



## **Bench Marks Foundation NPC**

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### **Update to the Lonmin management**

22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2012

The Bench Marks Foundation expresses its deep regret over the killing of 34 Lonmin miners with another 78 wounded in Marikana on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August, and over the death of a further ten people earlier in the same week. The Foundation is encouraged that discussions between Lonmin and the workers are underway and hope that these lead to a swift resolution of the conflict. It is positive that religious leaders such as the Bishop of Pretoria, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Jo Seoka are contributing towards bringing the parties together, and hopefully moving towards healing and peace after this national tragedy.

The Foundation hopes that Lonmin shows sensitivity and respect towards the grieving families through concrete actions in recognising the cultural institutions that accompany funerals in African societies. On Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August, a memorial service will be held at the Lutheran church hall in Marikana at 11am.

The Bench Marks Foundation recently launched a report on platinum mining (Policy Gap 6), which shows that the increasing levels of conflicts in the area cannot be understood without looking at the economic, social and environmental impacts of platinum mining. Mine labourers work under dangerous conditions in the mines, and live under appallingly poor conditions in shacks and informal settlements. Further, the surrounding areas experience little of the massive wealth that is extracted through platinum mining. Lack of local employment opportunities is creating increasing resentment, especially among youth. The underlying structural causes of unrest in the Bojanala district must be addressed by all the platinum-producing companies if further eruptions of violence and conflict are to be avoided.

The Bench Marks Foundation has made a number of key recommendations in its report to the platinum-producing companies, and the Foundation strongly encourages Lonmin, Anglo Platinum, Impala Platinum, Aquarius, Xstrata and Royal Bafokeng Mining to take up these recommendations in collaboration with all key stakeholders. We sincerely hope that Lonmin will play a crucial role, both in the resolution of the current conflict, and in dealing with the long-term impacts of platinum mining in the Bojanala district.

Best regards,

John Capel

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Capel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Executive Director

The Bench Marks Foundation