

Project name: Alternative History Project
Date of interview: 2007-09-09
Location of interview: Sebokeng, Gauteng
Language of interview: English
Name of Interviewer/s: Dale McKinley & Ahmed Veriava
Name of Interviewee/s: Siqelo Fredrick Mkhize
Name of transcriber: Moses Moremi
Audio file name: AHP_SEB_MkhizeSiqeloFredrick_20070909

INTERVIEW WITH SIQELO FREDRICK MKHIZE

Dale McKinley (DM): For the very first if you can just say your full name for the record, please?

Siqelo Fredrick Mkhize (SFM): I am Siqelo Fredrick Mkhize.

DM: When were you born, Siqelo?

SFM: 1950.

DM: 1950?

SFM: 15 July.

DM: And where, where were you born?

SFM: At Nongoma.

DM: In Kwazulu Natal?

SFM: Yes, in the royal place.

DM: And how long? Did you stay there as a child?

SFM: No, my education I started from standard, it was sub A by that time, I started my first schooling there Grade 1 at Nthobeni Eshowe. Do you know Eshowe?

DM: Yes I've been to Eshowe.

SFM: My first schooling was there. From there I went to Vumanhlavu I think it was for two years there. From there I went to Italaleng still under Inkhandla district, still Italaleng under principal Mbatha, Mr. Mbatha that's where I did my primary education. From there I went to secondary school which was called Nbizwe at Inkhandla.

DM: And did you finish your matric there or how far did you go with your secondary school?

SFM: Until JC it was called JC by that time Then I went to Mlazi it was called Vocational school which is called Mangosuthu Technikon today. I took... it was designing or tailoring it was a ...a tailoring course which took me three years. Tailoring and under tailoring we were doing drafts you know the technical drawings but it was later changed to designing and I can't exactly say what is the difference between that thing because now they are talking about designing, mostly they talk about designing. Now I

took three years from there I got a job. Now the job I got I was not happy about that job you know as a first time because after you know that at the Vocational we used to do theories and then little bit of practical, and then we were supposed to be sent to the factories to do pure practical practice, now unfortunately most of the factories they were owned by not by our nations you know. Now...let me say it we were just discriminated because most of the factories they were owned by the Whites and Indians. Most of those students who were staying in Natal they didn't have that privilege of doing practical at the factories. They just took the Whites and the Indians. That's where we were frustrated.

DM: When you did the first job, what exactly were you doing at that job?

SFM: You see now, my father died at that time and then after he died we were so many children at home, we were at that time I think we were, I have 4 younger boys after me, they were still young and I was supposed to maintain them. Now I was forced because now I could not earn any money from my career because I did have a certificate but now which was not full because of practical. Because of that problem I decided I must get any government job you know and the job that I got was the SAP, the quickest so that I can support my younger, my mother was not working and then my younger children..

DM: What year did you join the SAP?

SFM: I joined the SAP at it was Smith Street in Durban.

SFM: What was the question again?

DM: What year did you join the SAP?

SFM: 1973, it was December. And then they said we must rise in 1974, they took us here from Durban to here.

DM: You said to here, to this place, right at the Vaal?

SFM: Yes, Vaal. We were 15; it's so unfortunate you know.

DM: What explanation did they give you for moving you from Durban all the way to the Vaal?

SFM: There was no explanation, it was a matter you take the job or you leave it. We had to take it by force, There was a declaration, they used to make declaration that declaring that I swear that am going to serve at any place in the Republic of South Africa, I am going to serve the government at any place within South Africa the government; there were no options there, take or leave it. And then we were sent here in the Transvaal and they divided us into different places, regions, and district. They took us to Vaal; I went to Alberton, Soweto, Germiston, all over Transvaal.

Ahmed Veriava (AV): I just want to ask you, your parents ... what kind of work did they do?

SFM: My parents, My father was working with rehabilitation centres. You know they used to be there long ago ... there were schools in Natal called Vumba, for all Zulu speaking juveniles who were Stout. Now if you're a Zulu and you are staying in Transvaal or you are coming from somewhere they will send you to Natal and then the place was first at Kwa-Nongoma but I was still young. I am not sure about that at Kwa-Nongoma my father was removed from that place because the sender was at the Natal at

Eshowe and then they were working about... there was a machine you know those big ropes which were used for by the ships to anchor the ships to tighten the ships. You know at that time they were using there was a tree called I am not sure about the name of that tree. Now most of those schools they were producing that tree, what was the name of that tree? They were producing that tree and they used to plant it you know. Most of the schools were producing the tree. Because of new technology one of the companies, they used to produce this plastic once and that production of that was boomed. Now this rehabilitation centres they used to...this youngsters they used to teach them how to plant you know, my father was teaching youngsters also how to operate it, you know to show them the hand work, how to work, how to produce the...you know. Now as a result of that new technology now they didn't use those ropes anymore for...I do not know today most of them there are plastics, synthetic.

DM: So that was how your father received an income?

SFM: That's why he was moved to all those places and then he ended at Eshowe and that centre was still operating it was industrial centre. Today I am not sure of what is happening today because it seems as if it was closed.

DM: Now you said your father passed away, how old were you when your father passed away?

SFM: How old...

DM: How old were you?

SFM: It was 1970s, I took three years at the college. Ok lets start from 1969 when I was at Mbizwe secondary school and then I took three years after that at Vocational school and then I took another year looking for a job, it took four years the addition of one year on top of three you see. I was 20 something years.

DM: And your mother is your mother still alive or passed?

SFM: She died at Inkhandla, the place called Inkwekweni.

DM: And that remained the family home?

SFM: Yes the family is there. You know and I was still very young and that's where my father was born, originally born not me, but now because of problems you know my mother thought, no let me go back to the place where I've got families ... aunts, my sisters and all those things instead of going up and down that's where my mother was settled. She died there and my father also died there but it was a big problem you know

DM: Let me ask you, when you joined the SAP in 1973 and then you have been pulled out here in the Vaal ... what were you as a young man at that time I mean given the situation, what did you feel like? What was going through your head in terms of joining the SAP in particular? Was it purely a practical decision for you?

SFM: You know my family they didn't like it; they didn't like it you know my Uncle Mr Dlamini used to tell me ok my department is better than your department of SAP because it's dangerous and I was weak and the worse part of it is they transferred me to the Transvaal. And Transvaal at that time was known as the place of violence you see. it was not nice you know. I used to hear from people that the most dangerous people are in the

Transvaal, the tsotsis. Now I feared and they told me that the job you are taking you are going to Transvaal they can even shoot you there and I was never shot and I used to hear about the people who were shot you know the time I looked at my body which part are they going to shoot at me you know but I didn't like it but I was forced because my father told me that you know if you are many, if you are not alone and then you are given an instruction you must not first complain before others complain. If those people they are tolerating the situation you must not be the first one to complain because you are a man why can't they complain first, why do you complain first you know, now this is where...I did remember what my father said.

DM: When you arrived here how was it like for you ...?

SFM: When I came here it was a new place, new people, talking new languages you know it was just a mixed masala. And I was told there were people who were speaking Zulu because now after 3 or 5 months I realised no man, the place is not so bad as the people told me you see, was not so bad. I did enjoy you know the place the matter was just a behaviour, humble yourself and look what is happening, you watch the company, the people who are accompanying and then watch the situation, what kind of the people, you don't just fall with people you do not know and then you end up committing crime or you are involved in certain bad scenes. Now at that time I used to choose, I chose which people I communicate with, which people I go with and then the elder people they showed me the church because I was an Anglican man. The good people they showed me ... said Mr. Mkhize come here because what I believed is that there must be good people, they cannot be all bad but is up to you which one do you choose or can you listen, this is how I survived ... perseverance you see.

DM: I am assuming that when you first came here you started as a Constable?

SFM: Yes, I was a Constable.

DM: What kinds of things did you do in those first years here? I mean what did you...did they send you out to be just a patrol man or were you just doing specific kinds of things, and that was in the 70s so things were quickly starting to politically change?

SFM: It was very bad I must tell you, it was very bad but because of discrimination you know, discrimination it was very bad. There were certain places which we were supposed, not supposed to go, even to go to arrest. The crime committed there but if it was not a place for the blacks never mind the crime committed there you are not supposed to enter there you have to call the senior you see. Then the most ... definition of that was one of the most outstanding orders of the white man is going to be a superior on you irrespective of rank or service whatsoever. Irrespective of his rank or his service we are here for ten years and he comes here for two weeks or one day he is your senior.

DM: And how did you feel about that?

SFM: It was very hurts you know. I didn't experience that thing so much in Natal. We used to stay with big people you know, the elders and they used to tell us, to advise us, to sit here and they tell us stories and the majority were Zulus talking Zulu you know, now there were good communication. But now there are somebody here in Transvaal who is going to sit next to you and showing you the instructions, the job descriptions and

everything, standing orders. And you want to buy where ... you must know which place you want to catch the train, which side, which platform must you go all that things you know they used to be there at Natal but I was still young and I didn't feel them that much and that's why I was not politically involved from Natal.

DM: When was your first time, if you can remember, when you were deployed to deal with the political activities in the Vaal?

SFM: ...when we first came here we could not understand the Sotho you know, but it was not a problem because you know the Transvaal people they were talking Xhosa, Ndebele and Zulu, most of them they understood Zulu. But now it was to my side because now if I must interview a person and that person is reporting a serious thing to you and now he speaks only one language, now I must beg him ok can you just please speak my language. That thing was hitting me, but now when we came to the job they told us now look here they just showed us an office, this is Charge Office, there are certain books which we are not supposed to touch and then your job is just to interpret. When a white man calls you come here I don't understand must interpret, come here and interpret for me what says this one you know. You don't touch anything, you don't write anything there. You don't write anything. You don't touch any book, you can only touch the book if the person in charge is, you know if the job is too much for you and then you have colleagues here you just feel like let me let myself free I want to go to what what and now let them to teach us a job. We touch nothing you see, because if they want to and then if it is quiet they say let me dodge to what, what, what, and then what is going to be revealed is that he was absent ... is if the job is not going on. Now they thought no man this is my group, that was the individual thinking of them, let me teach this people job so that if I am not here they go on with the job and then I am covered, no complaints you know. This is how, but you must humble yourself as much as..., they used to ask Coke, gaan Koop Coke ek het you ge wys, waar is die coke you see. You know what makes me so angry one day but now I'm laughing you know, one of the gentlemen that I'm working with, my own colleague you know, he bought a wrong size, a bigger size for his wife it was a dress and what, what. Now it was a bigger size at Edgars, this gentleman does not want to go and replace it, you know they agreed with his wife that I'm going to change it at Edgars, now he is sending me to go there at Edgars to change those private dresses for his own wife, you know I was so cross but I could do nothing. You know I must go and change I was on duty and he was supposed to teach me the job here but he sends me to change the sizes, the wrong sizes of his wife, (laughing) I didn't like it but.... Other thing that was happening that restriction you don't' write, I could write at that time and I was... Afrikaans I was not so bad, 1968 we were those victims of Afrikaans because it changed that everything is going to be in Afrikaans. I remember we used to do Agriculture and then they changed it to Lanbou, History Geskuidinis, Maths Wiskunde and we were victims of that but I did know now a little bit of Afrikaans. I could write very good Afrikaans.

DM: And you were not allowed to write as a policeman as you are saying?

SFM: Now I used to at night, if you are doing a night ... I know that if they want to go out and booze, I take the car, they had the cars. At night shift was my time to take anything. I will look at the boxes when they come I close it. But I used to get, there was a

one gentleman called Rooi Kop, he put me here you know, he said come here, kom hier so my latie, gaan you wys ander wys maar moenie die menses nie. He showed me everything you know everything. Now my cleverness, I must not transfer my cleverness. They must not realise that I know something. I kept quiet till all the seniors went away from the station and then I could fly, I could fly at that time to show them. Most of the seniors I can say they were evil because they were practicing something which was not good ... they were very unfair you know. We were lucky not to die there.

DM: Just to shift our story to the question I was asking ... when do you remember the first time when you were deployed to deal with the political activities in this area?

SFM: In 1976. Repeat the question, can you repeat the question, come again, come again?

AV: Tell us a little bit about it?

SFM: You know 1976 but it was not so serious here at Vaal you know. In 1976 they took us, the seniors; you know there was the standing orders ... tell you in advance that such and such date we are going to move you or we are going to do this and that. That was the policy was not allowing them to disclose it that on such and such date we are going to do this and that. They used to organise everything privately you know. When they come to us tomorrow you come with your equipment, you come with this and that and then you are going to think your self, eish we are going to be in trouble, now they took us, they choose us and I was one of them always. I was so unlucky they used to choose me when it's bad I was the first to be chosen. Come Mr Mkhize the first one kom Mkhize. You know there were other bad boys here, I was not so bad I was a nice gentleman you know, I was a good man you know. I was the...they choose us, you, you, you, we stand at the line tomorrow you bring your washing goods, you bring this and that and if you come there they give you the weapon, ammunitions, all equipments for the war you are going to realize that something is not right ... They took us from here to Soweto; we slept at Dobsonville you know. When we came there at Dobsonville you know I was thinking of going back to that place to go and look for it because it was a shopping complex you know, there were so many shops when we came there everything was burning you know but now it was the first floors and the second floors, the fire...most of the fire the damage was done on the ground floor you know, most of the things at the upper floor there it was alright you know but not everything was burned up. When we came there most of our seniors they were not there, they just disappeared you know. And then we have got a truck it was driven by Mr. Nyokong oom Dave you see and that gentleman we had same rank with him you see but now the seniors they just disappeared. We did not understand what was happening because they used to have a car. They were communicating with the...what were they called at that time? Security, security police you know they were talking with them and then immediately they disappeared. Everything, the damage was done when we came there. But now what I realise was that the water ... they burnt the pipe of the water somewhere and now the community could not receive the water. Electricity was cut-off all there, you know all the services were cut off even the food because most of the shops here were burnt out now they were not allowed. We kept observation there ... nobody must come to the shops to loot. Now the first day we slept there, nobody organised a nice sleeping places you know or nobody came to us to tell us

hey gentlemen what's is happening here, you must do this and that. Now we organised, we grouped ourselves and told ourselves gentlemen we are going to work according to our instructions please we talk together. We kill nobody except the person who kills us. Ok we are going to look for the security for this shop and look what's happening the first day, the second day, we became also hungry now you know. We must wash. We must do this and that you know. We started searching there what can we eat here in these complexes because we do not know this place or other place to get refreshments you know. We were plotted there. We were dumped there we must do the job there, anything we must get anything and we organised ourselves, we organised ourselves and then we said ok gentlemen let us do this.

DM: Ok that's was in the 70s, I just want to fast forward a little bit and ask you when things began to happen here in the Vaal in the 80s particularly, in 1984, tell us about your experiences in 1984?

SFM: You know 1984 it was bad. But it was not so bad, you know we were the enemies of the community at that time, they dislike us you know. And then what happened here most of it was a pain to us you know. Because now our colleagues they hated us you know, our white colleagues. Now we felt the pain because now it's discrimination this side and then our community that side. Also we had to think for ourselves how do we come through this, you should decide for yourself. But you know what - I prayed to God is that I should not kill anybody, I must not kill or negligently kill somebody - this is what I was praying and then God helped me because I joined and then I didn't kill anybody, my hands are clean but I saw a lot of things which were bad, which were not nice. You know in 1984 everything was organised here at Vaal because I was attending the Anglican church. Now my Reverend he was also an Anglican Mr. Mosilane you know ... I remember one day I was at church and then the Security cops came there you know that was Mr. Hlatwayo Mthenjwa at the church but Mr. Mthenjwa could not tell me why he attended my church because he was not an Anglican church goer that day he was there, he was there I could not ask him my friend why are you here what was happening and then Mr. Tutu was there, Mr. Bishop Desmond Tutu at Boipatong at that time you see. The security cops came there with the teargas, they surrounded the church and then I realised there is a trouble but I told myself, I just tried that I am in the church, praying to my God now this thing is happening. I do not know what to do and I didn't realise whether there were other policemen there at the church you know. Right in the church, they were tear-gassed you know. Now the old man Mr. Tutu he talked, he talked. I thought they were going to kill him that day but fortunately they could not because eventually they arrested Mr. Mosilane. His case was tried at Delmas and he stayed there because he was serving at Diepkloof prison if I still understand it correctly you know. He was arrested that gentleman I thought they were going to kill Mr Tutu. It was now I am talking about the situation here we have got enemies ... whites, we have got enemies the community and then which side do we fall because we are working in town and then if you go off I must come here at the location with my community you know or I was forking them around at the town. Now if I come here what is happening or if I am there I am thinking of my family or my house or what is happening to my property, what is happening you know but I think we were with civilised politicians you know because they didn't so destroy the properties of other policeman. The only gentleman Mr.

Rantsieng which they burned I think it was hooligans not the civilised politicians because they regretted that.

DM: So you were never personally targeted as a policeman at that time?

SFM: I must speak the truth I was never because you know we kept on talking. They surrounded the church. I didn't realise there were police around. I was thinking about my family and property, what is happening. We were socialised politician. The whites used to do this, if we were working from 2pm to 10pm, we were obliged to beg them because there were no transport after 10pm. They would tell us that the state car is doing a state job - that was a big trap. I lost a lot of colleagues. I also lost many of my colleagues in that manner because there was no counselling and no place to report our grievances. Many stories were untold. When we have to go to the locations, they would refuse to let the state car to transport. Half 10 pm we could go to catch the bus if did not come we could use your own means. I remember one day we got a lift from town to Sebokeng, here in Sebokeng we were divided into groups taking to his own place because I was staying here at the Residentia. Now going through the location I was supposed to go to the train which just coming from Veereniging you see. Now we were divided - anyone is taking his own direction but this two they were murdered. Solly was murdered just from the police station and he was going to his home before he entered his own home he was murdered and then I asked myself what is happening because these people they were planning if we are going there then we are not going to get transport then we are going to use the very same road and then they follow us. What I thought is they are going to follow us and then they shoot one or they give you a lift or take you. What was happening because the police man they were dying by that time but not through comrades. There were those who were killed by comrades at the location especially APLA you know what was happening.

DM: That thing of tsotsis, criminals not comrades?

SFM: Haai you know I suspected the whites. I suspected them because now if you have conflict with anybody here at work he knew that I am going to get him, where I am going to get him you know. They took another small boy Sydney, Major that boy you know they shouted at him. They told him look here at that time there was a prison who was called (**I can't hear the name**) he was arrested for political things you know, AZANIAN what what or AZAPO something like that. That boy was arrested in Vanderbilpark and then he disappeared or he escaped from the prison now they suspected that the boy Major. The following day the boy was not on duty because we were doing the same shifts with him, the following day he was not on duty the week past, the month past and then his wife came to work to ask us gentlemen my husband is not at home what is happening ... no it was his mother came to work, what is happening where is Major and then we realised that something is not going alright here. And he was upset and then we thought he was sick or he is having the doctor's letter you know and then the gentleman was not sick ... the mother was asking us and then it was painful because we were supposed to answer the old mother and the gentleman we were working with him here and then he is disappeared. Now we thought that ok this man ... there was a conflict the security police man they asked him where is Sydney and then they accused him for helping that Sydney to escape you know. They accused him and then he disappeared. And then we realised

something is happening because it was painful when the old mother was asking where is my child we came with his wife here, where is he ... you are working with him gentlemen ... can you tell me something which is tangible? You know it was painful and then eventually, eventually I think it was after two months Major came back. Nobody could give any information of what was happening, the boy could not talk you know if you talk, if you ask him where were you, he used to cry and then I realised there is a trouble here something is not good here you know. He could be back at his home I think he spent three days, not three days three years and then he died. He died now one day he told the story it was so short because we could not discuss to each other if we were talking let say we are all colleagues here we are talking about or anything we feared that the security cops could hear and then they are going to listen what we are talking about ... and once that thing is out of the law they are going to report us, we are going to be punished and we are going to lose the job. Now whatever we were charting we used to see if the place it is safe you know. Now that boy Major told us it was a short story and then somebody who was suspicious came there and disturbs that topic. He told the story half way that ok they took him, it was at night they took their uniform, they said I am no more a policeman, they took him to Kimberly in Kimberly there is a plot, there is a mine - I am doubting the place but he named it but I was in Kimberly. It was at night they took his uniform, he was naked there, they kept him there for certain weeks and then they released him, he came back the time we were supposed to ask him how did you get from Kimberly to Vanderbilpark. Somebody disturbed us, he could not go on. Because now I think they didn't get the vital evidence from him that he was really involved in the escaping of that Sydney you know now they thought now let us release him. But he died after two or three days and I wonder what was the cause of his death because he was staying at Zone 10 and I was staying here.

DM: So let's just move forward a little bit because there still a lot of things that we still are going to ask you ... When the political changes started taking place 1990s, Mandela got released, the liberation movements were unbanned and everything else ... as a policeman here in the Vaal tell us a little about what was happening ...not only for you but just the police and all those changes - I mean those early 1990s?

SFM: It was nice but not so nice you know to us because now we were doubting you know what is going to happen. Excuse me now this regime, the regime they didn't trust us you know but they realised that something is going to change. Now we realised but the first thing it was a uniform, they changed the uniforms. We used to wear capadein sort of brown colour was that, they used to call it capadein and then they wore ... is it blue it was navy blue or something like that you know ... but the uniform was different you know. Now they changed it to one thing and then we realised that something is becoming better. But the salary was not the same you know, and then we used to work now....

AV: The salary was still down?

SFM: The salary was still down in 1990 it was still bad you know, a little bit bad but they could not see the changes coming you know. We just realised it ourselves ... now something is coming a little bit better you know we could write in all the books at the work, we could use if you have got a license, a driver's license you could drive a state car, we could attend the complaints of a white man, we could write the statement if he is

complaining we could write his complaints ... it was a little bit better. During 1994, that's where the changes came. Now they used to insult us that look you must not think that...I remember one of the guys used to say this now and again to us if you want to die...ok let me state it in Afrikaans as 'jy wil dood gaan moet jy die hansie gesluit, as jy wil dood gaan moet jy die hansie gesluit'. You know one day they called us - that was now 1990s - you know one of the gentleman, Mr Mashaba, he was a branch commander he was in charge of the CIDs in Sharpeville. That gentleman disappeared you know, he crossed the country, he was a senior policeman to me, he was a branch commander, they call it branch commander in Sharpeville he escaped and then he wrote a letter. I think there were two letters but at that time there were no photocopy machine, were there? There were two letters because one of them was plagued at Sharpeville, Veerining and Vanderbilpark you see now the security police took that letter and then they realised that this is Mr. Mashaba who wrote here. He said, "I am coming there anytime expect me, I am going to fix you ... be ready" - the letter was written like that you know. We were all called, all the black policemen here at Vaal to parade at Vanderbilpark you know, we stood there more than four hours you know. But before we went to the parade one of the gentleman there were coming from the location and in town they were not supposed to enter at the toilets of the whites you know now they entered there and one of the white members saw them and they reported them at the police station. Now there were two cases, they took that case very seriously - why did you use that toilets in town you know but now I used to, I tried to talk with them that they are coming from the location they don't know about this thing, these toilets is for whites, they are working there but they took that issue seriously. They knew that they are going to punish us about that letter of Mr. Mashaba you know because they said we are not revealing the information of Mr. Mashaba, we know where Mr. Mashaba is and now we used the white toilet here at the town it means...they called us terrorists.

AV: That was in 1994?

SFM: 1994 before everything was changing you know. They call us terrorists you know where is Mr. Mashaba. You know ... punished us for four hours for nothing, we didn't know anything, we just knew that Mr. Mashaba is not here but we didn't know what place was he.

DM: How was that time for you ... looking at things leading to the elections? How did you see things? I mean not necessarily the experiences, what they were doing to you (but) what were you expecting was going to be happening, you now knew that they have set the election date and things were moving quite fast?

SFM: You know what I was expecting was that we are going to work freely, we are going to learn the job, and then the money, they are going to increase our salaries and then the working conditions, the working conditions. But I must say something which was good comparing to this today. I can say something which was good discipline and the people they liked their job because we could not misuse the state property. You could not misuse that they tell you kyk hieso dat rydom daar een, you see. Discipline and the people there were eager to work for them not for us and then what I was expecting was that if we come now to this place all my black colleagues we are going to pull our socks. We learn the job, we do the very same thing that the whites they were doing and then the

good Samaritan whites they are going to show us what to do, how is this thing done so that we can be perfect. What I liked because before 1994 particularly STD 10 at Boipatong High, I wrote my STD 10, my senior certificate and then I received it and I was alright. My intention was to go to Varsity to Wits I liked Wits. At that time I made myself to be ready for a new dispensation you see. But now I realised that no, no, no something is not going alright, the change was alright, what else was alright? No more apartheid but they were so cross in the 1990s ... whatever we want they would say go and ask Mandela but we could feel that everything is going to change, is going to be alright you know. And then what we benefited you know ... all the benefits like housing, medical, subsidies and then you could choose if you want a house or you want a car, you could choose and then the state was giving you. And then the state was paying three quarters of that amount, we used to pay a quarter you know. You bring a quarter of that amount and then the state was helping you with three quarters. And then the medical was free of charge my friend I am telling you. There were no deductions on your salary about your medicals.

AV: This thing you are saying was prior to 1994 or was it after 1994?

SFM: After 1994, the changes, the good things you know now I am comparing.

DM: Just out of interest ... at that time you had just over 20 years within the police - what rank did you have at that stage?

SFM: Constable.

DM: You were still at the same rank?

SFM: Yes, let me tell you why they did that. You know at Inkhandla, now it's going to be a long story ... because my aunt was married at South West Africa and that surname of that gentleman was so hard to pronounce you know but he was staying at Windhoek Usercause location I used to see the addresses I was not there you know. And then it seems that gentleman joined the SWAPO organisation, he disappeared from Namibia. Now the security police, they could trace his wife where does his wife come from, his wife was my aunt now they traced till at Inkhandla. Now they caught my letters which I wrote for my mother and my families that are you still alright this and that. Then they collected all those letters you know but luckily what I thought because my mother told me that the security police was there. They searched everything, they kicked and fork (?) everything there, she was so scared and after that she died you know. No, no, no ja my mother died there after that, my mother died after that. Now I was suspected, they suspected me from there but I thought they could not get the evidence that I was connected with the disappearance of Mr SWAPO his surname was so complicated we could not pronounce it you know. They could not connect me. One day they called me at the offices in Veerining - it was 3rd floor up my commander told me - "jy moet gaan veerining toe die Derde oppervlaak gaan vag da, hulle moet jou sien and ek het ge weet". 3rd floor is security department you know. When I came there they showed me the chair, they said sit there and it's a corridor you know. I took the chair, I sat there and now nobody could speak to me I spent there 5 days you know, from 08h00 I report there and they show me the chair - I sit nobody is talking to me. Even the workers, the people I knew they could not greet me, they passed like you know then I realise something now I

was afraid because I thought of those people who died there at the police. Now there were a serious plan because really they could not tell me why. The first day...ok 08h00 I am there to 16h00 ... come tomorrow again same place same time here. I came there I knew my chair, I was just going to sit automatically on the same chair it was on the corridor I was even suspecting that chair that they could something you know dangerous there. Now before I sit there I used to check the chair thoroughly what was attached there you know, I was so scared, I was so scared because I was...I believed in God I prayed that no nothing is going to happen - if God does not like that you know for the whole week. Eventually they said ok go and join your people there at the station. They didn't tell me why they call me. That's where I realised that now they suspect me - anything can happen. My promotion, when I was supposed to be promoted, they drifted my promotion.

DM: So just to move forward a little bit. When 1994 happened, some of the good things did change, what happened with your...

SFM: I received my promotion.

DM: You received your promotion?

SFM: I received my promotion.

DM: So you were still based in Vereeniging right?

SFM: Same place, Vanderbilpark.

DM: Vanderbilpark?

SFM: Hum.

DM: Tell us a little bit about those periods from 1994 ... let's say for the first few years of the new South Africa, the new democracy ... some of the changes, some of the things that were different. What was it like for you in that situation and also just relate it to some of the things that you talked about in terms of the things that you thought were good about the past in terms of the police force, about discipline - how that changed or didn't change?

SFM: You said one of the good things or bad one?

DM: No, what I'm trying to say ... if you tell us about those years or just to link it with some of that you talked about in the past - in terms of what was good what was bad ... those kinds of things.

SFM: You know what is good now was the working conditions, they were so nice but you know what made me so cross because now my own black colleagues they became lazy you know. They became lazy to do the job and then the most mistakes which I realise was that they found me there and then I knew everything you know, the bad and the good you see the bad and the good. And all things when they change them they change them in front of me you know. And I thought that when they came to work they are going to... I am going to teach them this is bad this is good or I submit everything to them or choose what is good or bad. According to me I think this is going to work because this one we got consequences with this one, this one was this and that I could now ask the seniors who were there at the previous regime to ask them - those who were experts in certain departments you know - to ask them and then to recruit them and show

the new people you know and then make those comparison ok because now you...let me tell you something what I realised if you want to take, if you get a new coach or somebody tells you ok we are going to give you everything new it is not to say you are going to throw everything that you had ... all things, some are good, some are good you can now check which ones are good which is bad. Don't throw everything away. You threw even the good things away you know and this is a very big mistake which is happening now because now even the counsellors here what they did they threw everything away you see. They didn't choose which one is better or which one can I leave. Now instead of coming to us now these young boys they call us...they used to listen to the seniors, people of the old regime, people of the apartheid we also belong to apartheid now you see. Now that thing was hitting our morals you know, it was hitting our morals. And then when it comes to increments and promotions now the younger ones there were more promoted than the seniors. Now we thought that is it revenge or what is happening now or they are making...what is happening now you see. They promote you, they neglect you, they say the old people they are stubborn they can't listen and this and that. And then the job was not done correctly that why the public were complaining, the standard, the performance was deteriorating.

DM: (Break) So ok we just took a little bit of a break but we are continuing. We were at the point after 1994 ... we were talking about the new South Africa, the situation for you and how was that. Tell us something about how it was ... what changed in terms of the community and life as a policeman? I mean you know the kinds of job that you are doing as a policeman in this area, what kinds of changes did you see among the people themselves in the community after 1994, in terms of the job and your work as a policeman?

SFM: Ya, the first thing - the community they respected the police. I mean we were no more enemies you know - that was very important because now they trusted us you know. That was nice. Another change which was nice was ...what was it, to acquire all the... to be involved in you know, there are so many things you know like pensions, the schools. Now the children are attending those multiracial this and that. That was good. And what else, we are no more restricted you know where to go and not to go you know what to do or not to do. And then we were called by those bad names you know, now the legislation has corrected that. But now there are other things which if we come to the legislation, the law, you know what consequences because especially those constitutional those rights, the Bill of Rights you know that acts. They brought something you know which did not materialise you with the community.

AV: And in terms of the kinds of work that you were doing, did you see different kinds that you won't see under apartheid or changes during the apartheid or in terms of like just the kinds of police work that you were doing? Was there any change?

SFM: No, comparing from...

AV: From before 1994?

SFM: No, you know there is no change because now you know what is happening, you know what is happening now. Today's community they think that they know everything but practically deep down they are not so good you know. I do not know...I think it is the

duiwel (drink), you know this thing is destroying our own community. Our youth don't have curiosity you see; they don't have that curiosity, they are not willing to learn you see. Now if you tell them now do this and that they say that it was at your times not now you see. Now what can you say and then there is the Bill of Rights here, that thing is destroying, I think it is destroying. Let me come to education you see, we used to learn on religion, those were basics that if you are younger, it was a subject at school you learn to pray, you must not steal, don't tell lies, you know the Ten Commandments those basics don't tell lies, don't steal, don't kill and this and that. If you were young if you learn that thing from the basics it was very good, but now it's cancelled. It's no more a subject at schools. You see because now myself as a parent, I'm preaching this at home and then if a child is going to school he or she must get the same preaching. Now the child won't get a chance if he or she comes out of the house going to school feeling that now I am free, I can do this and that ... that was very important because now it goes to discipline it helps. Behaviour is very important. I would not be here today if I didn't have the discipline the behaviour, to humble yourself, to humble yourself you see.

DM: So talking about that changed behaviour ... How did that - for you in your job in the 1990s - translate into what you saw happening in the community in terms of law and order situation? Because many critics would say, you see after 1994, yes there were positive changes, things changed, but we have more crime, there is more of these rapes, there is more of these things that weren't there before ... I'm not saying that - it's just what some people would say. But your experience - how did that changed behaviour translated into what you saw as a policeman in terms of the daily life, in terms of your work?

SFM: You know there is a big difference you know but as far as the work is concerned it is not good. As I said you know the main cause of damage of everything is our today's youth they are not willing to learn you know. Ok they've got the democracy but now they are not willing to learn. You know what I hate ... One day I was... I was in charge of my own people, how many were there? They were 5 or 6 - no, no, no they were 9 you know. And then my seniors told me that ok Mkhize you are going to be in charge there and then the majority of them they were blacks you know and then two ladies, white ladies I was in charge. And I used to be their shop steward you know. I used to talk for them for any case if there is anything they did wrong to defend them this and that but now the management said ok today here is your department and then they choose all the people who were... all the drop outs you know, the bad behaviour they were brought to my department. But now what I realised was that there is a time that you tell the people that good people I know that you are the newcomers, the first thing that you must do when you come is to learn the job, learn the job we are here to work, know what is happening there, you must know what is happening. If a person is sleeping there you must know what steps should you do because now you are working at the public at the community. The community should look at you what procedures are you doing, is it correct or wrong because now the young people they don't want to learn. If they come to job give them the keys, give them the cars ... gone. Communities come and complain they are no more there, we have got no cars. But if you go around the car is stopping at what, what this and that and the car is on duty the driver and there is a bank robbery and then that thing... now the community come in (and there is) no service, nothing. You see that the discipline is

very important and then they must be willing to learn they don't want to learn but I see what is the cause of that you see is this Bill of Rights. I am an adult, I am a senior...they get you there you know the job you were there for a very long time you see. But now if they were supposed to ask you, they have got that vanity you know. They have got that vanity, a valueless prides which and if you leave them they are going to flop and then the public is going to complain. But when it comes to money increments they are the first people or give them the (car) keys. Give them the keys and then when we were supposed to toyi-toyi then is very nice. And when you call the meeting, the general meeting - come gentlemen there is a new policy here that we must tell you that there is a new strategy come there is a meeting here - they won't attend you know but if you say there is a toyi-toyi or this and that tomorrow they are there you see. Now you know but you know those rights even I know there are so many unsafe places at the work, sometimes unfair things you know which are very unfair but you must like your job. That's where I could draw a line between the old regime and the new dispensation you see. Now the new dispensation I see that no man, people are not about the job but they have got their complaints you know, poor service this and that, the government is not delivering, they will complain about so many things you know. Others are genuine complaints you know, are genuine complaints. What I don't like about the government is they don't make inspections you see. They don't go down and look what are they doing. Ok, they pass laws, they give the new policies do this and that. They must go down and see if it is followed or what or they must get a feed back on how is it working now, does it materialise or not you see. If it doesn't materialise let them change, they must not go to another country, to Canada and look what they are doing and those people we are call the enemies long ago today you go to your enemy and ask them give us the...but now you know what is funny if I was talking about the old codes and then the new codes and then you throw everything away, you don't choose which one is alright you know. When it comes to other countries they give them everything - go and do this and that and then they are going to implement everything just like that. People won't be the same I'm telling you even the cows of Canada are not the same cows of here in South Africa you see You go to China the goat is different to this one of South Africa even the birds is not the same and the environment, people are not the same, the behaviour of the people because now the most, you know the community here is complaining very bad and the domestic violence's, that's why I'm saying the duiwels is ruling. Duiwel has got a big chance you know. The youth drugs, discipline this and that everything, all the departments everything is wrong. And everything may collapse anytime I'm telling you. It's just, it's a pity because we are not in there, if we were in there we could see what is happening there, you see.

DM: ... you said earlier if I remember correctly that you retired in 2001, is that right?

SFM: Yes, I retired in 2001.

DM: And that was a voluntary retirement?

SFM: Sickness retirement.

DM: Just out of interest, what were you suffering from?

SFM: You know the doctor calls it Pulmonary Imbolises, now that was cardiac problems ... but you know what happened I got injured it was long ago on my leg you know now I didn't get the correct treatment at that time you know because now they said you have got

pneumonia. Now they have treated that pneumonia eventually they saw that no man, this thing does not help you see. Eventually I went to doctor Muranda at Naledi you see, but I was from how many hospitals, I think 4 hospitals or 3 hospitals, different doctors you know. They could not see what was the cause ... I became tired you know, even if I was washing if I wash my body so fast it became so tired fast after that if I must go 20 metres or 10 metres I must rest, have a rest you know but now because of that the doctors, eventually they nearly say it was AIDS. I think they were suspecting something, because all the tests everything x-rays, this and that, other machines which I could not say what type of machines were that you know. But now, eventually that doctor saw that, he told me that this is a clot and that clot came from somewhere in your body and then it blocked the oxygen on my lungs you know. When the blood is going to collect the oxygen there it does not come back with the oxygen - that's why I became tired you know. And then he said ok what I am going to do - I'm just going to give you the drug which is going to make that clot to melt, if it doesn't melt I'm going to make an operation. You know he gave me one pill, a red one, which was called warafins, you know, those pills because my leg was swelling you know and then I became alright.

DM: Ok so it was that condition that eventually led you to voluntarily resign?

SFM: Yes because you know....

AV: Were you bought off?

SFM: Yes they bought me off you know it was very terrible because I could not move; one of the doctors told me, “jy moet met beweet meneer, nou ek het ge vra who man beweeg hiso by die polisie on duty” . Now because of that because now I could not function. I could go on but the situation was going with the stress now the blood circulation was not so nice, no energy now I realised that if I go to work, there were going to make things worse you see, because of what? Because of these youngsters you know. Because at work even the management something is wrong you see. I must work faithfully, do my job you see, but others must not do the job. Eventually when there is a mistake they are going to come to the senior, you're a senior you see, but if you advice them they don't want to take your advices. Now that was a very, very, very big pressure to me to go on with the job you see because now to beg, even the management must support you but they don't support you, that's thing is very bad.

DM: Just talking a little bit about the management in the 90s ... you related quite a lot of problems in your experience ... the likes of discipline and the people, the youngsters. The younger policemen, just taking things, not serving the community properly. What about ... ultimately in any institutions of the police force it's the management and the top leadership that are supposed to take responsibility for that? How did you see the top level management at the police, the people who were running institutions?

SFM: Ja, you know at the old time, they used to stick on standing orders, standing orders and administrative job plus the law, you must know the law because if you do not know the law you will be useless there at the charge office. What are you going to write there, if the person is talking and you do not know the element, the definitions whatsoever and then what charge are you going to write there you see? Now the management, one day I was at the office there to make an affidavit you know, now I saw that the content of the

document there was not correct, especially the swearing there, now there must be the difference between the swearing and affirmation, affirm and to swear, they don't ask you do you affirm or they just swear that you know the content of this document and this is truth, the whole of truth, and then put your hands up and swear to God, that is wrong according to the law. Now the management, it is their duty to check all because that thing is very, very serious you know, at the end one of this gentleman is telling lies you see about this solemn statement you see. He is telling lies one day you will end up in court to give evidence and then they are going to ask you did you apply the law accordingly, did you swear according to the law that gentleman. Is very serious because one day you will end up in court. Now the management is not checking those forms, they are just checking the duplicate. Now I wonder how they come out in court about that their job to check the statements and forms, to work diligently. Most of the affidavits and statement documents are the ones that get lost, they take this thing and then one day they arrest you. If they check these affidavits they see that no man, something was wrongly done there you know. Now I'm blaming the management because they must correct, they must look after this things or something is wrong academically, they didn't learn but I can't understand if a person has got a diploma and degrees and then he is coming from a tertiary institution and he does not understand that and is very important you see. I was listening one day from one of your guys at Wits, I wonder what his surname was, I could not remember his surname. That lady was telling that look if you are a policeman there in the office you ask nothing, no question, you can ask the name of the complainant and is not for you as a policeman to judge whether this thing is a theft or what, what, what house breaking this and that, you just write what the man is telling you or the complainant and you take that to the prosecutor, the prosecutor is going to check. Now what is the job of the management because if you open the case at the charge office you must go through the CID. The CID they have got their own management, seniors, they must look at that statement if they are going to be decided by the prosecutors at the court, what is the work of the management. Now it goes back that if you are in charge office you must know the law, know the definitions, know the element of crime, what is happening like everything must be here at the tips of your fingers, like a computer. Now today they know nothing about that. And the management is not making a follow up. As I said, inspection was very important because they used to check everything.

DM: From your long experience as a policeman and also in 1990s ... why do you think that is the case? I mean when you are telling us the reality, that's the way it is, that's the way it happens ... but in your own opinion, experience why do you think that is the case?

SFM: You know I think it is the case because now I go back to the willing to learn. How are you going to serve your community if you don't have the skills, if you are not educated, if you don't teach yourself the job. Here the person is got an accident here, you must know what steps to be done, if you know nothing about that who is going to come and help you there? And then if you flop the community is here. They are so many clever people who know the law even the magistrate and this and that sometimes he is involved in an accident and then you must do your job. And they are looking at you what are you doing, the correct thing you see, all the department who must come if there is a sin they must come there. They must call all the departments, they know which departments must be involved, we have got forensic, we have got dog unit, and we have got this and that.

You must use your mind you know the standing order, you know what to do, the procedure, the criminal procedure you know them. It is very important that this is that flop if they can't have a lousy man or they can't have those who comes with Mercedes Benz, those who comes with BMW or the owners of the business so they have them so quietly but the poor one they don't want to listen, then what is it? And then there comes a gentleman, a big man there he commits an offence and then you say no it's a big man leave him, leave him. You must not touch him, those who are untouchable now how are you going to do your job ...you know what I hate ... you must be faithful, you must be faithful because you've got discipline there and that thing of Jojo it's a corruption. You must be faithful. I think we have got chances there in the law to use your own discretion if you forgive a person forgive him don't demand any compensation and they are very...or is the duiwel as I said is controlling, sometimes is controlling with a remote you see. The duiwel is working there I'm telling you and the youngsters are very...you can even hear or you can even see that a policeman is smoking dagga, drugs, what kind of...now they must teach them the management is there, they must take them, the colleges are closed, all the old colleges are closed. Those old colleges they are closed is just a few but now the community is enlarging is becoming more and more and you are busy closing the colleges, the training centres, institutions ... you see. The community is expanding but how are you...are you going to send them overseas to Brazil and people are leaving the place, they are leaving the place. The people who know the job because now they feel the pain, they feel the pinch you see. They are saying we can't do that I was so lucky because I was sick, it was not my intention I was supposed to work 5 years more but because of the situation I decided to leave.

DM: You mentioned complaints in the communities, particularly in the locations ... there are two different things; one that you mentioned is that the policemen they don't seem to care much about the problems and take care like concentrating (and) going out to have a good time, skipping emergencies; the other one is the way in which police respond to community protests and the community gets angry and say ok, we've had enough of this. Tell us a little bit about what you think and the experiences on those ...?

SFM: You know what is happening ...I wonder what is really happening there. You know there is a motto here which says Batho Pele you see, the majority, listen to the majority if the majority says no the government must follow the majority but it does not happen like that you see. Now the top management now they don't respect the public. Now if they want to legislate the law they will make those bills, those white papers, those green papers this and that eventually before they contact the community - what did they say about that the law being passed, they go on. They are arrogant. Let me tell you is very arrogant, the government is very arrogant they don't want to listen to us you see and what ever is happening nobody is coming down to here. You can't pay a person a salary if you do not know how does he work, you must evaluate that you know. A person must do the job and then you pay him and you must be satisfied about the job. If it is wrong you tell him you are wrong here and there otherwise I'm not going to pay you. How do you pay the person before you have inspected the job or evaluate the job. How, what kind of management is that?. You see what is happening ... that case of Khutsong is very, very serious I'm telling you because it is the same thing that we are doing here, here we are so quite because God is with us you know. People may say we are stupid, I think is God, its

just God who said people relax I'm going to do the job for you. Now look at the street here how...look at the street how many years are we here? And the person who is in charge doesn't even think to bring that truck with the tank of water you know. Let the dust suck you know to suck the dust. Everything is...you see the dust what is happening here is dirty, everything is dirty. Now if they want to sell your house they are going to evaluate it you see. Now with a street like this the price of your house is going to go down because of this. Now we were happy that these people are going to do a very good job you know. We were happy but now it goes back because they threw everything even that was good they threw everything away you see even the good ones. How many years tell me if you are a manager can you plan...if you are a manager you must have plan one and plan B you see. You are planning for one thing for 5 years you flop, you are planning again for the same thing you flop how many years are we here? We have got 18 years or how many years my friend. Are you a good manager for all this...even 5 years is too much. I wonder whether their plans were the long term or what is it? Micro plan or what a good management what I think is that the counsellors, all the counsellors all these people who are serving here they must go and learn and they must not hire the people of politics no! The person must be interviewed, short listed ... they must bring their CVs if you qualify you take the job, you take the job. You know what was happening long ago now I'm comparing as you said I must make comparison we used to have a superintendent you know. At any zone there was a Superintendent, somebody who was in charge he was a manager at that time. It was a big competition for them. Everyone was looking at his place you know, at his own place and when there was a competition, that senior manager up there has to give them awards, which section is good is better than what, what, what. You could not see the sewage running in the street for 5 days, 2 weeks because the Superintendent was running around looking for mistakes even the electricity pole or whatever is on the road he was there to fix it you see. Now if they choose these people, counsellors, according to politics they are not sure about skills when it comes to they can't even...I'm talking about the meetings I mean the counsellor you must serve according to the needs of the community, the needs of the people or they are destroying this thing of Batho Pele, the job is simple you listen to the people. I don't say I want it but it is simple you see and come back and tell them gentlemen as you told me here is the plan you take the plan and hand it over to the seniors I do not know what the seniors are doing there because according to the community one day one of my neighbours, Mr. Malindi, was asking the counsellor can you give us the feed back sir of what we were talking about in the previous meeting? He said look this is a mass meeting we don't have secretaries we don't do this and that. Tell me a qualified manager this thing is simple here are the needs, you prioritise you tell the people here is our plan we begin with this one or talk with them which one is to be first you see. And then if you flop you come back to them and tell them look here gentlemen here is this and that, they could not do no 1 or no 2 let us try no this and that. Tell the reason, they can't even tell you how much money is allocated to them, how many projects they have, they won't tell you. Now how are you going to serve the community? Even the complaints of the community they tell them is this and that nobody is writing them down. You know another bad strategy which I hate in the meetings you know if you ask a question they take 1,2,3,4,5 people you see, 5 questions you see and then from there he is going to answer. If you are not satisfied about the answer you know you won't say objection gentleman I was not correctly answered

you see or he is going to answer only 2 out of 5 you see. He is gone and we must keep quite and then if you talk there are people who are going to intimidate you here, jy praat te veel jy, you see. You organise to hurt people, now you are intimidating the community when you ask the question. Now my question is only one on the top management they must evaluate the job because these people they are paid every month you see. Now you pay them, you pop out the money, you don't check the job because now if the counsellor is coming to the meeting there are so many departments which are involved there which should be allocated because this job of the community is not done by one person or by one department. But if they call the mass meeting they don't call the heads of those departments you see. They don't call them especially the social workers, they are working there, they are making decisions about the community, the problems of the community they are making the decisions and if there is a mass meeting all the departments that make the decisions there are not there and that counsellor is going to say no it's not part of my job, I am not involved, go and ask the Mayor. Now the mayor must come here. We do not know who is the mayor you see we read at the papers there that Mr so and so is the manager and they must teach those counsellors skills on how to manage. At I told you the simple thing you hear the needs of the community you take them to the seniors you make a plan, you must make a plan, you must have a secretary to take your notes otherwise you will never know what you said yesterday. How are you going to run that so big...that's why there is a chaos here, all over South Africa they are complaining deliverance, and there is no deliverance.

DM: So just to take that and to come back to the question I had about the role of the police. Often times that happens ... to do with lack of delivery, with things that made the community protest, make their voices heard. How do you respond to that?

SFM: Thank you. Let me come back to that you know what is happening now. I saw it on the TV, the police were shooting there and they say they are using the bad gun and those guns are very, very dangerous you know. I'm telling you that bad gun, it is one gun with about 70 bullets. If I can shoot you on the close range like this on your leg they are going to cut that leg out. Think of the 70 bullets - one bullet with 70 bullets -the doctors they are going to cut that leg off. Imagine they shoot you here, imagine those rubber bullets they can cut your skulls here it will depend on the range. Now I'm asking myself about that because our people were complaining about the previous regime you see and then this is the very same system which was used by the previous government and then they are practising the very same thing which they were saying was wrong (but) now it is right? Now that thing is giving pressure to the police ... What I think is there were furthered about their job because sometimes you do what you don't like you must do ... If they said Batho Pele if the majority is complaining the government is going to respond to the complaints of the majority. Now you call the police to shoot them - it's a bad thing. I know there are others who are looting, they are also tsotsis there but if you can identify who is committing the crime you don't just go...you know long ago they used to train us about crowd control, I wonder whether they have those certificate in crowd control. I wonder if they went through those trainings. Those weapons are dangerous I'm telling you, they are very dangerous. Now I'm asking myself that now at this time the community is not satisfied you see, they tell you please we do not want that, we want this and this and that is it right to organise the contingent of the police to go and...is it

democracy that one? Is it democracy that one? That's why there is a chaos all over even is it democracy that one? What is happening also at the schools? I'm sorry, at school the teachers they were complaining about the students the behaviour of the students, they are killing each other, they are raping each other this and that, stealing the cars this and that. Now the minister was asking the community please help us give us input what could we do about this you see now one reasonable man told her you must hire the security to control the entrance, simple as that. Because at the national level you will never enter there without anybody checking at you who are you, what do you want there, what do you possess here you see. But because they are reserving the job from the community they don't want to hire the community to do that job because that is a post. They must hire the security simple as that. If you enter there, there are securities, there are 2 securities at the premises, all the students who come across the problems they report there and they catch the person. And when you come to visit you have to write who are you, where do you come from, who are you going to visit, they know this because they are at the national level, if you enter there is a control but they don't want to implement that control here to the community. They will come to us and ask us but if we tell them they don't implement that thing. Now what is that thing? Who is fooling who? It is all over at the police and one of the department is going to fall down – out, out, out. It is going to fall down, close down I'm telling you.

DM: Do you think from all the things that you said now, do you think that people are losing? You used the word faith earlier on ... do you think people are losing faith in the police?

SFM: You know what is happening in police my friend, I am afraid that I have to overlap to, I don't want to talk about that incident what happened to the seniors. I am very sorry because I saw that there was negligence. They may say I'm talking nonsense whatever or whatsoever but it's a point you see. Police officers must not be involved in any criminal activities, don't be involved. You become involved ... the community is watching you, they are watching you and then they are going to count on that because now they hate even the media reporting now what is supposed to be reported. What are we as a community supposed to know and not to know? Why do they close them? At the very first thing if somebody is committing crime arrest him, take him to court you see. Now at the police force everything is falling apart because of the management, everything is falling apart because of the management. We are going to see the worst if we go on like this. I just wish I could cross the country I don't know which country I could go to have a rest you know.

DM: The picture that you are painting is not a very nice one. As someone who was in the police force for such a long time and with a lot of experience, what is it that you think that might prevent the scenario, the picture that you have painted, from happening? What do you think? That what you are saying is just inevitable ... there is nothing that can stop this?

SFM: Ja you know what but they have done a lot of damage. You know if the youth is infected it is going to take a long time for that thing to be wiped out you see. Our youth they are spoiled brats, just spoiled brats, all of them you see. And then it will take time. Their generation, what they must do according to me, the first thing they must teach them

the correct things. Those lessons that they cancelled at school they were so very important you know. They were so very important especially at the junior level at the primary schools. Theology is very important even the history it was so very important. Theology is very important, discipline you must have discipline because all of these things is caused by discipline and then if you don't have...if you are a minister of this and that bad habit will follow you. You will commit the very same thing even if you are at the higher position because it is habitual now you see. Now all this youth to change them they must start with the Bill of Rights, there are others which should be cancelled you know. They are very bad, there are evil. I'm telling you even the people who are attending the church they feel ashamed about this Bill of Rights you know, man must marry another man, the child of 12 years has got the rights to commit abortion, what is that? You give a child that, the child was not even thinking of that, the child was thinking of the street games and then you come with this and then you come with the condoms. You see, especially the rights today we don't touch the children, if he says no he has got the right to say no, she has got or he has got the right to resist and then what to do? Because you struck that child is a crime, now those generations that are coming they are going to do the very same thing at the higher level they can be president or this and that. They are going to be useless presidents and ministers. Committing silly crimes you know which means behave yourself. Without discipline what can you do in this world? And be eager to learn is very important. Listen they teach you don't say no. You can't know everything you must listen and then you pick up. You know now they are talking about the counselling you know I think about the job, employment and then if the people are not working, they said they are going to create a lot of employment. But it is bad I'm telling you, is very bad because now...I'm overlapping now to other departments is very bad am I right? It is very bad because if you are not employed the duiwel is going to play with you. The duiwel is going to be here and then it is going to give you the wrong decisions you end up doing something very wrong you see. Now if the people are working that think of building those cheap houses of RDP it won't happen because now I have got money I'm going to choose what kind of the house do I want I'm working, you know I can save a lot of money especially these grants they are going to cancel them. I'm working, I have got money there is no need to grant me with those charities and this and that. You see if you are working we can drop so many expenditures you see. If you are working now if the colleges are closed all the departments and then there is a limit, the old regime here at Vaal they used to hire 1000 people every year to college and it was twice a year, from January to June, June to December. But it is not happening like that. If they close those posts, like the department of education they are closing those security posts, they are freezing them. Now employment how are....and this thing of privatising it's a disease it's killing you know because now you privatise people now will be working on contracts and if you work at the contract it is very bad you know because now according to me what I see ... we are working and they say ok, you are going to work for 3 months you won't benefit from especially the union is going to die first thing they are going to die. Because now the union they subscribe money. Money must be subscribed from you to the union every month. And then when you are working on contract you are loosing the benefits you won't go to any company and say you want to buy this car. They are going to ask you, are you working? Yes. Permanent employment? No. sorry pay cash you see. Medicals they don't benefit because there are contributions

that you must make. You must make those contributions each and every month. Now, if you are saying you are going to join according to your contract 3 months or 6 months what are you going to benefit there? Now those people they are going to be counted as people who are employed on what sense because they benefit nothing you see. Now at the factories I am not working there but I have realised that something very wrong is happening there. You know, because I could see that they can choose any department at the factory and tell the owner of the factory, ok we want this department privatised you see, and that person who is coming from up there which I could not say is going to choose his one man with experience there to control that department you know the factory is going to allocate 2 million to that gentleman to pay his people and then he is going to employ his own people. That man the supervisor...and then nepotism is going to start there, is going to start there because this man they gave him 2 million he is going to press this capital so that he can have a remainder of about 1 million extra or 1.5 million. He is going to squeeze the job so that other people they must not get the job or he is going to pay them lesser and lesser. Now it's part of corruption. It was right not to privatise you know ...somehow it is good but it's falling under the hands of greedy people you see.

DM: Ok I think we have come to sort of the end of our interview is there anything that you think we haven't covered that you would like to say besides what we have talked about?

SFM: You know the administration for this counsellors, you know what is happening there, I wonder if I can...how could I show you. You know what is happening here this statement is from April, you see April there? Right the amount which was owed it was R9777 at April, you see, which I was supposed to pay and then today August, it jumped from R9777 to R23 6.08 today. Even if you know.

DM: That's your services from the municipality?

SFM: Municipality. Now if the managers are there and then I think they owe us an explanation you see. The community they must come and explain to us. That's why I said if they come to the mass meeting they don't allocate all the departments because there are people who are supposed to explain this because it's a financial department. You see from April it was R9777 and then today is August the amount is R23 608. During May the amount was R10 000/R10 155, you see.

DM: In a matter of three months it's jumped almost double?

SFM: Three times, if is not three times, ja its double. I can't understand and now tell me the community is going to be happy about this management, they are creating a hatred., its going to hate them that's why they are hated, they are sick and tired man. Do you think they are going to survive about this management, this administration?

DM: Just out of interest, when did you got this bill of R23 000?

SFM: What I did, I wrote the grievance about this you know and then I handed it over to the counsellor, no feed back until now. It was during July. No feed back till now. You know what I'm worried about the way these interests, they are so expensive that it's like a private sector you know. People are making profit, I wonder if the councillors, this is

the government department this one. Are they making profit, the interests, the ... levies? Do you see what is happening, even the water there because they charge us for that water and how many people are here in South Africa. How do they wash, are they are not using that water or are we paying for that... Are they going to be happy? Like this water you see the water, the way they charge the water somebody can ask the question there, are they serving, do they have statistics of the community, the whole community they are serving here of that water or are we paying the water for the other people, like immigrants you see. I don't hate them but if, they must be clear. The council must be clear, should be clear. Are we paying for them? You count us you don't count those people they are not included. Those rates I wonder how do they determine them? I wonder the criteria that they are using, I just wonder.

DM: Ok I think that wraps it up. We really appreciate you taking your time to talk to us and being forthright and telling us your story. We might be in touch with you when we come back to do more in-depth interviews.

SFM: Thank you.

MINUTES 123:50