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800 sign petition against mixed residential area

Beh. Ismail Suder

EIGHT hundred whites in Albert Park this week signed a petition to stop any Government move to turn the zone into a mixed residential area. "Whites are extremely angry," said Mrs Adelaide Stone who motivated the petition.

The final straw came, she said, when an Indian businessman bought the Wingfield Residential Hotel for R690 000 recently. At that point the complex was wholly occupied by whites, but shortly afterwards blacks began moving in. This led to more than 18 white couples moving out.

This week, when several blacks moved into the premises with their furniture, angry white residents decided they had had enough. All are moving out at the end of the month.

Another reason for moving out is that Mr Jay Maharaj, a director of the company which bought the property, decided to shut the catering service which now means residents will have to prepare or buy their own food.

Mrs Stone felt so strongly about the area being "flooded" by blacks, she went out and got more than 800 signatures, protesting against "illegal" residents moving into Albert Park.

Mr Maharaj said he had every right to allow blacks to occupy the Wingfield because the premises fell under the Hotels Act where anyone could reside.

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