Financial institutions
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THE COMIC BOOK EDITION

THE BIG READ BOOK SERIES

Volume 5

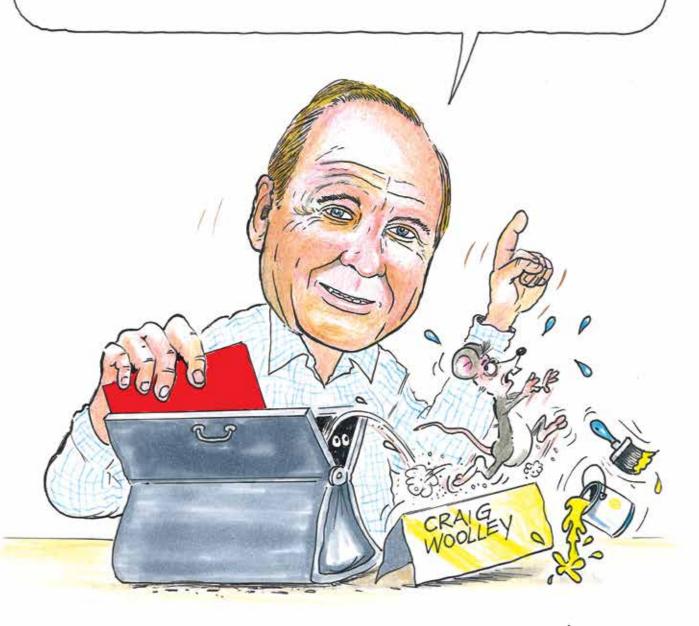
Avoidance and Cancellation of Non-life Insurance Policies

WELCOME TO VOLUME 5 OF NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT'S
BIG READ BOOK SERIES.

AVOIDANCE AND CANCELLATION OF NON-LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES: THE COMIC BOOK EDITION.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY YOUR FAVOURITE NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT INSURANCE LAWYER?

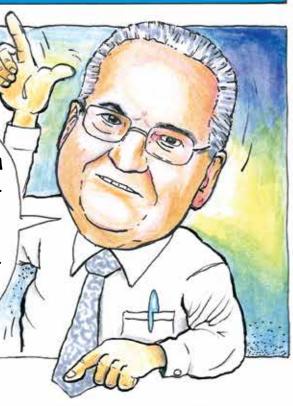
THIS COMIC BOOK EDITION SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR BIG READ BOOK SERIES VOLUME 2: AVOIDANCE AND CANCELLATION OF NON-LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES.



AVOIDANCE AND CANCELLATION OF NON-LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES AND THE REJECTION OF CLAIMS.

INTRODUCTION

THERE ARE FUNDAMENTAL
MISUNDERSTANDINGS RELATING TO AN
INSURER'S RIGHT TO AVOID OR CANCEL
A POLICY OR REJECT A CLAIM UNDER
A POLICY. THIS CAN AFFECT THE
REPUTATION OF THE INSURER AS WELL
AS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AN
INSURER AND THE INSURED.

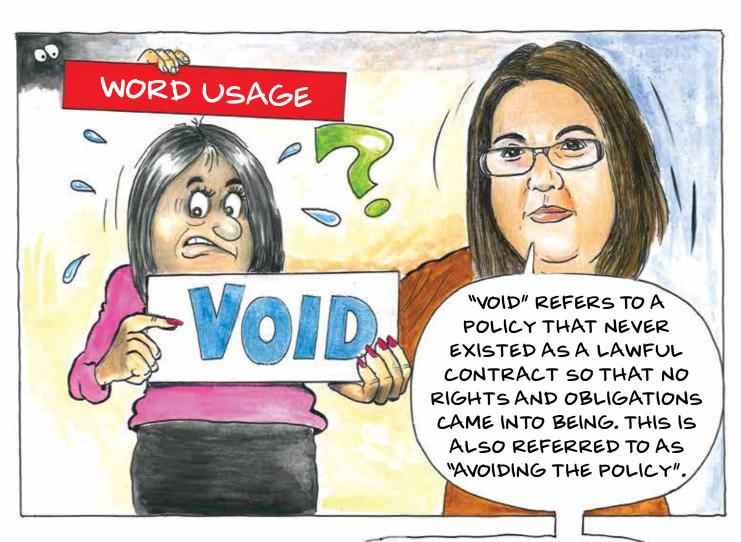


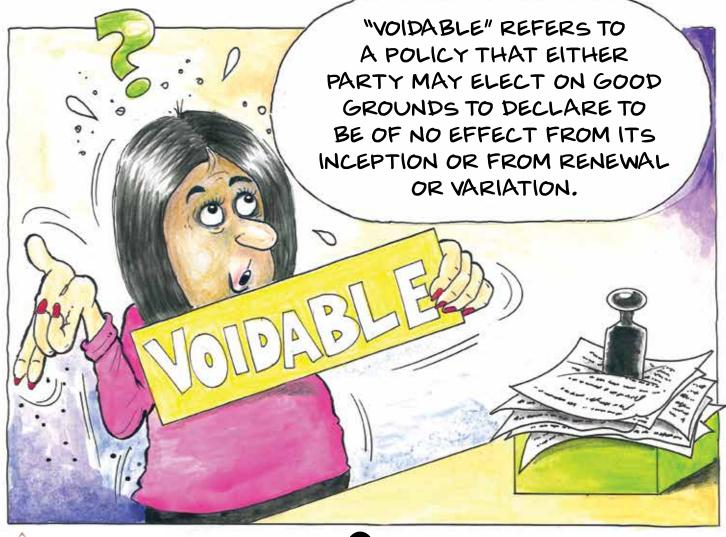


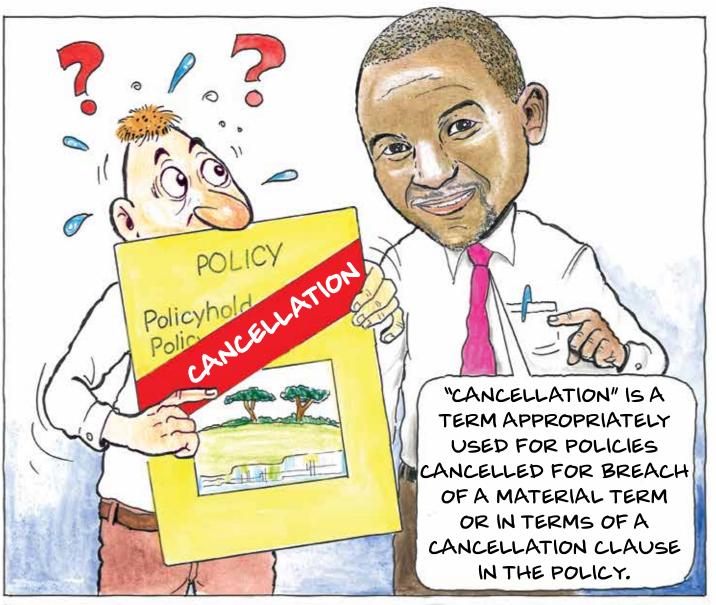


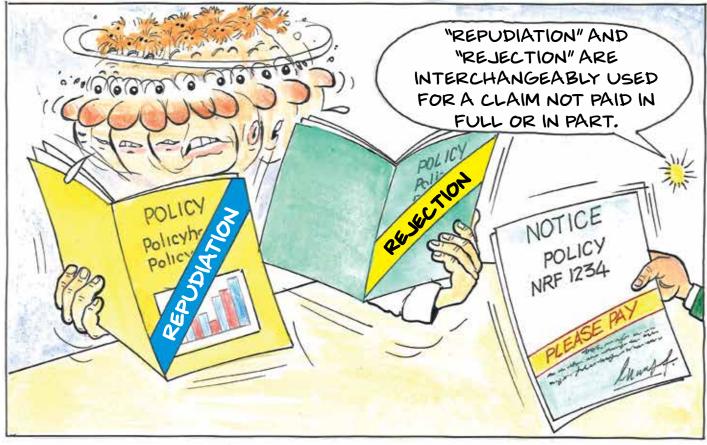












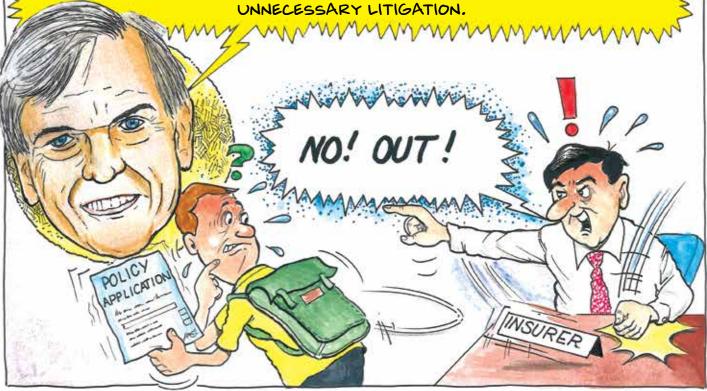
THE DECISION TO ...



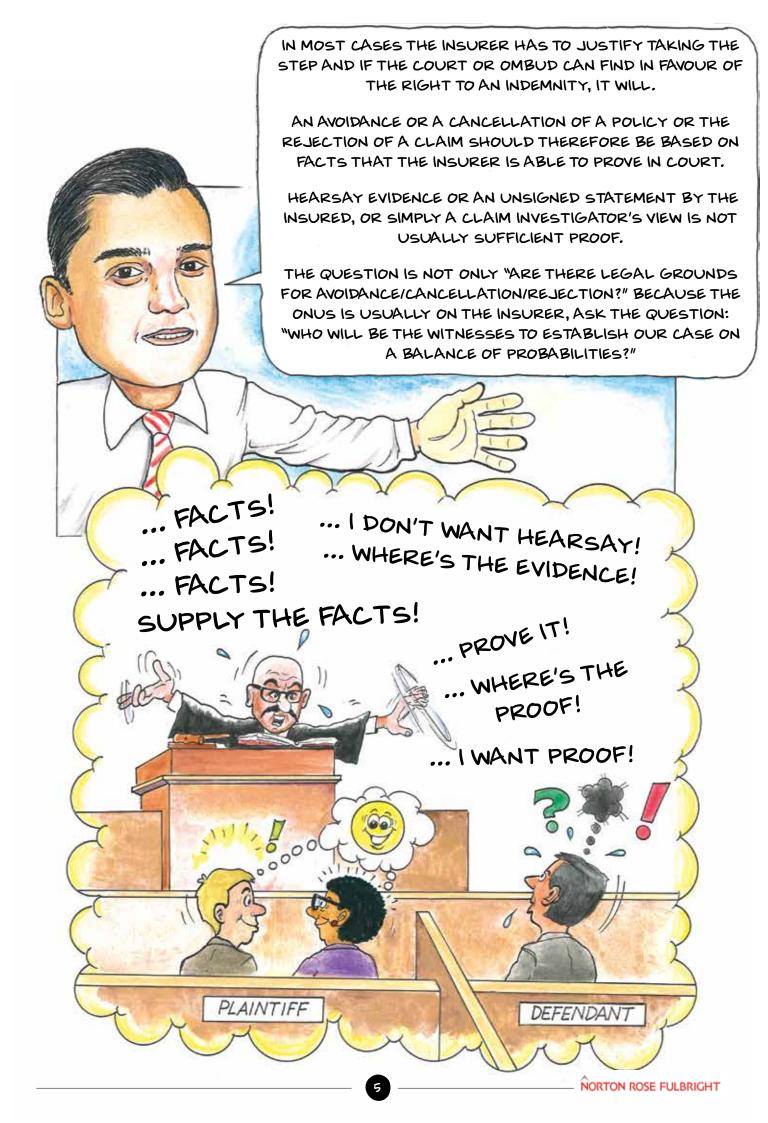




THE STEPS REFERRED TO BELOW ARE SERIOUS STEPS WITH POTENTIALLY FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES. A BAD DECISION CAN CAUSE REPUTATIONAL DAMAGE AND UNNECESSARY LITIGATION.



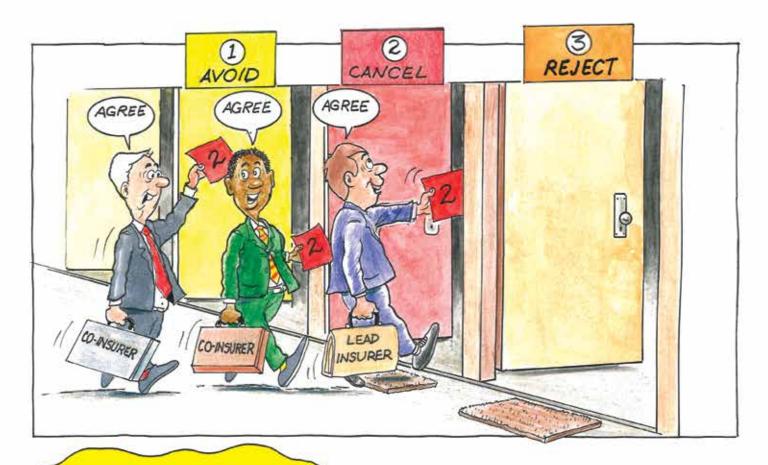




THE DECISION TO AVOID/CANCEL/REJECT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT IT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE COMPANY ON EVERY OCCASION THAT IT IS CONTEMPLATED. NO DECISION SHOULD BE TAKEN WITHOUT FULL CONSIDERATION OF THE CLAIMS INFORMATION AND THE UNDERWRITING TERMS.

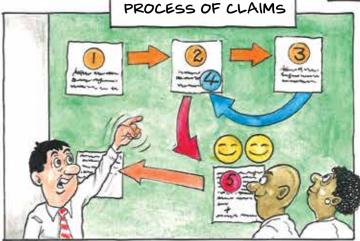


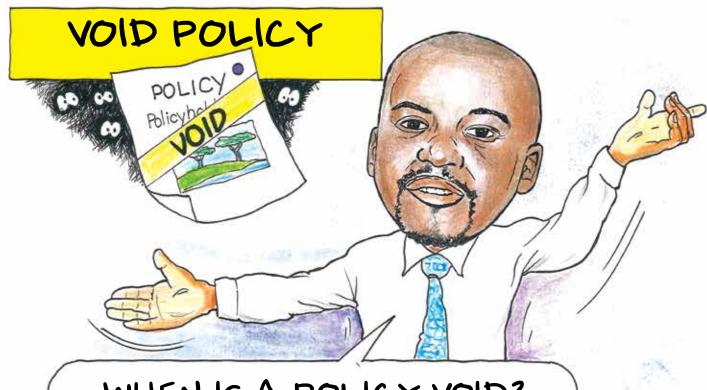
IF THERE ARE CO-INSURERS, ENSURE THAT WHERE NECESSARY EVERY CO-INSURER AGREES TO FOLLOW THE AVOIDANCE/CANCELLATION/REJECTION DECISION. THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE CO-INSURER'S CONSENT IS NECESSARY AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT IS BOUND BY THE DECISIONS OF THE LEAD INSURER DEPENDS ON THE TERMS OF THE POLICY.



BEAR IN MIND AT ALL TIMES
THE OBLIGATION TO TREAT
POLICYHOLDERS FAIRLY,
ESPECIALLY THE REQUIREMENT
THAT THEY DO NOT FACE
UNREASONABLE BARRIERS TO
SUBMIT A CLAIM AND ARE GIVEN
CLEAR INFORMATION REGARDING
THE PROCESS OF CLAIMS.





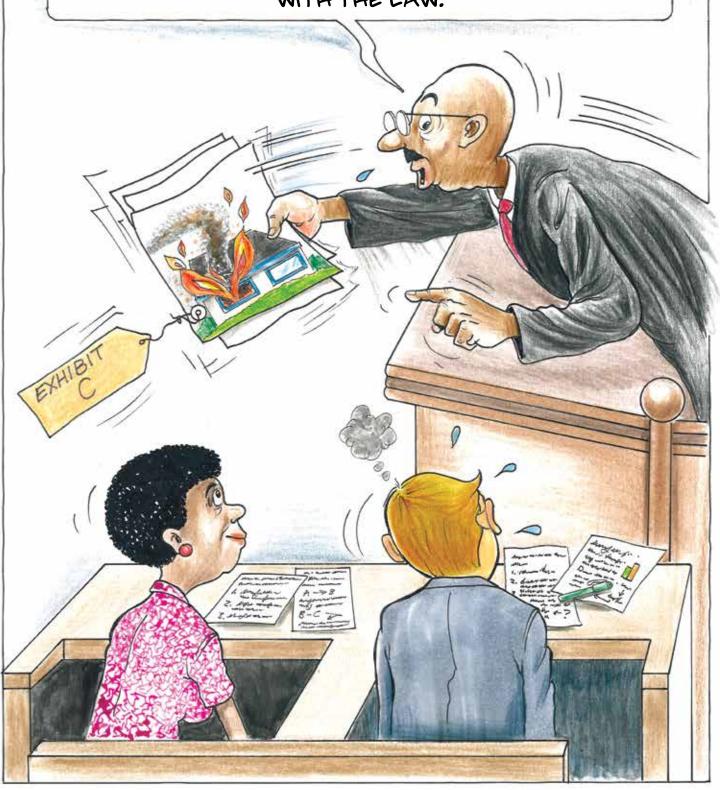


WHEN IS A POLICY VOID?

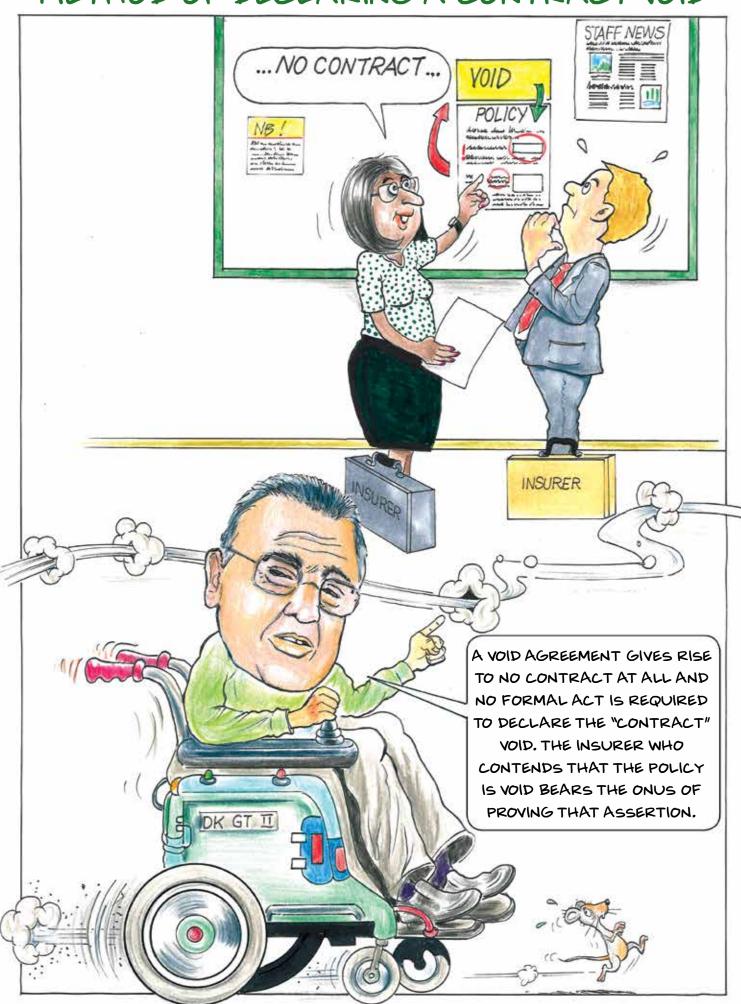
A POLICY IS VOID (THAT IS, IT NEVER GAVE RISE TO RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS) IF, FOR INSTANCE, THE OBJECT IS ILLEGAL FOR EXAMPLE, THE INSURED KNOWINGLY INSURES STOLEN GOODS; OR IF THERE WAS NO REAL AGREEMENT (CONSENSUS) REACHED (FOR INSTANCE, WHERE THE INSURED AND INSURER ARE EACH CONTEMPLATING AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT RISK OR INSURED PROPERTY; OR WHERE THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE CONTRACT DOES NOT EXIST, OR IS DESTROYED BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMENCES. THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF MANY POSSIBLE SCENARIOS.



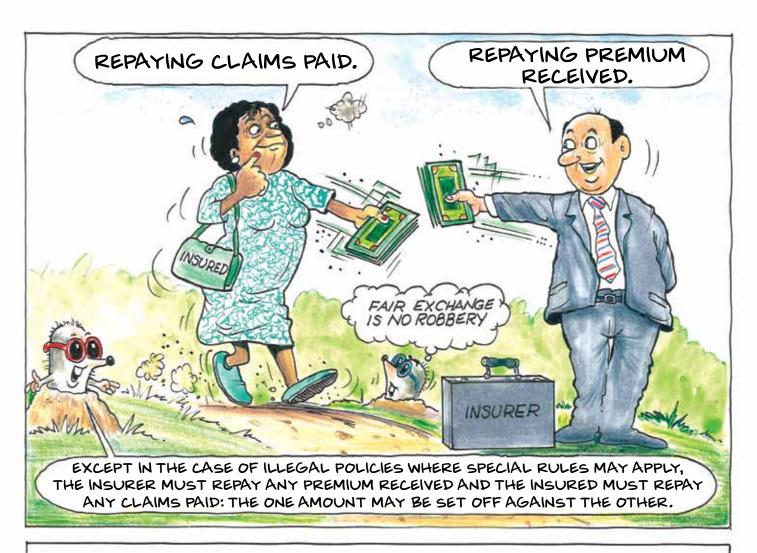
POLICIES THAT ARE VOID BECAUSE OF
NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE INSURANCE LAWS
UNDER WHICH THEY ARE PURPORTEDLY WRITTEN
MAY STILL BE ENFORCED DESPITE NON-COMPLIANCE
WITH THE LAW.



METHOD OF DECLARING A CONTRACT VOID









LETTER TO INFORM THAT POLICY IS VOID

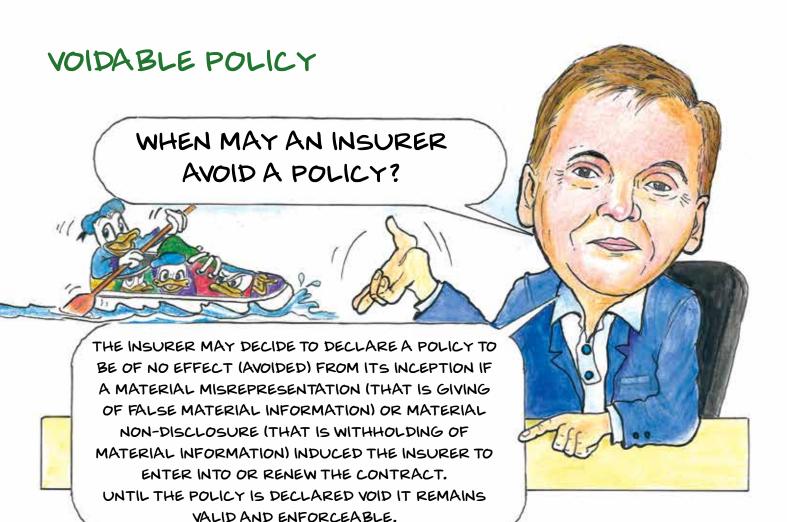
THE FOLLOWING IS THE SUGGESTED WORDING OF A LETTER TO ADVISE THE INSURED THAT THE POLICY IS VOID (ADAPTED TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES).

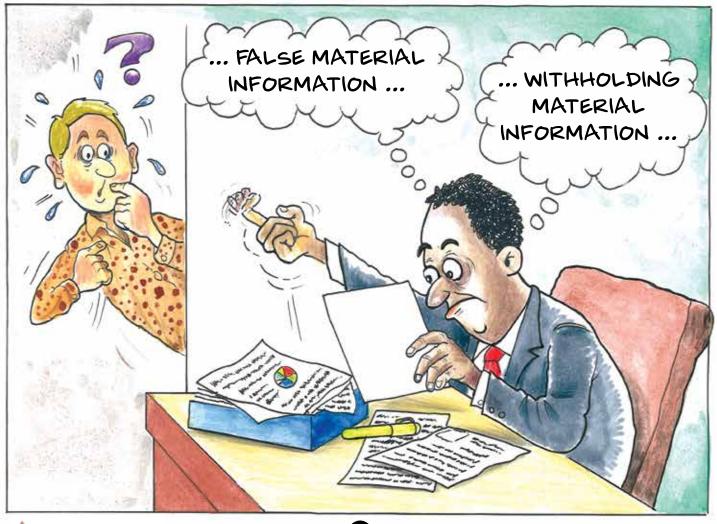
WE RECORD THAT BY REASON
OF (HERE BRIEFLY AND CLEARLY
STATE THE REASON FOR THE
"CONTRACT" BEING VOID)
ABC POLICY NO. 123 IS VOID.

IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, NO
IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, NO
RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS
RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS
AROSE BETWEEN US AND YOU
AROSE BETWEEN US AND YOU
AROSE BETWEEN US AND YOU
AND REPAYMENT OF THE AMOUNT
PAID TO US AS PREMIUMS WILL BE
PAID TO US AS PREMIUMS
MADE IN DUE COURSE.

[ADD IF A CLAIM HAS BEEN
PAID]: WE REQUIRE FROM YOU
REPAYMENT TO US WITHIN
XX DAYS OF THE SUM OF
R... PAID IN TERMS OF THE
CLAIM(S) XYZ DATE ... LESS THE
PREMIUMS PAID, NAMELY THE
AMOUNT OF R[INSERT].

IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES YOUR
CLAIM WILL NOT BE DEALT
WITH AND NO ADMISSIONS
WHATSOEVER ARE MADE IN
TO YOUR ALLEGED LOSS.





THE INSURER BEARS THE ONUS OF PROVING THAT ...

- THE INSURED OR SOMEONE FOR WHOSE ACT THE INSURED IS RESPONSIBLE (FOR EXAMPLE THE INSURED'S BROKER) MADE THE MISREPRESENTATION/NON-DISCLOSURE;
- * THE MISREPRESENTATION/NON-DISCLOSURE RELATED TO MATERIAL FACTS;
- THE MISREPRESENTATION/NON-DISCLOSURE ACTUALLY INDUCED THE INSURER TO ENTER INTO THE CONTRACT OR INDUCED IT TO DO SO ON TERMS OR FOR A PREMIUM IT WOULD NOT OTHERWISE HAVE AGREED TO.





THE TEST FOR MATERIALITY OF THE MISREPRESENTATION OR THE NON-DISCLOSURE IS DESCRIBED IN INSURANCE LAW.

WHETHER A MISREPRESENTATION OR NON-DISCLOSURE IS MATERIAL IS JUDGED OBJECTIVELY FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE REASONABLE, PRUDENT PERSON. THE FACT IS MATERIAL WHERE THAT PERSON WOULD CONSIDER THAT THE PARTICULAR INFORMATION SHOULD HAVE BEEN DISCLOSED TO THE INSURER SO THAT THE INSURER COULD FORM ITS OWN VIEW AS TO THE EFFECT OF THE INFORMATION ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE RELEVANT RISK.



THE TEST IS APPLIED IN RELATION TO THE INSURER'S DECISION WHETHER TO ACCEPT THE RISK, OR ON WHAT CONDITIONS TO ACCEPT THE INSURANCE, OR AS TO THE AMOUNT OF THE PREMIUM REQUIRED.



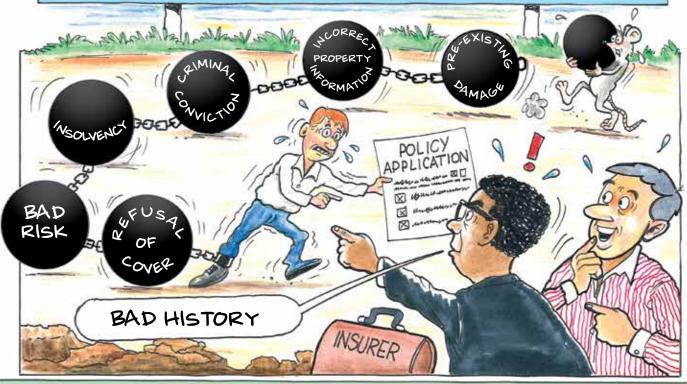
EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL INFORMATION INCLUDE ADVERSE INSURANCE HISTORY SUCH AS A PAST CANCELLATION OR REFUSAL OF COVER;

BAD RISK EXPERIENCE;

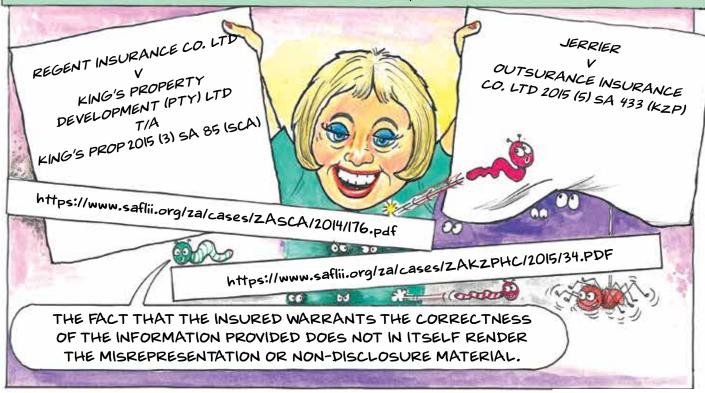
THE ADVERSE CHARACTER OF THE PROPOSER FOR INSTANCE IN RELATION TO CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS;

A MATERIALLY INCORRECT VALUE OF THE PROPERTY AT RISK;

PRE-EXISTING DAMAGE; UNUSUAL FACTORS INCREASING THE RISKS OF LOSS, AND MANY MORE POSSIBLE ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES.



MATERIALITY IS A QUESTION OF FACT IN EACH CASE. THIS IS A SEPARATE SUBJECT AND IS NOT DEALT WITH IN THIS DOCUMENT. FOR SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW SOUTH AFRICAN COURTS DEAL WITH THE ISSUE OF MATERIAL MISREPRESENTATION OR NON-DISCLOSURE, SEE ...

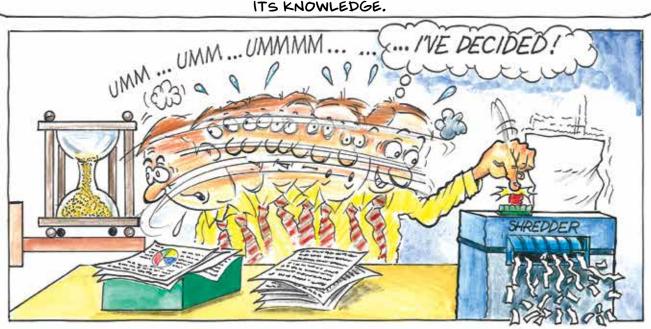


METHOD OF AVOIDANCE

THE INSURER WHO ELECTS TO DECLARE THE POLICY VOID ...

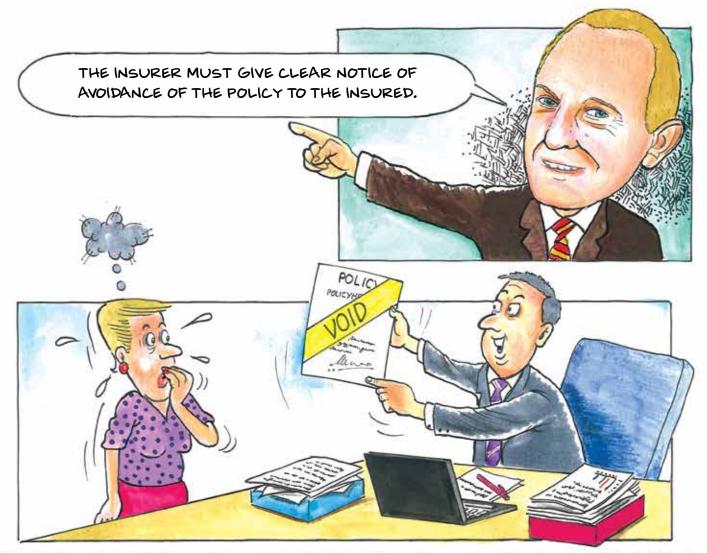


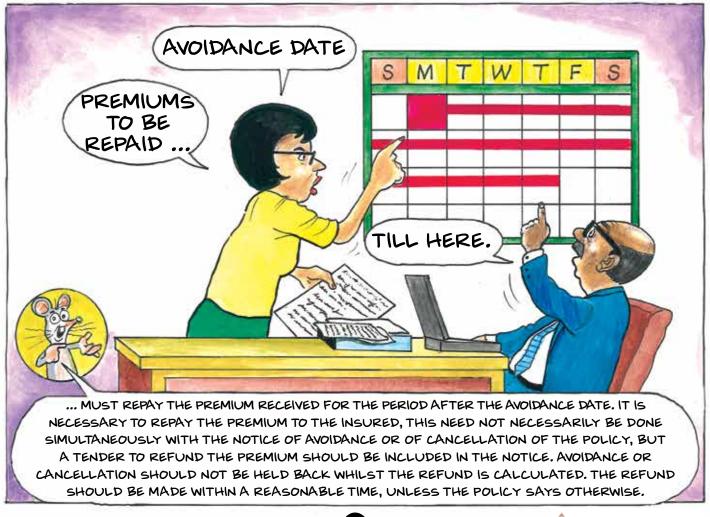
... MUST DECIDE FINALLY AND IRREVOCABLY TO AVOID THE CONTRACT WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME OF THE MISREPRESENTATION / NON-DISCLOSURE COMING TO ITS KNOWLEDGE.



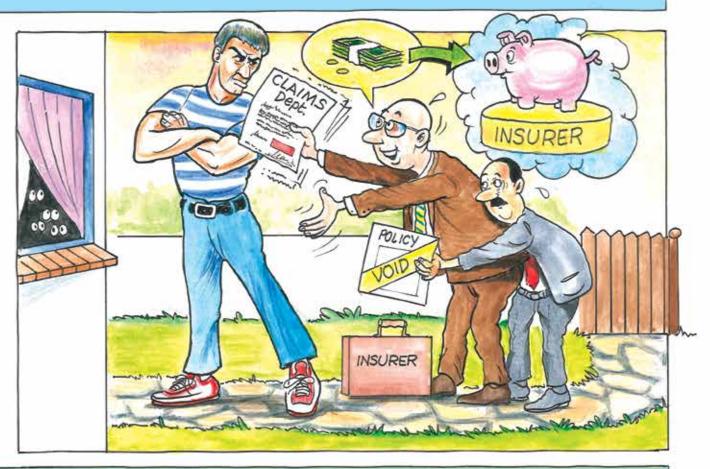


... MUST AVOID THE POLICY FROM THE INCEPTION DATE, OR FROM THE VARIATION DATE TO WHICH THE MISREPRESENTATION/NON-DISCLOSURE RELATES OR FROM THE LAST RENEWAL DATE, DEPENDING ON THE DATE OF THE MISREPRESENTATION/NON-DISCLOSURE.

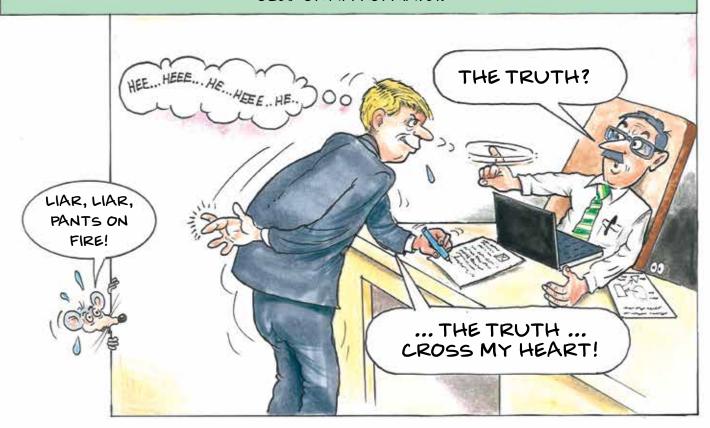




THE INSURER MAY CLAIM REPAYMENT (OR SET OFF AGAINST ANY PREMIUM REFUND DUE) OF CLAIMS PREVIOUSLY PAID UNDER THE POLICY FOR EVENTS THAT OCCURRED AFTER THE DATE FROM WHICH THE POLICY IS DECLARED VOID.



THE INSURER MAY CLAIM DAMAGES FOR FRAUDULENT AND POSSIBLY FOR NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION (THIS REMEDY IS VERY SELDOM USED OR APPROPRIATE).



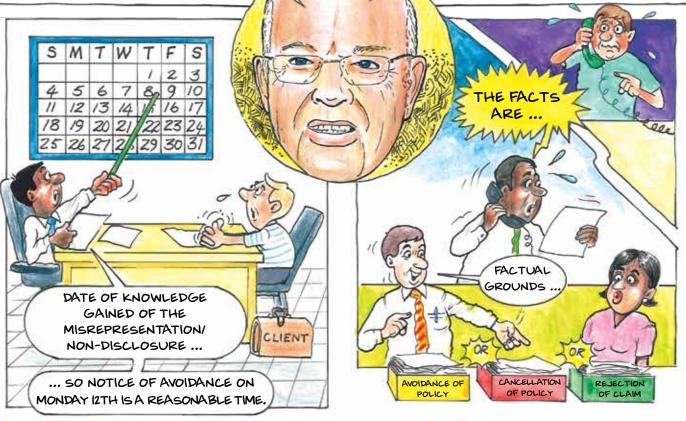
THE INSURER MUST GIVE NOTICE OF AVOIDANCE OF THE POLICY WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME OF THE MISREPRESENTATION/NON-DISCLOSURE COMING TO THE INSURER'S KNOWLEDGE.

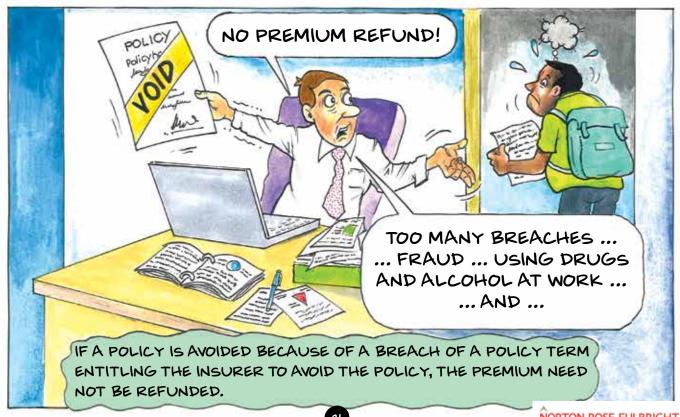
IF THE INSURER DOES NOT DO SO AND PERFORMS ANY ACT INCONSISTENT WITH ITS DECISION TO AVOID THE POLICY (SUCH AS DELAYING THE DECISION TO AVOID, ACCEPTING FURTHER PREMIUMS, GIVING NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF THE POLICY, REJECTING THE CLAIM ITSELF WITHOUT AVOIDING THE POLICY, OR OTHERWISE ACTING AS IF THE INSURANCE POLICY IS IN FORCE) THE RIGHT TO RELY ON THE NON-DISCLOSURE! MISREPRESENTATION MAY BE LOST FOREVER.

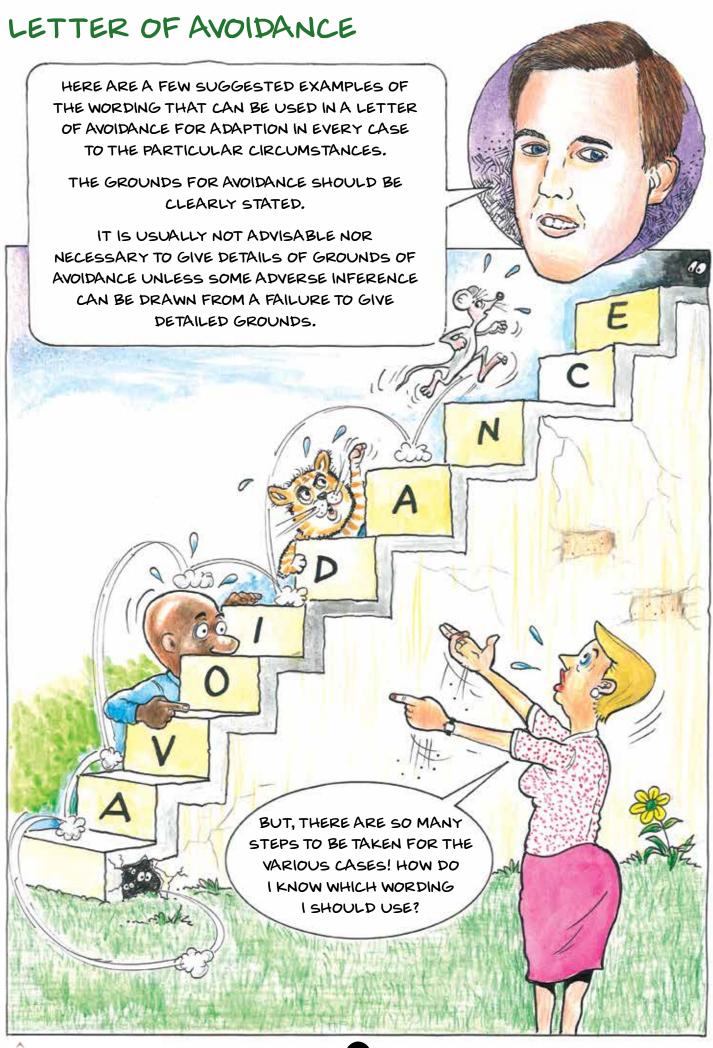
THE FACTS MAY ALLOW FOR EITHER THE AVOIDANCE OF THE POLICY, OR FOR CANCELLATION OF THE POLICY, OR FOR REJECTION OF THE CLAIM.

IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES GREAT CARE MUST BE TAKEN IN COMMUNICATING WITH THE INSURED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE POLICY IS AVOIDED AND THAT AS AN ALTERNATIVE CANCELLATION OR REJECTION OF THE CLAIM MAY BE ASSERTED IF A COURT DECIDES THAT THERE WAS NO BASIS FOR AVOIDANCE OF THE POLICY.

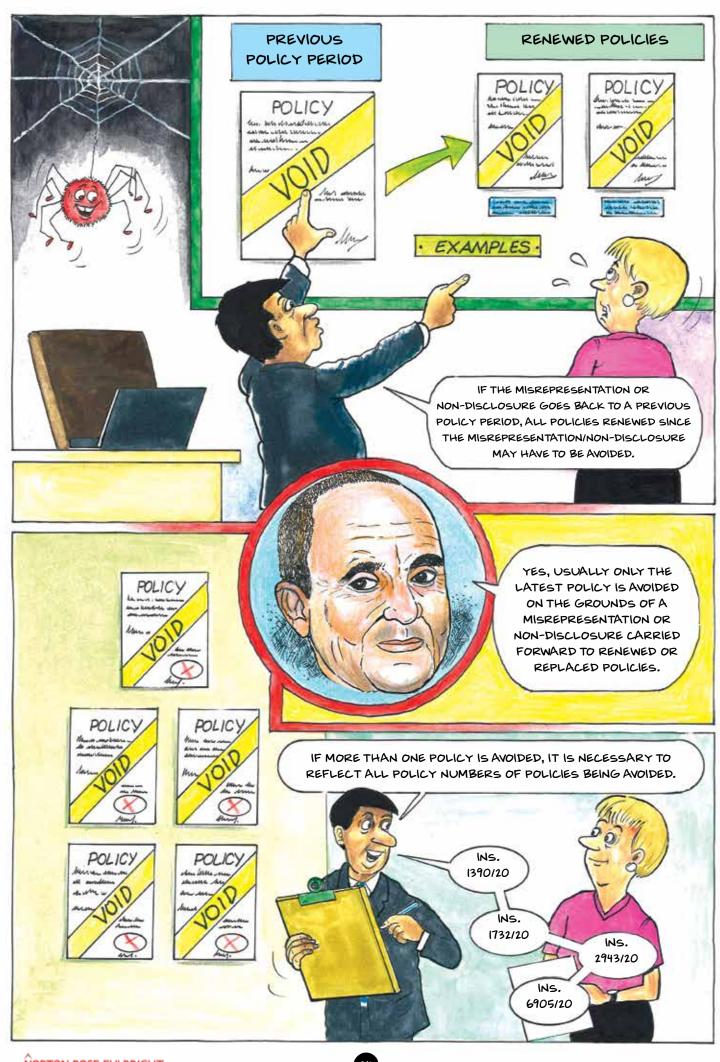
LEGAL ADVICE SHOULD BE SOUGHT WHEN COMMUNICATING THAT DUAL MESSAGE TO THE INSURED.













NOTICE OF AVOIDANCE OR CANCELLATION OF A POLICY OR REPUDIATION OF A CLAIM SHOULD ALWAYS BE IN WRITING. THIS INCLUDES GIVING NOTICE ELECTRONICALLY.



THE ONUS IS ON THE INSURER TO PROVE IF AND WHEN THE NOTICE WAS RECEIVED BY THE INSURED OR THE INSURED'S AUTHORISED AGENT. THUS NOTICE SHOULD BE GIVEN BY EMAIL OR OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS, OR, IF DELIVERED BY HAND, A RECEIPT SHOULD BE OBTAINED OR OTHER PROOF OF DELIVERY KEPT ON FILE. THE POLICY SHOULD HAVE AN ADDRESS CHOSEN BY THE INSURED FOR NOTICES TO THE INSURED.

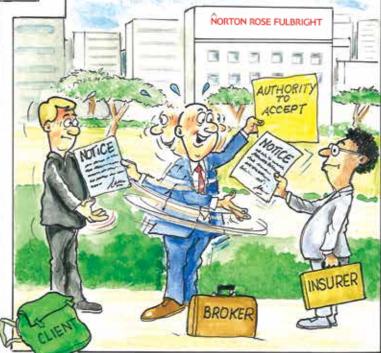
IF THE POLICY OR POLICYHOLDER PROTECTION RULES STIPULATE THE MANNER IN WHICH NOTICES MUST BE GIVEN OR THE ADDRESS TO WHICH NOTICES MUST BE SENT OR DELIVERED THESE PROVISIONS MUST BE COMPLIED WITH.



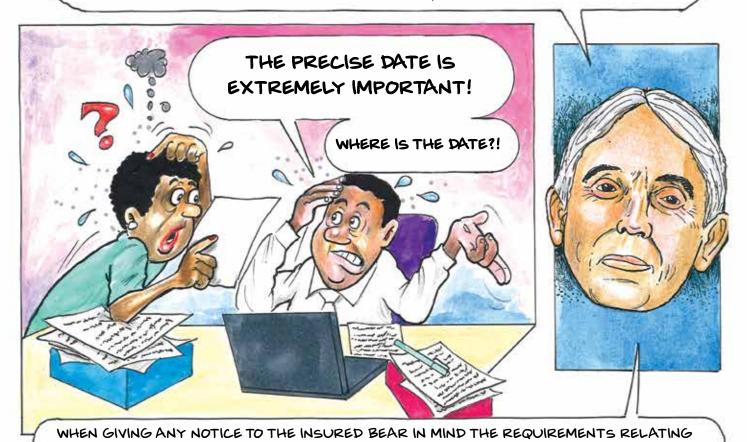
LETTER TO BE
DELIVERED BY HAND TO
THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:
123 ABC STREET
ALPHABET VILLAGE
SUBURBIA

WHERE A BROKER IS ACTING FOR THE INSURED,
NOTICE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE BROKER AND THE
BROKER SHOULD BE ASKED TO CONFIRM AUTHORITY
TO ACCEPT THE NOTICE ON BEHALF OF THE INSURED
AND THAT THE NOTICE HAS BEEN PASSED ON TO
THE INSURED. IN THE ABSENCE OF IMMEDIATE
CONFIRMATION, A COPY OF THE NOTICE SHOULD BE
SENT TO THE INSURED AS WELL.





FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE POLICYHOLDER PROTECTION RULES OR IF LITIGATION ENSUES, FOLLOWING THE AVOIDANCE OR CANCELLATION OF A POLICY OR REJECTION OF A CLAIM, THE PRECISE DATE ON WHICH THE AVOIDANCE, CANCELLATION OR REJECTION WAS COMMUNICATED TO THE INSURED AND THE FACT OF THAT COMMUNICATION MAY BE OF SIGNIFICANCE. THAT IS SO, FOR EXAMPLE, WHERE THE INSURER RELIES ON A CONTRACTUAL TIME-LIMITATION REQUIRING COMMENCEMENT OF LITIGATION BY THE INSURED WITHIN A SPECIFIED TIME FOLLOWING REJECTION OF THE CLAIM. APPROPRIATE EVIDENCE SHOULD ACCORDINGLY BE RETAINED TO ESTABLISH WHAT WAS COMMUNICATED TO THE INSURED, WHEN AND BY WHOM.



TO THE GENERAL FORMAT OF POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES OF DISCLOSURE IN THE POLICYHOLDER PROTECTION RULES.

HEREWITH NOTICE AS PER THE
REQUIREMENTS IN THE POLICYHOLDER
PROTECTION RULES.

PLEASE SIGN
AS PROOF OF
RECEIPT.



BY PUTTING HIS LEFT FOOT IN FRONT OF HIS RIGHT FOOT AND THEN HIS RIGHT FOOT IN FRONT OF HIS LEFT FOOT, HE GOT CLOSER TO ME.

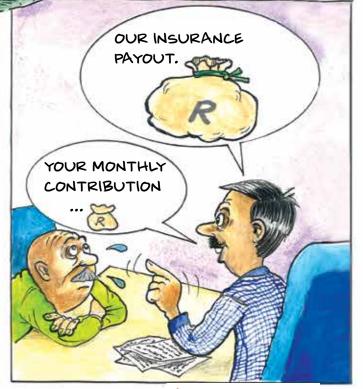




ADEQUATE INFORMATION/ REASONS SHOULD BE PROVIDED AND THE INFORMATION PROVIDED SHOULD NOT BE MISLEADING.

THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF ANY MONETARY OBLIGATIONS ON THE INSURER AND THE POLICYHOLDER SHOULD BE CLEARLY SET OUT.







MEET OUR INSURANCE DIRECTORS

SPECIALIST INSURANCE



Craig Woolley DIRECTOR



David Kapelus DIRECTOR



Gerrit Bouwer DIRECTOR



Patrick Bracher DIRECTOR



Daniël Breier DIRECTOR



Donald Dinnie DIRECTOR



Sandile Khoza DIRECTOR



Liesel Kok DIRECTOR



Yolanda Mackay DIRECTOR



Deniro Pillay DIRECTOR



Michael Chronis CONSULTANT

TRANSPORT INSURANCE



Malcolm Hartwell
DIRECTOR



Andrew Robinson CHAIRPERSON



Peter Lamb DIRECTOR



Pierre Naudé CONSULTANT

CONSTRUCTION INSURANCE



Tony Chappel DIRECTOR



Gary Rademeyer DIRECTOR



Sentebale Makara DIRECTOR



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