

The State needs take the morally correct stance on the Marikana victims
compensation claims

Press Statement

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The families of 37 Slain miners have been lodged civil claims, today a further 200 + claims will be lodged by the injured and arrested. In terms of the deceased over 300 dependents have been adversely affected by the massacre, for the injured and arrested this number runs into the thousands.

We appeal to the state, in particular the Minister of Police to offer an unqualified apology to the families and the injured and arrested.

The Commission stated that “is not satisfied that its terms of reference are wide enough to cover the question as to whether a compensation scheme ... should be implemented by the state”. Furthermore, the Commission failed to state whether compensation was reasonable or not and then refer the matter of compensation to the presidency, the treasury or the National Prosecuting Authority, for further investigations, as it did with other matters? As Council for the Advancement of the South African Constitution (CASAC) has stated in recent submission on this, quoting journalist Tinyiko Maluleke, “The bereaved must now, at their own cost, on their own strength, without even the psychological, let alone legal, backing of the Commission, try to convince a court that they are entitled to compensation.’

We appeal to the Presidency to provide compensation for the families and those adversely affected. The victims have spent three years of their lives attempting to come to terms with this traumatic event, they now require some level of respite. Furthermore, the monetary cost to the state of defending these claims would far outweigh the cost of reasonable financial compensation.

Given the fact that victims have been waiting for almost three years for some form of restorative justice to be served, we support their demands that these claims on the State be settled immediately. It would be highly unjust for these victims who continue to face grinding poverty to wait any longer than they already have.

Over 50 events have been organised to commemorate the day, the main national event is the Commemoration Rally at Marikana, hosted by AMCU. The programme will begin at 11am.

In Gauteng, the main commemoration event is the Sci-Bono Discovery Centre, that will begin at 12.30 pm, this will take the form of Peoples Assembly, hosted by the United Front.

For details on the type of events taking place nationally go to:
<http://www.amandla.mobi/marikanaday>

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