



Centamin plc ("Centamin" or "the Company")
(LSE:CEY, TSX:CEE)

Q4 and Full Year 2018 Preliminary Production Results

Centamin announces preliminary production results for the fourth quarter ("Q4") and twelve months ended 31 December 2018 from its Sukari Gold Mine ("Sukari") in Egypt.

Overview

- Gold production for Q4 was 137,600 ounces, a 17% improvement on the previous quarter ("QoQ"), predominantly driven by higher QoQ grades from both the open pit and underground. Month-on-month production profile was consistent at approximately 45,000 ounces per month;
- Full year gold production for 2018 was 472,418 ounces, a 13% reduction on the previous year;
- Continued focus on operating controls and resource modelling, as well as further key personnel changes throughout Q4 and will continue in 2019; and
- The Group achieved a zero-harm record in Q4 with a Loss Time Injury Frequency Rate ("LTIFR") of 0.00, resulting in an LTIFR of 0.06 per 200,000 man hours worked in 2018.

	units						12 months ended 31 Dec		
		Q4 2018 (prelim)	Q3 2018	% change	Q4 2017	% change	2018 (prelim)	2017	% change
Safety									
Group LTIFR	200,000 hours	0.00	0.13		0.12		0.06	0.22	
Open pit									
Total material mined	kt	21,075	19,891	6%	17,647	19%	77,877	70,870	10%
Ore mined	kt	4,990	6,562	-24%	5,726	-13%	23,131	16,090	44%
Ore grade mined	g/t Au	0.75	0.64	18%	0.62	21%	0.60	0.66	-10%
Ore grade milled	g/t Au	0.92	0.82	12%	0.92	0%	0.76	0.89	-15%
Strip ratio	waste/ore	3.22	2.03	59%	2.08	55%	2.37	3.4	-30%
Underground									
Ore mined stoping	kt	199	199	0%	168	19%	739	461	60%
Ore mined development	kt	115	128	-10%	130	-12%	504	684	-26%
Ore grade mined	g/t Au	6.21	5.18	20%	8.8	-29%	5.69	8.28	-31%
Processing									
Ore processed	kt	3,198	3,129	2%	3,027	6%	12,568	12,032	4%
Head grade	g/t Au	1.45	1.29	12%	1.70	-15%	1.26	1.57	-20%
Gold recovery	%	89.1	88.7	0%	88.5	1%	88.7	88.1	1%
Gold produced - dump leach	oz	3,445	3,894	-12%	3,119	10%	12,522	8,597	46%
Total gold production ⁽¹⁾	oz	137,600	117,720	17%	154,298	-11%	472,418	544,658	-13%

Full Year, ended 31 December 2018

- Sukari produced 472,418 ounces, consistent with the Production Update on 27 December 2018;
- Record open pit material moved of 77.9Mt and ore mined of 23.1Mt at 0.60g/t, delivering 0.76g/t to the plant and stockpiles;
- Record underground ore tonnage mined of 1.24Mt at 5.7g/t;
- Record ore processed of 12.6Mt at 1.26g/t head grade;

- Cleopatra decline development completed 2,260 metres, delivering 185,333 tonnes of ore at an average mined grade of 1.74g/t, resulting in 8,959 ounces produced;
- Full year production guidance was revised during the course of 2018 in response to operational challenges faced: lower grades delivered from the open pit in the first half of 2018, as mining progressed through the transitional zone; disruption to the underground stoping sequence in Q2, resulting from a damaged rig; and unplanned dilution from the cascading stopes in the Amun underground. The Company identified, evaluated and implemented solutions, the results of which have been reported throughout the year, and continue to work towards improving operational efficiencies.

Fourth Quarter, ended 31 December 2018

Open Pit

- Mining of Stage 4 progressed on schedule, with total material moved of 21.1Mt;
- Total ore mined of 5.0Mt, a 24% reduction QoQ, as mining progresses into the higher-grade sulphides at depth in Stage 4 resulting in improved mine grades, averaging 0.75g/t, an 18% improvement QoQ;
- Milled grade was 0.92g/t, a 12% improvement QoQ;
- The strip ratio increased to 3.22 for Q4, for a total 2.37 for 2018, in line with increased mining rates in Stage 4 on the North and West sides of the pit, coupled with the ore zones tightening up in the higher-grade zones.

Underground

- Total ore mined of 314kt, a 4% decrease QoQ;
- Overall mined grade averaged 6.2 g/t, a 20% increase QoQ;
 - Ore mined from stoping was 199kt at 8.0g/t : December recorded increased dilution from the lower Amun stopes, negatively impacting grade. Good progress QoQ has been made to reduce unscheduled mining dilution and this remains a core operational focus.
 - Ore mined from development was 115kt at 3.1g/t : Increased development tonnage at lower grade was mined to complete development access for future high-grade stoping blocks at Amun and Osiris, also including additional extensional development on the extremities of the current ore blocks planned for stoping.
 - Stope to development ore split 63:37
- Cleopatra decline development progressed 665 metres, delivering 47,842 tonnes of material at an average development grade of 1.65g/t, resulting in 1,922 ounces produced; and
- The spare long hole drill rig carrier arrived on site and has been commissioned.

Processing

- Record ore processed through the plant of 3.2Mt, a 2% increase QoQ;
- Head grade of 1.45g/t, a 12% increase QoQ, was 4% lower than forecast, predominantly due to mining dilution and lower grade underground development; and
- Improved metallurgical plant recoveries of 89.1% for Q4, yielded an 88.7% recovery rate for 2018.

Notes

(1) *Gold produced is gold poured and does not include gold-in-circuit at period end.*

Andrew Pardey, CEO commented:

"Concluding an operationally challenging year, the fourth quarter delivered further improvement in the grade from both the open pit and the underground stoping, whilst underground development focused on longer term production access. We look forward to 2019, where the focus remains on ensuring delivery of grade and as such gold production from Sukari, supported by tight cost control across all areas of the organisation and returns for our shareholders."

Conference call

A conference call will be hosted by the Company at 09.00 GMT (UK) today to discuss the results and answer any questions. Please dial in 10 minutes before the start time using the details below:

Participant code: 31935882#

UK Toll: +44 (0)3333 000804
 UK Toll Free: 0800 3589473
 Canada/US Toll: +1 6319131422
 Canada/US Toll: +1 855 85 70686

A replay will be made available on the Company website from 13.00 BST (UK) today or calling the following numbers:

UK Toll: +44 (0) 3333 000819
UK Toll free: 0800 358 2049
Canada/US: +1 (514)841 2165
Access code: 301275140#

For further information, please visit www.centamin.com or contact:

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