



Asbestos Relief Trust

2023 Chairperson's Report

To the Trustees of the Asbestos Relief Trust, I wish to welcome you all to the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the ART

The Asbestos Relief Trust was established in 2003 with a 25-year lifespan, with a possibility to extend it by another five years (until 2033). The latest actuarial valuation indicates that the Trust would be solvent to continue until 2028, and it will still have claimants for the period, although with a forever diminishing numbers.

The Trust was funded to the tune of R407 million from the founders to date, R442 million has been paid out in compensation as of 28th February 2023 and still has R 212 986 442 million available as at 28th February 2023.

For the year under review, the Trustees paid a total of R 25 506 418.91 million to 54 claimants 43 for occupational and 11 for environmental claims, compared to R16 644 178 million in the previous year, for a total of 64 claimants.

TABLE OF 2023 QUALIFYING CLAIMANTS

2022 Payments to Qualifying Claimants		
Compensation Category	Number	R-Amount
ARD1	11	R 1 535 323
ARD2	1	R 410 507
ARD3	3	R 652 798.12
ARD4	18	R12 317 360.41
No ARD/ARD1	1	R 54 831
No ARD/ARD2	0	R0
No ARD/ARD3	1	R 439 371
No ARD/ARD4	11	R6 797 092
ARD1/ARD3	4	R1 097 716.97
ARD1/ARD4	4	R2 201 419.41
ARD2/ARD3	0	R0
ARD2/ARD4	0	R0
	54	R25 506 418.91

The Trust compensated 33 mesothelioma claimants, 15 of whom were progressions.

As at 28th February 2023, the Trustees had approved R9 009 393.54 million for payment to 309 Qualifying claimants. These are pending payments as we continue to follow up on outstanding payment documentation.

We have received 1038 new enquiries for this financial year compared to 822 the previous financial year.

The Trustees agreed to increase the payments to beneficiaries by 5.7 percent.

The cost of administering the trust for the year under review was R10.5 million compared to R11 million + in the previous year. Administration costs are greatly impacted by the increased cost of medical procedures and the transporting of claimants for medical evaluations, largely influenced by erratic public transport.

The Trust Deed provides that up to 10 percent of the interest accruing on the Trust investments may be applied towards asbestos related social projects. The following projects were undertaken:

- The funding of a palliative care service based in Kuruman. This service is provided by Sister Phemelo Magabanyane and Sister Gomolemo Moetsi. This service is vital for cancer sufferers and their families.
- The Trustees continue to support the Asbestos Interest Group (AIG) with their grassroots awareness and advocacy work in the greater Kuruman area.
- The Trustees provide financial management support (through Sister Magabanyane) to the Cancer Charity Workers in Kuruman.
- The sponsoring of prosecution services continues to be a vital service in Kuruman.

The Asbestos Relief Trust continues to provide administration services to the Kgalagadi Relief Trust under an existing agreement. The two Trusts collaborate extensively on social projects and communication issues affecting both Trusts.

FINANCIAL REPORT

I hereby table the Audited Annual Financial Statement, where the auditors have granted the Trust a clean audit for the Financial Year ending 28th February 2023. “ In our opinion, annual financial statements present fairly in all material respects, the financial position of Asbestos Relief Trust as at 28th February 2023, and its financial performance and cashflows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Trust Property Control Act 57 of 1988”.

“The events and conditions stated in the respective notes indicates that uncertainty exists, however, the trust has been making significant efforts in ensuring that measures are put in place to limit any material impact in the ability to continue to operate as a going concern”.

ART has participated in a public process facilitated by the Deputy Minister of Health and the Deputy Minister of Minerals and Energy, coordinated by the Medical Bureau for Occupational Disease (MBOD), including participants such as the Ex-Mineworkers Council, the meetings largely focused on coordinated efforts to maximize the service and benefits for the sufferers of occupational diseases in southern African. To this end we have participated in some of the outreach programmes by the Northwest MEC of Health and the Ex-Mineworkers. We have concluded an agreement with the Swaziland Migrant Mineworkers Association for an outreach program targeting ex-mineworkers from Swaziland. This agreement has met with unavoidable delays, though the parties look forward to its implementation in the near term.

I wish to extend my gratitude to my fellow Trustees for the continued support and to the staff of the Trust for the excellent service.

ACG Molusi

November 2023