

STATEMENT OF TUTU JIM NQATA RE EVICTION FROM LINDHURST FARM

I, the undersigned, Tutu Jim Nqata ID Number 121102507 608 6 wish to state as follows:

1. I was born in or about 1912. I am married to Lawukazi Noweyitile Nqata and Nolungile Nonduxu Nqata. We have 15 children and 10 grandchildren. 7 of my children are already married.
2. I started working for Mr Sid Knott in January 1979. I previously worked for Mr Connellan and thereafter for Mr Krull. Sid Knott and I agreed that he would pay me R30,00 per month and supply me with rations of one and a half bags of mealies. Although I had asked Sid Knott to increase my wages on several occasions he refused. Instead he said he would retain R10,00 per month of my wages and would give this to me in a lump sum at the end of each year. However, he continued to pay me R30,00 every month. He did indeed give me an amount of R120,00 at the end of each year thereafter. As time went on he also gave me one-half bag of mealie-meal.
3. Sid Knott said that my job would be to look after the sheep and cattle. I looked after about 1000 sheep and 100 head of cattle. After some years he also acquired goats which I had to look after too. I worked from sunrise to sunset everyday for seven days in a week. I also had to attend to the sheep, goats and cows when they were giving birth to their young ones. Although Sid Knott had said that he would pay me 20 cents for each delivery of a lamb, he never did. He never said anything about payment when I had attended to the delivery of goats and cows.
4. One day in December 1989 Sid Knott asked me if I could drive his sheep from one kraal to the farmhouse the following day. I reminded him that I had to collect my pension at the pay-out point on the following day. He insisted that I should drive his sheep to the farmhouse before I went to collect my pension. So I did. Thereafter he took me to the pension pay-out point by car and said I should get a lift back to the farmhouse with the same car so that I could drive the sheep back to the kraal. However, Sid Knott did not fetch me personally but asked his son, Robin to fetch all the farm-workers who were at the pension pay-out point. I did not return with Robin as he had left me behind. I understand that when he was asked where I was he reported to his father that I was drunk and that he had left me sitting on a rock at the pension pay-out point. On being asked by Sid Knott, I disputed this report but Sid told me that he did not require my services any longer. He said the reason for this was because his sheep under my care were dying and had worms. He then ordered me to leave his premises immediately. My response was that he was dismissing me without a valid reason.
5. However, I did not leave immediately because I had nowhere to go with my family. I still had to search for alternative accommodation and a job.

6. Sid Knott paid me my wages of R30,00 in December 1989 but he did not pay me the full R120,00 he had been saving for me. When I queried this he said that R120,00 was a bonus and he was therefore not liable to pay me the full amount. He also did not give me the one sheep and liquor which he usually gave me at Christmas-time, but he did give me a pair of trousers and a shirt.
7. After Christmas Sid Knott called at my hut frequently to pressurise me to leave his premises immediately. I was then forced to leave, not knowing where I would get a place to stay. I searched for accommodation and a job but to no avail. I then met an Anglican priest who sympathised with my plight and allowed me to live in his Church building at Emthonjeni Township in Kei Road temporarily until I had found a place to stay.
8. I have tried to find another job but the farmers say that I am too old to work. My health is not too good either. I have been attending the health clinic from time to time for treatment of scabies. Sid Knott used to take me to the doctor and the clinic by car. He claimed that he had to pay high medical fees for my treatment but I do not believe this because I had to pay the doctor's fees personally. I suspect that Sid Knott got too tired to continue helping me.
9. I own seven head of cattle and had to ask one Hilton Witbooi of Kei Road to keep these for me while I am looking for a place to stay. Hilton charges me R9,00 for keeping the cattle and he also milks my cows for his own consumption. He said he would be responsible for the dipping of the cattle too.

Dated at this day of February 1990.

Signed:

Witnesses:

1.

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