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Aurora acquires stake in Labat Africa: Zondwa Mandela – MD, Aurora Empowerment Systems

The company's latest deal.

HILTON TARRANT: Zondwa Mandela is the managing director of Aurora Empowerment Systems. Zondwa, a pretty complicated announcement out yesterday afternoon between yourselves and Labat - which was made famous by MD Brian van Rooyen - as well as Link Private Equity. Are you essentially buying the shell of Labat?

ZONDWA MANDELA: Good evening, Hilton, to you and your viewers. Actually in fact, yes, we are. We are buying the cash shell with the focus on utilising that as a ... to inject our gold assets later.

HILTON TARRANT: So you'll be putting the gold assets into that, Aurora of course also owning a number of other assets, including those forestry assets up in Zambia? That is set to go into the Cenmag cash shell, is that correct?

ZONDWA MANDELA: Yes, correct.

HILTON TARRANT: In terms of the timeline, you were held up a little bit with the Cenmag reverse listing. What's happening there?

ZONDWA MANDELA: Look, like I explained before just along the table, we are currently negotiating some other interests that have been brought to our attention, but going forward we hope to conclude it as soon as possible.

HILTON TARRANT: In terms of this transaction involving the Labat cash shell, what is the timeline like there - hopefully this will all no doubt go smoother than the Cenmag listing.

ZONDWA MANDELA: I think what's very crucial here is really with regard to the K-11 compromise with regard to the mining rights. Such things we need to go through, which are currently in process. And really just getting the mines to the standards which we feel are best suited to be injected into the listing.

HILTON TARRANT: Are you still looking for deals to inject into these two cash shells?

ZONDWA MANDELA: Definitely. I think with regard to the gold industry, we want to leverage our gold assets in terms of some high-cost mining, marginal mines, but also very low-cost mining. So just a good mixture of those would be really good for us.

HILTON TARRANT: Zondwa Mandela is the MD of Aurora Empowerment Systems.