



REGISTERED TRADE UNION REG NO. LR 2/6/2/1499
AFFILIATED TO FEDUSA

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UASA proud to be associated with the RMA

To ordinary workers – including UASA members! – the services levels of RMA improved with leaps and bounds over the years.

The passion and dedication of RMA's board and executive team speaks volumes when one takes into consideration that, after being in business for 120 years, it still has the ability to reinvent itself; something they have in common with UASA, which also celebrates its 120th birthday this year.

There's no getting in a rut for RMA.

On the contrary, it recently had its license extended to include services for not only employers in the mining industry, but to also include the transfer of Class 13 employers, covering the steel, iron, artificial limbs, galvanising, garages, metals, and related industries.

From a trade union point of view RMA has a well-established track record in the management of claims for occupational injuries and diseases in the mining industry and has administrated claims for occupational injuries and diseases since 1894. The RMA offers the same benefits as stipulated by the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Disease Act.

As a labour organisation, we are extremely proud to be associated with RMA. According to its annual report, 2013 was a watershed year in more ways than one for RMA.

Finally having been granted an extension to their COIDA licence, RMA can now grow the number of lives insured to more than 1 million.

In addition, the Compensation Fund made a decision to pilot the RMA system on the basis that it would be its system of choice, if successfully piloted. The 2013 strategy session endorsed both the above developments.

UASA members will benefit by these new developments from early next year, as it means the speedy settlement of claims. The processing of claims will be transferred to a fully automated system. This means a worker's details can be called up on a computer screen by the push of a button instead of searching for and completing mountains of tedious paper forms.

In practice this is excellent news for injured and pensioned workers. According to Mr. Jay Singh, CEO of RMA, it means in future injured workers can be paid their compensation and pensions as soon as 30 days after application, and certainly within 6 weeks instead of the up to two years this process might have taken in the past.

In cases where injured and resultantly retired workers feel they need to reopen past claims because their health situation has deteriorated since, the processing will be a breeze as all information pertaining to applicants, like doctor's reports, are stored in the new system.

Four medical doctors will also be on stand-by to assess and document injuries.

RMA will supply UASA members with all the information needed to inform them of how the new system will work, including a training programme on our website.

The new system comes into operation on 1 March 2015, which is also the date on which UASA members in the mining and steel sectors will start paying their insurance premiums to RMA, instead of to the Department of Labour as in the past.

The slogan of the RMA is quite aptly "Caring, Compassionate Compensation" and the RMA team is extremely proud of the service levels offered to all its stakeholders, says Mr. Singh.

As UASA's slogan for its 120 year celebrations is "Proudly serving our members", we are equally proud to be associated with RMA and for the work it is doing to aid hard-working individuals who contribute to the growth and prosperity of our economy and country on a daily basis.