



02 June 2010

**WESTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
SETTLEMENTS ACCUSED OF DELIBERATELY
BREAKING THE LAW**

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

According to Craig Jonkers, chairperson of the Ithemba Small Farmers Association, officials from the provincial department of Human Settlements have been destroying residential and farming structures belonging to Ithemba farmers for the last three days. The iThemba Farmers Association consists of 300 poor, black households that have been surviving for as long as 25 years by keeping livestock and growing crops on a flood-prone, sandy piece of land between Khayelitsha and Eersteriver. The efforts by the provincial government and the City of Cape Town to evict them from the land constitutes a catastrophic attack on their already precarious livelihoods.

Camilla Rose, an attorney with the firm Chenells Albertyn acting for the Ithemba farmers, sent a letter to Bongani Madikezela, the MEC for Human Settlements, that reminds the MEC that should these accusations be true it would be both extra-judicial and in breach of the agreement the department has with the farmers in question. The letter states: 'Should our clients' peaceful possession of the farm be interfered with, we shall proceed immediately with an application for a spoliation order and for a reward of costs against the responsible parties.'

The farmers are determined to resist the actions of the department by all means.

For comment or information call:

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