

Eviction of black tenants on the rise

Daily News Reporter

THE eviction of black tenants from the white residential area of Albert Park is on the increase, according to the president of the Durban Central Residents' Association, Mr Sayed Iqbal Mahomed.

He said that for a six-month period from June 1969 to December that year, there were just 15 eviction notices served on black tenants.

From January to March 1990, there were 21 notices served and from April to July 1990 a total of 89.

"We do not accept this kind of attitude from landlords and agents, some of whom are taking substantial rentals from desperate people who have no accommodation.

"The association's legal team will act for every single person served with an eviction

notice."

He named 16 blocks of flats which have acted against tenants of colour during April, May and June this year.

They are Provincial, Nordic, Chesnor, Roselege, Ana Capri, Croydon Court, Bishopsgate, Bridlington, Wills Court, Albert Park Mansions, Bishops, Olwyn, Clifford, Brianmore, Harfield House and Pernhill.

Mr Mahomed said that residents who attended a public meeting have resolved to defy all eviction notices; that their anti-Group Areas campaign be intensified and to blacklist lawyers who act for landlords in these cases.

A decision has also been taken to draw up a bill of rights for tenants and that workshops be established to handle all problems relating to the Group Areas Act.

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Rent boycott by flat tenants

Leader Reporter

A rent boycott, following closely on the heels of an interdict in the Durban Supreme court on Tuesday, restraining a local flat supervisor from harassing or assaulting a tenant, has been called by the tenants of the flat.

Tenants of the Rozelege flat in St George's Street, Durban, combined forces to form a flat committee at a meeting with the Durban Central Residents' Association (DCRA) on Tuesday afternoon, soon after an interdict was obtained by Mr Samuel Cibane, restraining flat supervisor, Mr Lolly Ramlall, from harassing or assaulting him.

Mr Sayed Iqbal Mohammed, chairman of the DCRA said the boycott had been introduced because of the "exorbitant rents, believed to be the highest in the city for a flat the size of Rozelege and appalling condi-

tions at the flat and the delay by the owners in remedying the situation".

Mr Mohammed said the tenants remained unaware as to who owned the building despite several attempts to establish who the owners were.

In court documents, Mr Cibane said he feared the lives of his wife, four year old daughter and himself were in danger, following threats by Mr Ramlall to "assault and kidnap" Mr Cibane's wife and child and to then "hire gangsters to kill Mr Cibane".

The dispute between Mr Cibane and Mr Ramlall apparently arose soon after Mr Cibane's lease on the flat had expired.

According to Mr Cibane, he was refused a renewal on the lease but was allowed to stay on at the flat as a "monthly tenant".

He said his rent had thereafter been increased from R250 per month to R310 per month without warning.

Family gets interdict against flat-block supervisor

Court Reporter

A FAMILY living in a Durban block of flats who were allegedly threatened with death and kidnapping by their supervisor who conducted a "campaign of terror," were awarded an urgent temporary interdict protecting them in the Durban Supreme Court yesterday.

Mr Justice Didcott ordered Mr Lolly Ramlall, the supervisor of the building Rozelege in St George's Street, not to assault, threaten or harass Mr Samuel Cibane, his wife and their 4½-year-old daughter.

The entire block of flats is allegedly poorly maintained and tenants have to share communal toilets described as unhygienic and emitting a foul stench pervading the entire building, according to court papers.

Mr Cibane, whose flat measures 2½m by 4½m with a small basin, alleged that the supervisor threatened him after he approached the DCRA who then started probing tenants' grievances.

Mr Cibane allegedly overheard Mr Ramlall suggesting his wife and daughter be kidnapped and assaulted and that gangsters should be hired to kill them.

The family had to resort to a police escort to enter the flat to wash and change.

They are no longer living in the flat.

The case will be heard on August 13 to determine whether the order should be confirmed or discharged.

JULY 25, 1990

Terror campaign by supervisor alleged

Court Reporter

A MAN who fears for the life of his family has alleged that the supervisor of the block of flats where they stay has conducted a 'campaign of terror' against them.

In an urgent application yesterday in the Supreme Court, Durban, against Mr Lolly Ramlall, Mr Samuel Cibane said he stayed with his wife and child in Rozelege, St George's Street, and that a dispute arose over rent.

After Mr Cibane's six-month lease expired, he said he was told by Mr Ramlall the rent was to be increased from R250 to R310 a month, but he refused to pay the in-

crease, saying the block was poorly maintained.

He asked the Durban Central Resident's Association (DCRA) for help, Mr Cibane said, but when Mr Ramlall heard about this the family was given three days notice.

He said suggestions had been made that his family would be kidnapped and assaulted.

An interim order was issued calling on Mr Ramlall to show by August 13 why a final order should not be made restraining him from assaulting, threatening or interfering with Mr Cibane and his family.