

Launch of Zimbabwean Farmers' South African Court Case: Taking former President Jacob Zuma and the SA Government to court for their part in closing down the regional SADC Tribunal court



In discussion: From the left: Natasha Venter (AfriForum), Ben Freeth (Mike Campbell Foundation), Wynand Hart (dispossessed Zimbabwean farmer) and Willie Spies (legal representative of AfriForum)

Summary of court case

The Mike Campbell Foundation has initiated the following court case with the support of AfriForum, a South African civil rights initiative. It involves a group of dispossessed Zimbabwean farmers taking former South African President Jacob Zuma and the South African government to court for their part in closing down the regional human rights court, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tribunal. It is an exciting development in the long and difficult series of steps to get justice.

The SADC Tribunal found in November 2008 that the Zimbabwean government had acted unlawfully and in a racist manner by confiscating white farmers' land without compensation. It was also found that the expropriated farmers were entitled to fair compensation for the damages that they had suffered as a result of the confiscation of their properties.

In another ruling in 2009, the Tribunal found that the Zimbabwean government had to return the property of Luke Tembani, a black commercial farmer, which had been declared confiscable by the Zimbabwean Land Bank. Zimbabwe ignored the Tribunal's finding in this regard as well.

In April 2019, 25 Zimbabwean farmers and farming businesses, together with our executive director, Ben Freeth, issued a summons on the South African government and the President for R1.9 billion. These farmers suffered damages because of South African government's complicity in the dissolution of the SADC Tribunal in 2011.

This followed the South African Constitutional Court's unanimous ruling on 11 December 2018 that former President Jacob Zuma had acted unlawfully and unconstitutional by participating in the process to dissolve the SADC Tribunal.

August 2019 update: Since the launch of the case, the second set of 65 farmers is now also in.

To watch the interview, which explains the court case, click on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/o9NzvRrzgKs>

To view the SADC Tribunal Time Line, click on the following link

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/02876c_5ece56fd45c14d258b7e818c042b84a6.pdf

To find out more about our "Seeking Justice" initiatives, visit our website:

<https://www.mikecampbellfoundation.com/copy-of-what-the-mcf-is-doing-now>