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Interviewer: It is the 19th August 2010 and this is at Khanya College in Johannesburg. Thanks very much Mashao for taking the time. Just for the record can you please just state your full name.

Chauke: My name is Jan Mashao Chauke.

Interviewer: Okay. And we just want to know a few basic things about you. Just tell us first of all about where and when you were born.

Chauke: I was born on the 18th September 1966 in the Northern Province that is at Naboomspruit and it was in the countryside.

Interviewer: That small town of Naboomspruit. What is the new name of that town now?

Chauke: It's Mogopong, Mogopong.

Interviewer: Okay and after you were born ... are there places you've stayed and lived in South Africa?

Chauke: Ya from Naboomspruit I moved to, when I was 3 years old we moved to an area called Hammanskraal and there was a village called Stanburgran that's where we stayed from 1969 and I went to school at the same place from 1975. I think the reason for me going to school there I think because by then I was about 9 years old and by that time for one to go to school you had to be 7 years old. It was due to the fact that my parents couldn't afford to take me to school and also the fact that it was a Tshwana area whereby when I came there I was speaking Pedi and it was not acceptable since it was a homeland and I think that is the area where most of the people were speaking Tshwana. If you spoke another language like Tsonga it was not acceptable so I had to get used to speaking Tshwana before I could go to school and the second thing was affordability.

Interviewer: Okay we are back on. We just took a little bit of a break.

Chauke: Sure I started schooling at Nantu Primary School in 1975 and went on to the middle school in 1981 which was Modilate Middle School. From the middle school I went on to High School which is Hasikani High School that's where I completed my Matric. From there I worked in 1987 for ISCOR in the Security Division whereby I was a security officer and in 1989 I was promoted to senior security officer. I worked there until 1999. During my working years I was a member of NUMSA and was elected a Shop-steward of NUMSA in 1994 onward until 1999. In 1997 I was elected the deputy chairperson of the Shop-steward Council of ISCOR nationally and I held that position until retrenchments in 1999.

Interviewer: Alright. Just tell us a little bit about your family, children, wife, ya?

Chauke: Ya I'm married, I've got 4 children - 2 girls, 2 boys. The eldest is 18 years old and the last born is about 7 years old now and they are all of them at school and they are schooling in Wattville and the older one is schooling at Benoni High.

Interviewer: Okay. And you mentioned, you've already talked about schooling after Matric, you matric'ed and went straight to work and when you were retrenched what happened after that? You were retrenched in 1999; I think that's what you said?

Chauke: Ya you know I tried to study even though it was a little hard for me. I tried to study BCom and I had some few credits under my name - that is not more than 6. I've got introduction to Economic Management Sciences, I've got Accounting, I've got Economics, I've got Business Management 1 and 2, also Economics 101 and 102. So that was how far I could go since it was getting too expensive to study with UNISA and also not being employed contributed to my abandoning my studies. So after that - that was from 2000 - I tried to do odd jobs, piece jobs there and there in order to survive in between the studies. In 2006 I started to stay in Schubart Park - that's where I tried to organise the community there since there was a struggle of okay, services not being rendered to the community. That area was previously ...the community was only white during the apartheid years.

Interviewer: Sorry let me interrupt you. Just give an indication of where Schubart Park is, where it's located.

Chauke: Ya Schubart Park is in the heart of the City of Tshwane which is Pretoria. It's at the corner of Schubart and Vermeleen and it's at the City Centre. Okay, so previously that's where poor white were staying and their rental was subsidised by government or the municipality so what happened was that after liberation, after the apartheid laws were abolished black people started to stay in those units. So what happened is that even the services deteriorated to a level where it was unacceptable. I started staying there in 2006 and it was mainly because there was a need to organise those people in that area to make sure that they resist whatever was brought by municipality and government. So what happened is that in 2006 towards the end I was made an organiser of the area in Schubart Park to organise that area. The focus was to make sure that since there was the RDP process that was going on the people that were staying there we wanted them to have those units as they are RDP houses but we had to have an approach and the approach was to have those units first being renovated and to be in good standard, that was the first struggle that we wanted to engage ourselves in. The second one was to make sure that we struggle to get them into our names. The only challenge that was there was that some of the people that stayed there, some had bought houses somewhere where there was their home and were working there. So that was something that was a setback for us because they couldn't, if we fight for those units to be ours they wouldn't be qualifying at the end and we saw that as a disadvantage. And the second thing was that some people had already allocated RDP houses elsewhere - that was one challenge. So, as the years went by since the apartheid era the white community decreased and from the immigrants there was an increase of the people that were from other countries that came to stay in the area so meaning that it was about 50% immigrants, 50% South Africans with the white community diminishing until to a level where by you can say now the population of the white community is about 10% or less. So we went on like that until we managed to organise the community, the whole community to speak with one voice to say this is what we want because there were no more services there and then the place was falling apart and then we organised one big march that went to the municipality of Tshwane and that was in 2007. The response of the municipality of Tshwane was in 2008, July, 16th and that was after we put pressure to the Mayor of Tshwane which is Gwen Ramagkoba to come and address the problems which we encountered in the complex. What happened is that the mayor said she was not available on the day that we requested her to come but surprisingly a day before because it was rumoured that she is overseas but a day before she came to the complex herself with her

bodyguards, they inspected the area and called the community and said this place is not good for human habitation so the people should move out. We responded by a letter to the mayor saying you indicated that you were not there but you came to the community and said they should move out, we are not going anywhere. What happened is that we were amazed on the 22nd of July when we woke up in the morning we found the place swarmed with Red Ants, Metro Police, SAPS and even the army. What happened is that, what was happening is that we were being evicted they wanted everybody out and the eviction ... they got the court order that, okay we did not know of. That was the first thing that we challenged that was not procedurally obtained and the second thing is that we did not know that there will be any eviction in the area so what we did because people were leaving for work, we tried to, we organised the people and challenged, we resisted the eviction and that resulted into some fatalities. About 5 people died since one of the strategies was to burn one of the buildings to make sure that the attention will be focused on the burning building while we had other comrades that went to challenge the eviction in court. We managed to stop the eviction, that was mainly because of one; people resisted, they did not take it lightly that they were being evicted and the second point is that they were evicted without any alternative accommodation and also people were angered by the manner in which the municipality wanted to evict them so that resistance assisted and we managed to stop it. When the court ruled that the two parties should go and negotiate and maybe talk somewhere already the eviction was stopped because the focus was mainly on the burning building. So that was an unfortunate situation whereby people lost their lives but we also believe they did not lose their lives in vain because people are still staying in Schubart and Kruger Park and the process is that now the buildings are good and have been renovated meaning that, that struggle is being won. That is the first phase. Well, I was the organiser of the community until now, I'm still coordinating all the struggles in that community but what we have done now is that we have given other comrades who wanted to empower them to have the knowledge so in order that next time when there are things happening and I'm not there they will be able to coordinate. Now we've got floor reps, block committees and each block has got a coordinator and the coordinators form their own committee which will decide on what to do next. We, as the major committee, are being consulted and we have meetings with smaller committees when it's necessary.

Interviewer: You've already discussed quite a lot of things but I'm going to take us back a little bit in terms of general questions before we get into some specific issues in Schubart Park. How is it - you mentioned that when you were working in ISCOR you became a shop steward and a member of NUMSA and so forth - is that what you would describe as time for your politicisation when you became politically aware of things that were going on around you and then you translated that into community activism later. Is that correct?

Chauke: I think my political activism started at school. When I was doing Standard 9, there were no grades by then we were calling it 'standards' When I was doing standard 9 the school that I was attending was partly a boarding school and we were day scholars. We came from home we were travelling by bus. On a Monday we found that the principal had chained a student. He claimed that the student stole something from the kitchen and he called the police and the police arrested the student, but now I was a free boarder at school and I was known and when it was sports day I used to take part in the debates so I was well known at school. So I started this thing of saying, but how come a principal, I mean treat a

student like a criminal whereas there is not yet even proof that what they allege was stolen is true. We organised some few student from the boarding department and they agreed that the following day, because sometimes I used to sleep there because they were used to me. We organised during that night that from tomorrow if that student is not released there is no school and it happened that the following morning there was a class boycott and what happened is that because it was in the former Bophuthatswana area they called Bophuthatswana police, they came. I remember one brigadier who was in charge of the troop of the police who gave instructions that we must be arrested, we must be beaten. We were beaten that day and a few students were arrested and that escalated the protests and it was after they released them because the next day they decided to release all, everyone without even charging them that normality was restored. That's where I started to be active in politics but since we were living in Bophuthatswana, I mean that was very dangerous you couldn't expose yourself to being somebody who is political, but the students who came from Soweto because we had students who came from Soweto, from all over South Africa, that were very much active during the 1976 period until when they were in high school. They used to tell us about the stories and I had the desire to, I mean do the same thing in our area. That's where I started. When I was working for ISCOR and things were not going on well when I was elected shop steward it was because most of the time when there were issues management would say they will choose people whom they could talk to, I was one of them most of the time. Most of the time we would achieve what we wanted and workers felt that I should become a shop steward and that happened. During my reign as a shop steward there was a time when they wanted to outsource the security department and it was like it would have to be privatised, I mean outsourcing. We resisted that and then in 1996 we did a sit-in in the Chief Executive Officer's office who was Hans Strydom - the CEO's office we slept there and the following day they reversed the decision. We achieved there, what happened was that after that then we found some ground to say that even the payment was not up to what we expected it to be and what happened is that they just wanted to implement a pay rise whereby they would say so-and-so deserve an increase, still we had to strategise, we resisted that and said there had to be a process which people it's either they undergo training and became graded and then it must be clear as to after such a period you're eligible to be promoted to this rank and even your pay should increase according to the promotion that you're getting. That we achieved, yes.

Interviewer: Okay. So you've had quite a lengthy political involvement. Were you at all in any of these times a member of any other organisation other than your union; any political organisation?

Chauke: Yes. I was an ANC member, by the time, by 1994 we were the ones who were organising the communities more especially in Stanburgran where I grew up, saying the ANC is the party that you should vote for and then we were very, very much active in our community. Things started to change after 1994. Well, I can assure you I voted only once, that was in 1994 and things started to change in a way that it was not what we thought it will be and we had our own differences in the community. But I believe that we stood with one voice because at some point we said no, no, no we don't want the ANC anymore in our community. But, what happened is that because I was working, during my absence people said the main instigator is Mashao and as such the community won't benefit from what other communities are benefiting because of him and he needs to be isolated. People's attitudes

started to change and that's when I realised that I have to make my own move, you know and decided no, no I was no longer going to be ...I was a card carrying member of the ANC .

Interviewer: Up until mid 90s you said?

Chauke: Yes

Interviewer: Alright. What made you in particular as someone who is a shop steward and activist and later in the community, particularly become interested in the issue of privatisation and why?

Chauke: I think it happened not by accident since most of my entire life I had seen more especially from ISCOR, when reengineering started at ISCOR in 1997 there were other reengineering processes which started before then but the 1997 one was a major one and I could see that because I was in the leadership of the shop steward council. Everything that was happening we had to be part and parcel of that. I remember our organiser by then was Osbourne Nkaleni, I think he is now with GIWUSA. We argued on why should things happen like this when workers do not want them like that. There was a compromise somewhere from the union side. What happened is that I realised from there that this issue of reengineering and privatising other departments and stuff like that is impacting on ordinary poor people. That should not be allowed. Well, I did not have much politics and knowledge about that and also you now I studied economics from school, I was doing economics and sometimes I tried to balance what I studied at school and what was happening and realised that okay, there was somewhere where there was a gap. So, I told myself I had to find out what this gap was all about. After we were retrenched and after were like, I mean, not having a job and sometimes doing odd jobs what happened is that we started reorganising retrenched people and that was from Atteridgeville side because previously I stayed at the ISCOR hostel which were turned into family units. They were renovated and turned into family units, we stayed with families there. Most of the people when they were retrenched they went to stay in squatter camps and then since we used to have meetings we went into squatter camps to hold meetings there that's where the APF affiliate which is in Jesffville started. Well, I went away for some time and after that when I came back to that affiliate because sometimes I stayed at home and sometimes I was in Benoni it was a little bit difficult for me to go into those meetings all the time but I attended their meetings every Sunday on month ends precisely because they felt people will have money to travel from wherever to hold those meetings. That community and those meetings were the ones that after it was declared that there was pension surplus then they decided to challenge to get those surpluses but then it was not only about surpluses it was about other benefits that were left behind from the company itself. That's where we started, I started realising that privatisation on people and especially women and children because what I saw most of the women, some being widows, some children without parents came to those meetings and said my father used to work for that company so I'm coming to represent him, and sometimes when we were in those meetings we had to make some collection because some people did not have money to buy food at home so we had to be generous and donate so that they will buy a bag of mealie-meal for them to at least survive so that they will do other stuff like getting relish and stuff like that. So that's when I realised that privatisation had a very huge impact on people's lives particularly the poor especially women and children who lost the people that were supporting them.

Interviewer: Okay, you've already answered the next question partially. I was going to ask you a little bit to carry on with that. Why do you think that ... you mentioned a specific context in which privatisation impacted in your life as well as other workers but why do you think that privatisation or corporatisation and everything is important in the context of what has happened politically and economically in South Africa since 1994 in the larger context, so how do you link the two things together? You earlier talked about, that once 1994 happened, the politics in the ANC started changing so how do you link those two things together in the context of the importance of what privatisation represents beyond its own impact on individuals?

Chauke: You know fortunately when I was doing standard 9 I studied a certain book by George Orwell and that book taught me precisely what happened. During the reign of , I mean during the apartheid era, the ANC used to preach that we won't be doing this, that and that but after they were in power they did exactly the same thing that the apartheid government was doing. So what happened is that I realised that a lot of people started losing their jobs and they blamed that on companies that were going out of the country because they were afraid of the new government but that was not true. I realised that things started to be more expensive and that was related very closely with being privatised because people wanted to make profit. What I realised is that only a few people, the high profile people from my area who were attending high profile meetings which we were not going to were the only ones that were benefiting. I remember one person who benefited was the councillor at that time because now he was the one who was going to those meetings, he came back with the reports. We were the ones who will coordinate the meetings, mobilise and call people to come to those meetings and make sure that the community is behind what the ANC was doing but after they were in power only 1% benefited out of the whole community and the things that were promised never materialised because now ... we were promised that we would have water in our own yards and we were promised that we will have electricity, well we did have electricity after some fights. For one month we were given some free electricity and after that we had to pay and prices escalated as time went by. Now according to me I think privatisation had a very huge impact and also it still takes us back to the time when apartheid was still there, there is no change. The only thing that has changed is that life is to a lower level than before.

Interviewer: Now we are going to shoot back into those Schubart Park, I'm going to pick that up again. You've already talked a little bit about the character of Schubart, just tell for the record ... its consisting as far as I understand of 2 or 3 very tall buildings. How many stories of these buildings?

Chauke: Ya I think Shubert Park, it's got 5 buildings and one is called Kruger Park. When eviction was happening here from the first block which was, they started at block C we planned to burn this block. It's at the other side of the street so everybody went to the other side of the street and the eviction stopped. They tried to extinguish the fire, I mean the media and everything was there and whereas there was a process in court, so there are 5 buildings, very tall buildings,

Interviewer: How many storeys per average in each building?

Chauke: 32 Kruger Park. 32. The other ones from A, B, D, C has got 21 floors.

Interviewer: Okay - and how many people would you estimate live in that community as you say in the entirety of all the buildings?

Chauke: I have to say this ... I think there was about 2000 people staying there when it was still controlled. After the municipality realised that they lost the fight to I mean the community, even today we are busy with a survey to check how many people live there but the last time we checked there was more than 9000 people and the 9000 people are not staying in the 5 blocks because since this one was burnt it was closed down and there is one block that which was very dangerous we closed it down because it was not safe, not even for us. The 9000 are staying in three blocks. It happened that at one stage in one flat 25 people were staying there and what people did was that since there was no access control everyone stayed in that area. What happened is that the immigrants when they were coming from wherever they were coming from they were staying there, after they realised that okay, there is a place there they started migrating to Schubart Park and they stayed there. But well we accepted them because we didn't want to discriminate against anyone and we wanted them to feel at home so we accepted them but based on the condition that the place will be kept clean and all those kinds of things and safety measures be adhered to. So the number of the people is more than 9000.

Interviewer: You've mentioned that it's about 50% now, 50% immigrants and 50% South African citizens - is that still the case?

Chauke: No it has changed I think, the population there now is about 75% immigrants and only 25% of the local people.

Interviewer: And where do most of the immigrants come from?

Chauke: Most of them are from Zimbabwe and Nigeria. Zimbabweans constitute about 80% of the people of the immigrants, Nigeria about 15%, Mozambique, Malawi and Ghana they share the remaining percentage.

Interviewer: ... just say a little something about how that change has played itself out in terms of the community, because since 1994 particularly the last few years there have always been problems in South Africa with xenophobia and tensions between South Africans and immigrants. How has that played itself out in Schubart Park in the community there?

Chauke: What helps us is that most of the immigrants they were targeted by locals to benefit from them because what happened is that they were renting the flats ... what I forgot to mention was that initially the first part of our struggle in Schubart Park was to break down the system and that was, we would do that by not paying rent. We started on a rent boycott and that's what collapsed the system that was there. Now everybody, not even a single person was not paying rent but what happened is that the immigrants they were renting, there were individuals who were landlords and that assisted us when the xenophobic attacks broke out. It was like we can't be fighting our customers. Those were some of the comments but that was not something that was very big. I think what we manage to do as a community. When the xenophobic break out was happening already we were a member of the Anti Privatisation Forum and we know that as a policy of the APF we do not discriminate against our own brothers. We knew what the problems were, what were the causes of the problems, they were not our problem they were our brothers. We, I remember we called one meeting

whereby we addressed the meeting and said in this area we are not going to discriminate, we are all one thing we are fighting one struggle and by then, I mean the struggle was at its highest. The municipality was forcing things to happen and we were saying no we are united so our focus was mainly on fighting our struggle than on fighting ourselves. We knew we needed each other and we had to protect each other so we managed very well to quell the xenophobic attacks in our area.

Interviewer: And just a couple of very specific questions, when exactly ... I think it's called the Schubart Park Residents Association, is that correct? When exactly was it formed?

Chauke: Ya. It has been there, there had been a committee, I think 2001, but that committee was not the committee of the people, it was a committee that was a committee of the municipality of the management company because Steel Property was managing that company so they had people form a committee but in 2006 we started formalising the committee itself and we started to elect people that would serve on the committee

Interviewer: Alright. And how would you describe the general ... I mean you said there is almost 9000 people in the buildings, the size, the number of activists, people who are actually active in the resident's committee of the entire population of the buildings?

Chauke: I think, previously there was no activism in terms of political issues and stuff like that but I believe after 2006/ 2007 that's when people started to see that there was a need to be active in the local politics more in particular about where we staying and we mobilised people and they responded positively by taking part in our meetings. When we called mass meetings, the hall was full to capacity sometimes we even had the problem of breathing because there was no air conditioners in the building. Most of the people that came to our meetings were the immigrants and most of the people that were very active were immigrants. I remember there was Christmas of 2008, something nasty happened because the municipality thought that, in fact their plan was to interview people during that time when people have gone home, they thought there will be less people to resist. They started by switching off the lights, the entire building. We tolerated the first day, the second day I remember it was the 20th; we gave them an ultimatum that come the 22nd then there will be chaos. They ignored us after that we called them and they said they are on leave there is no one who can attend to our problems, there is no electricity, and there is no electricity. And then the 25th we woke up in the morning, in fact on the 24th we organised the barricades. We woke up in the morning we took the barricades, the tyres the dustbins, the tyres we barricaded and then we waited for the first police vehicle that came. It was stoned. They were lucky they escaped, it was supposed to be burned. We fought with the police, the Central police they called Atteridgeville, all the metro police they came until 4 o'clock. At 4 o'clock the area commissioner of the SAPS came ... he chose me and Aubrey and another two comrades and said we should talk what the problem was. We said to him there is no electricity but the electricity has been switched off deliberately and we know but we were lying, we did not know it was switched off deliberately. We knew afterwards that it was switched off deliberately and we said we want electricity to be restored, I mean we want to enjoy Christmas just like other people, and he contacted a few people from the municipality and he said if they do not restore electricity he is going to withdraw all the police and what ever happened it will be their responsibility and I tell you within an hour electricity was restored. What I can tell you is that the majority of the throwing stones, who were doing

everything, was the immigrants. So they responded positively to our struggle to say this is our struggle, we have to fight for it, we have to do 1-2-3 and they were doing it. Well, we are not saying the locals were not doing it, they were part of it but the immigrants constituted the majority of the people who were struggling there.

Interviewer: Okay, now you've given me quite a bit of information about reasons for the formation of the organisation. Just give a sense of how the organisation is structured. You mentioned that you've got block committees and so forth and everything but in terms of outside the buildings how is it; do you have regular meetings to elect leadership, AGMs? Just give a bit of sense of the democratic nature of the organisation.

Chauke: What happens is that we have got floor reps who are responsible for the floors and the floor rep on the floor is part of the block committee. From the block committee they chose a coordinator for that block and that coordinator will be forming a committee with other block coordinators. There is a major committee which has been chosen after each and every year. What happens is that the municipality of Tshwane, we inform the municipality of Tshwane and they also inform their own people to come and observe. We have the elections each and every year and it doesn't matter where you came from. If you're nominated and become elected you're part of the committee. We have got about 9 representatives who were with the other portfolios being the normal ones, chairperson, deputy chairperson and we have got about 4 women on our committee. The first woman is the deputy chairperson, Lisa Hoskins she is coloured and we have got the deputy chairperson, no, no, the secretary is also a female comrade and our treasurer also she was a female comrade. Unfortunately she left the area and she is no longer part of the committee, she was replaced with another female comrade. There are other two additional members who are female comrades as well. So after the main committee it's the one which is making sure that because according to our constitution we are responsibly to make sure that we form other small committees that can make governing the area more efficient. Each and every block committee has to have a main committee member in it so that he can foresee that all the procedure and constitution is followed more especially when there are disputes and stuff like that.

Interviewer: Okay, we just took a little bit of a break there. Just tell when did your organisation know or came to hear about the APF? How did that happen?

Chauke : I think I was the first one to hear about the APF since I was involved in Jeffsville surplus meetings and Jeffsville affiliated to the APF and I introduced the APF to the Schubart Park community and they embraced the idea of joining the APF. What we did is that we wrote a letter to the APF with the desire to affiliate to the APF and the APF responded by sending some representatives to the community to see for themselves as to if the community is in existence, the committee, all those kinds of things and that was in 2007.

Interviewer: And why did Schubart Park Residents committee want to join the APF? What were the reasons? What was it about the APF that you wanted to be part of?

Chauke : I think we had heard about the APF, what the APF was doing on the ground , assisting communities and those kinds of things and we wanted to be part of the APF so that we can consolidate our struggle, so that we can be able to win our struggles, so that we can be able to get some assistance of some sort whether it was material or I mean some support from the APF because we even thought that initially the APF might be to be in a position to

win struggles for us, you know. But after we joined the APF we realised that we were the APF and we were supposed to carry on with our struggles just as much as we were doing before we joined the APF.

Interviewer: And have any of the members of the Schubart Park Concerned Residents held any positions in the APF since you joined in terms of APF level?

Chauke: Yes. I was the regional coordinator of the APF in the Tshwane region and we had Aubrey Ramalhlale who was also the chairperson of the region, he was also elected the regional coordinator of the Anti Privatisation Forum. We also had some other comrades that were taking part in the subcommittees of the APF where they were supposed to be representing our affiliate

Interviewer: And just tell us a little bit about the relationship once you joined the APF or became or was accepted as an affiliate of the APF, what that relationship produced for your community and the struggle that was going on in Schubart Park?

Chauke: We joined the APF immediately after the Schubart Park uprising when we were being evicted and we resisted that eviction and the comrades from the APF came to struggle with us even before we were a member. and after we were accepted as a member we had comrades who were very active in the APF who came to our affiliate who helped us mobilise even in the area where we used to mobilise they came and supported us in everything. I remember at one stage we had a march and previously we did not have night vigils but the APF comrades came to us and said 'no you see in order to have a successful march you start the night before, hold a night vigil, sing all night long and you'll see no person will go to work they would want to join this march' and it happened that way and we had a massive march. A very huge march which made a very huge impact and that march went to the office of the President. That was one of the biggest marches that our affiliate had at the time and it was because of the relationship that we had with the APF and at that time the APF was doing its work of really supporting the struggles of the communities. It was a very good thing to do because even an ordinary person could see what the functions of the APF was. And people all over will commend the APF and everyone wanted to buy an APF t-shirt. It was different because other organisation's t-shirts were freely available, but the APF one you had to pay a certain price but people wanted to ... meaning that they had some sort of attachment to the organisation, they wanted to show the organisation that they were in full support of what it was doing.

Interviewer: Okay. And as far as the politics, let's put it that way instead of just not necessarily the support, human support, material support - how did the relationship with the APF, if at all shape this sort of politics of the struggle?

Chauke: Ya, I think it made a difference because with people knowing the ANC, the major political party which they supported, they didn't see the other side of the APF, I mean the ANC. It was after joining the APF that people started to question why things are not done like this because the APF provided political education to that community. And it was helpful for the community to identify certain things that they have been denied and it was because of the APF's politics that were presented to the community which was a true reflection of what was happening countrywide that shaped what they wanted to do and achieve.

Interviewer: You've already mentioned that some of the key activists in Schubart Park were in the different structures of the APF and held these positions. What other benefits could you say you think were there as a result of participation in the APF, broader than just Schubart Park? In other words, other activities that were part and parcel of the APF struggles?

Chauke: Yes I think definitely, the comrades were very much active and that activism from the community itself, the Schubart Park area was taken over to the APF and they carried on with that activism, participated. They had been active until their potential was recognised by the organisation itself and the organisation took it upon its shoulders to ensure that. I mean the energy that was in the comrades during the meeting, during the AGMs and stuff like that they were elected into positions that they are now holding.

Interviewer: And what about knowledge and information gained as a result of the membership of the APF? In other words, things that do not necessarily deal with your struggles in Schubart Park but are broader than that. Is that also an issue, was that part and parcel of the benefits as well?

Chauke: Yes I think the APF provided a platform where we learnt a lot of things and through the APF we gained a lot of knowledge. As I was saying that there was a political education that we gained from and that was an enormous experience that we will use even in the future. I think the APF's support in that regard was huge and it contributed positively towards the development of our community which is Schubart Park because as we speak right now when you speak of the APF it is being held in high esteem in my community. That is a sign of showing that, I mean what the community gained from APF's community, is being appreciated by the community itself and me in particular. I think I am what I am now because of the Anti Privatisation Forum and it was because of certain people in the APF leadership who made sure that, I mean it was not about individual struggles, it was about a collective and I won't be mentioning their names but I'm 100% sure that those people also shaped my political career path where I see myself as someone who has got the knowledge. When we debate about issues, be it in our community or elsewhere, when I start talking people listen attentively because they know that they will gain something from what I'll be talking meaning that whatever I got from the APF is meaningful.

Interviewer: And how - let me ask you this question - as a result of the relationship of being part of the APF's broader struggles and being part of a bigger collective did that have any impact on how the state responded to the Schubart Park struggles in itself? In other words, what you were fighting, what was the impact besides the support and knowledge generation in relation to the fight with the municipality and the state itself.

Chauke: I think the relationship of the Schubart Park and APF has contributed positively toward our struggle. Why I am saying that is that firstly by the time the APF mobilised in our area when we took action and that was real action and the action made an impact that was the one thing. So, municipality and government couldn't ignore when we raised issues. Every time we raise issues now they normally call us into a meeting, whereby they try to calm the situation like, they claim to be trying to address the situation but they don't and as a result of that, that what we see, we see that as something that they are trying to do so that we shouldn't take action because they know. They regard Schubart Park as the APF, when they talk of Schubart Park, they say when the APF takes action that won't be nice so now

they try - meaning that in terms of that government and the municipality and the national government and the local government they are trying everything to make sure that they try to address the issues and with the APF being our mother body we have achieved a lot. Why - because initially they say 'no' they were not going to renovate with those people being there but after we were in the APF we managed to say that we were not going anywhere. When they checked the profile of Schubart Park and when they checked the profile of the Anti Privatisation Forum they realised that they were not going to win there because we were not going to take that lying down. They even agreed to putting of lifts in the buildings to make sure that the people will move from one floor to another easily and they also agreed that they were going to renovate the two blocks and all the people with lease agreements they will start with them, they will put them in those two blocks then they will renovate the rest. But now we also said to them 'you know we need to have a process and we have to agree on that' because they had to tell us what the rental was going to be market related. I mean is it going to be cost related and stuff like that? They haven't come out clear as to what is going to happen in that regard but know that when they have to do things they have to consult with us. National government said they must have regular meetings and that is happening fortnightly each and every Friday on a fortnightly basis. We have got 2 representatives who goes to meet with the officials of the municipality to check where might things have gone wrong after the previous meeting so that those kinds of things can be addressed and that was purely because we were part of the APF.

Interviewer: Okay ...I was going to mention maybe you want to say something about the last couple of questions; how membership of the APF impacted on your relationship with other communities?

Chauke : It had a positive impact, why I'm saying that is because after what happened people started to realise that communities belonging to the APF, we had a great number of communities that wanted to come and assist them, for example; Mooiplaas, Mamelodi , Atteridgeville, Itereleng and many other areas. We went to those areas. As Tshwane we went and mobilised those areas. It's just that it was unfortunate that we couldn't affiliate those areas to the APF due to the politics of the APF like they would be restructuring and there will be that and that and that has cost us a lot of hardships in our Tshwane region. A lot of communities were disappointed because they thought that the APF does not want them, that was one problem which was there but the other communities related to us, I mean if they have problems they come to use as if we are an advice centre, for advice, in order to struggle with them so for us to mobilise is very easy in our area because when we go to an area we are already known and the people just fall into our programme of action with ease.

Interviewer: You mentioned quite a lot of positives and strengths of the APF, how about some of the weaknesses and some problems that you have experienced as being part of the APF?

Chuake: Ya I think I have to be honest. The APF was once a powerhouse and when you talk about the APF more especially with the government officials or whoever then people will start taking you seriously. But it came to a time whereby the politics of the APF changed into personal issues, that is one problem that I realised with the APF, that has weakened the struggles of the APF itself and also other weaknesses that I have seen is that most of the APF are unemployed and as the APF there hasn't been something, I mean a programme

that could assist the unemployed comrades in order to make a living for themselves so that they shouldn't be depending on the APF. Now people are seeing the APF as an ATM, if they do not have money then they go to the APF, they will be given money and they will be left with R10 to buy bread, those kinds of things. They have got a very negative impact on community struggles these are the problems. And, also the last point that I want to make is about power mongering, it's not about the struggles anymore it's about who is holding which position which has got a negative impact on the struggles of the APF, but that does not mean that that can't be corrected. I think there has to be a clear way of how to address those problems and I think if the issues of leadership in the APF can be addressed then those problems can be solved because I believe the role of the leadership is to unite all APF affiliates to struggle for one common purpose which is to destroy privatisation and its policies.

Interviewer: Okay.

Chauke: Is that all? Thank you.

