



Ben Nsusha with some of his work, which is being exhibited at Museum Africa in Newtown.

Photo by Yuri Madonsela

MUM HELPED BEN TO SUCCEED

By SIBONGILE MABENA

ONE of South Africa's most talented artists is exhibiting his work at Museum Africa in Newtown, Joburg.

Ben Nsusha's Thunga uThimule exhibition started on 25 September and will end on 24 December.

The 66-year-old, multi-talented artist specialises in ceramics, sculpture, printmaking and painting.

Thunga is a Zulu word meaning to sew, but it also describes the act of passing traditional beer from one person to the next while seated in a circle.

ter posing an idea.

He has laboured on some of his work for close to 20 years. His artwork, Ancestral Connection, took him close to eight years to complete.

It's a sculpture made out of wood, steel and shredded pieces of paper. His prices range from R5000 to R450 000.

He exhibited at the African Art Centre gallery in London in 1987. In 2000 he was sponsored by Standard Bank to exhibit and work as an artist in residence at the Grahamstown Arts Festival.

Ben said: "My mother, who was a proficient basket weaver, played an inspirational role in my artwork.

"I think it's because every parent wishes their child well and that's exactly what my mother did for me."

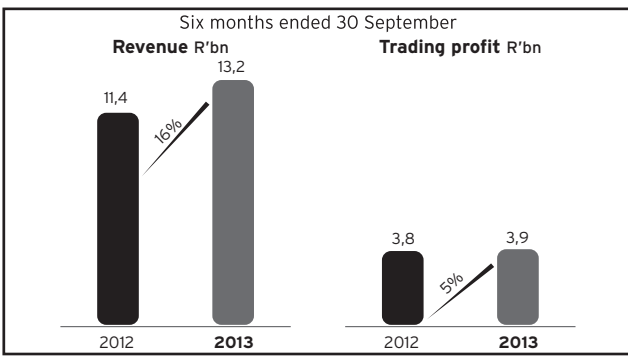
Thimula, Zulu for sneeze, can also mean to invite a response af-



Summarised Interim Report

Summary of the reviewed results of the MultiChoice group for the six months ended 30 September 2013

MultiChoice South Africa Holdings (Pty) Ltd
(Registration number: 2006/015293/07)
("MultiChoice" or "the group")



MultiChoice delivered a solid performance, with consolidated revenues increasing by 16% and trading profit by 5%. The group accelerated its investment in local content improving its product offering and investing in new technologies. However, competition in South Africa has increased greatly over the past year and will intensify further next year.

OPERATIONS

The pay-television subscriber base grew by 248 000 and now totals just under 4,7m households in South Africa. The mid-priced *Compact* bouquet continued to deliver strong growth with 162 000 households being added over the period. The new *Extra* bouquet, which is positioned between the *Premium* and *Compact* bouquets and the re-branded *Access* bouquet, performed better than expected. The *BoxOffice* service, where PVR subscribers can rent the latest blockbuster movies instantaneously, continues to grow with average monthly movie rentals of more than 480 000.

The launch of the next-generation HD PVR decoder (*Explora*) was well received by subscribers. With its improved hard drive, the number of hours on the popular *Catch-Up* service increased to over 200 hours, subscriber recording space more than doubled and the number of *BoxOffice* movies available for rental increased from 15 to 20.

M-Net launched three new local channels for the South African market featuring game shows, local movies and a new soap called *Zabalaza*. The local movies are aptly branded *Lokshin Bioskop*. Viewership ratings for the popular telenovela *Isibaya* continue to increase. Local versions of international reality formats continued to engage and delight viewers on other *M-Net* channels. These include *Idols*, *MasterChef South Africa* and *Big Brother Africa*.

SuperSport produced and broadcast a host of top events, including the MTN 8 Soccer competition and the Rugby Championship.

The overall *DStv* service was enhanced with the launch of new bouquets and the addition of several new channels, including *SuperSport 9*, *Telemundo*, *ANN7*, *Mzansi Wethu*, *Mzansi Bioskop*, *M-Net Series Showcase*, *M-Net Series Reality*, *M-Net Series Zone*, *kykNet & Kie* and *M-Net Movies Zone*.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Consolidated revenue increased by 16% to R13,2bn on the back of the increase in subscriber numbers and growth in advertising revenues. Operating margins came under pressure as a result of a weaker exchange rate, escalating costs of international content, investment in local content production, increased satellite costs with the launch of the new IS20 satellite, and cost pressures from the expanding subscriber base. Core headline earnings have increased by 10% to just under R3,0bn.

The group delivered positive free cash flows of R2,1bn for the period. An ordinary dividend of R2,4bn and a special dividend of R2,1bn were paid to ordinary shareholders on 11 September 2013.

BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The condensed consolidated interim financial information for the half-year ended 30 September 2013 has been prepared in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of IAS 34: *Interim financial reporting*. This financial information has been prepared in accordance with the going concern principle under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets and liabilities where required or elected in terms of International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS").

Accounting policies used for the interim results are consistent with those applied in the previous financial statements and with IFRS, except for the comparative information that has been restated to account for the effect of IFRS 11: *Joint arrangements*. The effect of this restatement is of a small magnitude and no third balance sheet is presented.

Management manages the business under one pay-TV segment. The balance sheet reflects the fair value of assets and liabilities.

Core headline earnings exclude one-off and non-operating items. We believe it is a useful measure of the group's sustainable operating performance. However, it is not a defined term under IFRS and may not be comparable with similarly titled measures reported by other companies.

These reviewed financial results have been prepared under the supervision of Timothy Jacobs (group CFO).

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

The results for the period ended 30 September 2013 have been reviewed by the company's auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc., and a copy of their unmodified report is available for inspection at the company's registered office. Any reference to future financial performance in this announcement has not been reviewed or reported on by PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. The information in this press announcement has been extracted from the reviewed results as published on the MultiChoice and Phuthuma Nathi websites. This press announcement in itself has not been reviewed.

On behalf of the board:

Nolo Letele
Chair

Randburg
26 November 2013

Directors

F L N Letele (chair), J P Bekker, S Dakile-Hlongwane, D G Eriksson, K D Moroka, S J Z Pacak, M I Patel, F G Sampson, K B Sibiya, J J Volkwyn, T Vosloo

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A copy of the full interim report is available on the MultiChoice and Phuthuma Nathi websites: www.multichoice.co.za and www.phuthumanathi.co.za

School honoured for developing soccer

SOUTH African Sports Awards have come and gone but Daniye Primary School is still celebrating.



Bishop Makaringe and Njombo Mabunda.

The school from Mpumalanga won R130 000 at the awards which were held at Sun City earlier this month.

They won for being the Development School of the Year.

Ernest Mabunda, the school principal, said: "We are very humbled by the honour.

"We are going to use the prize money to build a sport village so that our school can continue to produce champions."

Mabunda said the school was honoured for developing soccer among pupils and also competing at the Danone Nations Cup World finals in London in June. Bishop Makaringe, captain of the team, said: "Our hard work and commitment have borne fruit. We thank the school and parents for supporting us. - AENS

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