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Advancing workers interests
through research

Mission

“To be a leading research institute on matters pertaining to the socio-economic welfare of workers and their communities in the mining, construction and energy sectors in Southern Africa.”

SATRI Profile

The Sam Tambani Research Institute is a Public Benefit Non-profit Company registered in 2012. The idea of establishing the institute was perceived jointly by the NUM and MIT. It arose from the need to consolidate NUM efforts to ensure that workers get a fair share of what they produce which enables them in turn to improve their livelihoods.

It was recognised that interventions aimed at improving workers and their families' welfare had become complex and required a great deal of factual information. SATRI would be responsible for gathering and analysing such information through its targeted research agenda.

Objective

The Institute's major objective is to undertake research and analysis of substantive and primary issues affecting the welfare of workers in general, but especially workers in the mining, construction and energy sectors of South Africa. From the research done, it produces publications and recommendations that inform policies that have a bearing on the welfare of workers and worker's communities.

Secondary Objectives

- Disseminate research findings to wider society in order to influence opinions, get constructive inputs and create visibility of the Institute within national and international research communities.

- Provide mentorship\training opportunities to young people and novice researchers in undertaking applied research on issues relevant to the welfare and sustainable livelihoods of workers
- Build and maintain the capability and capacity of the institute to deliver on its mandate
- Ensure that SATRI is strategically positioned with all relevant stakeholders.

Research agenda

The research to be undertaken will be categorized in two broad areas:

- Research on national and emerging international policies that have a bearing on workers, their families and communities
- Research on contemporary issues, existing or that are emerging, that affect the welfare of NUM members and their communities, and impact on the effectiveness of NUM in fulfilling its mandate

Phase one research projects

The first phase of the institute's research activities have focused on:

Women in the mining, construction and energy sectors:

Given the existing numbers of women employed in these three sectors and the desire to increase women participation, this research is aimed at understanding the specific nature of challenges women face in the three sectors. Most importantly though, is to come up with creative and proactive ways to address the women-specific challenges as part of the national transformation agenda.

Workers' wages and remuneration:

The research is aimed at contributing towards the ongoing debates on a national minimum wage using empirical evidence in the context of persistent and sometimes widening income inequality. The research draws from the experience of countries that have had significant reduction in inequality with or without a national minimum wage.

Mining and the environment: Mining activities are inherently detrimental to the environment. Legislation has been enacted to control environmental pollution in the mining industry. This research project is aimed at contributing towards effective legislation on mining and the environment. The research looks at the various stages of the mining process and their respective impact on the environment. It exams the extent to which the existing legislation is adequate to address the multi-stage mining pollution, before making recommendations.

Green Economy and jobs: Combating climate change is increasingly impacting on production, employment and type of employment. Hence, the move to green is relevant to workers in the mining, energy and construction sectors. This research looks into the labour aspects of South Africa's migration to the green economy.

Mining Charter compliance: The project is aimed at examining the extent to which the objectives of the Mining Charter and the B-BBEE codes have been achieved, and how benefits therefrom are manifested in the mining sector. The project was motivated, in part, by the contention on data used to adjudicate the extent of Mining Charter compliance and B-BBEE progress that has hitherto been collected exclusively by the mining industry.

