

Case Study - Summary 120 words:

This case study examines the September 2024 High Court judgment in *Wells v Modimolle-Mookgophong Municipality* (Case 9707/2024), representing the culmination of over a decade of strategic litigation by South Africa's National Taxpayers Union (NTU). The judgment served as the final enforcement mechanism in a carefully orchestrated legal strategy that began with the 2013 *Liebenberg* case, which established strict compliance requirements for municipal rate levies. The Wells judgment consolidated previous legal victories, ordering the municipality to restore electricity services, issuing an interdict preventing future disconnections, prohibiting service fees for unlawful actions, and imposing punitive costs. This comprehensive ruling shifted the power dynamic between municipalities and residents, transforming ratepayers' associations into legally recognized advocates while driving systemic change in municipal governance accountability across South Africa.