



ASBESTOS INTEREST GROUP
10 ACCACIA STREET
KURUMAN, 8460
P. O. BOX 898
KURUMAN, 8460
TEL/FAX 053 712 2947
E-MAIL: asbestosinterestgroup@telkomsa.net

GLOBAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS EVENT

Venue: Ncweng Village – Community hall

Date: 06 April 2016

Facilitators: Asbestos Interest Group staff members

Title: Standing together against Asbestos

Target group: Community

Introduction

Asbestos Interest Group (A.I.G) is a non profit organisation based in Kuruman town. It is responsible for making awareness about asbestos and identifying asbestos in the local communities. Main aim is to create awareness in John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality. It is one of the organisations funded by A.R.T/K.R.T- the trust's social responsibility project. A.I.G organised the 2016 Global Asbestos Awareness Event.

Attendance

The attendance was very good and the community was very attentive to the information rendered.

We had community members from the following villages

Ncweng

Gamopedi

Pietbos

Lokaleng

Candle light

We had a candle light which was lit for the following reasons:

White candle – to give hope to those who are affected by asbestos related diseases, we hope that one day there will be a cure for asbestos related diseases.

Yellow candle – to give courage and strength for those that are bed ridden, those that are taking care of the patients of asbestos related diseases.

Navy Blue candle – to give comfort the families that have lost their loved ones through asbestos related diseases.

All the community members were given the candles as well.

Presentations

Sr. Lappies – Cancer Care Workers

Made a presentation on how to give support to a patient of asbestos related disease, she said the patients' needs morale support, physical support, emotional support because these illnesses are very painful and the treatment itself can make them very ill.

Sr. Haarmans – Oncology Clinic

She made a presentation about the chemotherapy treatment, explaining what it does to the cancer. She also mentioned the different side effects of the treatment. She mentioned that the treatment is painful and can change your physical appearance e.g your skin colour could be darker; your hair could fall etc.

She encouraged the community to go for chemotherapy; the side effects will pass as they finish the treatment.

Rita Beetge – Cansa

She told the community that cancer is a very painful illness but it can be conquered. She encouraged the community to stand together, give each other support, share the information they have received. She quoted “psalm 139” that God who created us and loves us. She said when families are faced with the cancer challenge we must always remember that God is there. We should care for those who have cancer with love.

Sr. Magabanyane – A.R.T

She made a presentation on the asbestos related disease – Asbestosis, Lung Cancer & mesothelioma. She gave thorough explanation on what asbestos does to the lungs to cause it to be damaged.

She also gave presentation on the claim process of the Asbestos Relief Trust and Kgalagadi Relief Trust.

She appreciated the efforts of the late Mr. Kotoloane, that it is through his efforts that the community are able to access information about the danger of asbestos.

Dr. Jood

She made a presentation on how our communities were exposed to asbestos fibres. She gave the medical information on how asbestos affects our lungs. She also gave information that all the mines have exposure and that exposure can affect our lungs.

She talked about the post-mortem process, the importance of post-mortem. She also gave information about the claim process of the M.B.O.D

Mrs. S. Mereotlhe

She made a presentation of how people around Kuruman got exposed to asbestos. The dangerous working environment people were working on. She also told the community that the office of A.I.G is operating and is giving free service. She encouraged the community to consult this office for information.

Information & posters

There were information handouts given to the communities.

Asbestos kills handouts

Most frequently asked questions handouts

Asbestos and asbestos related diseases booklet

Conclusion

A.I.G thanks International Ban Asbestos Secretariat for their contribution on this event and it was a huge success.

We thank Richard Aitken who contributed to make this event a success.

A.I.G appreciates the continuous support of A.R.T & K.R.T for the awareness initiative.

The event strengthened A.I.G's campaign and awareness around Kuruman communities.

A.I.G were proactive and the arrangements were excellent

This event was the first Global Asbestos Awareness Event to be hosted by A.I.G.

Hopefully this event will perpetuate and keep on making more awareness to different communities.

Standing together against Asbestos!!

Compiled by: Prudence Kotoloane

Date: 07 April 2016