

AngloGold Ashanti notes the piece in *Business Day* of July 7 (*Ailing Miners Still Get Shafted*), written by the attorneys for plaintiffs in an ongoing litigation regarding occupation lung disease in the mining sector. Among other things, this article raised the issue of the accommodation for former miners who had travelled to Carletonville for mutually agreed medical evaluations.

Initial accommodation arrangements made for these former miners were not suitable. These former employees were then moved to local bed & breakfast accommodation which has been paid for by the company. The matter was also raised of compensation for temporary accommodation for the spouse of one of these men who received further treatment following his examination. AngloGold Ashanti was not aware of this request and – had it been – would certainly have acceded to that appeal.

Our values demand, among other things, that we treat all people with dignity and respect. They guide our decision making and have been at the heart of some of the mining industry's most significant health and safety improvements. They are not negotiable. AngloGold Ashanti apologises unreservedly for the inconvenience caused to our former employees and to their spouses. We have taken the steps to ensure that incidents of this nature do not happen again.

Occupation lung disease (OLD) is an issue that the mining industry acknowledges is of significant importance for the sector and the country. AngloGold Ashanti works to prevent future incidences of OLD through continual improvements in underground dust management and reducing the dust exposure of our mining employees. The health and safety of our employees is central to how we run our business, a fact which has helped AngloGold Ashanti achieve some of the most significant safety improvements in ultra-deep underground mining. There remains more for us to do in this regard, but our duty of care to employees, and our value of treating people with dignity and respect will continue to underpin our efforts in this regard.

We, along with several of our industry peers, have also convened a working group to address issues relating to compensation and medical care for OLD in the gold mining industry in South Africa.

The companies in this working group are in the process of engaging all stakeholders in order to cooperate in the design and implementation of a comprehensive solution to compensation for OLD that is both fair to past, present and future gold mining employees, and also sustainable for the sector. To this end, the companies have either met, or plan to meet, with the departments of health, labour and mineral resources, organised labour, legal representatives of claimants and other mining companies. It is intended that this will lead to an intensive engagement process during 2015 intended to lead to a comprehensive solution.

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