



MEDIA RELEASE

03 April 2013

DECISION ON THE FUTURE SEAT OF THE MARIKANA COMMISSION PUT ON HOLD

The decision in respect of the possible relocation of the seat of the Marikana Judicial Commission of Inquiry to Pretoria has been put on hold pending further input from the participants.

Earlier today, 03 April 2013, the Commissioners met with the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Jeff Radebe. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss with him the application lodged by some of the participants in the Commission to have the seat of the Commission moved from Rustenburg to Pretoria.

Background

On 01 March 2013, Maluleke Msimang & Associates, acting for approximately 300 victims of the Marikana tragedy, lodged an application with the Commission to relocate the seat of the Commission from Rustenburg to Pretoria. The application was supported by Socio-Economic Rights Institute (SERI) acting for the families of more than 30 deceased miners. The reasons given include the financial burden as a result of daily travel and daily accommodation as well as other logistical costs including time spent on the road.

Yesterday, 02 April 2013, lawyers representing the Administrator of the Bapo Ba Mogale Traditional Community and the local municipalities filed an opposing affidavit to have the Commission continue its work in Rustenburg. Some of the reasons given are that the relocation of the Commission will deny Traditional Mining Communities in the North West province access to justice.

The Chairperson of the Commission, Judge Ian Farlam, reported this afternoon that a decision has not yet been made whether to relocate the seat of the Commission, pending further input from participants in response to the matters raised by those objecting. The parties will be given an opportunity to present their arguments when the Commission resumes on 16 April 2013.

Ends...

Issued by the Marikana Commission of Inquiry

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