



## Silicosis trial nears end

Apr 20, 2011 1:06 PM | By Times LIVE and Sapa

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**The case in which 18 former goldmine workers want Anglo American to compensate them for contracting silicosis is expected to begin next year, lawyers said.**



Alpheos Blom, 49, who lives in Welkom, worked underground at Anglo's President Steyn Mine in the Free State from 1984 to 2001.

Silicosis is caused by breathing in crystalline silica dust, and scars the lungs, making it hard to breath, causing coughing, sufferers to become lethargic, lose their appetites and their skin to go blue.

"The litigation is at an advanced stage. We have reviewed documents and we expect the trial to start in 2012," said Richard Meeran, one of the lawyers representing the workers.

He said 18 mine workers were suing Anglo American for compensation for the pain they suffered and loss of income.

"The compensation will vary from one worker to another based on whether they have contracted silicosis or TB," he said.

The lawyers also wanted the mine to establish a settlement scheme to compensate mine workers who had contracted silicosis.