

# RETURN TO INQUIRY, PLEAD FAMILIES

THE families of police officers killed in Marikana, yesterday pleaded with the miners and their families to return to the Marikana Commission of Inquiry.

“We really need the other families to be here. We are all affected,” said Lizzy Maubane, sister of slain Warrant Officer Tsietsi Monene.

Dali Mpofo, for the arrested and injured miners, provisionally withdrew from the commission due to a lack of funding.

His attempts to compel the state to pay for the miners’ legal fees have been unsuccessful.

Aisha Fundi, widow of security guard Hassan Fundi, who was killed during the unrest, said she sympathised with the rest of those affected by events at Marikana and wanted closure.

Fundi said she wanted to hear what happened to her husband’s missing organs, including his tongue and lower jaw.

“I was told the postmortem showed that organs were missing

and that they were given to a sangoma,” Fundi said.

“We started here [at the commission] together, all of us, and we need to complete this together.

“News reports focused on the miners killed while the voices of the families of the other people killed were not heard.”

Maubane said her family was still traumatised and that Monene’s five children were receiving ongoing counselling.

The commission is investigating the deaths of 44 people killed during strike-related unrest at Lonmin’s platinum mining operations at Marikana, near Rustenburg in North West, in August last year.

Police shot dead 34 people, almost all striking mine workers, on August 16 2012, while trying to disperse and disarm them.

Ten people, including two police officers and two security guards, were killed in the preceding week. – *Sapa*

# Mpofu's commission cash wrangle continues today

## MARIKANA: APPLICATION FOR POSTPONEMENT OF INQUIRY HEARING

» **Legal counsel says that police tactics are scaring away potential witnesses.**

**A**n application by legal counsel Dali Mpofu to have the Farlam Commission of Inquiry postponed is set to continue today.

Mpofu, for the miners who were wounded and arrested in Marikana last year, asked the commission to postpone the in-

quiry until the issue of funding the miners' legal representation was permanently resolved.

Mpofu has provisionally withdrawn from the commission because of a lack of funding for the miners.

He arrived at the commission yesterday with his legal team and groups of men and women wearing Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union T-shirts and the red berets associated with Julius Malema's Economic Freedom Fighters.

They were accompanied by lawyer Dumisa Ntsebeza.

Mpofu told the commission his

clients, who were also witnesses at the commission, were being harassed by the police, and that some had been arrested.

Some of them were out on bail, which the legal team had had to pay, he said.

Mpofu said the police's tactics were scaring away witnesses, who would choose to stay away from the commission.

"Continuing with the commission's work in the absence of my clients is prejudicial," Mpofu submitted.

Ishmael Semanya, for the police, said the arrest of anyone was not meant to harass them

or disturb the functioning of the commission. The commission adjourned until this morning for the application to be completed.

The commission is investigating the deaths of 44 people in strike-related unrest at Lonmin's platinum mining operations at Marikana, in North West, last August.

Police shot dead 34 people, almost all of them striking mine-workers, on August 16, while trying to disperse and disarm them. Ten people, including two policemen and two security guards, were killed in the preceding week. — Sapa.

# Bid to halt Marikana inquiry continues

AN APPLICATION by Dali Mpofu to have the Farlam Commission of Inquiry postponed is set to continue on Thursday.

Mpofu, for the miners who were wounded and arrested in Marikana last year, asked the commission to postpone the inquiry until the issue of funding the miners' legal representation was permanently resolved.

Mpofu has provisionally withdrawn from the commission because of a lack of funding.

He arrived at the commission yesterday with his legal team and groups of men and women wearing Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union T-shirts and the red berets associated with the Economic Freedom Fighters.

They were accompanied by lawyer Dumisa Ntsebeza.

Mpofu told the commission his clients, who were also witnesses at the commission, were being harassed by the police, and that some had been arrested.

Some of them were out on bail, which the legal team had to pay, he said.

Mpofu said the police's tactics were scaring away witnesses, who would choose to stay away from the commission.

"Continuing with the commission's work in the absence of my clients is prejudicial," he submitted.

Ishmael Semenya, for the police, said the arrest of anyone was not meant to harass them or disturb the functioning of the commission.

The commission adjourned until this morning for the application to be completed.

The commission is investigating the deaths of 44 people in strike-related unrest at Lonmin's platinum mining operations at Marikana, in North West, last August.

Police shot dead 34 people, almost all of them striking miners, on August 16, 2012, while trying to disperse and disarm them. Ten people, including two policemen and two security guards, were killed in the preceding week. - Sapa