

 MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

## BASOTHO CLAIMANTS UNREACHABLE FOR TSHIAMISO TRUST SILICOSIS & TB COMPENSATION

The Tshiamiso Trust is currently facing challenges in reaching claimants in Lesotho who have lodged compensation claims for silicosis and work-related tuberculosis contracted while working in South African gold mines. This is preventing many claims from progressing and requires urgent intervention.

Tshiamiso Trust CEO Dr Munyadziwa Kwindi explains, “The Trust is deeply concerned about the inability to contact claimants in Lesotho. Currently, we have over 1,800 former mineworkers who urgently need to be scheduled for Benefit Medical Examinations (**BMEs**) with our medical service provider. BMEs are crucial to determine the presence of a Qualifying Disease and the extent of lung damage if the mineworker has a Qualifying Disease. We are also struggling to reach many claimants who need to submit additional documentation. When claimants change their contact numbers after lodging their claims without updating the Trust, it creates a significant barrier, preventing us from providing essential updates on their claims and hindering necessary verifications during the payment stage.

The Tshiamiso Trust was established to give effect to the settlement agreement reached between six mining companies and claimant attorneys in the historic silicosis and TB class action. The companies are African Rainbow Minerals, Anglo American South Africa, AngloGold Ashanti, Harmony Gold, Sibanye Stillwater and Gold Fields.

The Trust is trying to schedule Benefit Medical Examinations (BMEs) in the following areas and needs to urgently make bookings for former mineworkers so that they can be assisted:

<b>Region</b>	<b>Awaiting claimants</b>
• Mafeteng	350
• Mohale’s Hoek	160
• Quthing	148
• Maseru	144
• Qachas Nek	256
• Mokhotlong	77
• Teyateyaneng	160
• Hlotse (Leribe)	216 (BME services on 8 November 2024)
• Butha- Buthe	226 (BME services on 11 November 2024)
• Thaba Tseka	90

Claimants are encouraged to come forward as the lodgement offices in Teyateyaneng and Butha-Buthe will cease operations on 30 November, 2024. Additionally, the Trust is currently unable to schedule BMEs at other locations due to difficulties in reaching claimants.

“If your contact number is not the same as when you lodged your claim, and you are waiting for feedback, please get in touch with us as soon as possible,” urges Dr. Kwinda.

Potential claimants who have not yet lodged their claims, including families of deceased mineworkers, are strongly encouraged to do so through their nearest TEBA office.

To lodge a claim:

- Mineworkers must have carried out risk work at one of the qualifying gold mines during the qualifying periods between 12 March 1965 and 10 December 2019, as indicated in schedule F of the Trust Deed.
- Living mineworkers must have permanent lung impairment from silicosis or TB that they contracted while doing risk work at these mines.
- For deceased mineworkers, there must either be evidence that they DIED FROM work-related TB within a year of leaving the mine if it's a TB claim OR evidence that they had silicosis or died from silicosis if it's a silicosis claim.

“These are the broad eligibility criteria. Claims are assessed thoroughly, following what is prescribed by the Trust Deed, and specific criteria apply to each of the 10 categories available for compensation,” concludes Dr Kwinda.

Claimants can get hold of the Trust in the following ways:

- Dial our call back number on 00 27 10500 6186.
- Chat with us on our WhatsApp number 00 27 78504 9004 by selecting option 12 from the menu.
- Send a direct message on Facebook: [Tshiamiso Trust- Silicosis Settlement](#)
- Email [info@tshiamisotrust.com](mailto:info@tshiamisotrust.com)
- Visit a TEBA office.

**ENDS**

### **About the Tshiamiso Trust**

The Tshiamiso Trust was established to give effect to the settlement agreement reached between six mining companies and claimant attorneys in the historic silicosis and TB class action. The companies are African Rainbow Minerals, Anglo American South Africa, AngloGold Ashanti, Harmony Gold, Sibanye Stillwater and Gold Fields.

The Trust is responsible for compensating all eligible current and former mineworkers across southern Africa with permanent impairment due to silicosis or work-related TB, or their dependants where the mineworker has passed away.



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For more information please contact:

[mediarelations@groundedmedia.co.za](mailto:mediarelations@groundedmedia.co.za)

Issued on behalf of:

Tshiamiso Trust: Stakeholder Relations & Communications

Email: [communications@tshiamisotrust.com](mailto:communications@tshiamisotrust.com)

M: 00 27 60 890 1080