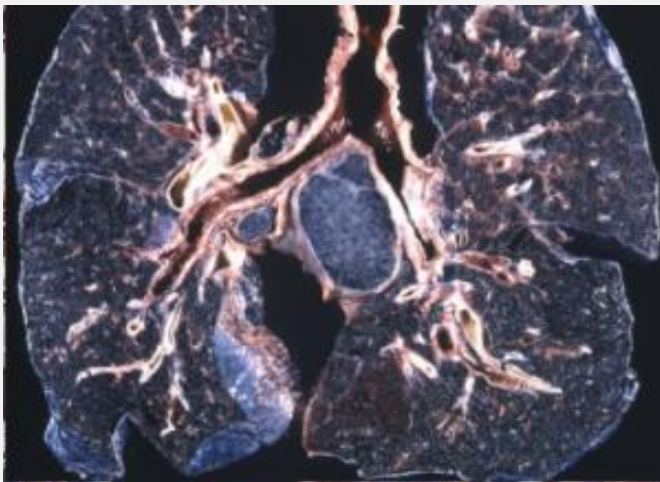


Public Health in the News

South Africa government partners with industry to tackle historic compensation

Officials at South Africa's Compensation Commission for Occupational Diseases (CCOD) have declared that it will process the backlog of 500,000 compensation claims with a year, as it partners with industry bodies to improve the claiming process. The CCOD is currently processing claims from current and former miners who have contracted lung diseases from working in the industry. Health minister Aaron Motsoaledi brought a new team into the department in 2012 to attempt to clear a history of cases dating back decades and the CCOD has reorganised to make it easier to claim compensation. Over half of the historic claims are for TB and the minister unveiled plans to screen all workers and those in nearby mining communities for TB.



The CCOD is set to pay out R1.5 billion to over 100,000 miners with legitimate compensation claims, with each successful claimant receiving between R40,000 and R80,000 depending on the circumstances, according to Shireen Pardesi, the chief director of the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases (MBOD). The CCOD has launched an initiative with eight former and current mining companies to tackle the backlog of claims. African Rainbow Minerals, Anglo American, AngloGold Ashanti, DRDGold, Gold Fields, Harmony, Sibanye Gold and Village Main Reef, are all participating in the scheme and jointly said: "All parties recognise that the compensation system has not been operating as effectively as it should."

The firms are providing R5 million to the CCOD to help boost its management, keep track of miners with possible claims

and trace those with historic health problems. "Finding claimants is often challenging, so that is why we have joined hands with industry. Some claims are 15 to 20 years old," Pardesi explained...

Source: [Mining Innovation News, 01 June 2015](#)

Context

Data from the Department of Health indicates that about half-a-million mineworkers in South Africa and about two million former mineworkers, spread across Mozambique, South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland, are at a high risk of contracting TB. They are vulnerable to lung disease because of their exposure to multiple risk factors, including their overcrowded living settlements, which usually increases the risk of infection with airborne diseases. The high rates of HIV infection as well as their exposure to silica dust in the deep mine shafts – which are often poorly ventilated – also increase the risks.

Source: [South Africa Info, 01 June 2015](#)

WAMTechnology specialises in custom software development projects – particularly in the health and water & sanitation sectors. Our clients range from the Private to Public sectors, locally and internationally. Notably, our many successful projects include the development and support of the **Electronic Tuberculosis Register (ETR.Net)** and **Electronic Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis Register (EDRWeb)** – which are the **official software tools** used by the South African National Department of Health's Tuberculosis Control Program, to maintain and analyse registered patients.

The "Electronic TB Register" (ETR.Net) is a Microsoft.net-based computer software program, inspired and based on the World Health Organization (WHO) recording and reporting formats. Many of the features of ETR.Net are derived from the "Electronic TB Register" software, a TB surveillance project in southern Africa supported by USAID and CDC (Centres for Disease Control). It was developed to provide for more efficient and useful collection, compilation, and analysis of TB data on an ongoing basis.

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