

MARIKANA PLAN WAS 110% EFFECTIVE – POLICE VIDEO

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THE execution of a plan that led to police shooting and killing of 34 mineworkers at Marikana was “110%” effective.

This chilling detail is contained in a 13-minute video in which a senior police officer addresses officers involved in the shooting.

The video, which has now been entered as an exhibit before the Marikana Commission of Inquiry, was shot at the police base at Lonmin’s Marikana mine on August 18 last year, two days after the massacre.

The video forms part of new evidence unearthed by evidence leaders from police hard drives last month.

Brigadier Adriaan Calitz, one of the commanders in the Marikana operation, is seen addressing uniformed officers using a loud-hailer.

In May, another video clip taken from a helicopter captured the voice of someone believed to be Calitz, giving the order to shoot.

“Shoot at the target, shoot at the target!” He is then heard saying: “Get out there and engage.”

Lawyers for the victims have argued that this is contradictory to police submissions that they shot at the miners in self-defence.

In the recently found video, Calitz says: “At this stage we did nothing wrong. From the planning to the execution was 110% ... I have to congratulate you.

“Exactly how we planned it and we briefed the commanders, exactly we executed in that line.”

Calitz then goes on to tell the officers that they had used water cannons and stun grenades.

“When it was ineffective the guys run back. *Ne?* On the media they say police were running away. Yes it is true, but we call it, tactical retreat, we don’t call it running away. *Ne? Ja?*”

Ripples of laughter from the gathered policemen follow.

“We tactically retreat with speed, why, because your head and your neck cannot take the blow for a panga or a spear alright? I am not joking when I am saying that.”

Lawyers for the victims have argued before that police had planned to avenge the deaths of two of their colleagues who were killed by the miners on August 13.

Calitz then said the tactical response team and national intervention unit line was commanded to act in self-defence.

“So on that, nothing, nothing, nothing was wrong. Okay? You acted.”

On September 19 advocate Geoff Budlender shocked the commission when he said evidence leaders had

obtained documents the SAPS previously said were not in existence.

This statement, which in effect suggested police lied to the com-

mission in their submission, led to a brief adjournment.

In a video shown to the commission in January, national police com-

missioner General Riah Phiyega was heard congratulating the police involved in the Marikana massacre.

The video was shot on August 20, two days after Calitz had also echoed the same sentiments to the officers.

Phiyega is heard saying: “... Whatever happened represents the best of responsible policing. Thank you for what you did.”

The commission is adjourned for two weeks to allow police lawyers and evidence leaders to go through “thousands of pages of evidence”.

It is expected to resume on October 14. The startling new revelations come in the anniversary week that the commission began on October 1 last year.

Phiyega’s office has issued a statement slamming Budlender’s comments “as both unfortunate and highly prejudicial to the SAPS”.

“The SAPS has throughout this commission’s hearing, cooperated fully and without reservation.

“Kindly note that there will be no further comment provided in this regard.” – ledwabal@sowetan.co.za

● **Read on page 5 what Phiyega had to say about the police service at Sowetan Dialogues last night**