

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

SECTION 29 HEARING

"IN CAMERA"

DATE: 29 MAY 1998

HELD AT: JOHANNESBURG

NAME: OBET GADEBE

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CHAIRPERSON: Mr Frederich, I take it that you represent Mr Gadebe?

MR FREDERICH: Yes, I do Mr Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much. Mr Gadebe before we begin taking down your evidence I will ask Ms Sooka to swear you in.

OBET GADEBE: (sworn states)

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you Mr Gadebe, thank you Ms Sooka.

Mr Frederich must I assume that you do not have a prepared statement but that your client will be responding to questions as and when they are put?

MR FREDERICH: That is correct.

CHAIRPERSON: Very well. Ms Sealey.

MS SEALEY: Good morning Mr Gadebe. Mr Gadebe we heard evidence from a Mr Themba Zimo that during early 1991 you were present at a meeting where the assassination of Mr Sam Ntuli was

discussed, could you please tell us whether - your comment on that please?

MR WILLS: I was never present at such a meeting.

CHAIRPERSON: The reply was that you -

INTERPRETER: The reply was that he was never present at such a meeting.

CHAIRPERSON: Mmm I have sound.

MS SEALEY: Mr Gadebe can you please explain why would Mr Zimo, and in fact Mr Malaba, both confirm that you were at a meeting where Mr Ntuli's assassination was discussed?

MR GADEBE: I would not know but it could be because they (are in prison, incarcerated prisoners and maybe they want to be released.

MS SEALEY: Mr Gadebe did you ever know, did you know Mr Zimo and Mr Malaba before you met them here at the Commission's office?

MR GADEBE: Yes I did know them.

MS SEALEY: Could you please tell us where you knew them from and for how long?

MR GADEBE: I knew Themba Zimo before 1990 and I knew him because he had borrowed my friend's car and my friend he told me about this. Thereafter I knew him because I saw him when he returned this car. That is when I started to know him.

As regards to Tulani Malaba I would usually see him around the hostel because I worked somewhere near the hostel and I stayed near there so I used to see him around there.

MS SEALEY: Mr Gadebe are you - what is your relationship with Mbekisene Khumalo, Mpekilele Khumalo and Mzaki Khumalo?

MR GADEBE: The person that I knew well was Mbekisene Khumalo because I used to work with his wife and he would come to visit his wife, but besides that I had no association with him.

MS SEALEY: At the time of Mr Ntuli's assassination were you employed at the Thokoza Town Council?

MR GADEBE: Yes I was working in the Town Council where I am also still working.

MS SEALEY: Mr Gadebe do you have any - what was your relationship or did you know Mr Ntuli prior to his assassination?

MR GADEBE: I knew Mr Ntuli because he used to frequent our office because he was a civic leader and he would frequent our offices in that regard.

MS SEALEY: Mr Gadebe did you know Miss Gugu Mzizi?

MR GADEBE: No I did not.

MS SEALEY: According to evidence given by Mr Zimo and Mr Malaba they claim that Mr Gugu Mzizi was unwittingly used in the assassination of Mr Sam Ntuli and that subsequent to this she

was kept at a house by yourself and Mr Malaba, do you have any comment on that?

MR GADEBE: That is a pack of lies because I don't even know Gugu.

MS SEALEY: During 1991 Mr Gadebe what kind of car did you drive?

MR GADEBE: I drove a brown Honda Ballade.

MS SEALEY: According to Mr Malaba's testimony yesterday the Honda Ballade, the brown Honda Ballade that you say belonged to you at this time was also used in the assassination of Mr Sam Ntuli. He claims that after the shooting the Honda Ballade was used to transport the alleged killers out of the township, do you have any comment on that?

MR GADEBE: That is also a pack of lies.

MS SEALEY: Mr Malaba also claims that after the assassination of Mr Ntuli on the 29th of September your vehicle was taken to Natal and then subsequent to that he fetched your vehicle from Natal, do you have any comment on that?

MR GADEBE: That is a pack of lies because during the week that Sam Ntuli died I was away in Natal and I had used Mr Mafulela's car. I left my car with Mr Mafulela because it was broken. I had gone home to attend a traditional ceremony.

MS SEALEY: So at the time of Mr Ntuli's assassination the car was actually with Mr Mafulela Malaba, is that correct?

MR GADEBE: I had parked the car at the hostel where Mr Mafulela had a shop but he did not use the car because at the time he was also injured. He had been injured by the police.

MS SEALEY: Was the car in working order when it was parked at the hostel? Or I think you said earlier that it wasn't working, that it was broken, is that correct?

MR GADEBE: It was broken, the carburettor was broken, but it could move. That is how I was able to leave it and park it near Mafulela's shop and I borrowed his car to travel to Natal.

MS SEALEY: Mr Gadebe your reason as to why Mr Zimo and Mr Malaba would say, would implicate you is because they are in prison. I mean by implicating you in this matter it doesn't necessarily do their case any good. Have you got any other reason besides the fact that they are in prison, that they would implicate you? Have you ever had a fight or an argument with either Mr Zimo or Mr Malaba?

MR GADEBE: I have never had any quarrel with either of them.

CHAIRPERSON: That is then that is being asked Mr Gadebe. If you have never had any quarrel with them why do you think they should want to implicate you in murders and in other crimes that are very, very serious when all you know is that they are your acquaintances with whom you have never had any quarrel?

MR GADEBE: I did say that I don't really know and I have thought that maybe it's because they are incarcerated, they think maybe by implicating me they may be released.

MS SEALEY: Mr Gadebe could you please tell us your relationship with Mr Abraham Mzizi and his wife, Gertrude Mzizi?

MR GADEBE: I know them as leaders and members of the IFP because I am also a member. Secondly I would see them coming to my office to pay rent and because I was working within the queries department they would actually ask, come to me and I knew them in that way, as well as for the fact that they were members and leaders within the IFP.

MS SEALEY: Mr Gadebe could you please tell us, did you hold any positions in the IFP in the period 1991, 1992?

MR GADEBE: ~~I have never held a position in the movement and~~ it was a policy within work that you were not supposed to hold any positions outside the Town Council, that is in other political organisations, because you were working or responsible for the entire community.

MR NDLOSI: Mr Gadebe you have explained that you worked for the Town Council, were you ever a councillor?

MR GADEBE: Let me correct this, I am still working within the Town Council, but I have never been a councillor.

MR NDLOSI: What is your position at work?

MR GADEBE: First I was an enquiries clerk, subsequent to that I was a cashier, then a senior cashier. At the present moment I am the hostel superintendent.

MR NDLOSI: Are you a member of the IFP?

MR GADEBE: Yes.

MR NDLOSI: Do you attend IFP meetings?

MR GADEBE: No I do not.

MR NDLOSI: You mentioned earlier that you knew Tulani from seeing him around the street, who pointed him out to you as Tulani?

MR GADEBE: Let me explain the position of the office. It is right in front of the gate and people usually pass by that office and will greet you so that you actually get used to them. He was just walking around the hostel, up and down the street, so that is how I got to know him. I therefore cannot be specific as to who or how I got to know him but I think that's how I got to know him.

MR NDLOSI: Have you ever held meetings with people like Tulani and Themba?

MR GADEBE: No I have never done so.

MR NDLOSI: Have they ever come to you to request assistance, maybe about something that is problematic to them?

MR GADEBE: No.

MR NDLOSI: As a member of the IFP have you ever found yourself in a situation where you were attacked and you had to defend yourself?

MR GADEBE: I was attacked once in my house in Thokoza. After that I requested transport and I moved to Dawn Park where I rented a house in 1991, the house which I subsequently bought in 1992. So I left the township in that way.

MR NDLOSI: Do you remember the date of the attack?

MR GADEBE: No I do not.

MR NDLOSI: Were you attacked inside the house or at your house?

MR GADEBE: It was at my house, No 8 Extension 2. At first I actually heard from the neighbours and other people that there had been a community meeting. The conflict had actually started by then and it was alleged that my car had been seen going into the hostel, therefore I had to be attacked. I heard about that in the afternoon. That very same evening I heard gunshots and they were shooting at my house. I pretended not to be around. I actually hid because I had earlier parked my car at the office and not at my house. I pretended not to be around in the house and in the morning of the following day I went to the police, requested transport and I moved from my house. They did not actually approach me at the hostel because that is where I was working.



My office was in fact inside the hostel but nobody approached me at the hostel.

MR NDLOSI: When did you start working at the Council?

MR GADEBE: On the 14th of March 1984.

MR NDLOSI: You explained earlier that you worked for the community of Thokoza, what reason, or what motivation would they have to attack you if you had been working for the Council since that time?

MR GADEBE: I will explain this for the second time. There was an allegation that my car had been seen going into the hostel, but that is where I worked, so if I was working inside the hostel I was serving the community within the hostel and because of this it looked as if I had an association with the people within the hostel but I was there for work purposes.

MR NDLOSI: What I was trying to get at is, did they not know that there was a Town Council office within the hostel such that they would then attack you around the time?

MR GADEBE: The conflict started in 1990 but from 1984 I was working in the administration block which was not situated in the hostel. But in 1988 I was transferred to the office in the hostel. And in 1991 when the offices were burnt I was transferred back and in 1992 I went back to the office in the hostel after it had been repaired.

MR NDLOSI: What I am trying to get at is did they not know that you were now working within the hostel since 1988 that is why would they attack your car?

MR GADEBE: I cannot explain their behaviour but that is the reason that they advanced.

MR NDLOSI: Can we then assume that they did not know that your car was in the hostel because you were working there in the offices?

MR GADEBE: Yes I think so.

MR NDLOSI: Thank you.

MS SEALEY: Mr Gadebe according to Mr Zimo you claimed to him some time in 1992 that after the assassination of Mr Ntuli that Mr Vusi Tshabalala was likely to take over the position that Sam Ntuli held in the Civic, did you know Mr Vusi Tshabalala?

MR GADEBE: No I did not.

MS SEALEY: According to Mr Zimo you had a meeting where Mr Zimo claims you phoned Mr Vusi Tshabalala and asked him to meet you at the Town Council offices in Thokoza, do you have any comment on that?

MR GADEBE: Firstly I mentioned that I do not know Vusi. Secondly my office in the hostel does not have a phone, up to the present day.

MS SEALEY: Mr Gadebe are you telling us that you worked at the Town Council offices in Thokoza and yet you had absolutely

no knowledge of Civic members who obviously would have meetings at Thokoza regarding issues around rents and so on, and Mr Vusi Tshabalala would have been part of those delegations. Did you never meet him in that context?

MR GADEBE: I have already said that I don't know Vusi. The only person that I knew within the organisation was Mr Ntuli because he was prominent and I also saw him when he was being arrested after they staged a stay-in, but the rest I do not know about.

MS SEALEY: Mr Gadebe do you not know Mr Louis Sibeko?

MR GADEBE: Yes I do.

MS SEALEY: Was Mr Louis Sibeko not a member of the Thokoza Civic Association at the same time as Mr Sam Ntuli?

MR GADEBE: I do not know because I first started knowing Sibeko when he became a councillor.

MS SEALEY: So you first started knowing Mr Sibeko only in 1995, would that be correct, when he became the councillor for the new Greater Alberton?

MR GADEBE: I started to know him when he became a councillor at Thokoza.

MS SEALEY: Mr Gadebe I would like to put it to you that you claim that you only met Mr Sibeko when he became a councillor recently, but we have information that - first of all do you have any relatives in Sekonyela Street in Thokoza?

MR GADEBE: No I do not.

MS SEALEY: Then is it possible to explain why your car was seen parked outside Mr Sibeko's house on several occasions, your brown Honda Ballade?

MR GADEBE: I would like to request maybe if you have the dates of those occasions?

MS SEALEY: I don't have the dates of those occasions, but it was during the period 1992 to 1993, on several occasions during those years.

MR GADEBE: I do not know.

MS SEALEY: The problem that I have Mr Gadebe is that all these people that I am referring to are members of the Thokoza Civic Association, and apart from Mr Sam Ntuli and now lately you have met Mr Sibeko, you seem not to have knowledge of them despite the fact that we have two statements which claim that in both Mr Sam Ntuli's case, and Mr Vusi Tshabalala's case you had something to do with their assassination.

MR GADEBE: Can you please repeat the question.

MS SEALEY: I am just saying, what is your comment on the fact that all three people that I have mentioned are members of the Thokoza Civic Association. Two of them are dead and in both situations we have statements from witnesses who claim that you were part of the planning to assassinate those two people.

What is your comment on that?

MR GADEBE: I have never been involved. That statement, that evidence that you have is a pack of lies.

MS SEALEY: According to Mr Zimo after you allegedly phoned Vusi Tshabalala and told him to come to the Town Council offices you drove to the Town Council offices in your Honda Ballade and you told them to wait at the Gotso garage until Vusi came out. What is your comment on that?

MR GADEBE: I have already explained that I do not even know Vusi, so that statement is in fact untrue.

MS SEALEY: According to Mr Zimo, after he had dropped off - after he and Mr Malaba had dropped off Mr Tshabalala at Buthelezi Street you arrived at the Khumalo home and congratulated Mbeke Sene, Mzwaki and Mpikelele for a job well done. Can you comment on that?

MR GADEBE: That is also a pack of lies.

MR NDLOSI: Mr Gadebe you explained earlier that you did not attend meetings of the IFP, is that true?

MR GADEBE: Yes it is.

MR NDLOSI: Were there never instructions that you received maybe about your organisations, about what had been discussed in the meetings?

MR GADEBE: I would sometimes hear about plans maybe to attend conferences or rallies which I would not attend but I would hear about that.

MR NDLOSI: Who actually gave you that information?

MR GADEBE: I cannot specify one person but people will tell me.

MR NDLOSI: Is there anybody in particular that you remember from one of the people who actually told you?

MR GADEBE: As I have said there are quite a number who would tell me of all the people who had attended the meeting.

MR NDLOSI: Of the people that maybe you can remember can you just tell us their names?

MR GADEBE: I cannot specify names because it will be any member if you met him you would ask him what had been discussed in the meetings, but at this present moment I cannot specify a name.

MR NDLOSI: I was only trying to find about if maybe you remembered any of the names or any of the people who had actually given you that information.

MR GADEBE: There was no one person who came to me to inform me if there had been a meeting. It will be a situation maybe when I met somebody on the street and they would actually inform me about these activities.

MR NDLOSI: That is exactly the people I am referring to.

MR GADEBE: It would be difficult to remember such people because they were just general people, general members.

MR NDLOSI: You don't remember even one of them?

MR GADEBE: It could have been people like Spongile Zulu who also used to inform me about discussions.

MR NDLOSI: You also explained that Mr Ntuli was known to you because he would come to meetings where community issues were discussed?

MR GADEBE: Yes.

MR NDLOSI: Would he be alone in such meetings?

MR GADEBE: He would not come there alone but the most prominent and famous was Mr Ntuli.

MR NDLOSI: Would you also be present in those meetings?

MR GADEBE: No I did not attend them.

MR NDLOSI: Do you remember the people that he was sometimes with?

MR GADEBE: No I don't remember them because I did not know them.

MR NDLOSI: Mr Gadebe did you ever attend peace meetings that were held to try and resolve the conflict in Thokoza?

MR GADEBE: No I had never attended such meetings.

MR NDLOSI: In short you were never part of the peace initiative?

MR GADEBE: No.

MR NDLOSI: Thank you.

MS SEALEY: I have no more questions for Mr Gadebe.

CHAIRPERSON: Any questions - Dr Randera.

DR RANDERA: Mr Gadebe I just want to change the emphasis a little, alright, in terms of the questioning. You said earlier on that you are now the superintendent of the hostels. Before that your office was in the hostels all the time. Now which hostel were you working at, just tell us?

MR GADEBE: Hostel no.1 in Thokoza.

DR RANDERA: Is that what it's called?

MR GADEBE: Yes that's what it's called.

DR RANDERA: I just want to understand how your job worked actually in that period because we have had many statements and of course it's recorded as well of, you know, during the period particularly between 1991 and 1994 where attacks took place from one area, counter attacks from another area, now you were at the hostel at the time, can we just understand when these situations arose was there any reporting that took place to you did you then take that reporting to the Council as such? Or was it just an IFP/ANC conflict and people ignored it? Can you explain your role in that?

MR GADEBE: The conflict as such did not exactly concern me as a Town Council worker, but we would be affected by the violence because sometimes there would be attacks on the hostel and I would have to flee and go to head office. Sometimes there would be shooting and I would have had to dive under the table. There is, up to this day, a bullet hole in the wall.



I went to report to the Town Council that I was no longer safe where I was and they advised me to continue working and stop when I felt unsafe. So I continued working although I did feel very unsafe and I was traumatised by the situation. I worked in my office and did not actually get involved in the conflict.

DR RANDERA: So you are saying that at no time, either to account for damages that took place to hostel property, or to you know - I mean for example we've also read and heard and statements have been made of young women being taken into the hostels, people being abducted into the hostels in terms of taxis, at no time were you ever asked to write a report on what was happening in your hostel as someone who was sitting there most of the day, watching what was going on from your office? Sometimes, like you say, you almost became a victim yourself because people shot at you, but at no time were you asked to write a report?

MR GADEBE: No I have never been asked. The only thing that I would do will be maybe go to the Council and report if, for example, I had discovered dead bodies outside my office or maybe if I saw people being shot I would flee and then report that to the Council. But nobody ever asked me to compile such a report.

DR RANDERA: Now we also heard yesterday or the day before, of at times that bodies were lying around in the hostel and some of the body parts were being used for various purposes, do you

remember any of these incidents as someone who actually worked in these hostels? Did you ever report this to the police or to your superiors at the Council?

MR GADEBE: I will report to my superiors if I saw dead bodies, but I did not know anything about missing body parts.

CHAIRPERSON: I think the question perhaps would also be, are you aware that there were allegations that private parts were being used to concoct potions that would be used to, I suppose as **courage medicine** for people who were going to go on to battle?

MR GADEBE: I did not have such information.

CHAIRPERSON: Did you ever hear that there is a rumour of that nature?

MR GADEBE: For me to understand better I would like to know what parts you are talking about.

CHAIRPERSON: The genitals of people.

MR GADEBE: No I never got to hear of that.

CHAIRPERSON: Did you hear of any other parts of the human body that were being used as medicine for war?

MR GADEBE: No.

DR RANDERA: Mr Gadebe yesterday one of the gentlemen who came here said that there were many people in the hostel who had licensed firearms, but they couldn't afford the safe so often they would be kept in a locker and we heard that somebody's gun was actually used in different shootings in terms of ballistic evidence

that we have. Now my question really is was there, at that time, was there any rules about firearms being held on Council premises and since 1994 has that come about if there wasn't any rules before that?

MR GADEBE: No there is no such.

DR RANDERA: So even today as a hostel superintendent you are saying there are no rules about firearms being kept on Council property without the proper safeguards?

CHAIRPERSON: In other words are there any guidelines as to the keeping of firearms on hostel premises and you are a superintendent?

MR GADEBE: What do you mean, I just want to establish ... (intervention)

CHAIRPERSON: That's exactly what we are trying to find out from you....

MR GADEBE: Ohh, ...establish if you mean the office.

CHAIRPERSON: Firstly, is it so that if for instance as a Superintendent, I would assume, maybe we are assuming your duties for you, do you as Superintendent usually take a tour of the hostel, the dwellings themselves, or is that not one of your duties?

MR GADEBE: I would do that if there was no fighting.

CHAIRPERSON: Yes, okay let's take it in peace time. Now when you go around do you usually find that there are weapons like firearms of any sort, heavy calibers?

MR GADEBE: If I - I would be just touring the grounds but not necessarily checking inside the hostel, and in that way I have never seen anything, or a gun.

CHAIRPERSON: Now so what you are saying is that in the way in which you go around inspecting the hostel premises you are not in a position ever to say whether or not there are weapons there because you don't look for weapons when you do your rounds?

MR GADEBE: Yes that is correct.

CHAIRPERSON: Is there a procedure in terms of which weapons specifically are looked for as part of your duties, given that as you know there have been times when you wouldn't dare go into the hostels because there would be fights and I take it that you know we all agree in this room, that there have been instances when there have been raids there and weapons removed -etc, etc. So the question I am asking, is there a process or a procedure in terms of which you as a superintendent would like to satisfy yourself that the hostel premises are safe from the point of view of weapons that may be kept and stored there by individuals?

MR GADEBE: No are no such guidelines. The only people who came to attack or raid were the police.

CHAIRPERSON: So for all you cared to know there may be weapons stored in those hostels and you as superintendent have no way of knowing whether there are weapons at any point?

MR GADEBE: That is correct.

CHAIRPERSON: Dr Randera.

DR RANDERA: Can I then ask, you know I think we are also looking forward rather than just looking backwards, I mean you are now the hostel superintendent, you lived through that period, do you believe there should be some sort of regulations that should come in which says - **firearms should not be on the premises of hostel property?** So I am asking for your opinion now.

MR GADEBE: My opinion would be hostel residents can have licensed firearms for self-protection, but I cannot really explain much of - expand on this because it does not concern me.

CHAIRPERSON: But how do you see your job as a superintendent Mr Gadebe? I mean superintendent, and maybe I am exaggerating my own views about what a superintendent should be, you are in charge; you have been placed in charge of premises for which you are accountable for everything that takes place in there. We are not asking you for what has happened, we are asking you for what you consider to be an ideal position.

Now how can you say it has nothing to do with you?

If you had the means to make sure that those premises are safe, both for people who are inside it and for people who are outside of it what would you do? What control measures would you put? Normal superintendent.

MR GADEBE: In other words we are talking about my duties now.

CHAIRPERSON: H'n.

MR GADEBE: What is important here I can explain here. My work is such that I too have my superiors and these people, I am referring here to Thokoza, oftentimes we still have whites who do not listen when they are being told by blacks. I know, for example, that many things that are happening here these are the people who would come to the hostel and instruct me what to do, and therefore I am not part and parcel of the discussions as to what should be done. So that my opinion as well is not accepted. They continue and do as well as they see fit, that is why I too have a problem about the payment of rent because they would come and indicate to me what should be done. And when I tell them this is not how it should be done, I know the people, they come from Natal for example, I grew up with some of them, they don't seem to listen to me when I advise them on how things should be done. I remember, for example, that God himself for example is able to take our opinions and if you our officials are not able to take our opinions therefore it makes it difficult.

CHAIRPERSON: Dr Randerera.

DR RANDERA: Mr Gadebe thank you very much for your opinions, it's been very helpful.

I want to actually just go back again. Earlier on you said that you started working for the Council in 1984 so therefore I assume you've been living in the Thokoza area, in the East Rand area for - before 1984.

Now I want to now just canvass your views, firstly as a resident - I know you have now moved to Dawn Park, which is still in that area, firstly as a resident who lived in Thokoza from 1984 onwards, and thence as an IFP member because the IFP was formed around in 1990, it was before that a cultural organisation, and we then see that conflict that goes on in Thokoza between 1990 and 1994, you know we can argue about the dates.

Now I want to understand, because you know we need to understand in order for us to go forward, and therefore I am asking you for your views of how you saw what happened in that - I am actually asking you for that ten year period because my understanding earlier on - yes there were antagonisms, misunderstandings but we weren't looking at killings. People were working against the Councils, but as a community.

We then, as many reports have shown us, as many stories have been told to us, we see the community being divided completely. People who are Xhosa speaking are moved out of

Zulu speaking areas, vice versa. Attacks take place. All these things. Now you lived through that period. You were in that area. You still live and work in that area because I assume you are committed to staying in that area otherwise you would have moved out. So I want to understand from you how you saw that conflict where, how it started, what brought it about and what continued fuelling it?

And as a last thing, please Sir, I mean you again, we are living during peace times now I hope, what has happened to that conflict in your area? Are there mechanisms now operating where people are beginning to talk to each other, people are beginning to understand each other? Please if you can help us on that.

MR GADEBE: This is a very long question but I will try my best to explain.

First of all Thokoza was very beautiful up to 1989 and only in February when Dr Mandela was released from prison everybody was excited in the township. Everybody was excited without exclusion and people were celebrating. But according to what I heard, even though I was present, I think I was in Extension 2 at the time, my house for example is in an area that is now strongly ANC and as people were excited and celebrating others started saying **Mandela is an umXhosa**. And others said somebody else was not arrested, referring to the Zulu leadership. This led to a conflict and this conflict started growing. That's the first point.



Secondly, the unemployment rate in that area, Thokoza is very small with a large population, and people would, for example, discuss things in the street and these things would spread around faster, and people would say **these Zulus should leave the hostels and go back home.**

People in the hostel for example are not selective when it comes to picking jobs, they take anything from digging the trenches and so on and others would be selective when it comes to picking jobs. And as the conflict continued to the effect that people should leave so that others should get jobs, the conflict intensified and it got out of hand. It is hurtful that people, black people are fighting one another in that manner in which they did.

I have moved to Dawn Park and on coming to work I would experience gunshots, see corpses until sunset. I ended up having a conflict with my family who suggested that I should leave my job and go, and I was not in the position to do that because I depend on this job. It is difficult for me to leave the job because there is a scarcity of jobs. For example if I arrived in the morning and the situation would be tense, I would be told to go back home and not continue working that day and some people would flick the headlights of vehicles indicating the danger to us. For example we would work for three/four days during the week and be disturbed as a result of the violence.

But I am happy now, I didn't know that Thokoza would go back to normality, I'm excited, I'm happy about it because it is okay now. The old order is back, the old peace is prevailing now.

The ANC people who would come to the hostel to take a shower for example, are coming back to the hostel for showers. We are interacting the same way as we did before the violence. I wish that it could remain the same so that we never experience the violence again.

CHAIRPERSON: Ms Sooka.

MS SOOKA: Mr Gadebe I have a few questions. I think you allude to one of them when you say that, I think up until the 1980's you have a situation where people knew that the enemy in a sense was apartheid and the former state but what actually happened after 1980 is that people, black people were killing each other and the worst kinds of violence that was taking place, was taking place within the townships. Now how much of that violence do you think was orchestrated also by the presence of the police and the defence force in the township?

MR GADEBE: As far as I am concerned, the people who worsened the situation were the Stability Unit. These are the people who turned the situation for the worse, especially the whites. I am not trying to be a racist here, they seemed to enjoy it, they did not want it to come to an end because the police station for example is near the hostel, for example if I were on my

way to the head office, I would find corpses along the way and they didn't mind just pushing the corpse with their feet and laugh as if nothing was wrong. They did not seem to care about black people and they were not for the idea of the violence coming to an end. For example as time went on the Stability Unit was later on removed from the township and things started changing for the better.

MR SOOKA: That's why that question of the guns and the weapons become so important you see because you know in the course of our work during the two and a half years the one thing that's become quite clear, and that has come from members of the Defence Force and the police themselves, that they supplied weapons to different factions within the conflict and that just exacerbated the conflict, and that's why some of the recommendations we need to look at is how do we ensure that fighting can't take place again and of course that's related to the question of weapons.

Just on another question, you mentioned that at the time of the Ntuli killing you were actually not here. Now is it possible that your vehicle could have been used without your knowledge in the killing of Sam Ntuli?

MR GADEBE: As I have said earlier on, that my vehicle had a broken carburettor, and I had to take my Mafulela's vehicle who had been injured after being attacked by the Stability Unit, they

had almost broken his arms and he could not even move, so that when I took his vehicle he said I can use it because he was not in the position to use it himself. I had parked my vehicle under a tree, I found it the same way as I had left it when I parked it under the tree. He said he was just not in the position to use his car. I am dead sure that the vehicle had not moved during my absence, the wheels were still in the same position as I had left them.

MR SOOKA: Did you check the mileage of the car?

MR GADEBE: No I did not.

MS SOOKA: Also you know the Commission has received information, there's an allegation that you knew Gugu Mzizi, did you know her?

MR GADEBE: I did not know Gugu Mzizi.

MR SOOKA: So then you would deny the two allegations that are made:

1. That you and Mafulela kept Gugu as a sex slave at Mafulela's house, do you have anything to say about that?

MR GADEBE: I have said earlier that this is a pack of lies, I did not know the person.

MR SOOKA: You also mentioned that you were a member of the IFP, are you originally from KwaZulu Natal before you came to live in Thokoza?

MR GADEBE: Yes I come from KwaZulu Natal, I arrived here in 1984 at the beginning of March during which time I was also employed.

MR SOOKA: That's when you were employed at the Council?

MR GADEBE: Yes that is correct, I started working from then.

MR SOOKA: I'm not sure if I heard you correctly when you said you worked with Mrs Khumalo. Is that correct?

MR GADEBE: Yes I was working with her indeed.

CHAIRPERSON: At the Council?

MR GADEBE: Yes.

MR SOOKA: Can you just tell us as the supervisor at the hostel, would you be the person who would be responsible for ensuring who got a room in the hostel, that kind of thing? What were your duties basically?

MR GADEBE: My duties were such that if a person came in need of a bed for example I would take his particulars and give him a number and I would do it such that I would ask the person where he wanted to stay and give him the number where he wanted to stay. I would not force a person into a number that he did not want.

For example if you were to take a person from Msinga and take him to a group that comes from Nomgoma, there would be a clash, all of these people are from KwaZulu Natal but it would create problems, so I would group people from the same area

together, and by so doing it would be easier. Those were my duties.

Secondly people would bring reports to me, reports for example such as reference to broken windows or whatever what may have happened. I would then take these to the Council; blocked toilets and have them fixed; electric wires that are broken had to be fixed etc. And I would bring electricians to fix it and importantly I would make sure that the entire hostel is clean. But I would be able to do my duty accordingly if there was peace and no violence. But if there was fighting, or perhaps I should say I did not go beyond the hostel. Those days people used to stick to the rules but today it is no longer the case. If a person wanted to sell for example, he would come in and ask for permission to sell inside the hostel. Today it is difficult to follow the same route as we did then.

MR SOOKA: So in a sense, you would know the family connections and the village connections from KwaZulu Natal and you would make sure that in the hostel there would be no conflict between the different people. Is that right?

MR GADEBE: Would you please repeat the question.

MR SOOKA: You see I heard you say that when you put people in the hostel you would also make sure that you put them in a way so that there was no fighting because between the different people that came from different parts of KwaZulu, and the example you

used is Nongoma and we all laughed because one of our Commissioners comes from Nongoma, so you would make sure that there was no fighting by separating people and making sure that people stayed with the people that they come from back home.

MR GADEBE: No that is not how I did it. What's important was that I had to make sure that a person was comfortable where he was to stay. I would choose if a person who came, not having any knowledge - I would ask him where he came from, he would say, I come from Bergville. I would indicate to him there are so many people in this place from Bergville and I would inform him about these things. I would indicate to him and suggest that he should go and check and establish as to whether he knows the people or not and come back to me. And one person would come to me and indicate that we have a fight back home, I don't want to be with those people because they are problematic. It would actually basically depend on the person.

MS SOOKA: Tell me if there was a fight in KwaZulu Natal when the fighting broke out between the ANC and the IFP in KwaZulu would it affect the hostel here in Thokoza? Would people begin fighting here in the township as well?

MR GADEBE: I would not know really, I would not have an idea because there has been fighting a long time ago in KwaZulu Natal, around 1985, but this started around 1990 here. So I

would not be in a position to say. But now I am sure because when I talk to people I talk to everybody, ANC or IFP, and people seem to be tired of the violence. That is why I am saying they will never, ever again go back to that violent situation because they have lost so many things. I, for example, left my house and bought another house in Dawn Park. The bond is very heavy, I am paying very heavily. I have no alternative, I was forced to move into Dawn Park.

MS SOOKA: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON: Dr Randera.

DR RANDERA: Mr Gadebe there is an allegation that Mr Themba Khoza brought arms into Thokoza, even into the hostels. My first question is, did you know Mr Themba Khoza?

The second one is, were you ever aware of this happening in the hostels that you were working in, where Mr Themba Khoza was bringing arms into the hostel?

MR GADEBE: First of all I know Themba Khoza. Secondly I have no knowledge about him bringing firearms.

DR RANDERA: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON: You didn't even hear it as a rumour? I am not saying, did you confirm it, didn't you hear it floating around that you know he was supplying weapons into the area? That he used to come there in a Corolla or a Toyota with some white people etc, etc?



MR GADEBE: No it never came to my ears.

CHAIRPERSON: Mr Ndlosi.

MR NDLOSI: Mr Gadebe, Mr Mafulela, would you regard him as your best friend or just a friend?

MR GADEBE: He is my friend.

MR NDLOSI: Are you that close to him such that perhaps you would discuss with him what problems you may have and exchange ideas as to how to get out of the problem?

MR GADEBE: He is my friend but I am not in a position to say whether he is that very close friend or not. He has a shebeen in the hostel, that is where I have my beer.

MR NDLOSI: Do you perhaps know his girlfriends?

MR GADEBE: I know his wives.

MR NDLOSI: How many wives does he have?

MR GADEBE: I would not say exactly, but I know now that he has two wives and he is just about to take the third one. I really don't know exactly what position he is in.

MR NDLOSI: Is there perhaps none of his girlfriends that resides in Mazabuko Street in Thokoza?

MR GADEBE: No I don't know anything about that.

MR NDLOSI: About Tulani, have you not perhaps seen Tulani, Temba and Mr Xamani together standing discussing or sitting and drinking?

MR GADEBE: No I have never seen them together. I always saw Tulani and Temba together, not Xamani.

MR NDLOSI: I am going to read out people's names here. I would like for you to explain to me how you know each one of these persons.

First of all it's Mr Zweli Nicholas Xamani.

MR GADEBE: Yes I know Xamani. I used to see him at the hostel and he used to pay his rent in my office.

MR NDLOSI: Do you perhaps know as to whether he is an IFP member?

MR GADEBE: You know people assumed that everybody in the hostel was an IFP member. That is how I regarded him as well.

MR NDLOSI: Do you know Mr Mondli

MR GADEBE: What is his surname?

MR NDLOSI: We don't have the surname, we only have the name Mondli.

MR GADEBE: No I don't remember, maybe I know him or not.

MR NDLOSI: Do you know Mr Sabelo Vilakazi?

MR GADEBE: I don't remember that person. I only know some people from sight.

MR NDLOSI: Do you know Nduna Mkhonto?

MR GADEBE: No I don't.

MR NDLOSI: Do you Nduna Duma?

MR GADEBE: No.

MR NDLOSI: Do you know Mr Petros Mabuza?

MR GADEBE: No I don't know him.

MR NDLOSI: Do you know Mr Msomi?

MR GADEBE: There are many Msomis, I don't know which one you are referring to.

MR NDLOSI: We are talking about Oscar Msomi.

MR GADEBE: Yes I know Oscar Msomi.

MR NDLOSI: How do you know him?

MR GADEBE: He is also one of the IFP leaders. He became prominent when he was attacked and he was attacked quite often. That's how I know him.

MR NDLOSI: Was he the one who would come to you and tell you about him being attacked?

MR GADEBE: No I just heard people saying that Msomi is being attacked.

MR NDLOSI: Do you know - there is a certain Mr, or so-called Nkonzi Bomvu, do you know him?

MR GADEBE: I don't know Nkonzi Bomvu.

MR NDLOSI: Do you know Mkwleni?

MR GADEBE: No I don't know him.

MR NDLOSI: Do you know Mr Mxunu?

MR GADEBE: There are many Mxunus, I don't know which one you are talking about.

MR NDLOSI: I am talking about the one who is an Induna.

MR GADEBE: Yes, I know that one. I know him because just before my - or in front of my office there is a dry cleaner. There is a dry cleaner opposite to my office, that is where he is working.

MR NDLOSI: Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much. Mr Gadebe we are thankful to you that you have been able to come. We would have expected you to have come earlier, we would have at least used the hour that we were late about, but I understand you had transport problems.

Mr Frederich we also thank you for having been here to assist Mr Gadebe in giving us an indication of his own perspective and views of the conflicts of the period in question.

You are excused for the moment and we will then take the next witness.

MR GADEBE EXCUSED

I have to indicate that I will be leaving in the course of the testimony of the next witness, at about 11. Perhaps we need to take a five minute adjournment in order for us to check whether the other client has arrived etc.

HEARING ADJOURNS

ON RESUMPTION

MS SOOKA: Thank you for coming here. I believe you are in the happy position of now taking on your third wife.