

## **Media Advisory –Marikana Commission of Inquiry -19 October 2012**

Members of the media are advised that the Marikana Commission of Inquiry will reconvene at Rustenburg Civic Centre on Monday 22 October 2012. You will recall that there was a postponement at the behest of legal representatives of various parties involved because they needed more time to exchange documentation, finalise witness lists, video footage along with post-mortem and ballistic reports in addition to accommodating the presence of the families of the deceased. On Monday the Evidence leaders will lead evidence on the post mortem reports along with other formal evidence including ballistic reports. Due to the large volume of material involved and having many legal teams that have to interrogate the evidence it is not possible to predict the pace of proceedings. Crime scene experts will also testify as to what they saw and the commissioners will be apprised of various interpretations of the evidence submitted. The Marikana Commission would like to reassure the public that all reasonable measures have been taken to ensure that representatives of all families of the deceased are present at deliberations of the Commission that affect them. Family representatives will be travelling by air or road to Rustenburg from Saturday 20 October 2012 and will be accommodated in a secure and comfortable location. In line with the Commission's regulations and the families' constitutional rights the Commission requests that their privacy be respected. To this end we request that members of the media desist from interviewing family members on the side-lines of the Commission or during their stay in Rustenburg. We reserve the right to review the accreditation of any media outlet should we receive any report of a breach of a family member's privacy.

The Commissioners regard the media as an invaluable partner to the Commission's success as it is a primary source of information regarding the events that unfolded. However, we request that there should not be a parallel Commission by the media which may compromise the work of the Evidence leaders and ultimately –the Commission. To this end members of the media should focus on the actual proceedings of the Commission and not seek to interrogate legal representatives unnecessarily. Only the Commission's deliberations will determine its outcomes at the end of the day. We also would like to affirm the independence of the Commission as envisaged by the Commissions Act, 1947 and the Constitution. The Commission will only sit from Monday 22 October to Tuesday 23 October and will reconvene on Monday 29 October 2012 due to pre-bookings of Auditorium A at the Rustenburg Civic Centre.

There will be a media briefing on Monday 22 October 2012 at 08h30 to clarify the abovementioned issues.

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Marikana Commission of Inquiry