

### **Trustco full year profit up 38%**

Source: Namibia Economist, 29 May 2009, 09:08 (NAM)

Written by Chamwe Kaira

Trustco Group Holdings said this week that revenue rose by 71% in the 12 months ended 31 March. Gross profit increased by 38% while headline earnings went up by 54%. It said net profit from micro insurance increased by 30%, with net profit from micro finance and education increasing by 31%.

Expectations were exceeded as the second half of the 2009 financial year contributed N\$72 million in profit after tax.

"This was mainly achieved through growth in revenue, improved spending measures and sale of non-core operations," Trustco said.

Attributable earnings increased by 54%. The company said distributable reserves increased by 80% from March 2008 to N\$194 million while educational loans advanced increased by 45% to N\$133 million for the same period.

"Trustco divested from its restaurant operations and increased its investments in the media segment by acquiring the remaining shareholding in Printas (Pty) Ltd," the company said.

Early this year it complemented its primary listing on the Namibia Stock Exchange by becoming the first company to list on the African Board of the JSE Limited.

Trustco said micro insurance managed to maintain its annual growth in a challenging market through business synergies with other Trustco operations and very stringent expense controls.

"Trustco restructured and merged the property, development and media segments during 2009 financial year as part of the Group's medium strategy to be more versatile and to focus on its core business. This will put Trustco in a better position to roll out its core business into Africa through the launch of the Trustco Mobile product and other business initiatives in the new financial year," it said.

The company plans to have a market capitalisation of N\$5 billion by 31 March 2013 and a profit of N\$260 million by that time. It is also planning to have 1600 employees by 2013.

Trustco has a market capitalisation of N\$500 million. It currently employs 700 people.

Its property development unit plans to build 1 800 houses over the next 10 years in a project worth N\$1 billion.