

# Letter seeks anti-eviction sympathy

## Political Reporter

DURBAN city councillors and House of Representatives and House of Delegates MPs are being asked to voice their opposition to the pending Group Areas Act eviction of about 200 families from the city centre.

Today, letters written by Durban Central Residents' Association chairman Mr Iqbal Mohamed will be delivered to 29 councillors.

The Mayor of Durban, Mr Stan Lange, has already been sent a similar letter and has responded that he is opposed to Group Areas Act evictions in some circumstances.

The letter to the councillors recalls the 'positive stand' taken by the council on squatters and its 'commendable support' for Block AK being an open area.

'Given the Group Areas Act on one hand and the acute

housing shortage and overcrowding on the other (with a waiting list of five years and seven years for Indians and coloureds respectively), as an honoured citizen of Durban, how would you express your support for those affected in the Albert Park flatland and surrounding areas?

'Your prompt response may be of invaluable assistance to them,' the letter says.

The letter to the MPs, copies of which are being posted today, gives the background to the pending evictions.

'Tenants are vulnerable, more so in the case of mixed couples, who often have to hide when there is a knock on the door. Landlords will have to see their property being auctioned for not submitting to the Group Areas Act. Most excruciating for both tenants and landlords.

'What are you going to do?

'Would you rather streamline applications, permitting them to stay, or, considering the fact that all people are God's children, permit your conscience to rule?'

Mr Mohamed said in an interview that the DCRA had set up a legal team to handle the campaign against the evictions.

He said residents who had been given verbal or written eviction notices had been advised to wait for summonses.

'If people are served with summonses, we will go to court.'

Mr Mohamed said support for the DCRA's campaign against the evictions had come from various people and groups around the country.