

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group 3

Question No. 55

Senator Rhiannon asked the following question at the hearing on 24 February 2014:

Senator RHIANNON: Could you explain the language that is used to promote the ASIO Business Liaison Unit workshop about making doing business in Africa more productive. It talks about 'possible partnering opportunities' and 'providing information briefings to executives and staff'. The explanation you have just given around threats does not come through here; the emphasis is on making business more productive.

Mr Irvine: I am not aware of the document you are quoting from.

Senator RHIANNON: It is from the ASIO BLU website.

Mr Irvine: Let me say to you that our Business Liaison Unit is just that, and it is there to provide security advice to Australian companies whether they are operating overseas or here in Australia. And if the safety of Australians operating overseas working for those companies is enhanced, then maybe their productivity will be enhanced too.

Senator RHIANNON: Do you run any workshops with any other Australian business sectors such as the finance sector overseas?

Mr Irvine: Yes, we do. I would have to check back to find out exactly which sectors, but our business website has a number of subscribers from the private sector. I would need to check which sectors.

Senator RHIANNON: Could you take it on notice to tell me what the other sectors are—because it was only coming through that it is with the resource industry.

Mr Irvine: I will take that on notice, yes.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

As a point of clarification, at the time of the hearing I was unaware of the document to which Senator Rhiannon was referring. However, I can now say the document Senator Rhiannon was quoting from was not, and had never been, on ASIO's website or the ASIO Business Liaison Unit (BLU) website. The document may have been from the Australia-Africa Mining Industry Group (AAMIG) website promoting the event and expressing a view of the AAMIG (see Annexure A).

The roundtable discussion referred to on the webpage Senator Rhiannon quoted from was arranged by the AAMIG for ASIO to provide advice on the security environment in Africa. The BLU does similar briefings in relation to other areas of the resource sector's work as well as in relation to other business sectors.

The role of the BLU is to raise the awareness of Australian businesses about national security threats that may affect their interests. This is primarily achieved by publishing intelligence-backed unclassified advice and reporting on the domestic and international security environment to raise awareness in the private sector about national security. This enables Australian businesses to recognise and respond to national security threats and develop appropriate risk mitigation strategies for such threats.

In addition to the reporting published on the website, the BLU also:

- holds face-to-face meetings with businesses;
- provides classified briefing days to sector representatives;

- attends key industry forums to inform Australian businesses of their role; and
- supports a Register of Australian Interests Overseas to supplement travel advisories by sharing information with businesses regarding specific, imminent and credible threats.

In the past 12 months, the BLU has provided advice to the following sectors: transport, energy and resources, banking and finance, communications, utilities, places of mass gathering (such as shopping centres and sporting stadiums), education, food supply, health, hospitality, essential manufacturing, emergency services and consultancies.

Further information on the BLU's activities is available in the *ASIO Report to Parliament 2012–13*.


Annexure A: Australia-Africa Mining Industry Group website screenshots

ASIO (BLU) Workshop – Working together with Government Roundtable... <http://aamig.com/events/asio-blu-workshop-working-government-round...>


About
Membership
News
Events
Guiding Documentation
Members Only
Contact Us

Background
Apply for Membership
Login

Our Members



SiteMap | Tel: +61 8 9226 0175 | Email: info@aamig.com | AAMIG | © 2013

Follow Us 

ASIO (BLU) Workshop – Working together with Government Roundtable Discussion

Following on from member feedback regarding more interaction with government, we have organised a Roundtable discussion to be facilitated by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Business Liaison Unit (BLU). The BLU provides a public interface between the Australian Intelligence Community and Australian Business and was created to recognize and respond to threats to the national interest, including threats to economic interests overseas. Its role is to develop risk mitigation strategies for identified threats and provide information briefings to executives and staff.

The purpose of the discussion is to exchange views on how best industry and ASIO can work together, with the objective of making doing business in Africa more productive.

Representatives from the national computer emergency response team (CERT) and the National Threat Assessment Centre will also be present.

Shane Flanagan (Director, Consular Information Section) of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will join us to exchange ideas on the potential for greater Government/industry cooperation on crisis management and contingency planning.

It is an interactive discussion so we would appreciate your input regarding areas of concern, and possible partnering opportunities.

Date: Thursday 27 February 2014
Time: 10am – 11:30am
Venue: Paladin Energy
 Level 4, 502 Hay Street
 Subiaco, 6008

Please note this is a members only event.

Please RSVP to Rebecca at rebecca.hamersley@aamig.com by Friday 21st February 2014.

Please note, it may be necessary to limit attendance to one representative per company.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Events Calendar

<< Feb 2014 >>

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	1	2

Become a Member

Project Library


Subscribe to E-News

5-6 February 2014
Open Your Eyes Africa

Date/Time
27/02/2014
10:00 am – 11:30 am

Location
Paladin Energy Boardroom
Level 4, 502 Hay Street
Subiaco
Western Australia
Australia

Category
AAMIG Event



AAMIG Celtic Club Networking Seminar
2014 Resources & International Development Conference

- About
- Membership
- News
- Events
- Guiding Documentation
- Members Only
- Contact Us
- Background
- Apply for Membership
- Login
- Our Members



Sitemap | Tel: +61 8 9226 0175 | Email: info@aamig.com | AAMIG | © 2013

Follow Us



[Become a Member](#)

[Project Library](#)

[Subscribe to E-News](#)

Welcome to AAMIG

The Australia-Africa Mining Industry Group (AAMIG) was established to represent Australian and Australian-based mining, exploration, service and supply companies operating in Africa. AAMIG will assist its members to operate successfully in Africa, reducing risk and creating shared value. We aim to be a significant voice for the industry, facilitate strategic partnerships, support education and training and promote community development opportunities. [Find out more](#)

News

Improving Education Opportunities for Children in Burkina Faso

16 Dec 2013

Are you able to help improve education opportunities for children living in impoverished communities? If so a 40ft container of educational materials will be shipped to Burkina Faso in mid-January 2014.

Sunburnt country turns west to a rediscovered continent – The Australian 14/12/13

16 Dec 2013

In the the Weekend Australian (14/12/13) an article was published by Terence McNamee (of ASPi) and Anthony Bergin (of Brenthurst Foundation) on the connection between Australia and Africa.

Job Seeking Tips for African Professionals within Australia

10 Dec 2013

AAMIG together with Stellar Recruitment, African Professionals of Australia and Linton Kirk (Middle Island Resources) hosted a successful event focusing on work opportunities in the mining industry, for African nationals, both in Africa and in WA.

[Read more news](#)

Events

ASIO (BLU) Workshop – Working together with Government Roundtable Discussion

27 Feb 2014

The purpose of the discussion is to exchange views on how best industry and ASIO can work together, with the objective of making doing business in Africa more productive. Representation from the national computer emergency response team (CERT) and the National Threat Assessment Centre will also be present at the round table.

AAMIG Celtic Club Networking Seminar

27 Feb 2014

During this Information session, Shane Flanagan (Director, Consular Information Section, DFAT), will cover the role of DFAT travel advice, the intelligence threat that it includes and how this pertains to the risk assessment organisations should be considering with regard to their staff travel. The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) will also provide attendees with the opportunity to hear firsthand about the advice and support that ASIO provides to business.

AAMIG Corporate Security and Integrated Risk Management Workshop

13 Mar 2014

AAMIG is convening a three-hour workshop on the impact and the management of corporate security issues. This interactive workshop, which will be presented by Dr Gavriel Schneider of Dynamic Alternatives Group, will link the concepts of integrated risk into an applicable

Navigating the Minefield

In conjunction with AAMIG, Curtin University's Western Australian School of Mines will initiate a short course entitled Navigating the Minefield in May 2014.

This course, comprising three, two-day modules will help Australian companies manage non-technical risk issues, enhance capacity to build a social licence to operate, reduce investment and operating risk and help develop an internationally competitive advantage in Africa.

Program facilitators include Professor Colin Roberts (World Bank Emissary), Craig Coleman (Professional Service Solutions), Professor William Hart (Curtin University) and Marie-Louise Malkin (Curtin Business School). A number of speakers with significant industry experience as well as other university lecturers will also contribute to the course.

Expressions of interest are now open. Please complete the expression of interest form (please [click here](#) for the form) and return to rebecca.hamersley@aamig.com.

Further information on this short course will be available on the AAMIG website soon.