



Centre for Applied  
Legal Studies

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**For immediate release**

**COURT GRANTS EVICTION WITH NO CERTAINTY ON ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION**

Today the South Gauteng High Court handed down judgment evicting over 93 adults and children from their homes in inner city Johannesburg. The Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CAL S) represents approximately 50 households living on four properties on Hunter Street in the Highlands Township area of Berea.

In February 2013, the private owners of the properties instituted eviction proceedings against these households. The residents of the buildings opposed the eviction and further brought a claim against the City of Johannesburg. The claim requested that the City provide temporary emergency accommodation for the residents should they be evicted, as it is obligated to do by a Constitutional Court ruling.

The City has argued that the residents do not qualify for temporary emergency accommodation. CAL S contends that the City's means for determining who is eligible for this accommodation is flawed. Currently, it only provides accommodation for those individuals who qualify under the Extended Social Package (ESP). The eviction matter was heard in court on 5 October 2014. The eviction order was granted today and is effective 30 April 2015.

'This is a disappointing outcome,' said Zeenat Sujee, attorney at CAL S. 'The judge has failed to consider the City's constitutional obligations to provide temporary emergency accommodation. Even though the court encouraged meaningful engagement, it failed to decide on whether the Extended Social Package is a reasonable criterion to determine eligibility for temporary emergency accommodation. We are waiting for the written judgment from the judge so that we can discuss a way-forward'.

**For inquiries, please contact**

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