

2
Naphtali Mbuti Nkopane (41)

Naphtali was born on the 18th of August 1944 on a farm near Nigel in the Transvaal. In 1949, his family moved to Evaton in the Vaal.

Naphtali's father was a labourer and with six children found it very difficult to educate the whole family.

His two brothers and sister left school, reducing the amount of school expenditure and thus enabling Naphtali to continue schooling until Standard 8. After that, his parents could no longer afford to pay school fees.

In 1965, Naphtali started working to help his parents educate his younger brother and sister. It was difficult for him to find a job because of influx control restrictions but he managed to get some clerical and salesmanship jobs.

At one stage, because of the job shortage, Naphtali had to work away from home and stay at a compound with migrant workers from Transkei, Venda, Qwa-Qwa and Bophutatswana. Conditions were very unpleasant the beds were uncomfortable and indecent and there was always insufficient food.

In 1970 he married Samaria Lukhele from Watervalboven, went back home to Evaton and found a job at Ellerine's Funnishers in Vereeniging. In

1978 he moved to Sebokeng.

Presently he has three school going children, one girl and two boys. Before his arrest he was working as a stock clerk at Protea Furnishers in Vereeniging. He had to battle for four years before earning a decent wage.

In 1984 due to the high rents, Naphati decided to join the Vaal Civic Association and served as a chairperson of the Zone 3 Area Committee. He saw the civic as an organisation which could represent the interests of Vaal residents.

(describes events of aug and sept 1984 - do we want?)

In August 1984, Naphtali was active in the rent protests as a result of which he was detained on 18 November 1984.