

14 June 2011

Memorandum directed to the Department of Fishing and Agriculture

In deed, we are so unfortunate as Workers and Emerging Fishermen after 17 years of our Democratic South Africa to suffer the same way we used to during Apartheid years. We have been called emerging businesses for quiet sometime but yet collapsing every year because of the laws that governs the same Industry which donnot allow small businesses to grow.

To us, there is no difference between Fronting and Apartheid because the conditions that the two creates are actually the two sides of the same coin. To us, Democracy in the context of Fishing Industry means nothing as we are still subjected to the same conditions of employment and exploitation as we were during Apartheid years of our struggle. We hear leaders from different Political Organizations/Unions talking about fighting corruption, Fair Labour Practices as well as Decent work, but when it comes to Fishing these donnot apply. We are not enjoying all these rights, Casualisation is the order of the day, and Majority of workers in the Fishing Industry is not registered as workers.

If a worker gets involve in an accident in the sea or dies, there is totally no compensation that he/she will receive. This is not just a say or propaganda, there are victims here in this house who have been subjected to this inhuman conduct. Mr. Jacob Mofolo/Mokwena and Mr Daniel Zungu are the living examples that we are talking about. Mr Jacob Mokwena died at work and his body was discovered on the 19th of July 2010 after having drowned for 8days. The unfortunate part of this incident is that, the so called bosses of Amazing Co/Tomren denied that he was working for them and chased away his Girl Friend & Mr Mnyakama Makhosonke Kelby such that no evidence to be found and Jacob to be thrown where they would wish as even today the family does not know where his body was buried but the so called bosses claim to be good and complying with the act.

Having said all the above, we Fishermen, demand the following to the Department of Fishing Industry:

small boat Private

1. Thorough Investigation of all companies that have been approved to conduct Fishing business, whether they comply with the Act/not so as to get to the reality of this matter, because we believe they donnot.
2. The Department of Justice, Safety and Security and the Department of Labour & *Sea Fisheries* must investigate whether this company has done justice or followed proper Security measures as enshrined in our constitution and Labour Relations Act in ensuring that its workers are operating under safe working conditions.
3. We want Mr Jacob Mokwena's body so that is buried with dignity as he deserves irregardless of his value from the so called racists bosses.

4. We demand a total shutdown of all non-complying companies because of their inability to just recognize Human and Workers Rights.
5. We demand a full compensation of all the shareholders whose names have been used for absolutely nothing (Fronting) and the criminals involved to be jailed.
6. We demand our own co-operative as Cape Town Harbour Fishermen CC as this is happening in other Harbours.
7. We need our money that we were ~~given~~ ^{suppose to receive} by Government in 1994 and we were told that it has frozen and is amounting to R1 Million.
8. We had a Fish Rights of 951 Tons of Hake Long Line that need to be investigated and be handed over to the Cape Town Harbour. ^{+ Experimental Tuna Longline}
- X 9. All Cape Town Fishermen be granted with 5%
10. We need a proper investigation to the following Companies Tuna Hake, Afrika Best 250 because Fisherman doesn't get anything.
11. The LRA must be forced in the Private Fishing Boat ~~and~~ Companies.
12. The Government must provide us with the Boats so that we are able to fish.
13. We need a concrete report within 21 days, failure to do so will result to unprecedented workers mass action.

Bongani Malutyana

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Spokes Person for Fishermen

9. Only 5% of fishermen who were granted small state fishing permit in Cape Town MCM must give them, we believe they are suppose to be granted as they are casual workers.