

SAPPI LTD  
Form 6-K  
June 20, 2012

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

Report of Foreign Private Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16  
under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of June 2012

Commission file number: 1-14872

SAPPI LIMITED  
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

48 Ameshoff Street  
Braamfontein  
Johannesburg 2001

REPUBLIC OF 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 ☐ o

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): ☐ o

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): ☐ o

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 ☐ o

No ☒ x

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): N/A

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## INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

Sappi Limited's announcement, furnished by the Registrant under this Form 6-K, is incorporated by reference into (i) the Registration Statements on Form S-8 of the Registrant filed December 23, 1999, December 15, 2004 and February 2, 2010 in connection with The Sappi Limited Share Incentive Scheme, (ii) the Section 10(a) Prospectus relating to the offer and sale of the Registrant's shares to Participants under The Sappi Limited Share Incentive Scheme, (iii) the Registration Statements on Form S-8 of the Registrant filed December 15, 2004 and December 21, 2005 in connection with The Sappi Limited 2004 Performance Share Incentive Plan and (iv) the Section 10(a) Prospectus relating to the offer and sale of the Registrant's shares to Participants under The Sappi Limited 2004 Performance Share Incentive Plan.

## FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

In order to utilize the "Safe Harbor" provisions of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the "Reform Act"), Sappi Limited (the "Company") is providing the following cautionary statement. Except for historical information contained herein, statements contained in this Report on Form 6-K may constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Reform Act. The words "believe", "anticipate", "expect", "intend", "estimate", "plan", "assume", "positioned", "will", "may", "should", "risk" and other similar expressions, which are predictions of or indicate future events and future trends, which do not relate to historical matters, identify forward-looking statements. In addition, this Report on Form 6-K may include forward-looking statements relating to the Company's potential exposure to various types of market risks, such as interest rate risk, foreign exchange rate risk and commodity price risk. Reliance should not be placed on forward-looking statements because they involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which are in some cases beyond the control of the Company, together with its subsidiaries (the "Group"), and may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of the Group to differ materially from anticipated future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements (and from past results, performance or achievements). Certain factors that may cause such differences include but are not limited to: the impact of the global economic downturn, the highly cyclical nature of the pulp and paper industry (and the factors that contribute to such cyclicity, such as levels of demand, production capacity, production, input costs including raw material, energy and employee costs, and pricing), adverse changes in the markets for the group's products, the emergence of new technologies and changes in consumer trends including increased preferences for digital media, consequences of substantial leverage, including as a result of adverse changes in credit markets that affect our ability to raise capital when needed, changing regulatory requirements, unanticipated production disruptions (including as a result of planned or unexpected power outages), economic and political conditions in international markets, the impact of restructurings, investments, acquisitions, dispositions and other strategic initiatives (including related financing), any delays, unexpected costs or other problems experienced in connection with dispositions or with integrating acquisitions or implementing restructurings or other strategic initiatives, and achieving expected savings and synergies, and currency fluctuations. These and other risks, uncertainties and factors are discussed in the Company's Annual Report on Form 20-F and other filings with and submissions to the Securities and Exchange Commission, including this Report on Form 6-K. Shareholders and prospective investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are made as of the date of the submission of this Report on Form 6-K and are not intended to give any assurance as to future results. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any of these forward looking statements, whether to reflect new information or future events or circumstances or otherwise.

Announcement

Immediate release

Sappi Announces US\$300 Million Senior Secured Notes Offering

June 20, 2012

Sappi Limited today announced the offering of US\$300 million aggregate principal amount of senior secured notes due 2017, in an offering that is exempt from the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”). The notes will be issued by Sappi Papier Holding GmbH, a subsidiary of Sappi Limited. The net proceeds from this offering, together with cash on hand, will be used to refinance US\$300 million equivalent in aggregate principal amount of senior secured notes due 2014, issued by PE Paper Escrow GmbH, another subsidiary of Sappi Limited.

This announcement shall not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to purchase any securities in the United States, and shall not constitute an offer, solicitation or sale in any state or jurisdiction in which such an offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful. The securities will not be registered under the Securities Act and may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration under the Securities Act or an applicable exemption from registration requirements. This press release is being issued pursuant to and in accordance with Rule 135c under the Securities Act.

This press release shall not be considered an “offer of securities to the public” for purposes of the Luxembourg law on prospectus for public offering dated 10 July 2005 or give rise to or require the publication of a prospectus in any EU member state which has implemented the Prospectus Directive.

Within the United Kingdom, this announcement is directed only at persons having professional experience in matters relating to investments who fall within the definition of “investment professionals” in Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (“relevant persons”). The investment or investment activity to which this announcement relates is only available to and will only be engaged in by relevant persons and persons who receive this announcement who are not relevant persons should not rely or act upon it.

The offer of the notes is not an “offer to the public” as defined in Section 95 of the Companies Act. No. 71 of 2008, as amended. No South African residents or other offshore subsidiaries may subscribe for or purchase any notes or beneficially own or hold any notes unless such subscription, purchase or beneficial holding or ownership is otherwise permitted under the South African exchange control regulations or the rulings or policies of the South African Reserve Bank.

## Forward looking statements

Certain statements in this release that are neither reported financial results nor other historical information, are forward-looking statements, including but not limited to statements that are predictions of or indicate future earnings, savings, synergies, events, trends, plans or objectives.

The words “believe”, “anticipate”, “expect”, “intend”, “estimate”, “plan”, “assume”, “positioned”, “will”, “may”, “should”, “ri” similar expressions, which are predictions of or indicate future events and future trends, which do not relate to historical matters, identify forward-looking statements. You should not rely on forward-looking statements because they involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which are in some cases beyond our control and may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from anticipated future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements (and from past results, performance or achievements). Certain factors that may cause such differences include but are not limited to:

- the highly cyclical nature of the pulp and paper industry (and the factors that contribute to such cyclicity, such as levels of demand, production capacity, production, input costs including raw material, energy and employee costs, and pricing);
  - the impact on our business of the global economic downturn;
- unanticipated production disruptions (including as a result of planned or unexpected power outages);
  - changes in environmental, tax and other laws and regulations;
    - adverse changes in the markets for our products;
- the emergence of new technologies and changes in consumer trends including increased preferences for digital media;
- consequences of our leverage, including as a result of adverse changes in credit markets that affect our ability to raise capital when needed;
- adverse changes in the political situation and economy in the countries in which we operate or the effect of governmental efforts to address present or future economic or social problems;
- the impact of restructurings, investments, acquisitions, dispositions and other strategic initiatives (including related financing), any delays, unexpected costs or other problems experienced in connection with dispositions or with integrating acquisitions or implementing restructurings or other strategic initiatives, and achieving expected savings and synergies; and
  - currency fluctuations.

We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any of these forward-looking statements, whether to reflect new information or future events or circumstances or otherwise.



For further information contact:

Jörg Pässler  
Group Treasurer  
Sappi Group Treasury  
Sappi International S.A.  
Tel +32 2676 9621  
jorg.passler@sappi.com

Stephen Blyth  
Deputy Group Treasurer  
Sappi Group Treasury  
Sappi International S.A.  
Tel +32 2676 9617  
stephen.blyth@sappi.com

Robert Hope  
Group Head Strategic Development  
Sappi Limited  
Tel +27 (0) 11 407 8492  
robert.hope@sappi.com

André F Oberholzer  
Group Head Corporate Affairs  
Sappi Limited  
Tel +27 (0) 11 407 8044  
Mobile +27 (0) 83 235 2973  
andre.oberholzer@sappi.com

Graeme Wild  
Group Investor Relations Manager  
Sappi Limited  
Tel +27 11 407 8391  
Mobile +27 (0) 83 320 8624  
graeme.wild@sappi.com

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SIGNATURE

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.

Date: June 20, 2012

SAPPI LIMITED,

By: /s/ L. Newman  
Name: L. Newman  
Title: Group Financial  
Controller