29th July 2013

Marikana Commission of Inquiry

1	Page 12215	1	Page 12217
1	[PROCEEDINGS ON 29 JULY 2013]	1	interpretation.
2	[10:40] CHAIRPERSON: The Commission resumes.	2	MR MPOFU: Yes, thank you. Chairperson,
3	I'm sorry that we're starting later than we intended this	3	yes, I think I wanted to read from the letter we received,
4	morning, but there were a number of matters that we had to	4	which says, "You are specifically advised that you should
5	deal with in chambers, which caused the delay. Mr Mpofu, I	5	not assume that the application will be unopposed." That's
6	see you're back with us this morning?	6	what I was addressing, but the next sentence is one in your
7	MR MPOFU: Yes, Chairperson –	7	favour, Chairperson, which says, "You are invited to be
8	CHAIRPERSON: Is there anything you have	8	present to reply to the submissions which are to be made."
9	to report with regard to the matters that were discussed	9	CHAIRPERSON: Well, yes, my understanding
10	when you were last with us?	10	is that that letter was written on the basis that we would
11	MR MPOFU: Yes. Well, Chairperson, I'm	11	have definite information at this stage as to the outcome
12	here for two reasons. One is to, because we were summoned	12	of the funding application or applications, and as I will
13	to come here by letter, but also to –	13	be telling you in a moment, that aspect of the matter is
14	CHAIRPERSON: I think "requested" might	14	not yet final. So it was just a warning, a letter written
15	be a more accurate word, but let's not debate that now.	15	on the basis that if we were going to consider the
16	MR MPOFU: Well, okay, I can leave it	16	postponement application this morning and not consider the
17	there, Chairperson. Well, not politely, but the second	17	possibility of a further adjournment for a few days, then
18	reason is of course what the Chairperson is raising, which	18	you should be here to deal with it, otherwise it will be
19	is to report on progress, and also we've been told that	19	dealt with in your absence. But –
20	there's going to be opposition from an unknown quarter of	20	MR MPOFU: Yes –
21	the application for postponement.	21	CHAIRPERSON: That's, as I understand it,
22	CHAIRPERSON: - quite what that means.	22	as we explained, will be explained more fully in a moment,
23	MR MPOFU: Well, it says here –	23	that's not the position at the moment. So I don't think
24	CHAIRPERSON: But please proceed with	24	you need to deal with that any further, unless there's
25	what you –	25	something further you want to say on the matter. I
	Page 12216		
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		I	
1	Page 12219 concentrating on pursuing the rumours, and to that end we	1	Page 12221 relation to those groups with the least resources who were
1 2	wrote letters to the State Attorney representing the	2	witnesses to the events and who were directly affected by
3	President and the Minister of Justice, and to the Raith	3	
			them, such as the clients of Maluleke Msimang &
4	Foundation, which is the funder that was rumoured to be	4	Associates." They say, "We feel that should these parties
5	ready to assist, and also to Legal Aid South Africa, and	5	not be able to be involved in the Commission, the
6	the gist of those letters, although differently worded,	6	Commission and its finding will be the poorer for it."
7	mutatis mutandis depending on who was the recipient, the	7	They say, "In the interest of equality and justice for the
8	gist of those was to say that we've heard that there is	8	full truth to emerge, we feel that all concerned parties
9	this possibility, if it's true can we meet or can you act	9	should be supported so as to ensure legal representation
10	on it, or tell us what we should do effectively.	10	and a robust Commission." Then they say in the next
11	[cellphone disturbance] Chairperson, since I've	11	paragraph, "We obviously noted the pending litigation which
12	provisionally withdrawn –	12	is intended to be brought before the Constitutional Court,
13	CHAIRPERSON: Mr Mpofu, I wouldn't like	13	and advise that it is our intention to await the decision
14	to be an interpreter having to interpret what you've said	14	of the Constitutional Court on this matter." And finally
15	for 10 minutes, so perhaps we can stop at this stage, give	15	they say, "In the result we decline to provide further
16	Mr Mahlangu chance to catch up and when he's ready –	16	funding at this time."
17	MR MPOFU: And Chairperson, thank you,	17	So the – or before I deal with that, I can say
18	Chairperson.	18	some good came out of the, what was otherwise a wild goose
19	CHAIRPERSON: We have simultaneous	19	chase for this money, namely that the, some outstanding
20	translation facilities in face, but I understand the family	20	issue or misunderstanding or disagreement which obtained,
21	who's supposed to be in the place where the simultaneous	21	was resolved by the Raith Foundation in that they agreed
22	translation was going to happen aren't there, so we will	22	with what we had suggested, which until that point there
23	proceed for the moment with consecutive translation, as we	23	was a bit of a problem. I don't want to get into that. I
24	have up to now.	24	simply want to say there was some resolution.
25	MR MPOFU: Yes. I was saying,	25	But apart from that, as I say, Chairperson, it
	Page 12220		Page 12222
1	Chairperson, all I was saying was that since I've	1	turned out to be a wild goose chase and those are the
2	Chairperson, all I was saying was that since I've provisionally withdrawn I'll only buy half a cake for the	1 2	turned out to be a wild goose chase and those are the responses, and in relation to the other, just for
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1	Page 12223 Apropos the Con Court application, Chairperson,	1	Page 12225 large to do whatever pleases the Commission, namely either
2	we sadly have not yet received a judgment, a written	2	to accede to our request to postpone the matter, or
3	judgment, some 15 days or so after we finished the	3	continue in our absence, which would be regrettable.
4	argument. We remain optimistic and hope that maybe today,	4	You'll have noticed, Chairperson, that our
5	or within a short space of time we will receive the	5	clients are not here, neither are the representatives of
6	judgment. Our instructions at this stage were to await the	6	the deceased families or the families themselves, and AMCU
7	judgment, despite what I said to you last time,	7	is not here. Those are the parties that have formally
8	Chairperson, but after this weekend we're back in that	8	withdrawn provisionally and so I think it would stand to
9	situation where we will probably, I think tomorrow, to be	9	reason that should the Commission continue, it should also
10	realistic, because now we thought we'd be here just for	10	continue in their absence, and in that regard, Chairperson,
11	about an hour, but already we're almost here for half of	11	and finally, I'd just like to reiterate that we hope that
12	the day, and so realistically I think we'll be able to	12	you and the Commissioners will exercise Solomonic wisdom
13	serve the application by tomorrow.	13	and ensure that even if we invest two or three weeks by way
14	[11:00] Chairperson, maybe I think given the urgency of	14	of postponement, which is clearly not something that should
15	the matter, we might effect short service and give the	15	be done as a first choice, but that that would preserve the
16	application to one of the judges who's going to be in the	16	integrity of the Commission and not drive us to a situation
17	Constitutional Court.	17	where maybe irreparable harm is done, so that we have
18	CHAIRPERSON: I understood his	18	something to salvage after the Constitutional Court
19	appointment was as to be a judge, not for some kind of	19	application. But I've already made those submissions
20	messenger or courier.	20	before.
21	MR MPOFU: As you know, Chair, being a	21	A matter that needs to be put in its true
22	judge encompasses everything. But yes, on a more serious	22	perspective as well is unfortunately I have to speak
23	note, Chairperson, one of the implications of that will	23	against my good friend, the spokesperson for the
24	obviously be, will make it unrealistic for us to do the	23	Commission. There was a report in one of the newspapers on
25	set-down that we had mentioned to you, which was the 7th.	25	Friday that the parties – I'm trying to paraphrase it – the
		20	
	Page 12224		Page 12226
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1	Page 12227 short statement which I'd like to read.	1	Page 12229 manner possible.
2	"Last Monday the South African Human Rights	2	We've also made two applications for funding,
3	Commission indicated that it would abide by the decision of	3	both to the Legal Aid and to Amnesty International. We are
4	this Commission in respect of the adjournment application	4	busy with Amnesty International and it could be that we
5	made on that day. That position was influenced by our	5	may, even if not everything, but maybe in part be assisted
6	support for the stand-down and by our strong desire to give	6	in this application. We'll also be following with Adv
7	the parties another chance to negotiate a settlement to the	7	Mpofu to see how best we can be accommodated in that
8	funding dispute. Given the failure of those efforts to	8	application. So we support the application for
9	date, and after consideration, the South African Human	9	postponement. Thank you, Judge.
10	Rights Commission must now support the application for an	10	CHAIRPERSON: Is there anyone else who
11	adjournment. This Commission must be inclusive and must	11	wishes to say anything? Mr Bizos?
12	allow all voices to be heard, especially those who were	12	MR BIZOS SC: Mr Chairman, very briefly,
13	most affected by the tragic events at Marikana. Although	13	you will recall that we submitted a letter on the Legal
14	the SAHRC is concerned at the impact of an adjournment in	14	Resources Centre attitude. We do not want to add anything
15	light of the current October deadline for completing the	15	to that letter and we stand by it.
16	Commission's work, we would call for an extension of that	16	CHAIRPERSON: Is there any other party
17	deadline in the public interest should an adjournment be	17	who wishes to say anything? Yes, we've considered what has
18	granted. In the event that the Commission does not grant	18	been said to us. We've come to the conclusion, for a
19	the adjournment and the proceedings continue in the absence	19	reason which I will give in a moment, that we should make
20	of the injured and arrested persons, in the absence of the	20	one more effort to see to it whether funding can be made
21	families, and in the absence of AMCU and the Bapo Ba Mogale	21	available, and I will explain why I say that in a moment.
22	Community, then the SAHRC will reconsider its position. We	22	As has been said last week, we're informed that there was a
23	do not intend to withdraw from proceedings, but our	23	possibility that interim funding for the arrested parties
24	continued participation will be informed by the	24	might be made available by a charitable foundation. The
25	Commission's willingness and ability to take into account	25	proceedings were adjourned firstly to Thursday, and
1	Page 12228 the interests of those who are no longer able to be here.	1	Page 12230 thereafter till today to await the decision of the
2	The SAHRC calls on the Commission to hold a meeting with	2	foundation because if it were favourable, the postponement
3	all parties to discuss the way forward." Thank you.	3	application would fall away. We have since learned – and
4	CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Ms [inaudible] -	4	Mr Mpofu has confirmed this, this morning – that the
5	MR MPOFU: Chairperson, just one small	5	foundation concerned decided not to provide the interim
6	thing that I forgot to mention regarding our intention to	6	funding sought. I have, however, been reliably informed
7	file papers tomorrow. One of the reasons, as I've already	7	that another body may well decide to provide the funding
8	said, is obviously the optimism that we'll get a judgment		
		8	sought, and its decision should be made known by the end of
9	today, but the other is certainty as to what's going to	9	tomorrow. I am not at liberty to say more than that.
10	today, but the other is certainty as to what's going to happen this morning, so that we can then inform, properly	9 10	tomorrow. I am not at liberty to say more than that. Though it is regrettable that another two days' sitting
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1	preparation, so if, unless something materialises, that we	
2	should be excused from being here on Wednesday. One of the	
3	unintended consequences of the good intentioned efforts is	
4	that because our team is already so thin on the ground, it	
5	is not possible for us to be concentrating on the matter	
6	that we should be concentrating on, and also preparing for	
7	the Commission, and that in any event is a factor that we	
8	hope will be taken into account, whatever the outcome of	
9	those efforts are, because we do have to start doing heads	
10	of argument within a very short space of time. So I'm just	
11	saying, if we're not here on Wednesday, that will be the	
12	context.	
13	CHAIRPERSON: It might be advisable for	
14	you to be here if the postponement matter is argued. On	
15	the other hand, you have put your submissions before us –	
16	MR MPOFU: We have; we have nothing to	
17	add to the postponement application.	
18	CHAIRPERSON: Well, you might wish to	
19	reply to points that are made, if points are made of	
20	substance which it is desirable that they should be replied	
21	to, but it's your election, not mine.	
22	MR MPOFU: Certainly.	
23	CHAIRPERSON: We will adjourn now until	
24	Wednesday at 9AM.	
25	[COMMISSION ADJOURNED]	
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