

Circulation : Not Certified
 Avg Circ : 60000
 Net Sales : 0
 C.F.D. : 0
 Net Distr : 0
 Bulk Free : 0



47mm x 172mm

A.V.E. = R 1,843.88

9508001-Aggregate and Sand Producers Association

NEW AGE, THE (First Edition)

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'Illegal mining hurts all'

THE selling of products from illegal mining should be punished like other serious economic crimes, the Aggregate and Sand Producers Association of Southern Africa (Aspasa) said yesterday.

"Despite clearly defined laws, acts and regulations that govern the industry, illegal mining is still commonplace and the will to prosecute transgressors has been non-existent," Aspasa said.

Illegal mine and quarry operations had a massive advantage over legal operators within the industry as they neither paid tax nor contributed to the industry's sustainability, director Nico Pienaar said. "Nor do they need to observe safety, health, environment and quality legislation, which means they can expose their employees to inhumane working conditions."

Illegal mining was not only confined to syndicates, but also happened in certain municipalities and some large construction companies. Pienaar hoped a Constitutional Court ruling which stated mining operations could only proceed within the required legal framework would stimulate change. - Sapa

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