

A STATEMENT BY FASHION SOMTSORA AND SIX OTHERS ON THE BUILDING OF DONALD
KNOTT'S HOUSE

I, Fashion Somtsora, lived with my mother, Maggie Somtsora, and my brothers and sisters at Wolseley Estate. One day in or about May 1988 Donald Knott called me and six other men who were also resident on Wolseley Estate, namely Thembekile Somtsora, Anthony Somtsora, Thembisile Somtsora, Vukile Wantoni, Michael Nonose and Lennox Nonose, and asked us if we wanted to work. We were not employed at the time. He said that he was going to build a house. We agreed that we would work for him.

Donald Knott then took us to the building site. When we arrived at the building site there was a man whom we assumed was the building contractor. We were given implements to dig the foundation. Donald Knott left at the site but did not tell us what our remuneration would be. We asked the building contractor how much we were going to be paid for the job but he said that we should have asked Mr Knott. When Donald's father, Sid Knott, arrived at the building site later on that day we approached him and asked him how much we could expect to be paid for the job. He was very evasive and said that we should carry on working and that he would let us know in due course. When he had left the site we decided to stop work and go back to our homes.

Shortly after we had arrived at our homes Sid Knott arrived by car. He demanded to know why we had left the building site and whether we wanted to work or not. We tried to explain to him that we could not continue working without knowing how much we would be paid for the job. He then said that Milton Adler, the owner of Wolseley Estate, had agreed that we should work for him (Sid Knott) and that if we still wanted to live on Wolseley Estate we should do as he says. Milton Adler was away at the time and, as usual, left Sid Knott to look after his farm. Sid Knott said Milton Adler had said that if we refused to work we should leave his farm. We responded by saying that if that was the manner in which Milton Adler preferred to treat us he was free to evict us. Sid Knott insisted that we return to the building site and took us back in his car.

At the end of the first week we were each paid an amount of R5,00. We were dissatisfied with the wages. Thembekile, Anthony, Vukile, Michael and Lennox decided to abscond but Thembisile kept on complaining to Sid Knott about the low wages. Sid Knott then decided to transfer Thembisile to do farm work instead but I stayed on until the building of the house was completed. I then painted the inside of the house. I was paid R25,00 per week for two weeks.

