

Residents vow to resist Group Areas removals

Albert Park tenants defiant

By Rashida Dhooma

INDIAN, coloured and African tenants in the white Albert Park area are to defy eviction notices in terms of the Group Areas Act.

Those interviewed said they had nowhere to go, and preferred staying in the Albert Park area because the rent was reasonable.

And the Durban Central Residents Association has stepped up its campaign to assist residents after a meeting in Durban at the weekend. They are already briefing legal counsel on the possibility of applying for an interdict restraining the Government from removing the tenants. This step will be taken once summons is issued to tenants.

Several families, fearing forced removal, have already moved out of their flats. The remaining residents say they will fight to remain in their homes.

Mr Sayed Iqbal Mohamed, chairman of the DCRA, said they planned to meet with landlords, many of whom have unwillingly served notices on their tenants for fear of their properties being sold in terms of the Group Areas Act.

The association is to distribute leaflets advising tenants of their rights, and is to collect signatures for a petition.

A sub-committee of 25 members, headed by Mr Mohamed, will pilot the resistance against the Group Areas Act.

Most mixed couples, families and others living in the area agreed to interviews, but did not want to be named or pho-

tographed.

Their stories were similar. Many had moved out of townships far removed from the city centre, and because the rental is far cheaper in Albert Park. They have generally been accepted by their white neighbours.

Mr Dusty Moodley moved into his St George's Street flat four months ago. While he has not received written notice of eviction, his landlord has warned him that he might have to vacate his flat, and has advised him to look around for alternative accommodation. He lives in a spacious, well furnished one bedroomed flat.

"I am comfortable here - more comfortable than the flat I had in Overport."

Mr Moodley pays R180 rental for his flat, as opposed to the R195 he paid in Overport.

Mrs Arlene Gilbert lives in a one-bedroomed flat in St George's Street with her husband and child. They also have a lounge and diningroom and pay R180 a month rental. Her previous residence was in Wentworth, where she paid the same rental but they shared a house with another family.



□ Some of the residents of Albert Park who attended a meeting at the weekend



□ Mr Dusty Moodley... happy

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