

Mayor reacts to eviction call

Political Reporter

PEOPLE who contravened the Group Areas Act through force of circumstance should not be evicted, the Mayor of Durban, Mr Stan Lange, said.

Mr Lange was reacting to a letter sent to him by the Durban Central Residents Association (DCRA) concerning 200 Indian and coloured families facing eviction from their homes in the white residential area of Albert Park.

The letter called on the mayor to state his position on Group Areas Act evictions.

Mr Lange said he had a very great concern about evictions but also about upholding the law.

'I feel extremely sorry for those people who don't have another home.

'I don't have as much sympathy for those who deliberately flout the law (by breaking the Group Areas Act) as those who are forced to do so by circumstances.

'If someone had a good home and moved there (to white areas) in anticipation of the law being changed — they were a little bit naughty

and should have waited.'

Mr Lange said the city council had passed a resolution indicating it believed power to issue proclamations under the Group Areas Act should be delegated to local authorities.

He said this did not mean the council would automati-

cally open all areas.

Mr Sayed Mohamed, DCRA chairman, said he was disappointed that Mr Lange had not clearly stated his position on whether people should be able to choose where they live.

'What criteria is used to determine who is "forced" to live in white areas?' he asked.