OVERVIEW

During the first half of the year to February 2019, the two
incidents, Dwangwa and Nchalo experienced fluctuating
weather conditions, although the subsequent weather
improved and substantively challenge the post-crop
activities of Nchalo, placing cane yields well below
expectations. The milling conditions of both estates
remained generally in line with expectations. Smallholders in
both areas suffered with the prolonged dry weather
conditions while the Nchalo growers were faced on the
cane estimate being significantly impacted by weather changes.
Potentially, yellow aphids, continued to impact negatively on
overall agricultural performance on both estates.

Despite increasing the amount of capital being
invested in the crushing season and commencement of the 2019
season, the impact of the 2018 season was not as significant
as expected. The overall impact of two consecutive poor
cropping years and generally poor conditions across the
region continued to take a toll on the agricultural output of
both estates.

In the financial year under review, output
increased significantly at the Nchalo estate,
increasing the tonnage sold by 23.2% to 1,613,098.
This increase was driven by improved planting,
development of irrigation infrastructure and increased
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The crushing season continued to improve,
with the overall milling rate in 2019 of 96.7% being
significantly higher than the 92.2% achieved in 2018.

The overall impact of the crushing season
was not as significant as expected. The overall impact of two
cropping years and generally poor conditions across the
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