

Case Study - Summary 120 words:

The Modimolle cases represent landmark legal victories for community rights in South Africa. In February 2021, residents established a Ratepayers Association after discovering the municipality had not properly promulgated property tax rates, making them unlawful. The first case, *Dreyer v Modimolle (2021)*, resulted in the Magistrates Court recognizing electricity as a basic human right and granting a spoliation order restoring supply. The second case, *Sydney Wells v Modimolle (2024)*, saw the High Court award maximum costs against the municipality for unlawful disconnection. These cases establish critical legal principles: unpromulgated rates are unenforceable, unlawful disconnections cause irreparable harm, and residents can declare disputes over illegal charges. The outcomes demonstrate the power of organized community action and provide precedent for other municipalities facing similar governance challenges.