

ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI LTD

Form 6-K

February 21, 2017

**UNITED STATES**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**WASHINGTON, DC 20549**

**FORM 6-K**

**REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER**

**PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16 OF**

**THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Report on Form 6-K dated February 21, 2017

Commission File Number 1-14846

AngloGold Ashanti Limited

(Name of registrant)

76 Rahima Moosa Street

Newtown, 2001

(P.O. Box 62117, Marshalltown, 2107)

South Africa

(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

**Form 20-F**  **X**

Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Yes

**No**  **X**

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

Yes

**No**  **X**

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes

**No**  **X**

Enclosure: Press release **NEWS RELEASE – AngloGold Ashanti Limited Resumes Dividends on Free Cash Flow Jump**

AngloGold Ashanti Limited  
(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)  
Reg. No. 1944/017354/06  
ISIN. ZAE000043485 – JSE share code: ANG  
CUSIP: 035128206 – NYSE share code: AU  
("AngloGold Ashanti" or the "Company")

**21 February 2017**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**AngloGold Resumes Dividends on Free Cash Flow Jump**

(PRESS RELEASE – JOHANNESBURG) – AngloGold Ashanti said it would resume dividend payments following a hiatus of more than three years, after lower operating and interest costs helped it nearly double free cash flow to \$278m. The company declared a dividend of approximately 10 US cents a share for 2016.

Adjusted Headline Earnings (AHE) were \$143m, or 35 US cents per share, compared with \$49m, or 12 US cents per share in 2015. The sharp improvements in free cash flow and earnings were achieved through strong ongoing focus on cost and capital discipline, as well a higher gold price.

AngloGold Ashanti has since 2013 used 'self-help' measures including asset sales and efficiency improvements to reduce debt and improve balance sheet flexibility without diluting shareholders. It has, at the same time, improved safety and cash-flow margins across its 17-mine portfolio. The company has prioritised inward investment in high-return brownfield projects over acquisitions, as it seeks to improve the quality of its production base and extend mine lives.

*"Production from our operations delivered a strong turn around in the second half of the year. We have again generated strong cash flows despite a volatile gold price, which has further strengthened our balance sheet and improved flexibility," Chief Executive Officer Srinivasan Venkatakrishnan said. "We will continue to deliver on our strategy through the development of high-return, brownfield projects in order to continue to improve the underlying quality of our portfolio."*

All in Sustaining Costs (AISC) came in within revised guidance range at \$986/oz, up from \$910/oz in 2015. The AISC reflects continued cost discipline and weaker local currencies in some jurisdictions, offset by an increase in sustaining capital expenditure and inflation.

Production of 3.6Moz was within the original guidance for the year ended 31 December 2016 at a total cash cost of \$744/oz, compared to 3.8Moz (excluding discontinued operations) at \$712/oz in the prior year. Production was negatively impacted by weaker output from the South Africa mines due mainly to safety-related stoppages, lower grades from Kibali, a planned decrease in head grades at Tropicana and Geita, and no production contribution from Obuasi.

Both Mponeng and Moab Khotsong in South Africa delivered increased production over the prior year, along with Iduapriem and Siguiiri in the Continental Africa Region, and Sunrise Dam in Australia. Mponeng delivered the best improvement, with a 16% increase in production and a 14% decrease in AISC year-on-year.

## **SECOND HALF**

AngloGold Ashanti delivered a steady operating and financial performance in the second half of 2016, with production coming in at 1.9Moz compared to 2.0Moz in 2015. This operating result was achieved despite safety-related stoppages that impacted output by roughly 60,000oz in SA, planned lower grades at Geita and Tropicana, and the Obuasi mine having been on care and maintenance for last year. These negative production factors were partly offset by continued focus on tight cost control, a 14% higher realised gold price, and weaker currencies in some jurisdictions.

AISC for second half of 2016 was \$1,058/oz, higher than the \$897/oz for the second half of 2015 due mainly to lower gold ounces sold, higher overall cash costs, higher brownfields exploration costs, and increased sustaining capital expenditure.

Adjusted EBITDA of \$767m, increased by 13% in the second half of 2016 compared to \$679m in the second half of 2015, due to the 14% increase in the average gold price received which was partially offset by a 5% reduction in ounces sold over this period.

Proven and probable gold reserves at year end of 50.1Moz, substantially offsets depletion during the year.

## **SAFETY**

The number of fatal accidents across the Group's operations reduced by more than a third compared with 2015. Regrettably, however, six operating fatalities were recorded in South Africa during 2016 and another in Brazil. Despite these setbacks, significant safety milestones were achieved last year including a fatality free fourth quarter across all business units; one million fatality-free shifts at Mponeng, Kopanang and Moab Khotsong; as well as two-million fatality-free shifts for the Vaal River Region. Notably, Moab Khotsong achieved a full calendar year without a fatality in September and the Surface Operations unit achieved a full year with no lost-time injury.

While these milestones demonstrate relative success in the implementation of our safety strategy, we remain vigilant to ensure further gains in this most important area of the business.

There is no higher priority for AngloGold Ashanti than the safety of every one of its employees. We believe that through close cooperation among stakeholders and fair application of regulations with due regard to proportionality, as well as continued vigilance in an unpredictable operating environment, we can further improve safety performance.

## **OUTLOOK**

Production guidance for 2017 year is estimated to be between 3.6Moz and 3.755Moz. Total cash costs are estimated to be between \$750/oz and \$800/oz and AISC between \$1,050/oz and \$1,100/oz at average exchange rates against the US dollar of 14.25 (Rand), 3.40 (Brazil Real), 0.75 (Aus\$) and 16.50 (Argentina Peso), with oil at \$58/bl average for the year, based on market expectations.

Capital expenditure is anticipated to be between \$950m and \$1,050m, with reinvestment at: Cuiaba, in Brazil, where a greater rate of ore reserve development is expected to improve mining flexibility hampered by geotechnical challenges in recent years; Iduapriem in Ghana, to strip waste rock from the Teberebie ore body to extend mine life, and lower cash costs; Geita, in Tanzania, to replace the mine's original 20-year old power plant to ensure reliable electricity supply, and also continue the ramp-up of underground production in advance of depletion of open-pit ore in future; at Sunrise Dam, in Australia, where investment in plant modifications are expected to improve gold recoveries; and at Kibali, in the DRC, where additional ore reserve development will be conducted ahead of a ramp-up in underground production

Both production and cost estimates assume neither labour interruptions or power disruptions, nor changes to asset portfolio and/or operating mines and have not been reviewed by our external auditors. Other unknown or unpredictable factors could also have material adverse effects on our future results and no assurance can be given that any expectations expressed by AngloGold Ashanti will prove to have been correct. Please refer to the Risk Factors section in AngloGold Ashanti's annual report on Form 20-F for the year ended 31 December 2015, filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

#### **Ends**

JSE Sponsor: Deutsche Securities (SA) Proprietary Limited

#### **Contacts**

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#### *Forward-Looking Information and Non-GAAP Financial Measures*

*Certain statements contained in this document, other than statements of historical fact, including, without limitation, those concerning*

*production, cash costs, all-in sustaining costs, all-in costs, cost savings, headline earnings, headline earnings per share, basic earnings, basic*

*earnings per share and other operating or financial results, and outlook of AngloGold Ashanti's operations, individually or in the aggregate,*

*are forward-looking statements regarding AngloGold Ashanti's operations, economic performance and financial condition.*

*These forward-looking statements or forecasts involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that*

*may cause AngloGold Ashanti's actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from the anticipated results, performance or achievements expressed or implied in these forward-looking statements. Although AngloGold Ashanti believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements and forecasts are reasonable, no assurance can be given that such expectations will prove to have been correct. Accordingly, results could differ materially from those set out in the forward-looking statements as a result of, among other factors, changes in economic, social and political and market conditions, the success of business and operating initiatives, changes in the regulatory environment and other government actions, including environmental approvals, fluctuations in gold prices and exchange rates, the outcome of pending or future litigation proceedings, and business and operational risk management.*

*For a discussion of such risk factors, refer to AngloGold Ashanti's annual report on Form 20-F for the year ended 31 December 2015, which was filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). These factors are not necessarily all of the important factors that could cause AngloGold Ashanti's actual results to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statements. Other unknown or unpredictable factors could also have material adverse effects on future results. Consequently, readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. AngloGold Ashanti undertakes no obligation to update publicly or release any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated*

*events, except to the extent required by applicable law. All subsequent written or oral forward-looking statements attributable to AngloGold*

*Ashanti or any person acting on its behalf are qualified by the cautionary statements herein.*

*This communication may contain certain “Non-GAAP” financial measures. AngloGold Ashanti utilises certain Non-GAAP performance measures and ratios in managing its business. Non-GAAP financial measures should be viewed in addition to, and not as an alternative for,*

*the reported operating results or cash flow from operations or any other measures of performance prepared in accordance with IFRS. In*

*addition, the presentation of these measures may not be comparable to similarly titled measures other companies may use. AngloGold*

*Ashanti posts information that is important to investors on the main page of its website at [www.anglogoldashanti.com](http://www.anglogoldashanti.com) and under the*

*“Investors” tab on the main page. This information is updated regularly. Investors should visit this website to obtain important information*

*about AngloGold Ashanti.*

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

AngloGold Ashanti Limited

Date: February 21, 2017

By:

/s/ M E SANZ PEREZ \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

M E Sanz Perez

Title:

EVP: Group Legal, Commercial & Governance