

Knoetze vs. Tshwane Municipality - 120 Word Summary

In a landmark March 2021 judgment, the Gauteng High Court interdicted the Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality from relocating informal settlement residents without first installing functional water, electricity, and sewage infrastructure. The case, brought by Gert Matthys Knoetze, affirms constitutional rights to adequate housing and dignity. The ruling protects vulnerable populations from unsafe relocations and promotes sustainable urban development by enforcing compliance with building regulations and town planning schemes. This precedent holds municipalities accountable for their obligations and provides communities a powerful legal tool to demand better service delivery. The judgment demonstrates that housing is not merely shelter but must include essential services, reflecting South Africa's commitment to spatial justice and human rights.