



## **Media statement by the Bench Marks Foundation**

### **Marikana Massacre: Justice delayed is Justice denied**

Johannesburg, Tuesday 15 August 2018

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Justice delayed to the families of the Marikana massacre victims is justice denied to them, the Bench Marks Foundation said on the eve of the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the massacre.

Precious little progress on reparations were evident six months after President Cyril Ramaphosa promised that reparations to the families of the victims of the Marikana massacre would be concluded "in the coming months", Bench Marks Foundation Chairman Bishop Jo Seoka said today.

He added that the President's remarks about the massacre during the response to his State of the Nation address in February had created some hope that financial closure at least for the families was in the offing.

"Sadly, nearly half a year later, families are still forlornly waiting. Justice delayed is justice denied. Widows have not been compensated, and suicides in the community have been related to the massacre. The wheels of government turn slowly, but for these families, the daily pain of the massacre stares them in their faces," Bishop Seoka said.

Reports surfaced last month of a government settlement offer of R100 million, but this was rejected by some representatives of the families.

"It's hard to escape the feeling that this offer was somewhat of a rushed effort to secure a settlement before the 6<sup>th</sup> annual commemoration of the day on 16 August," he said.

However, a much more comprehensive and focused engagement with communities as to how to properly honour the memory of those killed on the darkest day of South Africa's democratic history is needed, according to Bishop Seoka. Such an approach could involve the establishment of a memorial centre from which social outreach services could be offered.

In the meantime, the Bishop added that explosive research released today by the Institute of Security Studies underlined that the tragedy of the Marikana massacre was far from fully known, let alone officially acknowledged.

The detailed research found that striking mine workers did not attack police at the “small koppie”, or Marikana scene 2, despite police testimony of protesters having shot at them.

Seoka added: “Similarly at the first koppie, workers were cowering away, showing that they did not want an escalation of the conflict.”

The Marikana Commission of Inquiry called for a full investigation to determine the criminal liability of police involved in the killings at scene 2. The Independent Police Investigative Directorate told Parliament in March 2017 it had identified 72 police officers for prosecution for their role in the Marikana killings. These cases are awaiting action by the NPA.

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Bench Marks Foundation is an independent non-governmental organisation mandated by churches to monitor the practices of multi-national corporations to

- ensure they respect human rights;
- protect the environment;
- ensure that profit-making is not done at the expense of other interest groups; and
- ensure that those most negatively impacted upon are heard, protected and accommodated within the business plans of the corporations.

The Foundation was launched in 2001 by the Rt Rev Dr Jo Seoka who chairs the organisation and by member churches of the SACC.

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