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Court ruling stalls eviction

IT'S BACK to the Land Claims Court for the SA Riding For The Disabled Association (Sarda) in Constantia after a Constitutional Court ruling stalled the association's eviction from the piece of land it has called home since March 1983.

Sarda had approached the court over the size of land it had been asked to move to following a restitution claim for the land it had occupied. The Constitutional Court overturned the initial judgments, citing that Sarda should have been acknowledged, and, should it be forced off of the property, must be compensated.

Siyabonga Sesant

However, Sarda spokesperson Bee Linkey yesterday insisted the case was never about money.

Chairperson Belinda Thom added: "Despite reports the SA Riding For the Disabled Association are cashing in on the case, they are seeking compensation in the form of land, and not money."

Thom said that without land to operate on, "200 adults and children from 13 special needs schools from all over the greater Cape Town area would not benefit from the association's

free therapeutic riding lessons". She said Sarda had exhausted their search for alternative land, but hoped that after this ruling they could secure a piece of land to ensure that Sarda riders stayed in the saddle.

The association said the Constitutional judgment – that Sarda had a right to intervene and be awarded compensation – came "earlier than expected".

Linkey said yesterday that the association's next step would be to wait for a date in the land claims court to determine the compensation that would be payable.