

# INTRODUCING THE MESO TRUST

CPD Lecture Workshop,  
Wednesday 12 November  
2025, Red Sands Country Lodge,  
Kuruman

# WINDING UP THE KGALAGADI RELIEF TRUST

The KRT was established as a result of a voluntary agreement with the Becon Group in 2006 to set up a compensation fund for the former workers, their families and the communities that had been adversely impacted by the activities of founder's former mining companies, Kuruman Cape Blue Asbestos (KCBA) and Danielskuil Cape Blue Asbestos (DCBA).

Clause 11 of the Trust Deed provided that should endure for a period of 20 years provided that the trustees could reduce or extend the life by five years.

# EFFECTIVE DATE END-FEBRUARY 2026

Considering the:

1. Decline in the number of claims
2. Declining proportion of occupational (as opposed to environmental) claims
3. Increasing proportion of mesothelioma claims (as opposed to asbestosis claims, which are typically associated with occupational exposure) and
4. Increase in the administrative costs per claim

The trustees resolved to dissolve the KRT, effective end-February 2026

# KRT ACHIEVEMENTS

Since 2006 the KRT has

1. Processed and adjudicated ~3 600 occupational and environmental
2. Made 1 605 grant payments to the value of R129,5 million to individuals, estates, surviving spouses or dependents
3. Paid 101 claimants a second benefit when their ARD condition deteriorated to a malignancy
4. Contributed more than R15 million to various social responsibility projects

# THE MESO TRUST

By agreement with the respective boards of trustees, and with the blessing of the KRT's founder, the residual assets and income of the KRT have been awarded to the "Meso Trust". The quantum is not yet clear, but it will hopefully be >R30 million

The principal object of the Meso Trust is the promotion of the welfare of persons or communities detrimentally affected by asbestos mining in the Northern Cape Province

# NORTHERN CAPE: A MESOTHELIOMA HOT SPOT



*Prieska tailings dump. After the plant closed, the tailings were removed and retreated at Joyner's Stofbakkies operation across the Orange River*



*Typical discharge to atmosphere from an older plant.  
('Klipvlei' written on the back of the photograph)*

Source: History of Asbestos Mining in South Africa  
Piet van Zyl, 2017

# NORTHERN CAPE: A MESOTHELIOMA HOT SPOT



*Westerberg Mine, across the Orange River from above Koegas, and looking over tailings dumps*



*Fully loaded Albion lorry and trailer ready to depart from Koegas, 25 km from Draghoender Station  
Gefco was mining at Pries, Mt Vera, Whitewack, Ooradja, Elders (Maroon) and*

# THE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Meso Trust will continue to honour the grant making commitments of the KRT until 28 February 2026, whereafter it will award benefits only to living persons who have contracted mesothelioma because of occupational or environmental exposure to asbestos in the Northern Cape Province

Unlike for the KRT, there are no limitations as regards the date or place where occupational or environmental exposure to asbestos likely occurred within the province.

The Meso Trust became operational on 1 November 2025 and will process payments on behalf of the KRT until February 2026



# MESO TRUST NOTES

1. The Meso Trust (IT 162/2024) has been registered with the Master of the High Court as a charitable trust and approved by SARS as a tax exempt PBO
2. The trust deed has been precisely worded to reflect its objectives as a **Public Benefit Organisation (PBO)** - it will not offer “**compensation**” but rather “**benefits**”
3. Benefits will not be paid to mesothelioma sufferers who have received, or qualify to receive, compensation from non-state third parties

# ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The Meso Trust has appointed

- Dr JM te Water Naude Incorporated to deliver medical, administration and coordination services.
- Jonathan Crowther CA(SA) has been appointed as the accountant and auditor.

The trustees are KRT trustees Brian Gibson and Richard Spoor, joined by Ms. Ulaysha Sukhu, an issue management specialist who has worked with both the KRT and the ART for many years

# APPLICATION PROCESS

***Guidelines for the submission applications for benefits are available on the website of the Meso Trust***

***[www.mesotrust.co.za](http://www.mesotrust.co.za) or can be sent to you by calling or texting on WhatsApp***

***072 480 4000***

1. A completed application for benefits by a natural person must be accompanied by documents, medical records, and any other evidence the applicant relies on to substantiate that they have been
  - **diagnosed with mesothelioma; and**
  - **exposed to asbestos in the Northern Cape Province, either occupationally or environmentally**

# APPLICATION PROCESS

2. For pleural mesothelioma, medical documentation should at a minimum include
  - results from a physical examination,
  - a chest X-ray that is strongly suggestive of the disease, and
  - a pleural fluid analysis (pleural tap) to exclude tuberculosis,
  - ideally supported by a CT scan and/or a histology report.
3. A diagnosis by a highly regarded oncologist or relevant medical specialist will carry weight.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

4. Diagnoses of other forms of mesothelioma will generally require the applicant to submit tissue biopsy results.
5. Evidence of relevant exposure in the Northern Cape Province could include employment records, proof of residence or such related documents.
6. The trustees may at their discretion require an applicant to submit further information to make an informed decision.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

7. For mesothelioma sufferers a standard financial benefit will be donated to successful applicants upon completion of the necessary administrative procedures determined by the trustees and/or the regulatory authorities.
8. The current financial benefit is a one-off amount to a maximum of R250 000 paid into the personal bank account of the applicant (or into the estate of the deceased, or into the personal account of the dependent

# SUPPORT FOR CHARITIES

For the time being the Meso Trust will continue to support the palliative care project in the Kuruman area that the KRT has hitherto undertaken jointly with the ART.

This has been a highly successful and important intervention for mesothelioma (and other cancer sufferers). The activities of our highly trained and dedicated palliative care sisters are supervised by Dr Jim te Water Naude.

Depending on the availability of funds, the Meso Trust may consider applications for support from other community-based organisations.

# CRITERIA FOR SUPPORTING CHARITIES

The application form, which will soon be available on the website, must be accompanied by documents that demonstrate that the organisation's objectives and activities are aligned with those of the trust; namely

1. Providing free welfare and humanitarian support, care and counselling, and/or
2. health care services, including palliative care, to successful applicants and/or to their dependents, and/or to the communities affected by the legacy of asbestos mining in the Northern Cape Province.



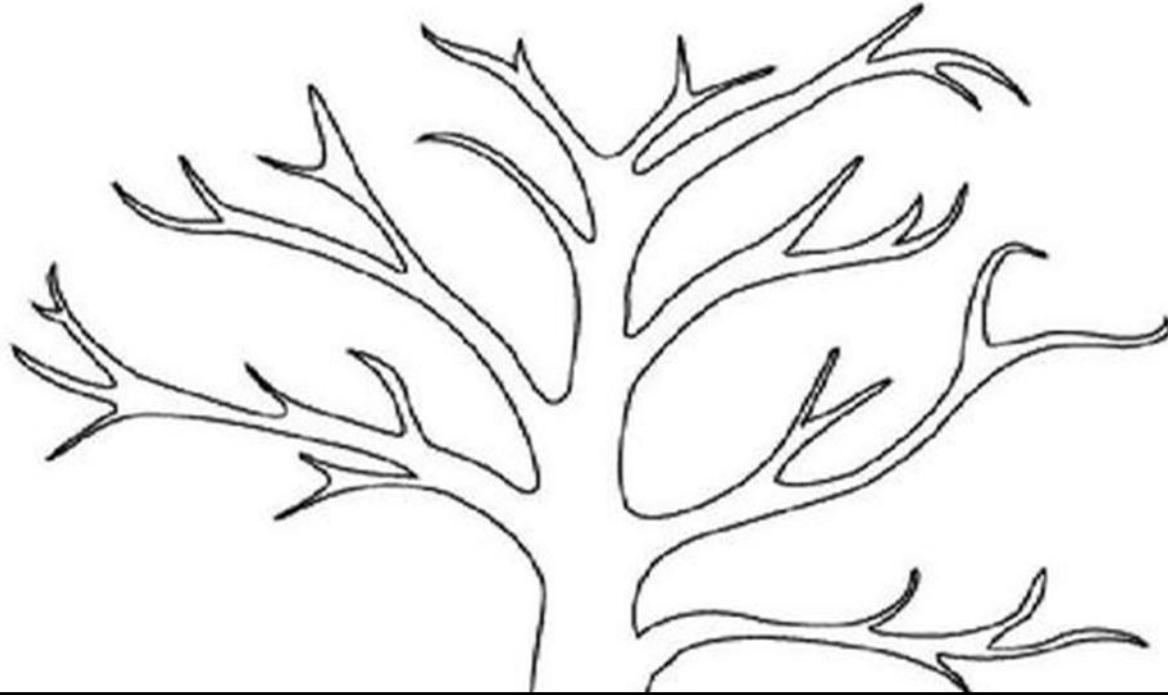


# IN CONCLUSION

The Meso Trust will assist those most grievously impacted by the legacy of asbestos mining in the Northern Cape.

We encourage the medical fraternity to reach out to the Meso Trust with any queries or suggestions.

THANK YOU



# **MESO TRUST**

**SUPPORTING MESOTHELIOMA VICTIMS IN THE  
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

