



Police visit blacks in flats

Mercury Reporter

SCORES of blacks living illegally in white flats in central Durban were continually hopping from flat to flat in a desperate bid to stave off police action, according to Mr Sayed Iqbal Mohammed, chairman of the Durban Central Residents' Association.

In the wake of a renewed clampdown on blacks infringing the Group Areas legislation, about 6 000 Indian, coloured and blacks in 70 block of flats in central Durban face an uncertain Christmas after visits by police.

Lull

However, Mr Mohammed said that following the police visits many of the tenants simply moved from one flat to another. He said hundreds of flats in white areas had been standing vacant and as an incentive to white tenants one owner was offering three months' rent-free occupation of his flats.

Mr Mohammed said there had been a lull in police and landlord activities until now. 'Suddenly, the Group Areas Act Unit has been visiting blocks of flats again,' he said.

A police spokesman confirmed visits had been made to a number of blocks. 'We only act when we get complaints or when people make written statements and it is only then we investigate cases under the Group Areas Act,' he added.

Meanwhile, Mrs Annette Nemeth, a key official of the DCRA who was allegedly attacked in her flat by a gunman recently, has been discharged from hospital and is again ready to help blacks in their battle against eviction.

The association is convening a meeting of all tenants at the Ecumenical Centre today.