

"War of nerves" in group areas fight

Leader
Reporter

"IT'S a war of nerves but we have enough nerve to fight to the end" said Mr Sayed Iqbal Mohammed of the Durban Central Residents' Association which is fighting tooth and nail for the hundreds of Black tenants who are living illegally in White's-only flats in central Durban.

"The tenants are determined to resist being evicted and we are exploring every avenue to declare the eviction notices invalid. There is hope and our legal advisors have informed us that we stand a good chance of winning this battle" said Mr Mohammed.

"The Leader" has since learnt that one of the effected block of flats in the Albert Park area is owned by an Indian businessman and 12 of the Black tenants have received verbal eviction orders.

Lawyers for the DCRA have pointed out that verbal eviction orders are not binding on the tenants.

It is also believed that the owners of this block of flats is attempting to remain anonymous to prevent the state from expropriating the property in terms of the Group Areas Act.

TELEX SENT

Earlier this week lawyers, acting on behalf of the DCRA, sent a telex to Mr Piet Badenhorst, the Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, calling upon him to intervene and use his power to stop Indians and Coloureds from being thrown into the streets.

Mr Badenhorst is reported to have said on June 15 that nobody would be evicted in terms of the Group Areas Act and that the Minister would be "reasonable" with those who applied for permits.

"We are calling upon Mr Badenhorst to reiterate those comments and give the tenants the assurance that they will not be evicted.

"The tenants have, nevertheless, taken a decision not to apply for permits as it is humiliating," said Mr Mohammed.