Voting rights

There are no limitations imposed by South African law or by our Articles on the right of non-South African shareholders to hold or vote our ordinary shares.

10E. TAXATION

Material Income Tax Consequences

The following is a summary of the material income tax considerations under South African and United States, or US, tax law. No representation with respect to the consequences to any particular purchaser of our securities is made hereby. Prospective purchasers are urged to consult their own tax advisers with respect to their particular circumstances and the effect of US national, state or local tax laws to which they may be subject.

South Africa

South Africa imposes tax on worldwide income of South African residents. Generally, South African non-residents do not pay tax in South Africa except in the following circumstances:

Income Tax

Non-residents will pay income tax on any amounts received by or accrued to them from a source within (or deemed to be within) South Africa. Interest earned by a non-resident on a debt instrument issued by a South African company will be regarded as being derived from a South African source but will be regarded as exempt from taxation in terms of Section 10(1)(hA) of the South African Income Tax Act, 1962 (as amended), or the Income Tax Act. This exemption does not apply if:

- the non-resident has been a resident of South Africa at any time and carried on a business in South Africa;
- the non-resident was a resident of the Common Monetary Area, in other words, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland, and in such an event the non-resident shall be deemed to be a resident of South Africa;
- the interest is effectively connected with a business carried on by the non-resident in South Africa; and/or
- the recipient of the interest is a natural person, unless they were absent from South Africa for at least 183 days in aggregate during the year of assessment in which the interest was received or accrued.

No withholding tax is deductible in respect of interest payments made to non-resident investors.

No income tax is payable on dividends paid to residents or non-residents, in terms of Section 10(1)(k) of the Income Tax Act except in respect of foreign dividends received by or accrued to residents of South Africa. Accordingly, there is no withholding tax on dividends received by or accrued to non-resident shareholders of companies listed in South Africa and non-residents will receive the same dividend as South African resident shareholders. Prior to payment of the dividend, the Company pays Secondary Tax on Companies at a rate of 12.5% of the excess of dividends declared over dividends received in a dividend cycle but the full amount of the dividend declared is paid to shareholders.

Capital Gains Tax

Non-residents are generally not subject to capital gains tax, or CGT, in South Africa. They will only be subject to CGT on gains arising from the disposal of capital assets if the assets disposed of consist of:

- immovable property owned by the non-residents situated in South Africa, or any interest or right in or to immovable property. A non-resident will have an interest in immovable property if it has a direct or indirect shareholding of at least 20% in a company, where 80% or more of the net assets of that company (determined on a market value basis) are attributable directly or indirectly to immovable property; or
- any asset of a permanent establishment of a non-resident in South Africa through which a trade is carried on.

If the non-residents are not subject to CGT because the assets disposed of do not fall within the categories described above, it follows that they will also not be able to claim the capital losses arising from the disposal of the assets.

Taxation of dividends

South Africa imposes a corporate tax known as Secondary Tax on Companies, or STC, on the distribution of earnings in the form of dividends, and, at present, the STC tax rate is equal to 12.5%.

In 1993, all existing gold mining companies had the option to elect to be exempt from STC. If the election was made, a higher tax rate would apply for both mining and non-mining income. In fiscal 2006 the tax rates for taxable mining and non-mining income, for companies that elected the STC exemption were 45% (2005 and 2004: 46%) and 37% (2005 and 2004: 38%), respectively. During those same years the tax rates for companies that did not elect the STC exemption were 35% (2005 and 2004: 37%) and 29% (2005 and 2004: 30%), respectively. In 1993, the Company elected not to be exempt from STC, as this would have meant that the Company would have been liable for normal taxation at the higher rates of 45% for mining income and 37% for non-mining income. The Company, having chosen not to be subject to the STC exemption, is subject to 35% tax on mining income and 29% for non-mining income. However, with the exception of Blyvoor and ERPM, all of the Company’s South African subsidiaries elected the STC exemption.

South Africa does not impose any withholding tax or any other form of tax on dividends paid to US holders with respect to shares. Should South Africa decide in the future to impose a withholding tax on dividends paid to a US holder with respect to shares, the tax treaty between the United States and South Africa would limit the rate of this tax to 5 percent of the gross amount of the dividends if a US holder holds directly at least 10 percent of our voting stock and 15 percent of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases. The above provisions shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends is resident in the US, carries on business in South Africa through a permanent establishment situated in South Africa, or performs in South Africa independent personal services from a fixed base situated in South Africa, and the dividends are attributable to such permanent establishment or fixed base.

United States

Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences

The following is a summary of material US federal income tax consequences to US holders (as defined below) of the purchase, ownership and disposition of ordinary shares or ADSs. It deals only with US holders who hold ordinary shares or ADSs as capital assets for US federal income tax purposes. This discussion is based upon the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, published rulings, judicial decisions and the Treasury regulations, all as currently in effect and all of which are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis. This discussion has no binding effect or official status of any kind; we cannot assure holders that the conclusions reached below would be sustained by a court if challenged by the Internal Revenue Service.

This discussion does not address all aspects of US federal income taxation that may be applicable to holders in light of their particular circumstances and does not address special classes of US holders subject to special treatment (such as dealers in securities or currencies, partnerships or other pass-through entities, financial institutions, life insurance companies, banks, tax-exempt organizations, certain expatriates or former long-term residents of the United States, persons holding ordinary shares or ADSs as part of a “hedge,” “conversion transaction,” “synthetic security,” “straddle,” “constructive sale” or other integrated investment, persons whose functional currency in not the US dollar, or persons that actually or constructively own ten percent or more of our voting stock). This discussion addresses only US federal income tax consequences and does not address the effect of any state, local, or foreign tax laws that may apply, or the alternative minimum tax.

A “US holder” is a holder of ordinary shares or ADSs that is, for US federal income tax purposes:

- a citizen or resident of the US;
- a corporation that is organized under the laws of the US or any political subdivision thereof;
- an estate, the income of which is subject to US federal income tax without regard to its source; or
- a trust, if a court within the US is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more US persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or if the trust has made a valid election to be treated as a US person.

If a partnership holds any ordinary shares or ADSs, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Partners of partnerships holding any notes, ordinary shares or ADSs are urged to consult their tax advisors.

Because individual circumstances may differ, US holders of ordinary shares or ADSs are urged to consult their own tax advisors concerning the US federal income tax consequences applicable to their particular situations as well as any consequences to them arising under the tax laws of any foreign, state or local taxing jurisdiction.

Ownership of Ordinary Shares or ADSs

For purposes of the Code, a US holder of ADSs will be treated for US federal income tax purposes as the owner of the ordinary shares represented by those ADSs. Exchanges of ordinary shares for ADSs and ADSs for ordinary shares generally will not be subject to US federal income tax.

For US federal income tax purposes, distributions with respect to the ordinary shares or ADSs, other than distributions in liquidation and distributions in redemption of stock that are treated as exchanges, will be taxed to US holders as ordinary dividend income to the extent that the distributions do not exceed our current and accumulated earnings and profits. For US federal income tax purposes, the amount of any distribution received by a US holder will equal the Dollar value of the sum of the South African Rand payments made (including the amount of South African income taxes, if any, withheld with respect to such payments), determined at the “spot rate” on the date the dividend distribution is includable in such US holder's income, regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into Dollars. Generally, any gain or loss resulting from currency exchange fluctuations during the period from the date a US holder includes the dividend payment in income to the date such holder converts the payment into Dollars will be treated as ordinary income or loss. Distributions, if any, in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will constitute a non-taxable return of capital and will be applied against and reduce the holder's basis in the ordinary shares or ADSs. To the extent that these distributions exceed the US holder's tax basis in the ordinary shares or ADSs, as applicable, the excess generally will be treated as capital gain, subject to the discussion below under the heading “Passive Foreign Investment Company.” We do not intend to calculate our earnings or profits for US federal income tax purposes.

Under the recently enacted Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003, the maximum US federal income tax rate on dividends paid to individuals through 2008 is reduced to 15%. This reduced rate generally would apply to dividends paid by us if, at the time such dividends are paid, either (i) we are eligible for benefits under a qualifying income tax treaty with the US or (ii) our ordinary shares or ADSs with respect to which such dividends were paid are readily tradable on an established securities market in the US. However, this reduced rate is subject to certain important requirements and exceptions, including, without limitation, certain holding period requirements and an exception applicable if we are treated as a passive foreign investment company as discussed under the heading “Passive Foreign Investment Company.” US holders are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the US federal income tax rate that will be applicable to their receipt of any dividends paid with respect to the ordinary shares and ADSs.

For purposes of this discussion, the “spot rate” generally means a rate that reflects a fair market rate of exchange available to the public for currency under a “spot contract” in a free market and involving representative amounts. A “spot contract” is a contract to buy or sell a currency on or before two business days following the date of the execution of the contract. If such a spot rate cannot be demonstrated, the US Internal Revenue Service has the authority to determine the spot rate.

Dividend income derived with respect to the ordinary shares or ADSs will constitute “portfolio income” for purposes of the limitation on the use of passive activity losses and, therefore, generally may not be offset by passive activity losses, and as “investment income” for purposes of the limitation on the deduction of investment interest expense. Such dividends will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction generally allowed to a US corporation under Section 243 of the Code. Dividend income will be treated as foreign source income for foreign tax credit and other purposes. In computing the separate foreign tax credit limitations, dividend income should generally constitute “passive income,” or in the case of certain US holders, “financial services income.”

As discussed under "Taxation - South Africa" above, South Africa currently does not impose any withholding tax on distributions with respect to the ordinary shares or ADSs. Should South Africa decide in the future to impose a withholding tax on such distributions, the tax treaty between the United States and South Africa would limit the rate of this tax to 5 percent of the gross amount of the distributions if a US holder holds directly at least 10 percent of our voting stock and to 15 percent of the gross amount of the distributions in all other cases. In addition, if South Africa decided in the future to impose a withholding tax on distributions with respect to the ordinary shares or ADSs, a determination would need to be made at such time as to whether any South African income taxes withheld would be treated as foreign income taxes eligible for credit against such US holder's US federal income tax liability, subject to limitations and conditions generally applicable under the Code. Any such taxes may be eligible at the election of such US holder, for deduction in computing such US holder's taxable income. The limitation on foreign taxes eligible for credit is calculated separately with respect to specific classes of income. The calculation of foreign tax credits and, in the case of a US holder that elects to deduct foreign taxes, the availability of deductions is complex and involves the application of rules that depend on a US holder's particular circumstances. US holders are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the availability to them of foreign tax credits or deductions in respect of South African income taxes, if any, withheld.

Disposition of Ordinary Shares or ADSs

Upon a sale, exchange, or other taxable disposition of ordinary shares or ADSs, a US holder would recognize gain or loss equal to the difference between the US dollar value of the amount realized on the sale or exchange and such holder's adjusted tax basis in the ordinary shares or ADSs. Subject to the application of the "passive foreign investment company" rules discussed below, such gain or loss generally will be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the US holder has held the ordinary shares or ADSs for more than one year. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations. Gain or loss recognized by a US holder on the taxable disposition of ordinary shares or ADSs generally will be treated as US-source gain or loss for US foreign tax credit purposes.

In the case of a cash basis US holder who receives Rand in connection with the taxable disposition of ordinary shares or ADSs, the amount realized will be based on the spot rate as determined on the settlement date of such exchange. A US holder who receives payment in Rand and converts Rand into US Dollars at a conversion rate other than the rate in effect on the settlement date may have a foreign currency exchange gain or loss that would be treated as ordinary income or loss.

An accrual basis US holder may elect the same treatment required of cash basis taxpayers with respect to a taxable disposition of ordinary shares or ADSs, provided that the election is applied consistently from year to year. Such election may not be changed without the consent of the Internal Revenue Service. In the event that an accrual basis holder does not elect to be treated as a cash basis taxpayer, such US holder may have a foreign currency gain or loss for US federal income tax purposes because of the differences between the US dollar value of the currency received prevailing on the trade date and the settlement date. Any such currency gain or loss will be treated as ordinary income or loss and would be in addition to gain or loss, if any, recognized by such US holder on the disposition of such ordinary shares or ADSs.

Passive Foreign Investment Company

A special and adverse set of US federal income tax rules apply to a US holder that holds stock in a passive foreign investment company, or PFIC. We would be a PFIC for US federal income tax purposes if for any taxable year either (i) 75% or more of our gross income, including our pro rata share of the gross income of any company in which we are considered to own 25% or more of the shares by value, were passive income or (ii) 50% or more of our average total assets (by value), including our pro rata share of the assets of any company in which we are considered to own 25% or more of the shares by value, were assets that produced or were held for the production of passive income. If we were a PFIC, US holders of the ordinary shares or ADSs would be subject to special rules with respect to (i) any gain recognized upon the disposition of the ordinary shares or ADSs and (ii) any receipt of an excess distribution (generally, any distributions to a US holder during a single taxable year that is greater than 125% of the average amount of distributions received by such US holder during the three preceding taxable years in respect of the ordinary shares or ADSs or, if shorter, such US holder's holding period for the ordinary shares or ADSs). Under these rules:

- the gain or excess distribution will be allocated ratably over a US holder's holding period for the ordinary shares or ADSs, as applicable;
- the amount allocated to the taxable year in which a US holder realizes the gain or excess distribution will be taxed as ordinary income;
- the amount allocated to each prior year, with certain exceptions, will be taxed at the highest tax rate in effect for that year; and
- the interest charge generally applicable to underpayments of tax will be imposed in respect of the tax attributable to each such year.