
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION - NOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

On 24 March 2025, I had an opportunity to participate (virtually) in the Ex-mineworkers with Occupational Lung Diseases (OLD) Book launch held at the Johannesburg Country Club.

On behalf of the ILO Decent Work Team for Eastern and Southern Africa, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Minerals Council South Africa on the successful launch of the Ex-Mineworkers Occupational Lung Diseases (OLD) Booklet. This comprehensive guide is a significant milestone in advancing the Decent Work Agenda for ex-mineworkers, particularly in the era where Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) is recognized as a fundamental principle and right at work.

The publication of this booklet demonstrates a commendable commitment to the health and well-being of ex-mineworkers, ensuring they have access to vital information about healthcare programmes and benefits available to them post-employment. By providing clear and detailed guidance on the prevention, early detection, and management of occupational lung diseases, the Minerals Council is empowering ex-mineworkers to make informed decisions about their health and seek timely assistance.

This initiative aligns perfectly with the ILO's Decent Work Agenda, which emphasises the importance of safe and healthy working conditions as a cornerstone of decent work. The booklet not only addresses the long-term health effects experienced by mineworkers but also underscores the shared responsibility of employers, healthcare providers, and the community in creating a safer and healthier environment for all.

In the era where OSH is a fundamental principle and right at work, the Ex-Mineworkers OLD Booklet serves as a vital resource that upholds these values. It reflects a proactive approach to safeguarding the rights and health of ex-mineworkers, ensuring they receive the support and compensation they deserve. The collaborative efforts of the Minerals Council and its partners in producing this guide are truly commendable and set a positive example for other industries to follow.

Once again, congratulations on this remarkable achievement. The ILO looks forward to continuing our collaboration with the Minerals Council to promote decent work and enhance the well-being of workers in the mining sector.

Sincerely,

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