

Year after year somewhere in South Africa the government delivers its message

March 19, 1983 — the Wakkerstroom magistrate, Mr Prinsloo, addresses the people of Driefontein

Prinsloo: Mr van Niekerk, the Chief Commissioner of Pietersburg asked me to convey to you his words and I am delivering his message today. It is not my words, they are his words and he gets it from the government.... The Department of Co-operation and Development will as quickly as possible send officials to count how many plots there are in Driefontein to make provision on the other side. And further to assess the potential of the ground with a view to determining the compensatory ground at the other place. That is the message. I hope you all heard what I said. I thank you for your co-operation and for giving me the opportunity for delivering this message and for remaining quiet to hear the message. I adjourn the meeting and there will be no further meeting today.

Saul Mkhize: We have got to have a talk Sir on what you are saying. I think there is a man there he has got to say something.

Prinsloo: I am not in a position to answer any questions. I've only got this message to give to you and I've got nothing else to say. And I'm going now.

Saul: Sorry, Mr Prinsloo, please, you have been sent here. They didn't say you must just deliver that and don't get any reply. We are requesting that to our magistrate. I think what our magistrate is sent to us its not a right procedure of the resettlement. The resettlement is to negotiate with the community. At the present mo-

ment we have not discussed anything about the resettlement, so we think this message we are getting today, we apologise we cannot accept it, because there is no discussion as I said, and we will not in future like to see any development or any government entering Driefontein to do any procedure to do any interviewing with the people of Driefontein because there is no discussion. We are accepting discussing with the Development Trust and we are willing to discuss with them. We have got long points we have got to raise with the department.

Prinsloo: I heard you. I say to you Mr van Niekerk instructed me and it is his answer that the Government has already decided on the removal of Driefontein. The message is already very clear and there will be no further negotiation. It is finished.

Saul: I am sorry my worship there is nothing we have discussed. Nothing at all. With whom did you discuss such?

Prinsloo: I have no answer for you....

Saul: That means the government is forcing us to move and the government is not accepting any negotiation with us. So we will have now to deal with the Development Trust or possibly the government concerned with this removal. As I said we are not accepting the plea that Mr Prinsloo has been sent with. The community is not accepting anything. (Cries of hear hear). Thank you.

(This is a rough transcript and translation)



Mr Prinsloo, centre, delivers the message of Mr van Niekerk, Chief Commissioner of Pietersburg, to the people of Driefontein. Facing him, Saul Mkhize, in dark suit, listens intently