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**Old Mutual unlocks growth, builds on core strengths**

Premier pan-African financial services group Old Mutual continues to create and preserve stakeholder value while unlocking exciting new growth opportunities. CEO Iain Williamson says significant progress on strategic delivery provides an edge, with moves to launch the new bank progressing very well and set to shake up the status quo.

"We have completed industry testing and integration into the National Payments System. Our bank build in South Africa represents a critical component of delivering on our integrated financial services business of the future," he says.

Technical and operational progress on the bank is ahead of schedule, and the remainder of the year will focus on refining the bank systems and capabilities before a public launch. Pending the remaining Section 17 regulatory conditions, unrelated to technical readiness, the public launch is anticipated in Q1 2025.

In recent news, Old Mutual announced the proposed appointment of Clarence Nethengwe as CEO-designate of OM Bank, effective 1 November, subject to regulatory approval. Clarence, a long-standing executive of Old Mutual, has been a passionate advocate of the Group's Integrated Financial Services strategy and recognised early on the pivotal role banking could play as a growth opportunity for Old Mutual.

Other strategic priorities have included accelerating the digital modernisation programme to retire legacy IT estates and drive efficiencies, as well as the Old Mutual Africa Regions perimeter review. As a result of this review, Old Mutual exited its Life and General Insurance businesses in Nigeria and Tanzania, enabling it to focus on the markets where it believes it can achieve strong growth and achieve its ambition to be a top three player.

Results for the six months ended 30 June 2024 showed adjusted headline earnings per share increasing 7% to 73.5 cents, bolstered by the R1.5 billion share buyback executed in 2023. Strong cash generation supported a 6% dividend growth, with the interim dividend of 34 cents a share—up from 32 cents in the prior reporting period. Group return on net asset value increased by 70 bps to 12.6%, driven by the growth in earnings and capital optimisations. A further R1 billion share buyback is proposed for 2024, subject to regulatory approval.



"We have delivered strong cash generation, optimised shareholder value and sustained top-line growth as we continue to drive towards our goal of becoming Africa's largest and best integrated financial services provider," says Williamson.

The resilience and scale of the various business segments underscored earnings diversification.

Old Mutual Insure delivered an exceptional turnaround through better risk selection and disciplined expense management. Premiums grew by 10% driven by solid channel productivity, while net underwriting results increased by more than 100%.

Despite a demanding base, the Mass and Foundation cluster reported strong sales growth of 14%, with a multi-channel strategy continuing to bolster market share and support sustainable margins.

Personal Finance and Wealth Management reported sales growth of 8% in the reporting period, driven by higher guaranteed annuities and recurring premium savings sales. Assets under management in the Investments business demonstrated resilience, growing 3% after benefiting from market performance in SA.

Old Mutual Africa Regions, meanwhile, delivered sustained profit growth, ignoring currency movements, gross written premiums increased by 17% and life sales by 5%.

Williamson says positive investor sentiment in South Africa following the general election, along with the recent policy rate cut and further possible cuts expected later in the year, has reset the base case for growth.

"We are geared for growth, helping our customers thrive and supporting the communities we serve. Our focus remains on creating and preserving value for all stakeholders. We are responsibly building the most valuable business in our industry while being our customers' first choice to sustain, grow and protect their prosperity," concludes Williamson.

**ENDS**