

Lack of funds weakened Ipid's Marikana probe

Investigation into shooting complete

By **Sibongile Mashaba**

The Independent Police Investigative Directorate (Ipid) needed nearly R4-million from National Treasury for the reconstruction of one of the Marikana crime scenes but was unsuccessful in its application.

Sowetan can reveal that due to lack of funding, Ipid was unable to implement one of the Farlam Commission of Inquiry's recommendation to reconstruct the scene, referred to as scene 2, where 17 mine-workers were killed on August 16 2012.

A total of 34 miners were killed in a shooting by police, with 78 others injured. Several police officers and security guards were also killed in the days leading up to that fateful day.

"The Ipid requested R3,8-million from National Treasury to do the reconstruction of one of the scenes [without any success]. The main issue was that the Ipid relied on the SAPS's crime scene experts and analysis," spokesman Moses Dlamini said.

"Whereas this has been the practice in other cases, as the Ipid does not have its own independent capacity to manage, process and document scenes, the Farlam Commission recommended that the Ipid should reconstruct the scenes using independent experts."

Dlamini said the watchdog body's budget had been cut and that the request for funding to reconstruct the scene was done on numerous occasions.

Finance Minister spokesman Mayihlome Tshwete did not respond to questions sent on Wednesday.

The Farlam Commission's report lambasted Ipid for poor



Lonmin workers during their strike which ended tragically at Marikana, North West, five years ago. / ALON SKUY

investigation. It also found Ipid did not act independently in all respects of the investigations.

It found that statements taken by Ipid investigators were lacking in clarity and detail.

As a result, the commission could not make any findings on the deaths and recommended that ballistic and medical evidence and eyewitness ac-

counts be used alongside a reconstruction of the scene.

Dlamini said the investigation was "not invalidated by the reliance on SAPS expertise".

"It just means that the perception of independence may be an issue. Should the matter end up in court, the 'independence' of the crime scene experts will probably be raised

and adjudicated.

"Nonetheless, this has never been an issue in any of our other investigations. We wanted to do the scene reconstructions to comply with the Farlam Commission recommendations."

Dlamini said the Ipid had handed over the last docket to the National Prosecuting Authority on Tuesday.



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