

Geraldine Goba

LRC Oral History Project

2 September 2008

Client

Interpreter: Rufus Poswa

Grahamstown

Int This is an interview with Mrs. Geraldine Goba; and it's Tuesday, the 2nd of September. Mrs. Goba, On behalf of SALS Foundation, we really want to thank you for agreeing to participate in the LRC Oral History Project.

GG Se, ek moet hulle ook dank. (Tell them that I must also thank them)

RP **Afrikaans translation required**

GG **Afrikaans translation required.**

Int I hope you remember all that, Rufus (laughter)

RP Ja, I'll try. She, Mrs. Goba, she was rejected in 2004. She kept applying...

Int For her Social Welfare grant?

RP Ja, for a grant, ja. Disability Grant...she, she came in to collect her letter from the Department of Welfare, a letter rejecting her grant and she was informed by somebody in town about the Legal Resources Centre, she approached the offices and entered the door. She was assisted by the Receptionist that is Nomfundo (Somande). She told her what they needed, all the forms, requirements that she needed to have in order for her to be assisted. She went to the Hospital; she collected her book, her file, her file and passbook. She brought everything. That was September, last year (2007) and they said they would help her. And this year, in March, they called her in and they told that she would receive a letter that they've assisted her. She would receive a letter the Friday and really that Friday; she received a letter stating that her grant would be reinstated. She received the amount of R7600...

GG I don't know why...waarom die menses my ge 'rejected'(I don't know why these people rejected me) because outside, here in Grahamstown, there are lots of people who are getting this money for nothing and they don't even have clinical files to show that they are really sick. Because, I've got a step...hoe se a mens skoonsuster? (How do you say a person's sister-in-law?)

RP Sister-in-law.

GG Sister-in-law who told me about an alien doctor in P.E. from 2005 who make grants for them and I think it was in last year that that doctor did all that 65 counts of fraud was dismissed and that doctor is free now. But there is still people outside, who's still getting their grants. She's still getting a grant and she is working for SASOL and she is still their grant. These people cannot seeing the situations, there are lots of people, we are eating the money of

government. But we must still suffer to get it. I got four operations on my legs from varicose veins, my leg. I can't wear dresses, I must just wear pants. Because sometimes when I stand, those varicose veins pop and there is all over blood on the floor.

Int Gosh.

RP Ja, something else she was saying was that she really appreciated the assistance she got from the LRC and then if someone approaches her, approaches her, she is, I mean, she also sends people to this offices, should they require legal assistance.

Int I was also wondering, she got here, she got to the Legal Resources Centre and then she saw Nomfundo (Somande) and then after that, did she see you?

GG Uh, uh (indicating in the negative). Die ander een on die kant....(the other one on this side). **Afrikaans translation**

RP That must be Cathy.

GG Die laaste een was oor on hierdie kant. (The last one was over on this side.)

RP And the last one was Kim.

Int Right. Kim is the intern?

RP Ja, Kim is the intern.

Int Right, so she saw them and was this 2004?

RP She came in here last year, 2007, in September, but her grant was, she was rejected...

Jou grant, het jy ooit voor 2004, jou ooit 'n grant ontvang? (Your grant, did you ever prior to 2004, receive a grant?)

GG 2004 was the laaste March maand. (2004 was the last. March.)

RP So, jy het gekry... (So, you did get one...)

GG Ek het gekry, ja, toe vaat hulle dit af. (Yes, I did receive until they stopped it.)

Int Why did they take it...?

RP She was receiving, she was receiving a grant. That's what we fight for normally because they don't provide people with reasons why they cancel the grant.

- Int So, they just cancelled...
- RP So, it was just cancelled, ja.
- Int Right, and then did she get a back payment. That 7000 rand, was that a back payment?
- RP That 7600 was a back payment, ja.
- Int So, how much is your grant per month?
- GG R940
- Int Right, and then you got here and Cathy saw you and Kim saw you. And then how long after that did you get the grant?
- RP How lang was dit? Ses maande? Jy het September hier gekom? (How long ago did you get a grant? Six months? You came here (LRC) in September?)
- GG September ja. (Yes, in September.)
- RP En toe kry jou grant Maart? (And then you received your grant in March?)
- GG March, ja.(Yes in March)
- RP Six months
- Int Right, and then, were you confident that the Legal Resources Centre would be able to help you or were you still quite concerned in those six months whether it would work or not because you had been rejected a few times?
- GG Ek was, ek was, ek het... **Afrikaans translation required**
- RP She prayed in her heart that the, that I mean, the people would assist her...
- GG Ek het glad redig. I've got also this dream, 6000, 6000. 6000, really that dream did really come true.
- Int That's nice. And in terms of, you said that you have told other people to come here. Those people, have they been able to be assisted in any way.
- GG They did come here. There were three people, but they still waiting. They did make a application again for grant but they just waiting for that reject form from there to come back and they will back to the Legal Resources Centre.

Int Right, okay. It must be quite hard, because it seems to me that there is such a long time where you are not receiving any money. In terms of the Legal Resources Centre, you told me that someone told you about the Legal Resources Centre but that person, is that someone in the actual town, in Grahamstown itself?

GG Yes. That one was also in Umtata, but he sent me here. He stay now in Grahamstown but (inaudible)

Int Right. Do you know how he knew about the Legal Resources Centre?

GG He didn't told me, he just sent me here.

Int Right, Geraldine, is there anything that you would like to share before we stop because it seems to me that your case has been quite successful...?

RP Is daar eits wat jy wil se voor, voor ons afsit? (Is there anything that you would like to say before we stop?)

GG Ek se net dankie vir die menses omdat my gehelp het deur die moeilike tyd dat ek gegaan het. (I want to just say thank you to the people who have helped me during the difficult period that I went through).

RP She's grateful to the Legal Resources Centre for helping her, she was going through a difficult time. She really appreciates it.

Int Well, thank you Mrs. Goba for coming in. We really appreciate your coming in and actually giving your time for this interview, which will be placed at the University of Witwatersrand and it will be in a CD-form and people will be able to listen to your interview. Thank you.

Continuation of brief discussion:

RP Ja, that's that's mainly it...

GG Because there's lots of people who get fits, who get fits, and they are hungry...

Continuation of completing address details on legal release forms with clients.

Somande, Nomfundo, 1, 2

Cathy, 2, 3

Kim, 2, 3

Legal Resources Centre Oral History Project

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