

WASTE KHORO 2019: Asbestos and Land Remediation Summit

18-20 September 2019

"Good Green Deeds towards a Recycling Economy and Sustainable Land Remediation"

Asbestos Commission

Mr Michael Melato & Mr Matjelele Phaladi
Directorate: Land Remediation
National Department of Environment Forestry and Fisheries



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Problem statement

- Exposure to asbestos is detrimental to health;
- Funding (for research, monitoring exposure levels and remediation *etc*)
- Uncontrolled transportation of asbestos wastes that is being dumped in open space
- Asbestos migrated to surrounding poor communities due to wind from historical asbestos mines;
- There are no landfill site to handle asbestos in communities where asbestos was mined;
- Therefore the cost of loading and transportation of asbestos waste to the licensed hazardous landfill site;
- Asbestos material does not have reusable and recyclable value and this limits private funding;
- The disposing and partial treatment remain the only management option for asbestos management;
- There is no reliable technology to treat contaminated land and soil;



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Problem statement

- Waste classification is a problem (classification of asbestos as hazardous waste)
- Reclaiming and allocation of contaminated land to the communities;
- Lack of integration between governmental departments leading to fragmented approach to asbestos management
- Abundant building with asbestos material;
- Poor maintenance of building infrastructure with asbestos material;
- Insitu management of asbsestos, its not a permanent solutions as it brings other challenges that must be monitored;
- Inadequate Education and Awareness ;
- Minimal Research in asbestos management
- Inadequate of monitoring of Asbestos dust (Exposure) in our asbestos affected communities to determined and quantify the exposure level;



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Problem statement

- Availability of access to landfill sites (amounts to costs of transportation of asbestos waste);
- Cost of landfilling in private landfill site;
- Availability of asbestos around railway lines;
- People are still ploughing crops and do gardening in their yard despite asbestos in the soil and this results in exposure through the inhalation;
- There are existing stockpile of asbestos pipes in farming communities and there are no known technologies available to deal with such pipes;
- Communities resist establishment of asbestos landfill sites in their areas and potentially promoting illegal dumping due to lack of access to capable landfill site;
- Potential of illegal occupation of land grab that is contaminated with asbestos;
- Land use rezoning to ensure that people do not occupy land hazardous to their health;



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Resolutions

- Monitor to understand the level of exposure in human health in hot spots areas;
- Develop Provincial Remedial Fund;
- Encourage private companies and government to develop asbestos containing buildings/ infrastructure
- Research technologies for sustainable management of asbestos;
- Investigate the use of general landfill sites with a dedicated cells for asbestos disposal with strict measure of management;
- Revise waste classification regulations to ensure that they allow the disposal of asbestos in general landfill site;
- Asbestos NGO's must be registered and regulated;
- Asbestos transporters must be registered;
- With assistance from local authorities, demarcate asbestos affected areas to control access to land and unwanted exposures;
- Fence off and put signage along the fence to restrict access to existing stockpile of asbestos contaminated land;



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Resolutions

- MoU with Transnet to address asbestos in railway lines.
- Explore other disposal options such backfilling of open quarries with asbestos wastes before covering with clay material and revegetate the area
- Suggested asbestos remedial plan for open quarries and exposed fibers:
 - Quantify the existing open quarries
 - Quantify the extent of asbestos exposed on the surface that will require clean up to minimize community exposures
 - Use the open quarries as disposal sites to fill up the open voids and cover with clay before revegetating the area
- Development of integrated education and awareness strategy for continual improvement
- Collaborations with the Institution of high learning for research, development and technology
- Place safety asbestos signage in open land to prohibit land grab.
- Government, Transnet and private companies to work together to find safer and affordable waste of managing asbestos problems



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Conclusion

- The tender for this project has been advertised in tender bulletin;
- Service provider will be appointed soon
- Consultative process to be followed; in terms of section 72 and 73 of the Waste Act
- Focus groups will be formed;
- For further clarity contact: Dr Mpho Tshitangoni: Email: Mtshitangoni@environment.gov.za, Mr Matjelele Phaladi and Xoliswa Bango: Email: XBango@environment.gov.za



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Thank you

Mr Matjelele Phaladi

Land Remediation

Tel: 012 399 9852

Email: Mphaladi@environment.gov.za



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Mr Matjelele Phaladi

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