



MEDIA STATEMENT

Launch of the Kgalagadi Relief Trust

Becon, the company dealing with asbestos related issues on behalf of the former Swiss Eternit Group, has agreed to establish a fund to provide financial relief to individuals who contracted an asbestos-related disease while employed between 1952 and 1981 at the Kuruman Cape Blue and Danielskuil Cape Blue asbestos mines.

The Kgalagadi Relief Trust (KRT) will provide financial relief over the next 20 years in strict accordance with the court-approved Deed of Trust (which is available on application). A Deed of Trust regulates the claiming procedure and formula for working out the payments.

People that may claim are:

- People employed at the mines operated by KCBA and/or DCBA between 1952 and 1981 that have been diagnosed with an asbestos-related disease with lung function impairment of more than 10%.
- Dependants and children of any former employee who died from mesothelioma or asbestos-related lung cancer, less than three years before the claim is lodged.
- People who have contracted an asbestos-related disease from having lived in the immediate vicinity of the above-mentioned mines.

The trustees of the KRT are:

- Phiroshaw Camay, a former trade union activist, past chairman of Rand Water and now an academic.
- Brian Gibson, a specialist in the management of issues relating to asbestos for more than 20 years.
- Dr Markus Heitz, a Swiss medical doctor with intensive experience of asbestos-related diseases.

During March 2006, the trustees will be introducing the KRT to stakeholders. It is anticipated that the KRT will become fully operational from 1 June 2006. The amount of money that will be paid to the KRT by Becon is confidential. The trustees have been assured by the founders that the KRT will be able to meet its obligations.

The KRT will be administered by the Asbestos Relief Trust (ART) that was established in 2003 to provide financial relief to the former employees of asbestos mines operated by Gencor Limited and Gefco. This will avoid unnecessary duplication of costs and improve operational efficiency as some people may claim against both trusts. The procedures and benefits of the KRT will thus closely resemble that of the ART. All ART offices will be able to process claims on behalf of the KRT. The accreditation of claims handlers is a matter that is still under review.

Qualifying claimants will undergo a free medical examination. The results will be reviewed

by an independent specialist occupational medical panel that will determine the degree of disability. Should they have an asbestos-related disease, the administrators will determine the benefit based on age and work history of the claimant, the nature and severity of the disease and the treatment needed. Compensation already paid from other sources such as the Medical Bureau for Occupational Disease (MBOD) or the ART, will be deducted from the benefit paid by the KRT.

The trustees will make every effort to settle claims within three months of the claim being lodged. Environmental claims may take longer to decide, as extra information is required.