### **2.4. Realisation of Non-Core Assets**

#### **2.4.1. Basil Read Campus (“Head Office & Workshops”)**

**2.4.1.1.** Further to the sale of the Head Office in June 2019, an agreement has been signed for a lease and sale option for the remaining properties in the former Basil Read Campus.

#### **2.4.2. Klipriver Business Park and Rolling Hills Lifestyle Estate**

**2.4.2.1.** The BRPs continue to pursue expressions of interest from a number of parties. Should any affected person know of or be interested in any of the properties for sale, please contact the business rescue team at [basilread@matusonassociates.co.za](mailto:basilread@matusonassociates.co.za). Since the Ninth Update Report, no affected person has introduced the BRPs to any persons who may have any interest in the properties.

### **2.5. Retained Businesses (Mining and Developments)**

**2.5.1.** One of the prime objectives of the approved Plan was the optimisation, safeguarding and preservation of the retained businesses. These businesses continue to perform and are self-sustaining.

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**2.5.2.** Various options are currently being pursued with a view to achieving optimal value for the benefit of all affected persons.

**2.5.3. Sale of the Mining Business**

An independent sales advisor has been appointed to run a sales process and to adjudicate on any potential offers received. This process is in progress and while some offers have been received, it has been considered prudent to continue pursuing further potential offers.

**2.6. Proceeds from Realisations**

Proceeds from the realisation of the above non-core assets will be distributed in terms of the payment waterfall, as contained in the Plan, in the following order:

**2.6.1.** Business Rescue Costs.

**2.6.2.** Pre-Commencement Secured Creditors.

**2.6.3.** PCF Employees.

**2.6.4.** Secured PCF Creditors.

**2.6.5.** Unsecured PCF Creditors.

**2.6.6.** Pre-Commencement Employees.

**2.6.7.** Pre-Commencement Concurrent Creditors.

**3. Unforeseen Setbacks**

**3.1.** Attention is drawn to previous update reports for further detail on the unforeseen setbacks

**3.2.** All the unanticipated setbacks will adversely affect the quantum of any business rescue dividend that may ultimately be paid to concurrent creditors. However, the extent of the reduction of any business rescue dividend cannot be calculated at this stage, until all realisations have occurred.

**4. Proof of Claims**

**4.1.** Having initially set 20 November 2018 as the deadline for submission of claims the BRPs have agreed to further extend this date to 31 December 2019.

**4.2.** There remains a large number of pre-commencement creditors who have yet to submit their claims, and who are encouraged to do so.

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## **5. Conclusion**

- 5.1.** Owing to the negative impact of the unforeseen setbacks, as set out in the previous update reports, the dividend to concurrent creditors, as anticipated in the Plan, is likely to be significantly reduced. Any dividend that may accrue, will largely depend on the value of asset realisations, contract claims in particular.
- 5.2.** Notwithstanding the abovementioned uncertainties, it is anticipated that:
- 5.2.1.** subject to the abovementioned realisation of Claims, all PCF and other post-commencement obligations will be settled in full;
  - 5.2.2.** in excess of 2,600 employees will receive their full retrenchment packages; and
  - 5.2.3.** the risk of further guarantees being called, although not eliminated, has been reduced.
- 5.3.** It remains the opinion of the BRPs that a full implementation of the Plan will achieve a better result than a liquidation.
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