

ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI LTD

Form 6-K

May 11, 2015

**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 May 11, 2015

Commission File Number 1-14846

AngloGold Ashanti Limited

(Name of registrant)

76 Jeppe 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: **AngloGold Ashanti Beats Q1 Operating Guidance; Costs 7% Lower**

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

**11 May 2015**

NEWS RELEASE

**AngloGold Beats Q1 Operating Guidance; Costs 7% Lower**

**(JOHANNESBURG – PRESS RELEASE)** -- AngloGold Ashanti today posted a first-quarter operational performance ahead of market guidance, with a 7% year-on-year improvement in all-in sustaining costs (AISC) due mainly to a strong result from its international mines. The company maintained its full-year guidance for production, costs and capital expenditure.

Production was 969,000oz at total cash cost of \$744/oz in the three months through March 31, 2015, down from 1.055Moz at \$770/oz in the first quarter of last year. Production was affected by a slow start in South Africa after the Christmas break, the sale of the Navachab mine last year as well as the transition of Obuasi to limited operations phase in December. The result compared with guidance of 900,000oz to 940,000oz at \$830/oz to \$860/oz/oz. AISC improved from \$993/oz to \$926/oz, while all-in-costs decreased by 8% from \$1,114/oz to \$1,026/oz over the same period.

*“This is an exceptionally strong performance from our International portfolio in particular, and one which shows the benefit of our diversified portfolio,” Chief Executive Officer Srinivasan Venkatakrishnan said. “We’ve continued to focus on delivering real operational efficiencies and tight cost management, while ensuring we benefit from weaker producer currencies and lower oil prices. It shows in these results.”*

AngloGold Ashanti has over the past two years cut overhead expenditure by two-thirds while improving the quality of its portfolio through the introduction of two new, low-cost mines, selling some assets, closing others and removing loss-making ounces from ongoing operations. The company is testing market interest for the sale of all or part of its Cripple Creek & Victor mine in the US, and is in talks to sell its stake in the Sadiola and Yatela mines in Mali, with the proceeds of any potential sales earmarked to reduce debt levels. Binding bids submitted for all, or part of Cripple Creek, are currently being considered.

The company’s international portfolio, which covers mines in nine countries, saw AISC 13% lower than the first quarter of 2014 at \$849/oz, while production from ongoing operations was 2% higher year-on-year at 730,000oz. Standout performances were delivered by the Geita and Cerro Vanguardia mines, while the contribution from the Tropicana and Kibali mines reflected their full ramp-up. Work is currently underway on a range of brownfield projects to extend life, improve production or enhance efficiencies, at the Geita, Serra Grande, Siguiiri and Sunrise Dam mines.

The international portfolio helped offset a difficult start for the South Africa mines, which were impacted by safety-related stoppages and power outages. Production from South Africa was down 18% compared with the first quarter of last year, while AISC were 12% higher. Delays in accessing higher-grade ore from the Mponeng mine’s Below 120 Level project caused primarily by safety stoppages are likely to affect efficiencies at that operation this year.

First-quarter adjusted headline earnings (AHE) were \$35m, or 9 US cents per share in the three months to 31 March 2015, compared with \$119m, or 29 US cents per share, in the first quarter of 2014, impacted by lower ounces sold from Ghana, Namibia and South Africa, the lower gold price and a higher tax charge. An adjusted headline loss of \$117m, or 29 US cents per share, was recorded the previous quarter.

Adjusted earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (Adjusted EBITDA) were \$409m, compared with \$476m in the first quarter of 2014, with the reduction due mainly to the 6% reduction in the gold price received and a 9% reduction in ounces sold. However, adjusted EBITDA was higher than the previous quarter's \$407m, given the lower costs quarter-on-quarter which helped offset lower output from the South Africa region.

## **Outlook**

Production guidance for the second quarter is estimated to be between 960,000oz to 1,000,000oz at total cash costs of \$770/oz to \$820/oz, assuming average exchange rates of R11.92/\$. BRL2.95/\$, \$0.79/A\$ and AP9.00/\$. Oil at \$70/bl average for the quarter.

The annual guidance remains unchanged for production at 4.0moz to 4.3moz total cash costs at US\$770/oz to \$820/oz and All-in sustaining costs of \$1,000/oz-\$1,050/oz, assuming average exchange rates of R11.60/\$. BRL2.60/\$, \$0.85/A\$ and AP9.50/\$, while the average oil price for the year is assumed at \$70/bl. Capital expenditure guidance for the year also remains unchanged at \$1.0 to 1.1bn.

Both production and cost estimates assume neither labour interruptions, power disruptions or changes in asset portfolio and/or operating mines. Other unknown or unpredictable factors could also have a material adverse effect on our future results.

## **ENDS**

Johannesburg

JSE Sponsor: Deutsche Securities (SA) Proprietary Ltd

## **Contacts**

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Certain statements contained in this document, other than statements of historical fact, including, without limitation, those concerning the economic outlook for the gold mining industry, expectations regarding gold prices, production, cash costs, all-in sustaining costs, all-in costs, cost savings and other operating results, return on equity, productivity improvements, growth prospects and outlook of AngloGold Ashanti's operations, individually or in the aggregate, including the achievement of project milestones, commencement and completion of commercial operations of certain of AngloGold Ashanti's exploration and production projects and the completion of acquisitions, dispositions or joint venture transactions, AngloGold Ashanti's liquidity and capital resources and capital expenditures and the outcome and consequence of any potential or pending litigation or regulatory proceedings or environmental health and safety issues, 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 reports on Form 20-F filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. 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.

AngloGold Ashanti Limited

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Website:

[www.anglogoldashanti.com](http://www.anglogoldashanti.com)

**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: May 11, 2015

By:

/s/ M E SANZ PEREZ

Name: M E Sanz Perez

Title: Group General Counsel and Company

Secretary