

Interest Group (AIG). Together, we presented to Parliament in 2000 on the problems faced by asbestos-exposed communities. He tirelessly worked to share information with villagers on protecting themselves from asbestos exposure, especially school children. Stephen died two years ago, soon after he presented at a mesothelioma conference. The AIG continues to operate and Stephen's daughter, Prudence Kotoloane, assists in taking the asbestos work forward.

Jock has left us a gift of immense proportions. The very reason for the existence of a university is, in part, to create and share knowledge in an accessible and equitable manner: "To follow knowledge like a sinking star beyond the outmost bound of human thought" in the words of the poet, Tennyson. Who better to emulate than those who live for the ideal that our common humanity can be strengthened, through shining a spotlight on toxic substances that harm the health and safety of workers and communities?

What do we do with the legacy of Jock McCullough, as it pertains to the historic documentation of a greater truth? How do we change the way history is recorded and shine a spotlight on the conditions under which workers have to work, often to fulfil the profit motive? In 2015, I listened in amazement how a South Korean poet opened a global conference on occupational health by lamenting the manner in which the profit motive overtook our common humanity. In a sense, he was describing the spirit

of Ubuntu we know so well in many of our countries in Africa. Dare we allow that spirit of interdependence and respect to imbue our workplaces, as part of our African reality?

We thank Jock and other good men and women for having selected to share their research and love of documents to help us understand our own history better, and help create a gentler, more just and more equal world of work and society. In a recent visit to Dublin, I noted this quote from Archbishop Desmond Tutu on international solidarity: "Your ordinary acts of love and hope point to the extraordinary promise that every human life is of inestimable value."

Thank you, Pavla, and thank you, Australia, for having shared Jock with us in South Africa. As they will say in the asbestos-contaminated villages within the blue asbestos belt that inspired Jock to write *Asbestos Blues...* *Kelibogile Jock. Hamba kahle.*

Please see link below for the recording of this seminar:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7FOyqrTEQZN/S7MEWphqCOA/videos>

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## Phiroshaw Camay Virtual Asbestos Library to be launched

In remembrance of Mr Phiroshaw Camay's contribution to the fight against asbestos and diseases associated with exposure, the Kgalagadi Relief Trust (KRT) and the Asbestos Relief Trust (ART), in collaboration with the National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH), is setting up a virtual library in his name. This is fitting in that Mr Camay started his working career as a librarian. Phiroshaw Camay (or PC) passed away on 1 October 2016, and was featured in an obituary in the Nov/Dec 2016 issue of this Journal.

The Phiroshaw Camay Virtual Asbestos Library (PC-VAL) will be comprised of literature concerned with asbestos in southern Africa. The topics will include asbestos-related disease; mining, milling and production of asbestos; manufacture of asbestos products; the geology of asbestos in the environment and the workplace; legislation; regulations; and best practice recommendations. The PC-VAL will be in the public domain and searchable to allow easy and quick access to the materials.

PC started his working life as a librarian in the Johannesburg City Council, where he became involved in the trade union movement. As General Secretary of the Council of Unions of South Africa (CUSA), he famously recruited Cyril Ramaphosa into their legal department.<sup>1</sup> CUSA was later renamed the National Council of Trade Unions (NACTU). His lifelong friend, Ebrahim Harvey, recalls that he played a leading role in the trade union unity talks: "But, influenced more by the thinking of the Pan Africanist Congress and the Black Consciousness Movement, CUSA did not join the largely ANC- and Freedom Charter-aligned unions that constituted

COSATU at its birth in 1985." PC resigned from NACTU in 1989, after failing to get the federation to support the Harare Declaration, in which the ANC set the terms for negotiations with the, then, Nationalist Party. He formed the Co-operative for Research and Education (Core) in 1990, a non-governmental organisation that facilitated the publication of progressive materials to strengthen his great passion, civil society. He then served as Chairman of the Rand Water Board for some years, an experience he remembered with little affection.

PC served as a Trustee of the KRT from its inception in 2006, and as Chair from 2012 to 2016. He was also a Trustee of the KRT's sister organisation, the Asbestos Relief Trust (ART), from 2005, and served as Chair from 2006 to 2008.

Colleagues will remember his incisive analytical mind. Intensely private about his own life, PC was a man of the public, who never lost sight of the poor and under-resourced members of our society.

### REFERENCE

1. Butler A. Cyril Ramaphosa. Johannesburg: Jacana; 2007.

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