

## **ARMOUR AGAINST LANDLORDS**

CAPE ARGUS, JULY 15, 1999 By Tarzan Mbita, Staff Reporter

Landlords who exploit their tenants must beware. Help is at hand in the form of Sayed-Iqbal Mohamed, a Durban Metro Councillor and a director of the Organisation of Civic Rights (OCR).

Now that they have firmly established themselves in Durban and the Eastern Cape, Mr Mohamed feels the time is right to let tenants in the Western Cape know their rights.

He will be delivering a paper at a workshop entitled The Rights and Obligations of Tenants and Landlords, which will discuss anything from notice to vacate property to maintenance of the building.

"Landlords always charge exorbitant rents, yet pay scant regard to the maintenance of buildings" he said.

Research has shown that in South Africa there are more than eight million people who live in rented space, and that most do not know their rights as tenants.

"Worse still, landlords have a tendency to threaten people with eviction if they complain about living conditions," he said.

His organisation aims to set up a network of other organisations that have the interests of tenants at heart.

The OCR also aims to empower groups in the Cape to know the laws governing their rights.

Entrance is free, and the workshop runs from 10am to 3pm at rooms 4 and 5 on the seventh floor of the Provincial Administration Offices in 4 Dorp Street.

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