

Rasta speaks on Ramaphosa

Rasta, a worker from Nkaneng, Marikana, also came to the University of the Witwatersrand where African National Congress (ANC) deputy president Cyril Ramaphosa spoke. Rasta speaks in an interview with **Luke Sinwell** and **Siphiwe Mbatha**.

A Mineworker from Marikana speaks: 'Before people can find peace, Lonmin with the government must just bring R12,500.'

Luke: So why did you go see Ramaphosa on that day at Wits?

Rasta: We heard that Ramaphosa is coming [to Wits]. So we went there, we wanted to hear the lies that he is talking about. Because they claim that we did receive the money [R12,500]. Our money is being eaten by cash loans.

Luke: Do you think that Ramaphosa played a role in attacking the workers during the Marikana Massacre?

Rasta: Yes, he did.

Luke: What did he do?

Rasta: Ok, the reason why I say he did [play a role]: Ramaphosa is ANC. The ANC is Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu). Cosatu is National Union of Mineworkers (NUM). All those people; they have got a hand in the killing of workers who died at the mountain. Because they are the ones who called government and said we must be killed. That's why I said he does have a hand. And then, he just took out R2-million that it must help the people so that they

can go to the funeral. That money again, he took it back to himself and it didn't help anyone... Another thing is Ramaphosa has shares at Lonmin. He killed the people because he knew that if they give the people money, they will never be able to get their shares back again.

Luke: So, when everyone was there [that day], the Marikana Support Campaign and the people of Marikana, what happened at Wits?

Rasta: Yeah, eh... we went there. Most people from different places and Masakhane [let's build each other] Support; they were supporting Lonmin [workers]. Because they feel pain about what happened on the 16th (August 2012, day of the Marikana Massacre) at Marikana at the mountain. Those people whatever we are doing, they are with us all the way. We thought maybe Ramaphosa - there at Wits - maybe like he will come and say as people have died in Marikana, we are going to give them [workers] something, their demands that they were demanding. And [we thought that] the widows will be helped there and there. So what he wanted to do was to make peace. But, we don't know what kind of peace that they [Ramaphosa and others] want as they are still struggling to

give people their money; and give workers money as they are working very hard.

Luke: Did you get an opportunity to ask a question [as workers] to Ramaphosa at Wits?

Rasta: No we didn't get an opportunity to ask Ramaphosa because when we raised our hands, they didn't point to us because we were wearing t-shirts showing that we are people from Marikana. It was politics that they were doing there. They are pointing to all those people who were agreeing with him. But we and the people who are supporting us, were never pointed to raise or ask a question.

Luke: So like if you were given a chance to ask, what would you ask Ramaphosa?

Rasta: If we were given a chance to speak, I would ask him the first question that: what is the main purpose of him being at Wits? Secondly, the peace that he is talking about, he said there must be peace. And then as he is saying there must be peace; what is he putting on the table before there will be peace. I truly believe that before people can find peace, Lonmin with the government must just bring R12,500. That R12,500 must be given to the people, and

Decent work themes for Gauteng farm workers

I believe then there will be peace. Besides the R12,500 there will be no peace. Because even now, the example that I - have been injured by police - and I have been injured by police again [when I was arrested]. While they were arresting me; they were hitting and wanted to kill me. Without any reason. Secondly, all those who were arrested [270], their cases must be dropped. Then there will be peace. But then, as in now, we don't know what kind of peace they are talking about. As in now, people are still prisoners, even me. I am a prisoner.

Luke: Do you know about the recent findings at the commission (Marikana Commission of Inquiry) which suggest that the police were hiding and fabricating evidence?

Rasta: Ok yeah... I have heard it and I saw others on the Internet. I have even seen myself on the Internet that there are things that they were hiding during the time when they were going to kill us - while we were walking away from the police. They were going to shoot and kill us. Those are the things that they were hiding. They were hiding those things so that the information won't be known. They take that evidence and throw it in a bin. But now it is known and we don't know now that Farlam (Judge Ian Gordon Farlam head of the Commission of Inquiry), as himself, that he is an ANC... we don't know whether or not he will actually be able to see who is on the guilty side. The commission, they just stop it sometimes and then they continue again, we don't know what is happening. The commission should have been ended a long time ago. We can see that what they don't need or want is the truth. As it is now, they don't want to pay the lawyers of workers (This is has since changed after the lawyers representing workers won their case for the state to meet their expenses). They don't want the truth to be revealed. **LB**

In a study '*You entered through that gate and you will leave through that gate*': *The decent work deficit for Gauteng's farmworkers*', by **Edward Webster, Mbuso Nkosi, Debbie Budlender, Lelanie Williams and Mark Orkin**, which we published in the October/November 2013 issue, some of the highlights of the study were decent work themes. In this issue the writers explore the themes of employment opportunity, stability and security at work.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

All farm workers were asked if they agreed or disagreed with a number of statements. More than half of all farm workers (58%) were of the view that it was difficult to find a job as a farm worker in Gauteng. Workers on horticulture farms were divided in terms of their view on this statement, as shown in Table 1. This division arises from the fact that farm work is based on seasons. If one comes during the season it might be easy to get a job as the following comments illustrate:

Makhwezi: 'They only hire from November till January of the following year. If you come this time you will get a job.'

Jeff: 'After a while, yes it is easy to get a job, but not too quickly. When the mealies start to dry out, they cut it and they'll hire people to pick up the mealies because machinery can't pick it up from the floor.'

Table 1: It is difficult to get a job as a farm worker in Gauteng

	Livestock	Field crops	Horticulture	Mixed farming	Total
Agree	60%	65%	49%	54%	58%
Unsure	4%	6%	5%	1%	5%
Disagree	37%	29%	46%	44%	37%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
N	230	176	113	81	600