

Leave your flat, mixed couple told

Daily News Reporter

A MIXED couple who came to Durban a week ago to start a new life were given 24 hours' notice to quit their Clifford Court flat in the Albert Park area.

A neighbour found them another place to live and referred their case to the Durban Central Residents' Association — who are fighting evictions of Indian, coloured and mixed families from that area.

A coloured woman, Miss Patricia Davis of Port Elizabeth, met her white Afrikaner boyfriend in Johannesburg.

They fell in love and decided to make their home in Durban.

Miss Davis asked The Daily News not to use the name of her boyfriend as he had only just begun a job in the city.

They were not sure how his employers would react.

"My boyfriend came to Durban first and once he got a job, he sent for me. I arrived on Thursday last week.

"The next day, the supervisor came to our flat and told me everyone could see that I was a coloured, that this was not acceptable, and that we had to leave by the next day," said Miss Davis.

Without knowing anybody in the city, Miss Davis said she was very relieved when one of her neighbours, Mrs Annette Nemeth, heard about the instant quit notice visited her.

Mrs Nemeth said: "The first thing I did was to contact the trustee of our building and got the couple a week's grace to continue living at their flat.

"The next step was to get them another place. They are to get married soon and this was an urgent priority.

"However, we managed to get them a flat.

"I then got hold of the residents' association and told them about the couple's problem."

She said Clifford Court was half empty and the flats were all held by sectional title, but that a trustee had been appointed to act for the residents.

Association president Mr Sayed Mohamed said his organisation was prepared to act for the couple.

"Firstly, they do not have to move. Let the summons come and then we will go to court.

"However, Miss Davis said neither she nor her boyfriend wanted a drawn-out issue — they simply wanted to get on with their lives," said Mr Mohamed.

Mrs Eunice Ndunakazi, who works at the flats, said she was surprised to hear that the couple, who had only just moved into the block, were being thrown out because of race.

The chairman of the board of trustees of Clifford Court, Mr J.A.W. Wybrow, refused to comment when The Daily News approached him today.

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ASSOCIATION president Mr Sayed Iqbal Mohamed with Miss Patricia Davis (right) and little Lezi, Mrs Eunice Ndunakazi and Mrs Annette Nemeth (centre).

