

CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Occupiers of Skurweplaas 353 JR v PPC Aggregate Quarries (Pty) Ltd and Others

Case No.: CCT 26/11

Date of Hearing: 13 September 2011 Date of Judgment: 7 December 2011

MEDIA SUMMARY

The following explanatory note is provided to assist the media in reporting this case and is not binding on the Constitutional Court or any member of the Court.

On Wednesday 7 December 2011 the Constitutional Court gave judgment in a case in which about 50 families unlawfully occupied land within the Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality (City). The owner of land, PPC Aggregate Quarries (Pty) Ltd, successfully obtained an eviction order against the applicants in the North Gauteng High Court, Pretoria (High Court). The High Court also ordered the City to make alternative land available for the occupants. The occupiers appealed to the Constitutional Court against this order mainly on the basis that they should not be evicted before alternative accommodation is made available for their use by the City. They did not wish to become homeless.

In a unanimous judgment of the Constitutional Court, Yacoob J held that it would be just and equitable if the occupiers were required to move off the land one month after the City was ordered to make alternative accommodation available for use by the occupiers. The Court made an appropriate order.