

The Tshiamiso Trust (TT)

The Tshiamiso Trust has to put into place systems to receive claims and to track and trace hundreds of thousands of miners and their dependents who are eligible for compensation. Since the establishment of the Trust in 2019 only very few claimants have been paid compensation to date.

The JFM Campaign has identified the following obstacles that are slowing-down payment of just compensation to half a million miners dying slow deaths across the Southern African region:

- The Minerals Council of South Africa (MCSA), the gold mining companies and TEBA are not doing enough to locate ex-miners they have made ill and have also failed to inform them of their right to compensation; further they are reluctant to make the required employment and medical records in their possession freely available to claimants;
- the remoteness of labour sending areas with poor and expensive transport and communication systems, language and literacy barriers particularly for those outside South Africa; national borders; non-portability of social benefits; the poor state of medical and diagnostic services in rural areas;
- the complexity of illnesses and diagnosis; few doctors are qualified to diagnose Silicosis and nurses who do not have the required training or expertise.
- difficulties of ex-miners to organise themselves, weaknesses of ex-miner organisations, an endemic culture of non-caring;
- long latency periods of illness where the victim realizes he has a serious disease long after leaving work on the mines;
- the complications that arise from contracting silicosis together with TB and HIV/Aids;
- Many cases of identity theft have been reported where compensation payments have ended up in the wrong hands; Touts taking advantage to vulnerable claimants;
- Covid-19 presents a great threat to gold miners effected by TB and Silicosis given their already compromised health. With increased chances of dying as a result of the potential combination of Covid-19 and existing occupational lung diseases, compensation claimants need to be diagnosed and compensated as soon as possible;

Campaign Demands

- The Tshiamiso Trust and the South African State to pay just compensation swiftly.
- Remove legal obstacles to compensation (Legal Reform).
- Insure Just Administration of Compensation through Institutional reform of MBOD and Compensation Commission.
- Decentralize compensation application, diagnosis and certification procedures.

Transparency and accountability by the Tshiamiso Trust - The Trust must share plans, and regularly report to society on what they are doing to find