

Vama Jele**Marikana Violence and representation of Betty Gadlela**

As I watched SABC 1 News on the 11th October 2017, hearing that Dumisa Ntsebeza represents the Marikana Victims on behalf of 20 families, I was shocked from this news when the list of the families represented left out Ms Betty Gadlela. From the past I learnt about the Kinross Disaster where miners were killed by fire and as well as the Vaal Reefs Disaster killed in the shaft. They were Swazis there for sure but the families never benefited from the Trusts that were established for those victims' families. Again when hearing about the 20 families without Ms Betty Gadlela I felt that I must do something for her.

She had been up and down to TEBA Offices and Ministry of Labour & Social Security Offices for assistance without success as both institutions were reliant to the Lonmin Mine Management South African Government respectively. She had been sent up and down without knowledge and blink prospect of success. She was on mourning gowns and again in Swaziland, woman on mourning gowns has little space in public up until she is allowed to come out. She was in extreme pains on losing the loved one, the only bread winner, her other half and it was like being paralyzed on the half of your body.

Betty was going through a difficult time after the burial of her husband who died so cruel at the hands of the South Africa Police Service. He was short at, from order of National Commissioner of Police and her Assistants. This killing reminds us from the past during the apartheid where man had no value such that if you were killed by falls of ground, it was considered the act of God. Some widows were compensated with a mere R12 000.00 when your husband is killed by fall of ground in the gold mine.

Come to our community to hear this cases.

Other widows husbands' were killed in the mine during miners' strike without compensation and without attention drawn to the incident of the strike even if it was but little could have been done. One widow came to our office recently October 2017 sharing to us how her husband was killed by fumes underground without compensation and again in order to replacing with a son cost her R50 000.00. This is a case how poor, rural uneducated and lack rights to information resulted in being cheated by a union steward colluding with other miner. She paid R20 000 from the death benefit and further paid the outstanding R30 000 after receiving the provident fund (social security fund). This widow knew nothing about the mines, never been there before same as Betty. When telling her stories she was in tears and kept on sobering in order to tell us to the end. She said, "the mine, Teba and husband are cruel, they never shared anything with us only that Teba slogan, Teba Cares".

Betty has been hoping for better treatment as her husband burial was attended by government officials and others to mention a few. Less information is shared to the families in regards to rights to the family and future expectations families may raise. A deceased miner is brought home by what we call in the mine a burial party which is consist of 6 miners some might be from same neighborhood or have knowledge of the homestead of the deceased.

The burial party is within a requirement from Chamber codes for the job grade the miners' fall which was Cat 3-8 (or unskilled labour). These were miners who resided in the Mine Hostels who later given an option to cash out housing allowances and sort accommodation outside the mine hostels. They are given paid leave to travel and burry the deceased at his home and come back. Most of these miners are again

have no clue of the post-employment rights for the family except that they will advise the family to approach Teba to launch claim for provident fund.

Mining corporations have been not accountable to any loss of life ever since mining began to date. Little we learnt that when Mine Management Representative travel to bury a deceased might have been due to mine accident. Again his/her traveling will include residing in a hotel and even charter a plane to report the accident to the family. But let a miner killed by pulmonary TB, Pneumoconiosis, silicosis or Obstructive Airway Disease the mining corporations don't care. Make things worse surgeons will also complete death cause notification as natural causes. Why is it like that, tell me why, I have been there I know it too.

No one ever thought that Betty will be tossed from left to right by the Ministry of Labour & Social Security and the TEBA. But it happened to her as it happened to others. The Ministry of Labour & Social Security may not much be blamed as it relied to South Africa government which was directly involved from the decision of the commission of inquiry, you can say.

I wrote an email to Dumisa Ntsebenza on October 2012 to assist and include Betty Gadlela in the list of the families they represented. He referred us to Osmond Mngomezulu who registered Betty and finally made arrangement for her to attend the commission of inquiry and I am advised that all the widows represented are now working at Lonmin. This is a once of many incidents we daily work on in our association's office.