

Progress in Swaziland claims



Sunil Narian Incorporated (SNI) and the ART met with representatives of the Bulembu Ex-Mineworkers Committee, Msauli Ex-Mineworkers Committee, and traditional leaders on 8 December 2007 at the Red Cross Hall in Piggs Peak, Swaziland, to formally introduce the ART to stakeholders and to expedite claims from Swaziland. The ART can consider applications for compensation from ex-mineworkers who worked at Bulembu / Havelock Asbestos Mine between 1985 and 1991 due to Gefco and Msauli association with the mine.

A committee of representatives was elected to work with the ART and SNI – they are Mr Solomon Mkhonto, Chairperson, Mr Jabulane M Tsabedze, Deputy Chairperson (both from Msauli Ex-Mineworkers Committee), Mr Shakes J Tsabedze, Mr Moses Dladla (both from Bulembu Ex-Mineworkers Committee), Mr Petros Mkhathshwa and Mr Daniel Shabangu (both Traditional Leaders). The next tripartite meeting will be in February 2008.

Another Spoor victory for asbestos workers: The Star and IOL (www.iol.co.za) reported on 10 December that two employees who had developed mesothelioma had been compensated by Standard Bank after being exposed to asbestos as air-conditioning technicians in the 1970's in Standard House in central Durban. Richard Spoor – the lawyer who was instrumental in setting up the ART and KRT – represented the men, who had unfortunately both died in 2007. Asbestos dust had showered down on the workers when they opened the ceiling tiles to access the air-conditioning ducts. There was current concern for other maintenance workers like electricians, plumbers and pneumatic control technicians who were similarly exposed. Standard Bank have since relocated to other premises in Durban.

Asbestos Coordinating Committee of the Kgalagadi - ACCK

The Management Committee of ACCK and ART met on 4 December to discuss issues relating to their bilateral relationship. An enquiry and complaints procedure was agreed, as was the need for the two organizations to hold monthly meetings. A strategy and training workshop would be held early in 2008.

On 5 December, the final quarterly meeting of the ACCK for 2007 was held, with the Directors of the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases and the Compensation Commissioner for Occupational Diseases both attending. Agreement was reached with the MBOD and CCOD to hold a joint workshop with the ACCK in January 2008.

- A new secretary was elected as Sophy Maneedi will pursue her dream of studying electrical engineering. We wish her the very best for her future and welcome Mrs Angelinah Molefe to the ACCK.

Our sincerest condolences go to Tamaryn and Eric Muniz on the tragic loss of their young son Connor, aged 1 year 3 months. Tamaryn had worked for the Trusts through 2005 and 2006. Staff from Head Office attended his funeral on 12 December

Communication Workshop



This workshop was held in Cape Town for staff of the ART and was led by Brian Gibson (centre, standing). With him are (from left) Tina da Cruz, Sandy Tolosana, Jim te Water Naude and Phiroshaw Camay at the back, and Phemelo Magabanyane, Lynette Byrne, Feirouz Williams, Nodu Nolokwe and Faieza Omar. The meeting was prompted by the findings of the ART commissioned report “*Expenditure patterns and assessment of Asbestos Relief Trust compensation awards.*” Participants developed strategies for internal communication and external marketing of the Trusts.

Scanning of work records

The Asbestos Relief Trust (ART) currently holds approximately 500 000 work records of ex-asbestos mineworkers of mines in the Northern Cape, Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces. The records are housed in the Kuruman office and are used to verify occupational exposure for purposes of claiming against the Trusts and the statutory compensation scheme (ODMWA). They are being scanned to improve efficiency of the claims process, and also to preserve the records, some of which are over 40 years old and have begun to deteriorate. Scanning commenced in November and some 80 000 records have already been captured. Pictured here are the team from Canon scanning the records, with Johan Pieters (at right) doing quality assurance. Along with good ventilation, masks are worn as protection against possible asbestos dust in the records.



OFFICE CLOSURES AND SEASON'S GREETINGS

ART Head Office will be closed to relocate on 18 and 19 December to its new offices in Sherborne Road, Parktown.

Please note their new telephone no: 011 482 1000.

ALL ART OFFICES WILL CLOSE ON 21 DECEMBER 2007 AND RE-OPEN ON 2 JANUARY 2008

Management would like to thank all staff for their dedication and excellent work in 2007, and wishes all readers and their families well over Eid ul-Adha, Christmas and their holidays.

Enjoy your well-deserved rest!

More Social

Projects: Mr Sol Bosch's book on Asbestos Mining and the History of Asbestos Mining has been granted Trusts funding and we anticipate a draft by April 2008 and look forward to reading it. Sol Bosch is treasurer to the ACCK.