

African Copper Plc: Production and Exploration Update for the Fourth Quarter and Full Year Fiscal 2014

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LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM -- (Marketwired - April 24, 2014) - [African Copper Plc](#) ("African Copper" or the "Company") (AIM:ACU) (BOTSWANA:AFRICAN COPPER), the AIM and Botswana listed copper production and exploration company, announces a production and exploration update for the fourth quarter and its financial year to 31 March 2014 ("fiscal 2014").

Summary

- For the fourth quarter of fiscal 2014, the Company produced 2,515 metric tonnes ("Mt") of copper in concentrate, a marginal increase on the third quarter when 2,499 Mt were produced.
- The amount of ore mined from the Thakadu pit was impacted by frequent breakdowns of the mining contractor's fleet and rain. Ore transported from Thakadu to Mowana for processing was also severely affected by torrential rains during all three months of the quarter caused by the frequent flooding of the Lepashe river on the ore transportation route.
- The decline in ore processed during the quarter was offset by higher grade ore from the Thakadu pit during January and March, and improved recoveries when compared with the previous quarter.
- Saleable copper in concentrate increased to 9,951 Mt for fiscal 2014 an increase for the third consecutive year.
- A preliminary geotechnical report was received during March for the area north of the current Mowana pit. The results of this ongoing work will be factored into current studies being undertaken to assess the potential for developing an underground mine at Mowana.

Mr Jordan Soko, Acting Chief Executive of African Copper, said: "We are pleased with the mobilization efforts of our new mining partner Diesel Power and are looking forward to progressive increases in mining tonnages at Thakadu. With stable delivery of good quality Thakadu ore, the Mowana processing operation is well positioned to increase throughput and production levels in the coming quarter and new fiscal year."

For further information please visit www.africancopper.com.

Notes to Editors:

African Copper is an AIM and Botswana listed copper production and exploration company, currently focused on Botswana. The Company's flagship project is the copper producing open pit Mowana Mine. African Copper also owns the rights to the adjacent Thakadu-Makala deposit. Both deposits are situated on the highly prospective Matsitama belt, located close to Botswana's second largest city, Francistown, in the north-eastern part of the country.

PRODUCTION

Production levels for the three months ended 31 March 2014 and previous periods are set out below:

Description	Jan. 2014	Feb. 2014	Mar. 2014	2013/2014		
Total Q4 2013/2014	Total Q4	Total Q4	Total Q3	2013/2014		
Ore processed (Mt)	60,624	54,561	48,206	163,391		
164,588	212,246					
Cu grade (%)	2.02	1.24	1.85	1.71	1.67	1.36
Recovery (%)	91.8	87.0	90.3	90.2	88.2	86.6
Concentrate produced (Mt)	4,227	2,518	3,198	9,944		
11,358	10,404					
Copper produced in concentrate (Mt)		1124	587	804	2,515	

Copper produced in concentrates for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2014 increased marginally by 3.5% and volume processed decreased by 1%, compared to the same period last year.

During the three months ended March 2014, mining operations continued to be affected by poor availability of the mining contractor's equipment, resulting in low levels of waste stripping that was needed to expose high grade Thakadu ore. For the upcoming quarter ended 30 June 2014, the Company is anticipating more stable operations and an increase in mining productivity after the engagement of Diesel Power mining contractors who commenced mining operations at Thakadu in April 2014. (See African Copper's press release dated 5 March 2014)

Plant utilisation and throughput was affected during the quarter by the low delivery of ore transported from Thakadu and the time taken to accumulate sufficient live ore on the ROM pad for crushing. Ore processed fell progressively from January through March as a result of the heavy rains, though higher grades resulted in copper produced in concentrate increasing marginally to 2,515 tonnes compared to 2,499 tonnes in the previous quarter. A concerted effort has been made to increase the number of ore transportation trucks available and, with the end of the exceptional rainy season, better throughput and processing is expected in the coming quarter. During the periods of low ore delivery, planned maintenance was brought forward and carried out.

Totals for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2014 in comparison with prior years are presented as follows:

Description	FY 2013/14	FY 2012/13	FY 2011/12	
Ore processed (Mt)	748,911	801,901	738,921	
Cu grade (%)	1.66	1.78	1.93	
Recovery (%)	80.6	66.5	48.4	
Concentrate produced (Mt)	42,560	44,041	31,027	
Copper produced in concentrate (Mt)		9,951	9,496	6,910

GEOLOGY/ EXPLORATION

A comprehensive review of the current Matsitama exploration areas involving external consultants and African Copper geologists was completed during the quarter, including the Nakalakwana IOCG target.

At Phute, following the review of all geological data in the previous quarter, a trenching exercise was undertaken exposing small amounts of copper mineralisation. A short RC drilling programme will be undertaken during the coming quarter.

Work continues in the immediate vicinity of the Thakadu pit to identify similar deposits.

A sampling exercise of old exploration boreholes to determine gold concentrations will take place in the coming quarter; and assay results will be incorporated into a general reassessment of Mowana's resources.

NEAR MINE EXPLORATION

Logging of the five geotechnical boreholes north of the current Mowana open pit was completed and samples for geotechnical test work selected. The test work results will be incorporated in studies for the proposed Mowana underground mine.

The technical information in this announcement has been reviewed and approved by David De'Ath, BSc (Hons), MSc, GDE-Mining, MIMM and MAusIMM, the Company's Resident Geologist, of the Mowana Mine for the purposes of the current Guidance Note for Mining, Oil and Gas Companies issued by the London Stock Exchange in June 2009.

This announcement contains forward-looking information. All statements, other than statements of historical fact that address activities, events or developments that the Company believes, expects or anticipates will or may occur in the future are forward-looking information. This forward-looking information reflects the current expectations or beliefs of the Company based on information currently available to the Company. Forward-looking information is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties that may cause the actual results of the Company to differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking information, and even if such actual results are realized or substantially realized, there can be no assurance that they will have the expected consequences to, or effects on the Company. Factors that could cause actual results or events to differ materially from current expectations include, among other things, risks related to failure to convert estimated mineral resources to reserves, conclusions of economic evaluations, changes in project parameters as plans continue to be refined, the possibility that actual circumstances will differ from the estimates and assumptions used in the current Thakadu mining plan, future prices of copper, unexpected increases in capital or operating costs, possible variations in mineral resources, grade or recovery rates, failure of equipment or processes to operate as anticipated, accidents, labour disputes and other risks of the mining industry and political risks arising from operating in Africa and changes in regulations affecting the Company. All forward-looking information speaks only as of the date hereof and, except as may be required by applicable securities laws, the Company disclaims any intent or obligation to update any forward-looking information, whether as a result of new information, future events or results or otherwise. Although the Company believes that its expectations reflected in the forward-looking information, as well as the assumptions inherent therein, are reasonable, forward-looking information is not a guarantee of future performance and, accordingly, undue reliance should not be put on such information due to the inherent uncertainty therein.

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