

Marikana: court's funding ruling is a 'mockery of justice'

STEVEN TAU

THE Farlam Commission would be dead if the Marikana victims and their legal representative team continue to withdraw themselves.

This is according to legal expert Shadrack Gutto, who was responding to the dismissal of a court application for the state to fund

legal representation for the victims on Thursday.

Dali Mpofu, who legally represents those who were injured and arrested during last year's labour unrest in Marikana, withdrew from the commission early this week, citing financial constraints.

Speaking to *Super Saturday Cit-*

izen yesterday, Gutto said he would have reached a different conclusion if he was the judge.

"Equal legal representation is needed at the commission. Without the victims and their legal representation, the final results at the commission will not have credibility and resources would have been

wasted."

The leader of the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (Amcu), Joseph Mathunjwa, said while they feel disappointed about the court ruling, they are not demoralised.

"We want the truth about what happened in Marikana and we will

pursue the truth."

The United Democratic Movement (UDM) described the court ruling as a "mockery of justice".

"We take exception to the fact that these people were killed by the state forces," the party's secretary-general Bongani Msomi said in a statement. – stevent@citizen.co.za