

## MASIBAMBANE MATTER OF JUSTICE

### CRUSHING A DEVELOPMENT SPIRIT

#### Masibambane

A vision of the late Rev Alf Dlamini Anglican church minister of Peddie and human rights activist

Supported by some well known fellow founder members : Prof. Rev Nancy Charton, Dudley Hall and others

Responsible for taking Desmond Tutu to the infamous resettlement camps where he experienced his radicalization at the site of Oxton camp near Sada/whittlesea where he met the little girl whose only food has been tea – campaigned against resettlement throughout the Ciskei areas exposing the black spots and the horrors of resettlement – this spearheaded by Alf Dlamini who together with the Quaker peace centre produced vital research evidence of the effects of resettlement on child mortality due to starvation

Pioneer of deep trenching organic food production, water management, sanitation in many village areas

Successful demonstration to villages in the Peddie region of a market garden concept for massive food production and wealth creation in a rural village of Ngcinisa

Impact in many villages around Peddie and in the whittlesea areas through the promotion of many different types of projects, piggeries, chicken production, communal and market gardens, drilling for water, garment making etc

Training of youth, agriculture and more recently in computer skills

Introduction of computers to local villages and schools which exist to this day

Transformed the wasteland around St Peters in Peddie into a vibrant centre – building 2 buildings for the church of approx 220 sq meters and a further number of buildings including, ablutions, three houses, 3 massive buildings of approx 200 sq meter s each, a communal garden area with water infrastructure used for some years by AIDS affected women – a pilot seedling operation

A rich history of more than 25 years rudely disrupted and ironically forced into resettlement with no funds or compensation to carry on its work, by the very anglican church it had supported for many years

The Peddie church and its grahamstown diocese authorities combined forces, spurred on by the temptation of huge funds from the contractor SCRIBANTE to kick out Masibambane

FOR 30 PIECES OF SILVER!!!!!!

The events leading to the eviction

Masibambane had been struggling financially but despite this still managed to pioneer computer training in Peddie and surrounding districts. Running a small chicken operation and providing much needed accommodation for local workers who struggled to find a place to stay and work

Masibambane had experienced for several years the antagonism of the local St Peters pastor who ensured that his unruly chickens destroyed everything that was grown – nothing could be planted successfully without these monsters picking it to pieces.

His successor continued this tormenting path with another twist – demand that Masibambane leave the place – on the pretext of building an old age home and open terrorizing all residents. Despite meetings to resolve the matter it was clear that there was another agenda.

This emerged when suddenly Scribante moved in with bulldozers and removed fencing and first took over the market garden area which had just been allocated to a woman's group who had cleaned the spaces they were going to use and developed a business plan to do a market garden and run a small wellness centre using some of the buildings.

I, Rommel Roberts intervened and wrote letters to the Bishop but was instead referred to the Canon based in Kingwilliamstown who did convene a meeting where Masibambane was prevailed upon to behave in a Christian manner

Within 2 days of this meeting the Rev Zibi of Peddie broke into Masibambane property authorizing a complete takeover of the first of the buildings – all appeals amounted to nothing

I finally decided to call the bishops office in Grahamstown and learned to my surprise that my letter had never reached the office and that the administrator was in possession of a tale of lies and had no knowledge of the Scribante deal and that money had already entered the equation.

A meeting convened by the Bishop of the Diocese once again pleaded with us to behave like Christians – the history of Masibambane and the original agreements were outlined and promises of compensation was promised

Clearly the money temptation was too great

Masibambane was given notice and forced to close down its operations and try and make the best of a very bad situation – almost a repetition of the bible and the gun missionary approach of the 17 and 1800s where black tribes were taught to be Christian with one hand and the gun used to take it from them through various means

MASIBAMBANE HAS BEEN BETRAYED

