



Overflowing crowd of miners gathering in tent to attend silicosis meeting, Mbizana*



Former miner in wheelchair helped to silicosis meeting, Mbizana*



Injured miner makes his way to a silicosis meeting, Mbizana*

Yesterday, March 21, 2013, marked Human Rights Day, a day on which all of South Africa came together in unity to both honor the many lives lost in the 1960 Sharpeville massacre and bring attention to the universal right of all people to life, equality and human dignity. We joined the nation on this special day in its efforts to advocate for the rights of those still in need of protection and a voice to speak on their behalf.

At this time of reflection, we call upon South Africans, as well as human rights advocates throughout the world, to commemorate the hundreds upon thousands of current and former gold mine workers who have lost their lives to or are living with the effects of silicosis as a result of their work in the mines. We also honor the families who continue to suffer from the immense loss of their loved ones.

These are people who made great sacrifices for the benefits and profits of others. We ask that you support their brave efforts to hold accountable those that are responsible through the recently filed silicosis class action litigation.

Through their legal battle, these victims are not only courageously seeking justice for themselves but also advancing the cause of justice throughout South Africa, advocating for improved health and safety standards in the workplace and serving as a voice for the many others suffering because of this preventable but incurable disease. We have profound compassion, respect and admiration for these victims and will continue to stand by their sides.

Every voice has a right to be heard. In support of Human Rights Day's mission to protect and promote human rights, we hope you will join us in standing behind the cause of South Africa's gold miners and supporting the many other victims of human rights abuses around the world.

Sincerely,
Richard Spoor

For additional information, please visit <http://goldminersilicosis.co.za/>

*Images taken during attorney Richard Spoor's March 2013 meetings with silicosis victims and their families in the Eastern Cape