



# MMPA News

## MASOYISE ITB PROJECT

In December 2015, the Departments of Health and of Mineral Resources, the four primary mining unions – Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU), the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), Solidarity, UASA – and the Chamber of Mines, launched a major tuberculosis (TB) screening campaign in South Africa's mining sector. The 'Masoyise iTB' initiative will run over three years and forms part of a broader national campaign announced by Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa on World TB Day, 24 March 2015 – under the theme 'Ending South Africa's TB epidemic: Accelerating our response in Key Populations'. The project is in line with current mining industry practice and the industry's TB and HIV Milestones Commitments under the Mine Health and Safety Council.

### Progress

A progress report was recently compiled by Mr Andile Sangqu, the Vice President of the Chamber of Mines and the Chairperson of the Masoyise iTB Steering Committee. The report is summarised below.

Screening for HIV is through provider initiated counselling. The percentage of Chamber member companies' employees counselled for HIV in 2015 was 79.1%; 80.7% of permanent employees 69.0% of contractors were counselled. Platinum and coal commodities performed above the industry average of 79%, i.e. 90% and 88%, respectively; gold performed poorly at 60.7%. A total of 154 119 employees were tested for HIV (46.4% of total population); 18 876 (12.2%) of whom were HIV positive. A total of 29 565 employees are on ARVs (8.9% of the total population of 332 527). The TB/HIV co-infection rate was 62%.

Screening for TB, through the cough questionnaire,

reached 94.4% of Chamber member employees. There was minimal difference in screening between permanent employees and contractors, at 94.5% and 93.4% respectively. Screening rates ranged from 97.0% in gold, to 92.4% in platinum, to 89.1% in coal. The TB incidence rate for the Chamber member companies was calculated as 1066 cases/100 000 population; the industry milestone is at or below the South African TB rate of 834 cases/100 000. There were massive differences in the incidence rates between permanent employees (1197/100 000) and contractors (274/100 000), indicating a paucity of data and suboptimal management of TB in contractors. The rate ranged from 1637/100 000 in gold, to 967/100 000 in platinum, to 233/100 000 in coal.

The Chamber is working on implementing a web-based Electronic Health Information Management System to enhance reporting efficiencies and data quality. Chamber member companies have agreed on implementing a revised DMR 164 Reporting Template (entitled Masoyise iTB Template). As part of strengthening capacity to improve project performance, a project manager position was created and the recruitment process is almost finalised. Support from all stakeholder principals for the project is key for its success.

The MMPA would like to share excerpts from a letter written by the Mr Andile Sangqu on 9 Jun to the Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi:

"The Masoyise iTB Project is planned to run for three years starting in 2016 till 2018. Its primary intent is to screen for TB and offer HCT to all employees in the mining sector on an annual basis. The Chamber provides secretariat function for the project. Phase one of the project focused on 2015 data from the Chamber member companies with some reflection on DMR 2013/14 data as baseline. The project plans to reach out to all mining houses beyond Chamber members. Data received from Chamber member companies for 2015 represents 332 527 employees compared to estimated total mining industry employee figure of 500 000.

Principals are requested to note the tremendous progress made to date as reflected by data submitted by Chamber member companies. I thank all stakeholders for the support they provide to the project. The project will continue to seek to improve its performance, address the gaps identified and explore innovative measures to assist non Chamber member companies to participate in the project."

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