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# Manco rejects Albert Park free area plea



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Municipal Reporter

*BFH1.*  
AN APPLICATION to have a section of Albert Park — where reportedly thousands of blacks are already living illegally — declared a free settlement area was yesterday rejected by the city's Management Committee.

The application was made by a Durban legal firm, Ditz Incorporated, on behalf of the developers of a block of flats in St George's Street, Arucha.

The application was first made to the Free Settlement Board just for the block of flats to be declared 'open'.

But the board advised that an application would have to specify an entire area and would have to be made to the local authority first.

Councillor for the area, Mrs Desire Sansom, said the area under consideration was bounded by St Andrew's Street, Park Street, Smith Street and Broad Street.

According to a memorandum which was considered by

Manco, the developers had 'from time to time' met the owners of the shareblock flats.

It said very few had bought the flats to live in them and in fact only four out of 28 had ever lived there — all the others bought the flats either as investments or to resell them.

When the shareblock flats were sold it was the right of the individual buyers to choose occupants and not the developers, the memorandum said.

In September 1986 it had come to the notice of the developers that 10 of the flats were occupied by 'disqualified people', it said.

All these happenings had 'unfortunate consequences' — no whites wanted to move in and many of the flats were vacant, the document stated.

Buyers couldn't meet their commitments and of the 11 flats the developers now owned, nine were either re-

possessed from the owners or surrendered by the owners.

Mrs Sansom said because whites would not move in there the developers now wanted to legally allow blacks to move in.

'I opposed the application and had an interview with Manco this morning.

'The people of Albert Park do not want this — many have bought there to retire and have invested their life savings in the area.

'I think the problem here is that owners of blocks of flats are not prepared to upgrade.

'Many of the buildings are in a state of disrepair — if they fixed them they would get white people moving in.'

Chairman of Manco, Mr Jan Venter, said the city could only make an application to the board for a whole area, not just six blocks of an area.

'It just doesn't work that way,' he said.

The developers could not be reached for comment.

- 1 TREFWOOR
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- 2 k. n. n. n. n.
- Durb
- 3 Plann
- 4 k. n. n. n.
- 5 Opp
- 6 Alans
- 7 J. n. n. n.
- 8 Albert
- 9 k. n. n. n.
- 10 B. n. n. n.