

Loss of homes for 9 000 in white districts predicted

Daily News Reporter

A GROUP Areas witch-hunt is under way — with even postmen acting as informers — which could see 9 000 people turned out of white residential areas in Durban, says the Durban Central Residents' Association.

Its president, Mr Sayed Iqbal Mohamed, said the association had reports of mounting pressure on Indians, coloureds and blacks living in the Albert Park, Umbilo, Point, Warwick Avenue, Berea, Overport, Stamford Hill and city centre areas.

"These people have nowhere to go and yet there are scores of flats and houses standing empty in white areas," said Mr Mohamed.

The situation had turned into a battle of nerves and right-wing supporters and unofficial "recruits" in the witch-hunt included postmen, civic leaders and political party organisers.

"We have had reports that some postmen have told residents they were collecting information for the Receiver of Revenue and asked about the number of people living in the house, their race and sex.

The next thing the police called on them."

Mr Mohamed said there was a concerted effort by right-wingers who

were working closely with certain civic and political leaders.

"The response we are getting from residents is overwhelming. The hot spot at the moment is Umbilo, where there is an incredible witch-hunt, and we have had more pleas for help from this area than anywhere else.

"Even the Albert Park area is quiet compared with Umbilo, where people are being knocked up at all parts of the day and night and have had their rights to live in their homes challenged."

He said that with the backing of 200 lawyers from the Association for Islamic Law and the Lawyers for Human Rights, a mammoth court battle was looming, as every single eviction notice would be contested in court.

On Saturday the Association has called a meeting of affected residents at Justice Hall, Ecumenical Centre.

Representatives from Johannesburg and Cape Town are also expected to attend and a delegation will be chosen to meet members of all three Houses of Parliament on Monday.

"They will try to get the Government to cool the pressure," said Mr Mohamed.

THE LEADER, 19 AUGUST 1988

Residents' meeting

Leader Reporter

THE Durban Central Residents Association is meeting with residents of Warwick Avenue triangle, Umbilo, Stamford Hill, Point, Durban Central, Umgeni Road, Albert Park and Overport to discuss matters of common concern.

The meeting will be held this Saturday at 3 pm at the Justice Hall in St. Andrews Street.

Natal Mercury, Friday, August 19, 1988

Focusing on the plight of 9 000

Mercury Reporter

THE plight of about 9 000 people who face eviction under the Group Areas Act will be highlighted at a Durban Central Residents' Association meeting tomorrow afternoon.

DCRA president Iqbal Mohamed said that while Albert Park was 'fairly quiet' at the moment, the pressure was on Umbilo and Greyville, residents being subject to continual police investigation.

Informal residents at Clare Estate and several mixed couples who have been the victims of a 'witchhunt' by Right-wingers, would attend the meeting at Justice Hall, 20 St

Andrews Street, at 3 pm tomorrow, he said.

He urged 'affected' residents in those areas, as well as Warwick Avenue, Overport, Westville, Hillary and Glenwood, to attend the meeting where a delegation will be chosen to meet with the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning on Monday, along with representatives from Cape Town and Johannesburg.

'He (the Minister) hasn't replied to any of the matters we have raised in our letters to him,' Mr Mohamed said, 'including whether he was prepared to house these 9 000 people, who have nowhere to go while there are vacant flats in the white areas.'