



**Media Statement by Bench Marks Foundation**  
**Never Again Marikana: We are watching you**

**8 October 2013**

**For immediate release**

As much as mining has contributed to developing the South African economy, it has also had negative social, economic and environmental consequences. All of these need to be highlighted, debated, and actions - agreed on by all stakeholders, especially impacted workers and communities - need to be implemented to mitigate the negative consequences of this essential sector.

So says John Capel, Executive Director of the Bench Marks Foundation, who has announced that a conference will take place on 14 October 2013 at Willow View Lodge in Kempton Park to facilitate this debate. The key note address will be given by Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe.

“The theme for the conference is “Never again Marikana: We are watching you,” says Capel.

“We chose this theme because this tragic event made a huge impact in the mining sector and many others, not least the economy.

“We should never forget the underlying causes and we need to look for ways in which to prevent this from ever happening again.

“We need to find ways to include communities in matters that ultimately affect them, and we also need to discuss the future of mining, not just in South Africa, but worldwide.”

Capel says that people from various sectors, such as business and civil society from South Africa, Africa, Europe and South East Asia, as well as community members directly affected by mining, have already registered to attend the conference.

“To adequately debate the issues and come to a consensus, we strongly urge more mining houses, government departments, non-governmental organisations and businesses attend the conference”.

In addition to the conference, Bench Marks will also be launching another of its studies on 15 October 2013 at the same venue. The last study, *A Review of Platinum Mining in the Bojanela District of the North West Province*, was launched a few days prior to the Marikana Massacre in August 2012. We will release a study on Lonmin, a 10 year review of their Sustainability Reporting, that is titled “Coping with unsustainability”.

For more information on the conference and to register, contact Bench Marks Foundation on 011 832 1743 or send an email to [info@bench-marks.org.za](mailto:info@bench-marks.org.za). Media are welcome to attend the conference and launch but must obtain accreditation prior to the event by emailing [info@quo-vadis.co.za](mailto:info@quo-vadis.co.za).

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**Notes to editors:**

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.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu launched the Foundation in 2001 and the Rt Rev Dr Jo Seoka chairs the organisation.

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