

The New Age, Page 1
30 November 2012



BOOTED:
Military police turned away people who have been staying in Marievale military base while evicting others who settled there.

PICTURE: THAPELO MOREBUDI



SANDF removes occupiers

CHARLOTE HLANGWANE

THE SANDF insisted it acted within its mandate when it stormed the old military base in Marievale, armed with rifles and removed people occupying old military houses yesterday.

Community leader Christopher Koitsioe said they moved into the unoccupied land in 2002 when the army left.

He claimed that the houses were allocated to the community in 2003 by government officials.

"By 2006, 90% of the houses were occupied and the army came back."

The community have been refusing to move since 2009.

"We tried organising a meeting with public works, military and the municipality and their plan of evicting us

failed. They tried in 2015 and attempts intensified afterwards," he said.

Two years ago, Koitsioe handed a memorandum of grievances and demands to then mayor of Ekurhuleni Mondli Gungubele.

The eviction was put on hold last year after the intervention of the Human Rights Commission.

Koitsioe and the community insist

they are the rightful owners and, if evicted, the SANDF should provide them with alternative accommodation.

The SANDF, via its communications head Sipiwe Dlamini, said it was in the process of removing certain military members and all civilian occupants from property that had been illegally settled on.

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