

GROUP AREAS - CAPE

1996 - 1997

Extra two months for District 6 claims

ET 4/1/96

(SI)

PEOPLE evicted from District Six under the Group Areas Act have been given an extra two months to submit claims to land there, the Regional Land Claims Commissioner for the Western and Northern Cape, Mr Wallace Mgoqi, announced yesterday.

Their claims must now be in before February 29 this year.

The original deadline for the District Six claims was the end of November last year.

"But there is reason to believe not all potential claimants have submitted claims," Mr Mgoqi said.

The delay was holding up the restitution process.

Mr Mgoqi said claims could be sent to the commission's office at Private Bag X9163, Cape Town, 8000, and inquiries could be made to his office at (021) 262930.
Political Staff

DISTRICT SIX

EQUITY PROBLEM

FM 26/1/96

(81)

Slow and tortuous progress has been made rebuilding District Six — but a potential conflict between the redevelopment proposals and the land restitution process has yet to be resolved.

There is broad agreement that the area's development potential can be maximised through the creation of an integrated, high-density, mixed use, inner city housing precinct. Housing should be kept as affordable as possible and targeted at former residents.

Surprisingly, only one claim for restitution has been lodged by a former tenant — though it was the community of 65 000 tenants rather than the small group of mostly white landowners that suffered the most when District Six was razed in the Sixties. The lack of response has been attributed to people's unwillingness to confront the past or to ignorance about the restitution process.

A total of 230 claims (by landowners and the solitary tenant) have been lodged and the deadline has been extended by three months in the hope that

more people will seek restitution.

Should those dispossessed not want to return to the area, the Land Claims Court could be more inclined to return original land to the former landowners — precisely what the Cape Town Community Land Trust wants to avoid.

The trust was created in 1994 to establish affordable housing and community facilities in the inner city. It proposes an integrated development plan to revitalise District Six and this will be thwarted if bits of land are returned in a random fashion. It would also render impossible the planning of a new housing precinct that could take about 25 000 people, ostensibly past tenants and their lineage.

Apartheid planners buried the area's past under a new set of roads and plot boundaries. Of the original 100 ha of District Six, only about 42 ha remains undeveloped. The Cape Technikon occupies most of the developed area.

One way of reconciling the aims of redevelopment and restitution is for the Land Claims Court to offer former landowners compensation other than the original land. The trust will apply to the court to exclude the 39 ha of trust land in District Six from restoration — a move re-

sisted by some landowner groups.

But there has been some progress. Stakeholders are now represented on a forum which must reach consensus on the best way to redevelop the area.

Trust CEO Basil Davidson says this will be the year of reaching consensus, formulating detailed plans, getting approval and raising finance. He does not expect any houses to be built until 1997.

On the issue of affordability, Davidson points out that the national housing policy makes no provision for the building of low-rise apartments most appropriate for the new District Six.

He hopes the area's historical significance will help to engender grant funds from SA and abroad. The residential component could be subsidised out of the surplus generated by allowing commercial development in the area.

But the real problem, says Davidson, is how to ensure equity. It will be difficult to justify a level of subsidy and accommodation in District Six that exceeds anything offered in the rest of SA.

He believes that many of these problems could be addressed if RDP planners and the departments of land and housing started co-ordinating their strategies. ■

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THIRTY years ago this month, the bustling, cosmopolitan and racially mixed enclave of District Six — a practical embodiment of the new South Africa, decades before its time — was declared a white Group Area.

Within a week, African "District Sixers" were forced out, and, over the next 16 years, virtually everybody else was too. Their homes and shops were razed and their home ground turned into a national symbol of the heartlessness of apartheid.

Picking up the pieces is literally what the District Six Museum in Buitenkant Street has been doing for the past year, providing what project director Sandra Prosalendis describes as "the space for others to express themselves... in a way that reaffirms the identity of District Sixers and restores their pride in the past".

In another, more literal, sense, the picking up of pieces in District Six finds expression in a cairn in

Rebuilding the heart and life of the old District Six

The first step in the destruction of District Six was taken 30 years ago this month... but a sympathetic reconstruction of the memory is helping to ease the loss.

Hanover Street composed of stones and fragments of rubble from the destroyed buildings. "It is a way of saying, 'Let's rebuild', of committing ourselves to a new future without forgetting

(81) ARG 17/2/96

SIX

the past," she says. The museum — prominent among organisations which hosted a silent commemorative pilgrimage to the area last weekend — prides itself on having deliberately placed itself in the hands of the community, and allowed itself to be shaped and formed by the very people whose past it seeks to reflect and affirm.

The district, Ms Prosalendis notes, "was a precursor in many ways of the new South Africa, a cosmopolitan and vibrant place that functioned as a community".

DAY Weekend Argus, February 17/18 1996

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"We realise that the remaining land will never accommodate the number of people who were forced out, but we believe a public memorial park would give all ex-residents the use of the land they once occupied."

At the museum itself — housed in the historic Methodist Church opposite Caledon Square park station — the floor is covered by a huge map of the old district, spread under plastic, and there are cloth drapes, and notebooks, hanging from the pillars and beams on which visitors are encouraged to "write themselves back into District Six history".

Some visitors, Ms Prosalendis says, dance over the map, reclaiming their memories of a past that was taken from them.

"This is where people come to tell their story, and ex-District Sixers working at the museum are here to listen to them."

The sentiments of the notes and stories reflect a truth that was probably lost on the Nationalists who spent R25 million over nearly two decades to flatten the area: nothing would erase the memories and the fervour of District Sixers.

"Having a successful community is about conflict and struggling, and about dealing with problems... and that is what District Six was all about."

One of the "problems" of the District in 1996 is that there simply isn't enough land left to accommodate all those forced out in the 1960s and 1970s. Only about 35 percent is still vacant.

Acknowledging this, the museum — and other member organisations of the District Six Forum — are hoping to establish a memorial park in Horstley Street.

District Six land claims cut-off extended 60 days

CT 8/3/96

(81)

BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL WRITER

ALTHOUGH 340 individuals have already claimed land restitution rights in District Six, the deadline for claims has been extended by another 60 days.

This was announced yesterday by the Regional Land Claims Commissioner for the Western Cape, Mr Wallace Mgoqi.

He said this had been done so that many potential claimants, mainly tenants in the old District Six who were not aware they could have a claim, could still submit claims.

"The purpose is also to ensure that as many claims as possible are submitted so that the commission could investigate claims falling in a particular geographic area simultaneously."

Mgoqi said it had come to his attention that many potential claimants were not aware of their rights.

"There is the mistaken belief that only people who were land-owners in District Six could submit restitution claims. In fact, the Restitution of Land Rights Act of 1994 clearly states that people who had beneficial occupation of land for not less than 10 years before being dispossessed or removed

under racially-based measures, qualify to submit a restitution claim."

It had therefore been decided to extend the period of submitting claims to the end of April.

It was announced last year that all the District Six claims would be handled as a single claim because the resources of the land commission and the Land Claims Court would be more effectively utilised if all claims were investigated at the same time.

All potential claimants, who had not yet submitted claims, were asked to submit claims as soon as possible.

Mgoqi said claims could be sent to the commission at Private Bag X9163, Cape Town, 8000, or inquiries could be made to its Cape Town offices at (021) 26-2930.

He also emphasised that all claims were made against the government and not the current owners or occupiers of property, such as those living in Bloemhof Flats in District Six.

Mgoqi also said restitution could involve the restitution of the actual land, a grant of alternative land, financial compensation or alternative forms of relief such as priority attention in a housing project.

Irish president salutes (81) District 6

ESANN de KOCK

Staff Reporter

ARG 27/3/96

IRISH President Mary Robinson - on an official visit to South Africa - has paid tribute to the people and the memories of District Six, where 60 000 people were removed during the 1960s under the Group Areas Act.

Visiting the District Six Museum in Cape Town yesterday, she signed her name on the white cloth draped over the pillars inside the old Methodist Church in which the museum is housed, adding it to the thousands of names of people who have visited the museum.

Mrs Robinson described the museum as a "living place" with a sad history.

But, she said, it was proof of the determination to honour a community and what it had stood for.

She was told the museum was there to ensure that the history and memory of forced removals in South Africa endured.

District Six was named after the sixth municipal district of Cape Town in 1867.

Originally established as a multicultural community of freed slaves, merchants, artisans, labourers and immigrants, District Six was a centre with close links to Cape Town's city centre and port.

By the beginning of this century the history of removals and marginalisation had begun.

Africans, the first to be resettled, were forcibly displaced from the district in 1901, and as the more prosperous moved away to the suburbs, the area became the neglected ward of Cape Town.

In 1966 it was declared a white area under the Group Areas Act and by 1982 the life of the community was over.

It had taken 16 years and R25 million to remove forcibly more than 60 000 people to the Cape Flats.

Their houses in District Six were flattened by bulldozers.

Mrs Robinson was accompanied through the museum by her husband, Nicholas, and by the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Kader Asmal.

She also visited the adjacent pre-school centre, where children aged from two to six welcomed her with a song in three languages.

(81) AR4 23 | 4 | 96

Aunty Grace awaits her fate

Valued homes are up for sale

ANDREA WEISS
Metro Reporter

AUNTY Grace Barron, 77, remembers an old lady who was moved from her home in District Six at the age of 78 and sent to live in Kensington, where she lived out her days in misery.

The wasteland that is District Six is just up the road, and Aunty Grace lives in a house on the corner of Osborne Street, proudly named Osborne Villa, which is part of a terrace of 45 houses up for sale.

She's lived there all her life, in peace with her neighbours, and within a close-knit community which does not bear any of the hallmarks of social decay that characterise the ganglands of the Cape Flats.

The community occupying the houses between Osborne and Francis streets was spared from the Group Areas Act because their homes fall in an industrial zone of industrial land on the border of Woodstock.

But ironically, as District Six awaits redevelopment, the same fate that met her friend went to Kensington awaits Aunty Grace - forced removal of another kind - because if she cannot buy the home she was born in, she will have to leave.

Yet the residents of what is described as some of the best surviving early Victorian architecture in Cape Town are fighting back in an effort to raise the R1.5 million they need to buy their own homes.

All they need is some time and a vote of confidence from the banks to achieve their objective.

They know that if they don't succeed they will be forced to join the thousands waiting for homes in Cape Town. The houses they live in were built before 1887 and are believed to have been occupied by fishermen and dock workers.

For the fishermen of the day it was but a short walk to Woodstock Beach, now buried beneath concrete and railway lines. Today there are grandmothers and great-grandmothers living in the houses who remember the days when Dis-

trict Six was an extension of their community.

Their children went to school there; they visited friends and neighbours there. In fact, they believe they are "the last of District Six".

Aunty Annie Fisher, a great-grandmother, bore seven children in her house, No 24, and is the only resident to still have a wood-burning stove in the kitchen, and who has chosen to keep her privy outside.

Many of the other residents have made their own improvements to their houses, tiling kitchen floors and enclosing the outside toilets to make inside bathrooms leading off the kitchen.

Each house has an identical layout - two bedrooms and small livingroom up some steps. All the stoeps are wooden, with cross bars, and in remarkably good repair.

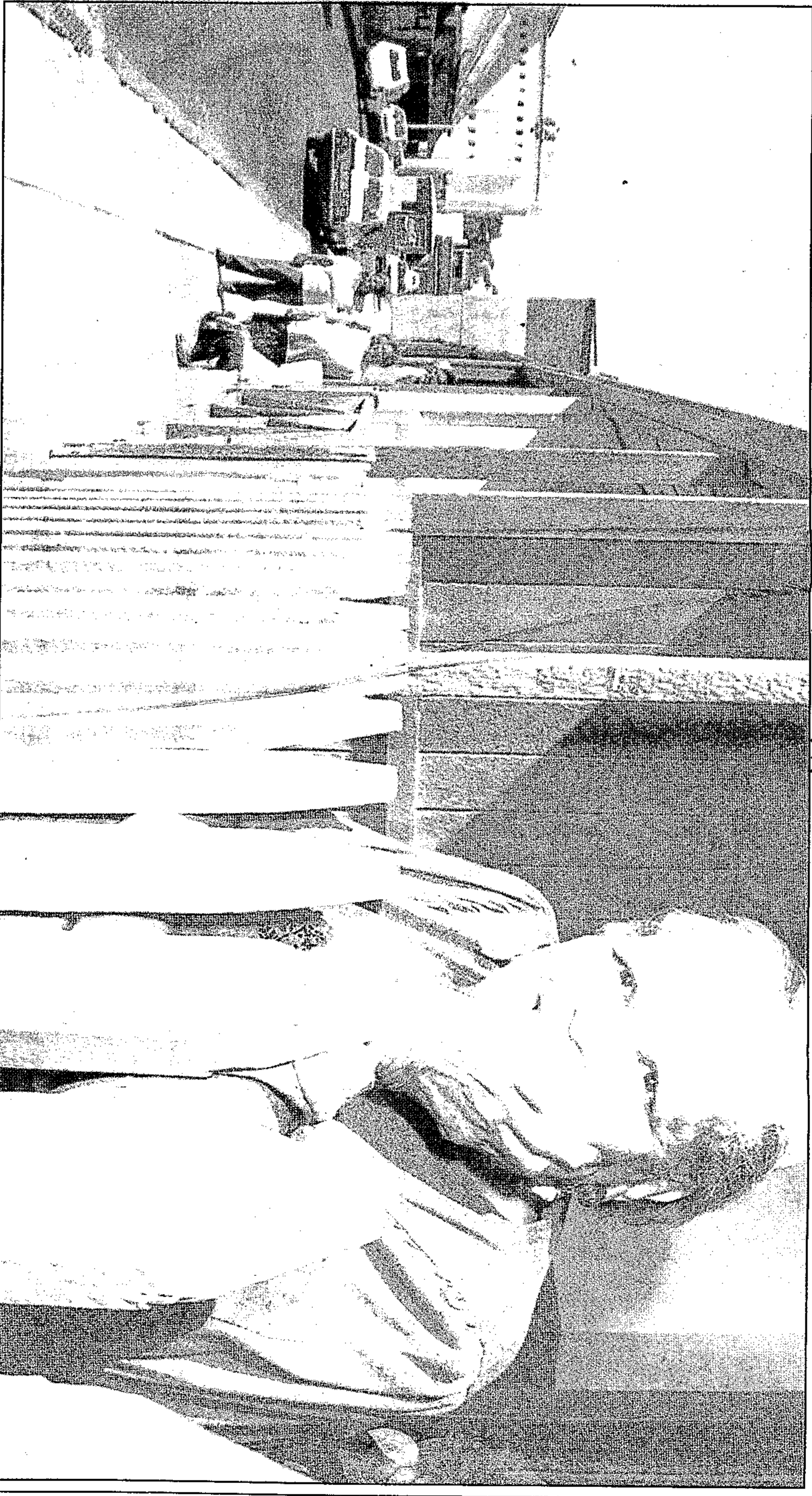
The owner of the 45 houses, Sydney Schach, has refused to comment on the impending sale, saying he will not be forced to negotiate through the Press.

But after the National Monuments Council and the District Six Civic Association stepped in, he agreed to give the families seven days to come up with the money to buy the houses "en bloc". That deadline has lapsed and the residents do not know where they stand.

Mr Schach has told them that he is not willing to subdivide the houses, which would allow them to raise individual bonds with the banks, because this will cost up to R15 000.

But raising R1.5 million as a community is not easily done, especially as the residents have set themselves the objective of ensuring that the lesser fortunate among them should also be helped.

The price which has been set would put each individual property at around R34 000, making it necessary for residents to earn about R1 800 a month to qualify for a bond. The repayments would also be about R150 more than the current R350 each they pay in rent which is controlled by the Cape Metropolitan Rent Board.



PLACE IN THE SUN: Aunty Grace Barron, 77, on the stoep of the house where she was born. The block of 45 Victorian terrace houses is up for sale, throwing a shadow of uncertainty over the community of Osborne and Francis streets, described as the last remnants of District Six.

Picture: DOUG PRINCE, The Argus.

Aunty Grace's much younger neighbour, Zahida Karim, who is a member of the residents' committee attempting to negotiate an agreement, observed:

"This is his (Mr Schach's) property, but these are our homes. Aunty Grace never dreamed that we would be threatened. We've got pensioners in our midst. We're not going to leave Aunty Torie behind, we're not going to leave Aunty Grace behind. This is District Six all over again - it's opening up all the wounds."

"We're not looking for something for nothing. We can 'helpmekar'," she says. "We don't want to lose our homes."

The community has been described by the National Monuments Council as the "remaining nuclei of the long-suffering District Six community" which survived the forced removals.

It has provisionally declared the properties national monuments because of their "historical, socio-cultural and architectural significance".

The residents are also proud

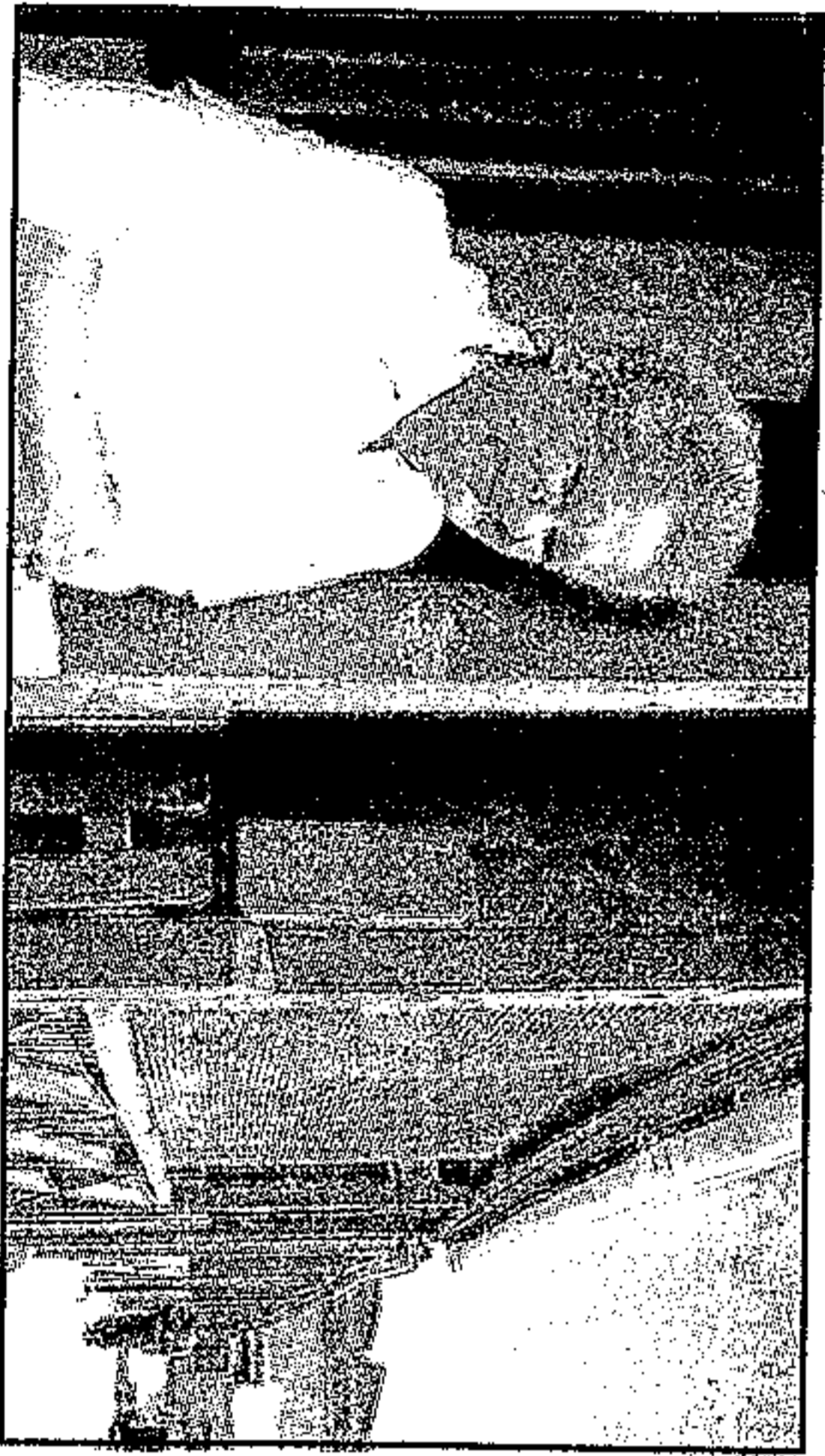
of their clean-living community, free of "gangsters and dark dealing". Now with the threat of losing their homes hanging over them, their bonds are even tighter, and they're hoping they will be strong enough to reel in their dream of security of tenure.

PROUD PENSIONERS:

Aunty Grace Barron, left, in her living room, which was decorated by her son-in-law, with her neighbours Kathleen Jardien and Annie Fisher.



District 6 families



UNCERTAIN FUTURE: Aunty Annie Fisher, 66, on the steep of the home she moved into as a 17-year-old bride in what remains of District Six.

Picture: DOUG PITHEY, The Argus.

face eviction

Landlord set to sell last historic homes

ANDREA WEISS
Metro Reporter

AN EMBATTLED community of 45 families, who survived the Group Areas Act in historic housing terraces on the edge of the former District Six, are faced with eviction.

The threat to the families comes, ironically, as efforts to redevelop District Six gather momentum, and former residents are being encouraged to submit a group land claim.

The pressure on the residents of Osborne and Francis Street has come because the block of terrace houses is up for sale on the open market, and their owner is unwilling to sell houses individually, leaving the residents with the prospect of raising R1,5 million en bloc.

Some families have held on to their homes for more than 70 years, escaping Group Areas evictions because they were in land zoned for industrial use on the fringe of the now flattened suburb.

The families were given a seven-day deadline to raise the money, but this lapsed last Thursday, and the community in Osborne and Francis streets is now living on borrowed time.

The landlord, Sydney Schach, has refused to comment on the situation, saying he will not negotiate through the Press.

For the residents, many of whom are pensioners, the tension is mounting, as they fear a replay of the forced removals that destroyed District Six. They have formed a resident's committee, and approached several banks, but have not yet had a positive response.

The National Monuments Council and the District Six Civic Association have also stepped in to help them negotiate for more time to try and secure their homes.

The difficulty is persuading banks to put up the money, because Mr Schach has refused to subdivide the properties to allow individual families to raise bonds.

The NMC has provisionally given the terrace houses protection because of their "historical, socio-cultural and architectural significance".

The houses were built before 1887 and are believed to have been occupied by fishermen who worked off Woodstock beach, and by dock workers.

The houses, which have wooden front stoeps with crossbars, are described as being some of the best surviving examples of early Victorian architecture in Cape Town, because they are still largely in context and also in remarkably good condition.

An NMC spokesman said that many of the residents were going through "a traumatic period because of their uncertainty and fears at the prospect of losing the only places they can call home".

"If any individual or organisation could assist this remaining core of District Six residents in securing their homes, they would be assisting in preserving an integral part of Cape Town's rich history and culture, as well as ensuring the continued existence of a vibrant, close-knit community."

● See page 3.

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22/4/96

(81) ARG 23/4/96

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 24, 1996

District Six: Landlord denies eviction threat

PETER DENNEHY

CT 24/4/96 (81)

LANDLORD Mr Sydney Schach said yesterday his 45 households of tenants in Osborne and Francis streets — in what they regard as District Six but he does not — are not under threat of eviction.

Schach was responding to press reports that he planned to sell the property and evict the tenants.

"As long as they pay their rent, they cannot be evicted. They are all protected tenants under the Rents Act," he said. "I have no intention of evicting them."

Even if he sells the properties — and he does have an offer of R1,5 million for all 45 houses — the new owner would struggle to get permission to evict the tenants.

The area has a heritage status, Schach said, and all alterations to the buildings have to be passed by the city council.

He is aware that the tenants are trying to raise the money to buy

the houses. He has spoken to their representatives and has given them until May 2 to arrange the purchase.

Schach said he did not want to divide the houses into separate plots, because separating them is costly and it takes a long time. "The last ones I did took three years," Schach said.

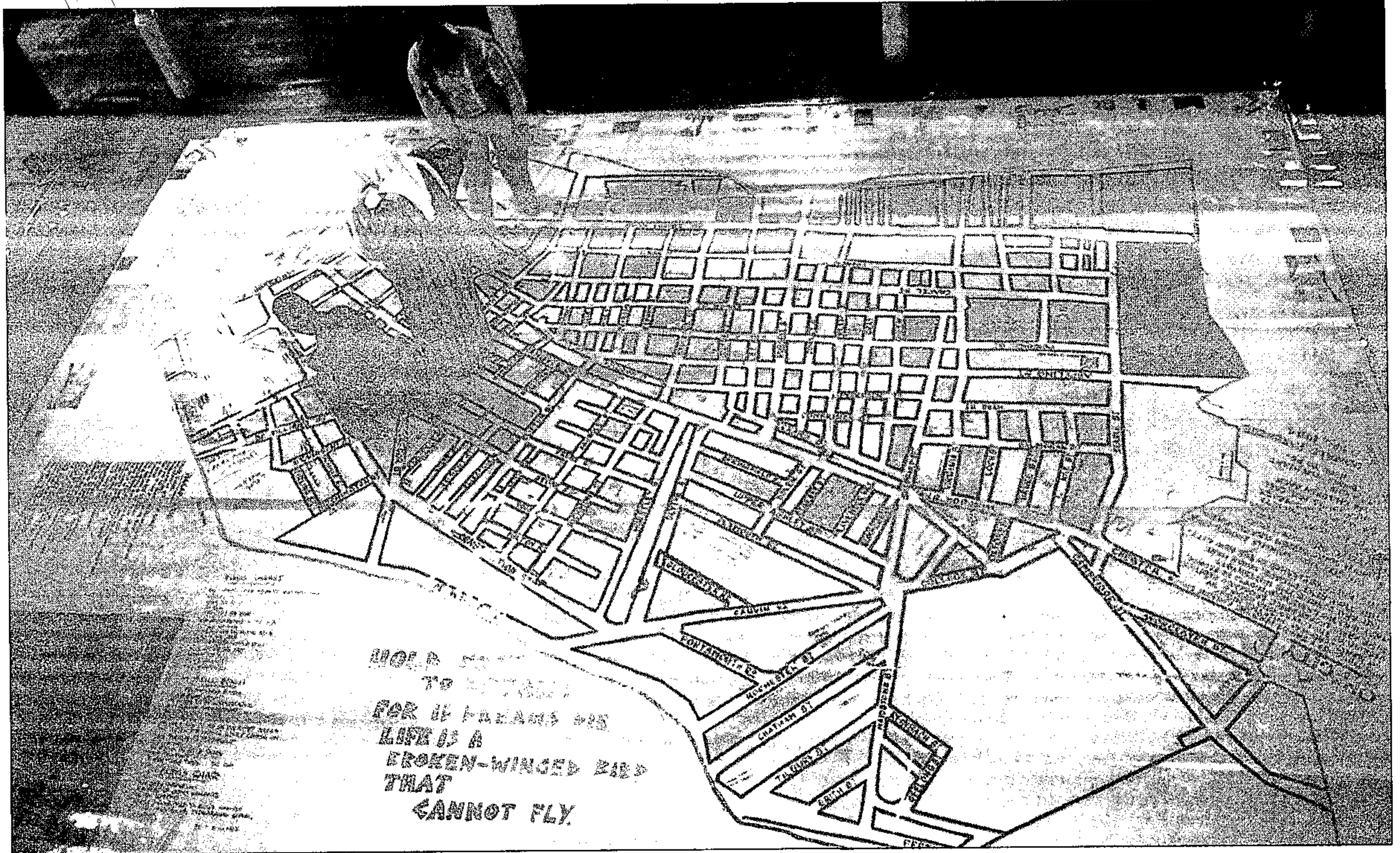
Mr Anwah Nagia of the District Six Civic Association said negotiations with a financial institution were under way, and another meeting with the bank was to take place tomorrow. He understood it would cost between R15 000 and R20 000 to separate each property and provide water and electricity meters to each house.

Nagia said the bank was hoping to get a "social commitment" from the civic association that it would refrain from protesting if the bank granted the loan but had to evict tenants for defaulting on repayments at any stage.

'When I die, my ashes must be thrown at bus stop 100, Constitution Street'

Holding on to their dream: Former residents of District Six mark the spot where their house used to be on the huge map of the historical area in the District Six Museum

PHOTOGRAPHS: RODGER BOSCH



'District Six' under threat again

(81) M+G 26/4-2/5/96

The District Six Museum is a memorial to the evils of the Group Areas Act, but its survival is threatened by the government's lack of support, writes **Rehana Rossouw**

ALTHOUGH memorials celebrating Afrikaner history receive millions of rands of support, the government has only been prepared to make a one-off payment of R200 000 for the museum which houses the remnants of District Six.

"When I die, my ashes must be thrown at bus stop 100, Constitution Street," This poignant message from Mrs P Simmons is one of thousands left behind on a calico cloth by a visitor to the District Six Museum.

District Six was named for the sixth municipal district in Cape Town in 1867 and was home to a multicultural community of freed slaves, merchants, artisans and immigrants.

In 1901, Africans were forcibly removed from the area and in 1966 it was declared a white area in terms of the Group Areas Act. By 1982, almost 60 000 people were forced out into matchbox houses on the barren Cape Flats, their houses flattened by bulldozers.

Today, the tract of land which once was District Six remains largely undeveloped, symbolic of the evils of apartheid. "The area is still a powerful reminder of things that happened and must never be allowed to happen again. The District Six Museum ensures this memory will not diminish," the project says in its mission statement.

Based in the Central Methodist Church in Buitenkant Street, Cape Town, the venue also holds symbolism for its founders. The church served the District Six community and several meetings protesting against forced removals were held there.

"In a way, it's also a war museum. This church was a sanctuary for peo-

ple harassed by police during protest action. (Justice Minister) Dullah Omar used to counsel relatives here of people held across the road at the Caledon Square police station," said project director Sandra Prosalendis.

The project calls itself a "living museum". It began as an exhibition planned for two weeks in December 1994, but has kept its doors open because of demands from former District Six residents from around the world that it become the custodian of the area's legacy.

The initial exhibition dubbed *Streets* offered little more than the original street signs of the area. Today, the museum includes a map of District Six on its floor, where ex-residents can mark their homes and other significant places. Archaeological finds like cutlery, coins, toys and costume jewellery are on display. Scores of family photographs have been donated and larger-than-life portraits of civic leaders stare down from the gallery.

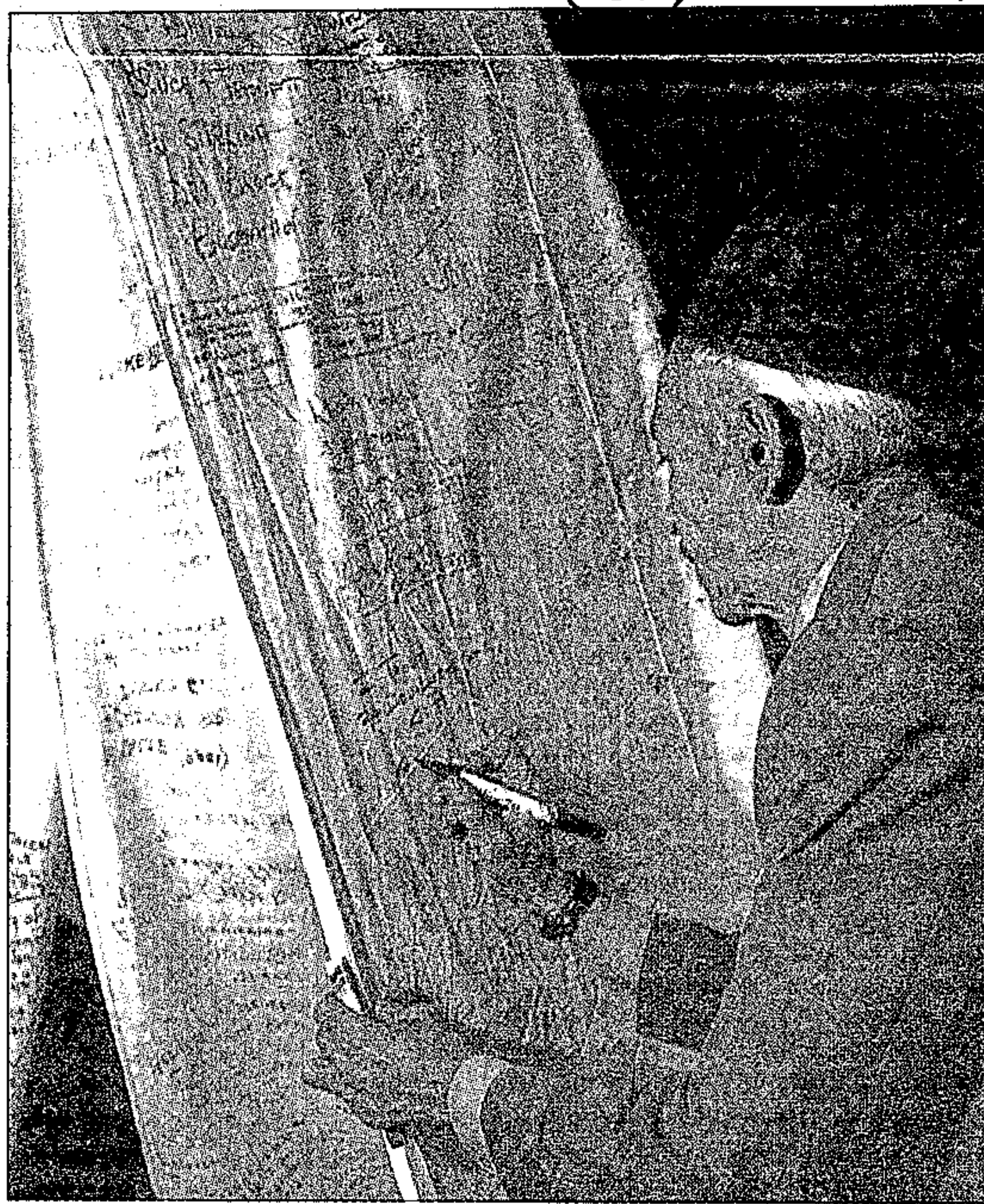
Donations for the museum continue to pour in from former residents. A milk bottle from the People's Dairy in Hanover Street, District Six, dating back to the 1920s arrived one day from London.

The most moving exhibit at the museum is a calico cloth visitors are invited to sign before leaving. More than 100m stretch from the floor to the ceiling rafters at two ends of the church. Some have only left their names and former addresses, others have left poetry and many a plea for justice and compensation.

The museum staff estimate "conservatively" that about 35 000 people have visited in the year since it opened. They include foreign tourists to Cape Town and United States vice president Al Gore and Irish president Mary Robinson.

"Most people relate in a very emotional way when they come here, but most use this space. They bring their children and grandchildren to show them where they once lived and what District Six was really like," said Prosalendis.

"The museum responds to the sur-



Signing up: A District Six resident signs his name on the 100m-long cloth

rounding context all the time. We're planning a sports exhibition for August to unearth the rich sporting life which was destroyed by the Group Areas Act.

"Some clubs, like the Sea Point Swifts soccer club, still exist today but others were destroyed. Once again we're relying on the community to unearth that past. There's a lot of history out there, some of it written and recorded in photographs.

"We want to tap into what has already been preserved as a labour of love."

The District Six Museum is run by a board of trustees, most of them former residents of the area. It has been

involved in collaborative events with other museums, but remains staunchly independent at the behest of the community it serves.

"It's a part of people's lives, not just them but their descendants as well. For some people coming to the museum is like coming to the truth commission, they all have painful stories of the past. And they want it to continue to perform that task," Prosalendis said.

Trustee Vincent Kolbe also believes the museum has to remain independent as it does not fit in with the ethos of others. "You still have the old guard running museums in this country.

They're very involved in transformation, but all they're doing is transforming their image, not their ideas. We are pointing the way to future museums, to a new culture."

Unfortunately the new culture does not appear to resonate with the new government. The museum received R200 000 this year from the Department of Arts and Culture, and was expressly told that this was a one-off grant.

Yet Arts and Culture Minister Ben Ngubane revealed in Parliament recently that R1.2-million was spent on the Voortrekker Museum, R1.5-million on the *Oorlogsmuseum van die Boererepubliek* and R801 000 on the Afrikaans Language Museum.

"Museums are expensive to run, but it appears arts and culture is given a very low priority in South Africa. No museum in the world raises more than 10% of its running costs from door takings. District Six was a poor community, so we have little chance of getting rich patrons," said Prosalendis.

Kolbe says he believes the government is being short-sighted by refusing to fund new museum initiatives. "It seems the RDP is only about getting a roof over your head, food in your stomach and being fit for work. Culture rehumanises people, but the RDP gives no head and heart space, what does the government want — machines?"

A spokesman for the Ministry of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, Frans Basson, said an Act of Parliament allowed for existing museums to receive government funding. This excluded independent museums which also needed government aid.

"It was therefore decided to fund them as well, but in this fashion (ie, a one-off grant). There is currently, as part of a review process of the department's policy, an evaluation going on that should put them all on an equal footing."

Basson said the District Six Museum could be funded again next year should the new policy not have been completed in time.

Net closes in on Ribeiro killers

Attorneys general in two provinces are on the verge of pressing charges in two celebrated cases of murder of anti-apartheid activists, writes **Eddie Koch**

SUSPECTS in two of South Africa's most publicised murder mysteries — the slaying of the Pebco Three and the gruesome assassination of Pretoria doctors Fabian Ribeiro and his wife Florence — could be arrested within weeks and charged in court.

The Eastern Cape attorney general is preparing to arrest suspects implicated in the Pebco Three murders, while investigators in the Transvaal attorney general's office are making steady progress in their probe into the deaths of the Ribeiros.

Progress in both cases shows that the criminal justice system is moving rapidly to solve some of South Africa's most intractable political crimes at the same time the truth commission swings into full gear. Progress in both cases stems from sensational evidence given by former Vlakplaas operative Joe Mamasela to the attorney general. Some of what he has told the AG was reported on SABC last week by journalist Jacques Pauw.

Mamasela said he was present at the killing of the Pebco Three — Sipho Hashe, Champion Galela and Gaqawuli Godolozzi — in May 1985 after they were sent a false call to meet a British diplomat at the Port Elizabeth airport.

He has implicated security police Colonel Gideon Niewoudt in the murders, saying he posed as an embassy official and led the men to the place where they were killed.

Mamasela says the men were taken to a farmhouse near Cradock, where they were beaten and tortured. The three were hit with an iron pipe until they died, "one by one".

Mamasela was in the Eastern Cape this week in connection with the Pebco Three and it is understood that a docket is in its final stages of preparation in the office of the attorney general in Port Elizabeth.

"As a result of further investigations

in the Pebco case, a docket will be handed to the attorney general and a decision will be made about how to proceed once the Motherwell trial (in which senior policemen are accused of killing colleagues suspected of leaking information about dirty tricks) is over," said Mark Wale, investigator for the Eastern Cape AG.

Mamasela has also introduced investigators from the Transvaal AG's office to former Vlakplaas operative Jeff Boshigo, and they have questioned him in connection with the circumstances leading to the murder of the Ribeiros.

Boshigo, who now lives in Mmabatho, was one of the first Askaris — turned ANC soldiers to be recruited into the hit squad situated at Vlakplaas near Pretoria.

His younger brother had also been a member of the ANC and is understood to have died in a detention camp in Angola while under suspicion of being a spy. Boshigo was turned by the security police's master interrogator, Jac Buchner.

Mamasela has stated on a number of occasions that he was first assigned to kill the Ribeiros.

The *Mail & Guardian* understands the Ribeiro killings were masterminded by the security police in the Northern Transvaal. There is no evidence to directly link Boshigo with the double slaying, but he has apparently provided important information in the ongoing investigation.

Former security policeman General "Suiker" Brits was originally in charge of the investigation into the murder of the Ribeiros. He told the 1989 Harms Commission into hit squads, that his car, with the docket in the boot, had been stolen.

Recently he was put on to the re-opened investigation into the murder of Griffiths Mxenge and failed to make any significant

progress, even though the names of the men who carried out the assassination have been known since 1989, when renegade policeman Dirk Coetzee told the world about hit squads.

News about impending criminal prosecutions comes as the truth commission sits to hear detailed accounts of atrocities committed under apartheid, and some by the liberation

British politician will co-operate with truth body

Mungo Soggot

JOHAN LLOYD, the former activist who gave evidence which led to the hanging of the 1964 station bomber John Harris and which prompted the British Labour Party to scupper his political career, has apologised "unreservedly" and agreed to co-operate with the truth commission.

Fellow Armed Resistance Movement (ARM) member Hugh Lewin, one of Lloyd's harshest critics, recently called on Lloyd to give evidence to the commission.

In a letter to the *Mail & Guardian* this week, Lloyd rejected an accusation by Lewin in this newspaper earlier this year that he had "never apologised to those he gave evidence against or shown public contrition". Lloyd says: "For my part, I unreservedly apologise to Hugh. It is the greatest regret of my life that I lacked the moral strength to resist in November 1964. I said so publicly in *The Guardian* in August 1965 and I say so publicly again. I would be most willing to co-operate with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission."

In a *British Sunday* newspaper, Lewin, who has accepted a post at the commission, was quoted as saying: "There can be no reconciliation, no question of redemption, no question of forgiveness."

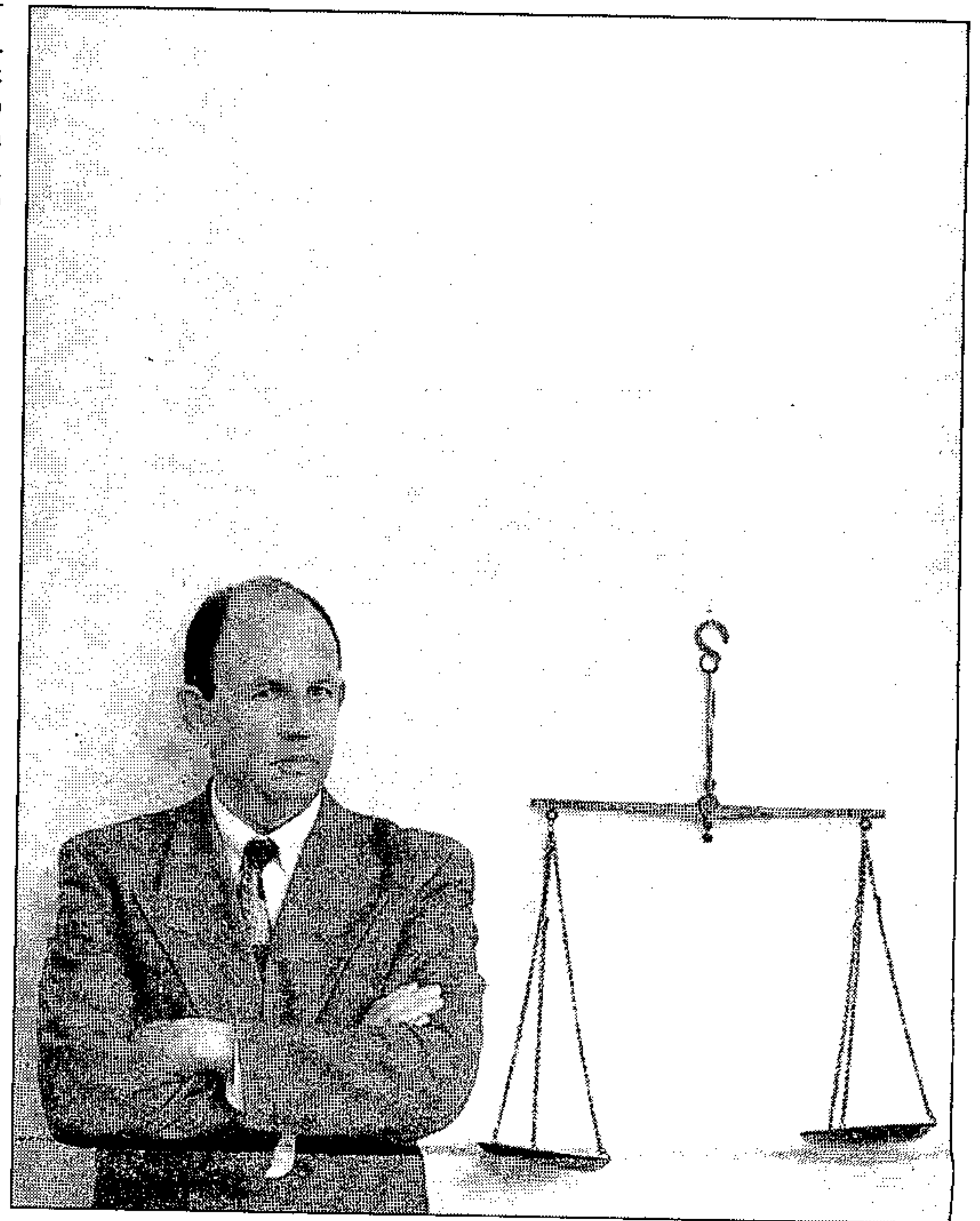
Lloyd notes: "If he has now changed that view, I welcome it." Lewin is in Holland and could not be reached for comment.

Earlier this month the British Labour Party refused to sanction Lloyd's application to stand as a parliamentary candidate. After months of research, the party's general secretary, Tom Sawyer, and a five-member panel found that Lloyd's lack of

movements — and it is likely these two cases and others will be heard over the next 18 months in tandem with the truth commission.

This vindicates Justice Minister Dullah Omar's statement this week that the truth commission would not prevent the courts from prosecuting people who carried out massive human rights abuse in the apartheid era.

Omar told a conference on security in Pretoria there had been some mis-



Will justice be done? John Lloyd has apologised and agreed to co-operate with the truth commission

openness over his role in Harris's execution had brought into question his credibility and integrity as a candidate.

Lewin was seen as playing a major role in alerting the Labour Party to

Lloyd's past. When Lloyd was released after giving evidence against Harris and the other young white members of the ARM, he went to Britain, where he refused to assist in a campaign to save Harris's life.

"It may also happen that the [commission's] amnesty committee refuses an application for amnesty," Omar said. "In such an event also, the perpetrator may be charged with a criminal offence."

"It is therefore wrong to characterise the truth commission process as one which will exclude justice and criminal trials," Omar said. "The granting of amnesty does not mean that there will be no justice."

Local company patents puncture-proof tyre

Bronwen Jones

PROTOTYPES of puncture-proof tyres just made at a factory in Carletonville mark the beginnings of what is expected to become a multi-million rand industry for South Africa.

The main design project started in 1991, when military users asked the Defence Research and Development Council and Allthane Technologies International, to find a solution to the high cost of tyre punctures.

Together they have devised a polyurethane replacement to pneumatic rubber tyres. While the first

designs were smooth, there is now a treaded version, with vane-like spaces all around the rim.

A provisional patent was filed in early 1996, but the fine detail is top secret as attorneys carry out thorough patent searches in Australia, France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Then a further R40 000 will be spent to register patents in all those countries.

At the same time, extensive meetings have been held with Chinese scientists and industrialists. John French, project manager of Allthane, said: "The market there is vast. They could use more tyres than we could

ever make."

Tyres are big business for military users and for heavy industry, particularly mining. An insider commented on espionage attempts: "We've had people from General and Michelin hanging around, trying to photograph our tests. We had to confiscate a camera from one guy who was just pointing it in our direction and taking pictures on motordrive."

Spooks should not surprise the military, but Armscor was alarmed when, a mere 17 minutes after a prototype failed at the Gerotek vehicle test facility outside Pretoria, it was mentioned in casual conversation by someone in

a head office corridor.

Not only do all those involved want to recoup the R2.4-million development costs, but the potential employment and foreign exchange benefits to South Africa are vast.

Finite element analysis on the tyres was completed at the University of Pretoria in April. This involved immersing the material in oil, stretching and squeezing it at different temperatures to see how it elongates and compresses under different conditions. All this data is then fed into a computer to simulate loads on the material.

By the end of this year, a 35cm wide, 50cm inside diameter, puncture-proof tyre will be for sale. While each one, at about R8 500, will cost twice as much as a conventional military tyre, it is expected to run for some 8 500km, whereas a conventional counterpart would run for 3 000km if it didn't puncture.

Rooikat Armoured Car tyres can

puncture every running 11km, making the tyres contribute more than 10% of the total running cost per kilometre. While these features are common to many military vehicles around the world, the last thing soldiers want to do in a conflict is to have to change a wheel.

Add to that the flammability of rubber and vehicle burnouts are common. Even the heat generated by rubber tyres in normal use helps enemies locate a vehicle by its infra-red signal. And then there is the cost of support vehicles to consider, with their loads of spare wheels and tyres. The new tyres remove all these problems.

Whether the polyurethane tyre will also one day replace ordinary car tyres is not yet up for discussion. But the puncture-proof prototype from Carletonville proves not only that it makes good sense to reinvent the wheel, but that a host of civilian spin-offs from military hardware may doubly justify the existence of the much maligned defence budget.

District 6 tenants (81)

hoping for
a reprieve

ARL 29/4/96
Staff Reporter

THE District Six community in Osborne Street and Francis Street is negotiating an agreement which could see them become the owners of their homes.

The residents said they were negotiating with financial institutions, public sector organisations and individuals, and had had a "positive response". They said they faced an uncertain future because their homes were up for sale.

But owner Sydney Schach said tenants in Osborne and Francis streets were not faced with eviction because they were protected by the Rent Control Act.

He said the cost of subdividing the properties, which would allow tenants to apply for their own bonds, would be R15 000 a cottage, making the total bill R675 000.

Mr Schach disagreed that the two streets were in District Six.

But District Six Civic Association chairman Anwar Nagia said some parts had escaped the Group Areas Act because they were zoned business.

District 6 land claims flood in

ET 2/5/96 (81)
AS A GROWING NUMBER OF claimants call at the offices of the Regional Land Claims Commission, the staff are hard-pressed to cope, and lack the resources they need to do the job. Political Writer **HENRY LUDSKI** reports.

AN OLD man bursts into tears as he recalls watching his home in District Six being bulldozed. And Mrs. Marjorie Bosch, 66, struggles to piece together her son's tattered baptism certificate, which she is using to help verify that her family lived at 26 Mount Road, District Six.

These are some of the scenes being played out at the Strand Street offices of the Regional Land Claims Commission as families who were subject to forced removals stream in to lodge land restitution claims.

This week the commission, already struggling to cope with claims, was unexpectedly swamped by hundreds of families wanting to beat a Tuesday April 30 deadline for laying District Six claims.

The deadline is expected to be extended to give more families an opportunity to lodge claims.

But scores of families who had been forced to move from other areas by the Group Areas Act were under the mistaken impression that D-day for their respective areas had arrived. And they too crammed into the small commission office.

Commission staff were eventually forced to use their main boardroom to accommodate the overflow as, one after another, people

began relating their experiences.

Their recollections were touched with nostalgia for districts that are no more.

Bosch and her sister Ms Nancy de la Grange recall the movies they saw at the British in Caledon Street, the National in William Street and the Star in Hanover Street.

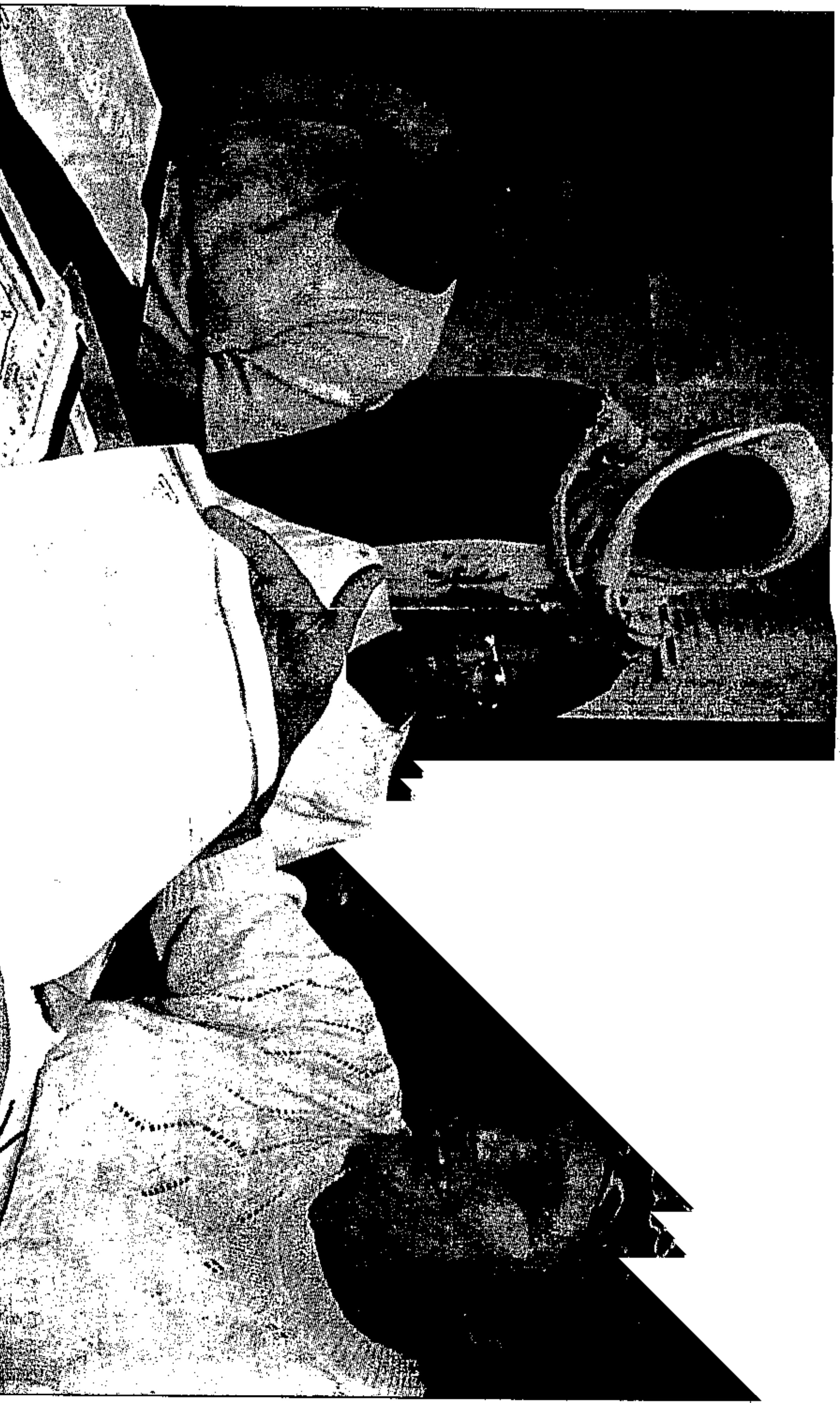
They speak of Saturday evening dances at the Ex-Servicemen's Club and "my mother dragging us out early the next morning with a broomstick".

Bosch says: "Later, after we were evicted and our home was demolished, I travelled to work by bus, and whenever we passed a particular pole I remembered, I used to become upset when I told my friends that that was where I had lived."

Mrs Margaret Wentzel, 66, and her sister Mrs Helen Jordaan, 79, tell of their removal as they show "the papers" that confirm that their father, Mr John Brinks Davids, received a mere £69 (R138) for his 9 000m² property in Kronboom Estate.

Jordaan says she still feels a tinge of sadness when she rides past her old home and remembers those "happy years".

"We had a big property. I was heartbroken when we moved. I had always thought that we would



STAKING THEIR CLAIM: Land restitution claimants (from left) Mrs Margaret Wentzel, Mrs Helen Jordaan, Mrs Mymoena Firtrey and (back) Mrs Moeniema Samsodien discuss their claims at the regional offices of the Land Claims Commission.

be able to grow up there."

She and her sister now live in Athlone. "We don't want the property back. We want to be paid out," she tells an official firmly.

The flood of claims, and the complexity of most of them, has brought home very starkly the serious problem the commission faces in dealing with more claims than were expected.

It also comes at a time when land-sector NGOs and civic associations facilitating the land claims of communities have begun openly to voice their concerns and doubts about the commission's ability to cope.

The commission, which has only a small staff to deal with claims from the whole of the Western Cape and Northern Cape, has also been criticised for not having

done enough to "reach out" to dispossessed families.

Ms Sohra Dawood of the Surplus People Project, a land claims researcher working on Group Areas claims, blames a "combination of factors" for the problem.

These factors include that not enough publicity was given to the right of people to claim and that the commission has insufficient resources.

"Dealing with land claims is a time-consuming process, and although I believe that people at the commission have a genuine desire to bring forward as many claims as is possible, it is evident the commission hasn't the capacity to process and research the volume of claims they are receiving," Dawood said.

"My real concern is that insuffi-

cient resources have been allocated to the work of the commission, and this could undermine the whole process."

Mr Anwar Nagia of the District Six Civic Association expressed surprise at the small number of people submitting claims for District Six and other areas.

"I don't believe it has been made sufficiently clear that tenants who rented property for more than 10 years are also entitled to lodge restitution claims," he said.

Most of the families forced to move from District Six occupied rented homes.

The commission has received only about 2 000 claims for the Western Cape and Northern Cape, although an estimated 50 000 families were moved under the Group Areas Act.

Most of the removals in the Western Cape were under the Group Areas Act and in terms of influx control regulations.

Western Cape Regional Land Commissioner Mr Wallace Mgoqi, conceded that the commission lacks resources. He said this problem had been raised with Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom.

"We are facing severe constraints and need more resources, but we are aware of the importance of containing government expenditure," he said.

Mgoqi estimated that the commission would require double their present resources to "come up to speed".

He said that the critical part would be to bolster the research component of the commission's work.

R1m District 6 offer rejected

81
EUNICE RIDER

CT 3/5/96

DISTRICT SIX residents who escaped the group areas removals and who now wish to buy the properties they rent, were "disappointed" and "heart-broken" yesterday when their collective offer of R1-million was rejected.

Some of the families have lived in the houses, a block of Victorian cottages in Osborne and Francis Streets on the fringe of the now-flattened District Six, for the past 70 years.

They escaped forced removal on a technicality because the area was zoned for semi-industrial use.

But with the increase in demand for land in District Six due to burgeoning development, the value of the 45 quaint terraced cottages — built before 1887 — has escalated. The owner, city advocate Mr Sydney Schach, wants R1,5 million.

The R1 million offer by the embattled residents comes with

the backing of city attorney Mr Ahmed Essop, who has stood them surety and who insists that this is all the properties are worth.

About 50 Osborne and Francis Streets residents yesterday gathered outside Schach's city offices where they anxiously awaited news of whether he would accept their offer.

When the residents left, they were disappointed but not despondent.

"We haven't lost the fight yet," said Mrs Hilary Domingo of 21 Osborne Street, who has lived in her home for the past 18 years. Her mother-in-law had lived there for 43 years before her.

Mrs Aziza Kannemeyer, the chairperson of the Osborne and Francis Streets Committee, said her family had lived in their house at 7 Osborne Street for the past 70 years: "I was born here and so was my mother. Her mother had lived here before that. She moved in as a 17-year-

old bride, and she died two weeks ago".

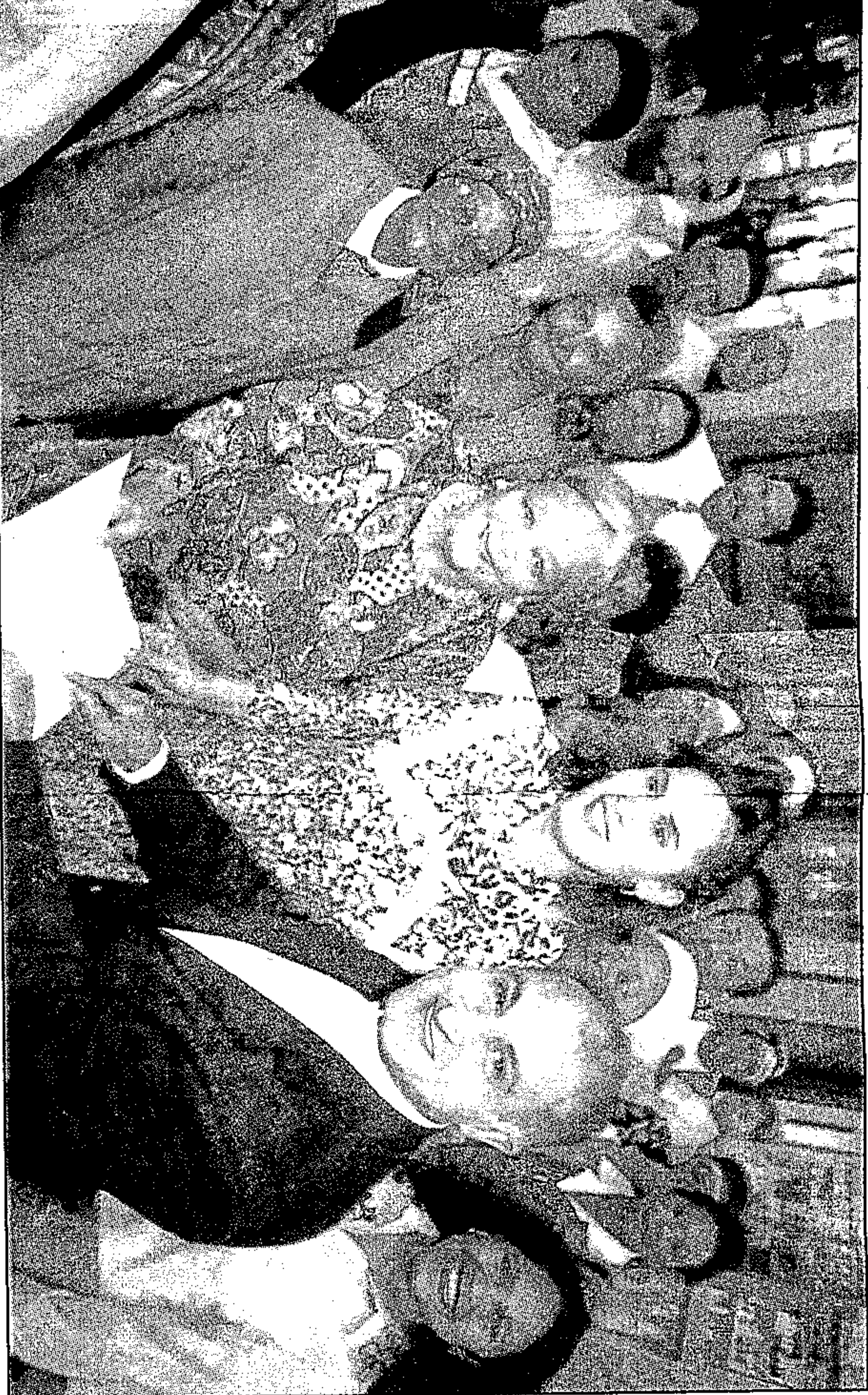
Mrs Kannemeyer said that although the residents felt they had paid for their properties "over and over again" through rentals, they were prepared to pay to own the houses.

But they feel that R1 million is all the 45 two-bedroom cottages on the fringe of District Six are worth, and they are not prepared to pay more.

Schach has insisted on selling the terraced cottages en bloc to avoid the cost of subdividing the properties.

This has made it impossible for the families to obtain individual bonds, and they have been hard-pressed to get financial backing since the properties were put up for sale on the open market last month.

Kannemeyer said the residents had arranged a follow-up meeting with Schach on May 13 in the hope that he might reconsider their offer. Schach was not prepared to comment.



Picture: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus. **MILLIONAIRE PHILANTHROPIST** Rushieda Kannemeyer, of the Osborne/Francis Streets community in District Six, accepts a letter from millionaire philanthropist Ahmed Essop, in which he lays out his offer to stand surety for the community in their bid to buy their own homes. On her left is Auntie Grace Barron, 77, who was born in the historic terraces which are up for sale.

Help at hand for District Six tenants

Wealthy philanthropist pledges his financial support

(81) ARS 3/5/96

ANDREA WEISS
Metro Reporter

A WEALTHY philanthropist has stepped in to help the community of Osborne/Francis streets in District Six secure their homes, by offering to stand surety for them in their dealings with landlord Sydney Schach.

The community's plight was first highlighted in The Argus last week when the National Monuments Council warned that the historic Victorian terraces were up for sale and the future of the last survivors of District Six in jeopardy.

Ahmed Essop, a property developer, accompanied a delegation of the community to Mr Schach's offices yesterday, where they put in a R1-million offer to purchase the 45 houses, whose occupants are survivors

of the District Six forced removals.

Mr Schach will take 10 days to consider the offer, which he described to the delegation as too low.

If the offer is accepted, however, the houses will be transferred into the name of a non-profit company, which will have all the tenants as members. The next step will be to subdivide the properties to enable individual residents to secure bonds and become fully-fledged owners in their own right.

Several professionals, among them lawyers and quantity surveyors who have ties with District Six, have also offered their services to the community for free.

Mr Essop described the offer to purchase as "the first step to secure the property so that no

other party comes in and purchases the land from underneath them.

"I'm doing it because I firmly believe that those who have prospered in the new South Africa have a responsibility to assist in the upliftment and economic empowerment of others," he said.

The terraces escaped the Group Areas Act because they are located below Eastern Boulevard, in an area which was zoned for industrial use, but falls within the boundaries of what is recognised as being District Six.

Many members of the community turned out to await the outcome of the meeting - among them 77-year-old Grace Barron who was born in the house, Osborne Villa, in which she still lives.

Anwah Nagia, chairman of the District Six Civic Association, which has been instrumental in helping the community, said if they managed to secure their homes, it would be the first time in 70 years they would have freed themselves from "the bondage of landlords".

He criticised banks, the government and the Cape Town City Council for "giving us the run-around". Only one bank had taken the community seriously - namely the Cape of Good Hope Bank - which was willing to consider bond applications from residents once the properties were subdivided, he said.

Mr Nagia said people were "sick and tired of red-lining" and communities would boycott those institutions which perpetuated the practice.

'HEART TORN OUT OF THE COMMUNITY'

Churches in bid to reclaim District Six land

CT 13/5/96

(81)

AT LEAST THREE District Six churches, two still standing and the other long since demolished, have lodged claims to have lost land and property returned to their congregations. Political Writer **HENRY LUDSKI** reports.

THREE historic District Six churches, St Mark's, Moravian Hill and the Bethel AME church, have lodged claims to have lost land or property returned to their congregations.

They have joined hundreds of Western Cape families and organisations who have staked claims with the regional Land Claims Commission, the settlement of which is expected to cost the government millions of rands.

Churches have always been among the biggest landowners in South Africa and they were also among the biggest losers of land and property under the Group Areas Act.

This weekend the claims process gained further momentum with the publication of government notices detailing the first case to be investigated by the Land Claims Commission in the Western Cape.

The Rev Marty October of the Moravian church, who started his career as a priest at the historic Ashley Street church — a National Monument now owned by the Cape Technikon and used as a sports and recreation centre for students — said the church had decided to reclaim the property because it still had a congregation in the area.

Ever since Moravian Hill closed its doors after an emotional last service on 19 October 1980, a few congregation members from nearby Springfield Terrace and Walmer Estate have

spent their Sunday mornings at Holy Cross Catholic Church in District Six. Most of the original congregation are now scattered throughout the Western Cape, mainly in Hanover Park and Mitchells Plain.

"Our church has been a District Six landmark for more than a hundred years and is still seen as the cathedral of the Moravian Church in the Western Cape. To see it and not to be able to use it, is a cause of great unhappiness among our members," says October as he points out old photographs of the church where he was ordained as a minister in 1978.

The Moravian Church was sold to the Cape Technikon (for R500 000) which converted and renovated the building for student use.

October said he had approached the technikon last year to get it to return Moravian Hill to the church, but was told that this could "present certain practical problems".

Technikon registrar Mr Jacques van Zyl said that although the technikon was not able to return the Moravian Hill complex to the church, it was willing to allow members of the former church limited use of the building for weddings and other church events.

Said October: "I've been back to the old church a few times and whenever I'm there a range of emotions runs through me. I feel sad, and sometimes angry, when I think back to the days when I was able to ride

around the area on my motorcycle to visit members of my congregation. Later, after many of them moved to Hanover Park, I used to ride out there quite often to visit them.

"One feels sad when you remember the good relationships which existed in the community and how this spirit, which is now lost forever, was broken."

He also remembers how people cried when the nearby AME church was demolished.

The Rev Andre Lewin of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church said the church had instructed its attorney to lodge claims with the regional Land Claims Commission in respect of several properties in the Western Cape which it had lost as a result of the Group Areas Act.

"We believe that there must be some form of reparation or restitution for the evils which were perpetrated by the previous government.

"The Bethel Mission in District Six is regarded as our mother church. If we get the land back we will definitely erect a building which will serve as a memorial to the place where we once were."

Lewin, who described the Group Areas Act as "one of the most vicious laws ever enacted", said "it played havoc with peoples' lives and tore at the very heart of the community".

Almost his entire Hazendal congregation were originally from District Six and although the place would never be the same again, many of them would love to return.

The AME Bethel Mission which was situated on the corner of Blythe and Hanover streets was relocated to Hazendal in 1975 shortly before the building was demolished, said Lewin.

On the wall of his office door Lewin has a poster showing the final destruction of the church.

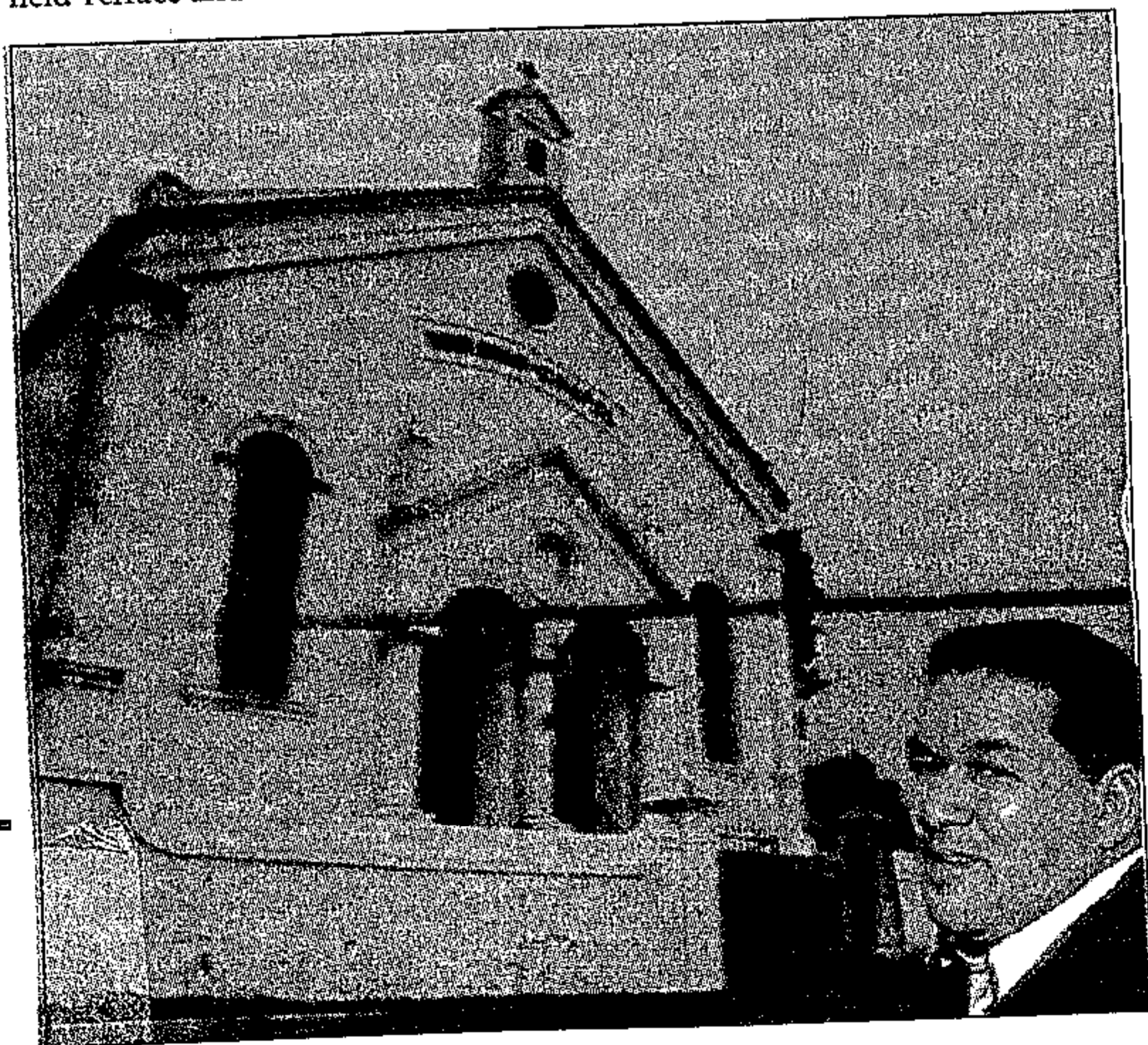
A church magazine recalls the days on which families bade farewell to the historic church.

"On Sunday afternoon December 7, 1975 at 15h00 AME ministers, members and friends gathered for the last time in the historic Bethel Memorial.

"Tears flowed freely as the songs of Zion were sung in this beloved meeting place ... Then the doors were locked and the congregations and friends proceeded to Hazendal to enter the new sanctuary."

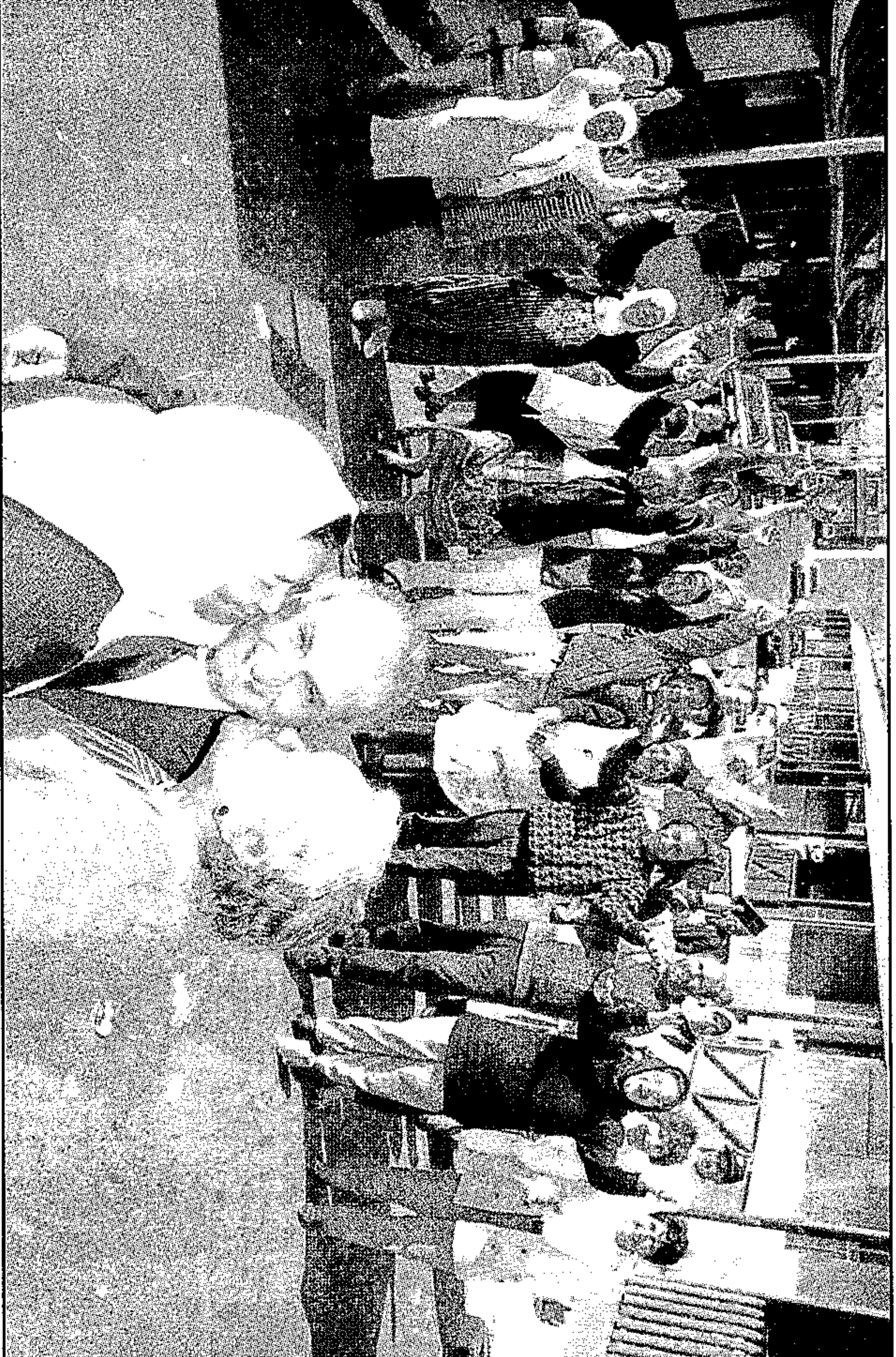
St Mark's Anglican church warden Mr Donald Hendricks confirmed yesterday that the church had recently lodged a land claim in respect of a stretch of District Six land.

The church, which stands within the perimeter of the technikon property, refused to sell the historic building to the technikon. However, part of the ground on which the technikon now stands was once occupied by the St Mark's Primary School and a three-storey community centre.



RETURN OUR LAND: The Rev Marty October who is leading a battle by his church to have the historic Moravian Hill church returned to the members of its congregation.

PICTURE: NIC BOTHMA



Picture: LEON MÜLLER, Chief Photographer.

JOYFUL OCCASION: Fadiah Daniels and Grace Barron cannot contain their excitement as they thank Ahmed Essop for helping them to own their Osborne Street homes.

Home sweet home after

77 long years of waiting

JOSEPH ARANES
Municipal Staff

ARL 4/16/96

81

SHE never thought it would happen in her lifetime – but at the age of 77, Grace Barron finally is set to become a homeowner, thanks to a R1,3 million deal that has rescued residents living in the remnants of District Six.

There was dancing in Osborne Street when residents threatened by removal heard of the deal.

Mrs Barron was born in an Osborne Street fisherman's cottage on the outskirts of District Six in Cape Town and saw the bulldozing of the houses of her neighbours and friends in some of the area's other streets, and their forced resettlement on the Cape Flats in terms of the Group Areas Act.

Osborne Street's houses were spared because, although it was part of District Six, it was zoned for industrial use, and the owner of the cottages, Sydney Schach, allowed the tenants to remain.

But then Mr Schach put the 45 historic Victorian terraces

up for sale. He wanted R1,5 million for them; the residents put in a bid of R1 million.

Now, with the help of a local businessman, Ahmed Essop, the sword of Damocles that has been hanging over the heads of Osborne Street residents has been lifted, and they will finally be given the chance to buy their homes.

Mr Schach, the residents and Mr Essop reached agreement that the cottages would be priced at R1,3 million.

Anwah Nagia, chairman of the District Six Civic Association criticised several financial institutions, which he felt were giving the community the run-around. "Only one bank – Cape of Good Hope Bank – had taken the community seriously, and with Mr Essop has made it possible for the people to buy their homes."

The houses will now be transferred into the name of a non-profit Section 21 company, with all tenants as members. They will then sub-divide the properties to enable individual residents to secure bonds and become owners in their own right.

RESTITUTION CLAIMANTS 'TO GET PRIORITY'

Apartment block scheme for District 6

CT 11/6/96

AN APARTMENT block project covering the empty space in District Six is likely to be built — making it unlikely old tenants will get back their land. **PETER DENNEHY** reports.

THE bad news, for around 400 people who have put in restitution claims after being evicted from District Six three decades ago under the Group Areas Act, is that they are unlikely to get back the same land.

The Community Land Trust — due to become the owner of the land — the city council, and the provincial government are to announce today that an approach is to be made to the Land Claims Court to set aside the nearly 40ha of vacant land in District Six for a huge apartment block project.

That means no District Six claimant is likely to get back their original land.

The good news for the evicted is that they are likely to be given priority when it comes to allocating tenants or buyers for the new flats.

Land Trust chief executive officer Mr Basil Davidson said yesterday that the restitution process, which will go through the Land Claims Court, is being separated from the redevelopment process.

He said there was broad agreement, in the District Six Develop-

ment Forum, that what is built in the area should be low rise, but high density.

Two- and three-storey walk-up flats would be suitable.

Details such as how many flats there should be in total, how much they should cost and how many of them would be for rental and how many for sale, have yet to be worked out.

Mr Justice Siraj Desai, chairman of the Land Trust, has explained why a section 34 application to the Land Claims Court, exempting the District Six land from claims, is desirable.

Redress of the wrongs would be more equitable this way, because "thousands" could be catered for in a single redevelopment, Judge Desai said.

"Fragmented restoration of land in District Six would only continue the ad hoc development of the eastern sector of the city centre started by apartheid planners."

Besides, it seemed unfair to grant some former owners their land back, if they were lucky enough for it still to be undevel-

(81)

oped, while others could not get back their land because the technikon had been built on it.

Giving some people their original piece of land would make it impossible to draw up a plan for the development of the entire area.

Planners close to the Land Trust have said about 60% of the land, in the old days, had been owned by whites.

Most of the people who were evicted from District Six had been tenants. In almost all cases, their landlords had received some compensation from the state — not that this could ever justify race-based evictions.

It was likely that those who had owned property in District Six 30 or more years ago would not be inclined to move into an inner-city flat nowadays.

One of the guiding principles steering the Land Trust is that it will try to benefit those who have been "socially, economically and politically disadvantaged".

The trust will seek to create an environment which fits in well with the types of buildings surrounding it. Its planners also want to work against the trend of displacing poor communities on the outlying edges of the city.

District Six build-up next year

CT 12/6/96 (81)

PETER DENNEHY

THE redevelopment of District Six would start next year and about 4 000 households would be settled there, Mr Basil Davidson, chief executive officer of the Cape Town Community Land Trust, said at a news conference yesterday.

The trust would own nearly 45ha of District Six — roughly 88 residential units per hectare.

But District Six would not be a housing scheme, Davidson said. It would consist of shops and houses, but not shopping complexes. Flats might be built above the shops.

"We want a variety of activities, a vibrant area," he said.

The trust, Central city council and provincial government applied to the Land Claims Court on Monday to exempt District Six land from being returned to the 600 or so claimants who were dispossessed or evicted.

The application will probably be heard at the end of next month.

Davidson said claimants could still receive restitution through the court.

He added that in all likelihood, the beneficiaries of the redevelopment plan "will come from the pool of claimants or prospective claimants".

The public will take part in the planning process, mainly through the District Six Development Forum, which has about 30 member organisations.

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District Six plan boosted by application for land

Samantha Sharpe

(81)

MD 12/6/96

CAPE TOWN — Plans to revitalise District Six have moved up a gear, with a joint Cape Town City Council and provincial government application in the Land Claims Court to have vacant land at the site set aside for redevelopment.

Community Land Trust CEO Basil Davidson said yesterday the application had asked for 45ha of land to be used for "an integrated, high density, mixed use and affordable housing precinct, with ex-residents targeted as prime beneficiaries".

A favourable Land Claims Court ruling would open the way for the redevelopment of District Six on a broadly inclusive process. But Community Land Trust chairman Siraj Desai said while the application was carefully considered, it was not "gospel".

"The proper forum for this matter to be ventilated is the Land Claims Court, and former District Six residents are free to bring their own claims or to oppose the development project," Desai said.

The development was expected to accommodate about 4 000 households, with the Cape Town Community Trust to hold the land and facilitate the redevelopment process. Means to finance the project were being investigated, Davidson said.

He said it was accepted that District Six could not be restored to its former self, but the initiative could "unleash the full potential of the site and create a vibrant inner city area capable of revitalising and bringing life back to central Cape Town".

IND - STEEL
CHROME
CMI
8.0
8.7
2.5
2.7
750
800
200 SUSPENDED
PROGRESS
REX-TRU-N
1.6
11.0
3.3
2.2

District Six ~~(81)~~ (81) settlement ARG 12/6/96 application

JOSEPH ARANES
Municipal Staff

THE battle to redevelop District Six into a vibrant community is almost certain to be settled in the Land Claims Court after the Cape Town Community Land Trust lodged an application with the court on Monday for the integrated and holistic development of all vacant land in the area.

The trust's application has the support of the Central substructure (Cape Town City Council), the provincial government and the District Six Development Forum.

If the Section 34 application is successful, former residents of the area who were forcibly removed under apartheid's Group Areas Act and who have submitted claims, will not be able to get back their original properties.

While no date has been agreed to for the court to hear the application, it is understood that the application will probably be one of its first.

Chairman of the trust Seraj Desai said the history of District Six was an unfortunate saga of events and mishaps, but that the present application would bring all aspects together in respect of a vision to see the area redeveloped for all the people of Cape Town.

"This is a carefully considered proposal which took 18 months to draft. We have submitted it to the court but hope that people who feel aggrieved by the contents will use the opportunity to debate the issue in court.

"Those with objections must come forward and present their cases to the court, but we believe this is the best option for the area. It will pull together the remaining 45 hectares of vacant land with a variety of design styles in an integrated way so that an important section of Cape Town can become vibrant and alive again."

Mr Desai said they were still having ongoing fights and negotiations about privately owned land, and with the Cape Technikon.

"We have managed to get some of the land back and are still wrestling with the technikon to get land back from them so all the vacant land can be returned to the people," he said.

Basil Davidson, chief executive officer of the Community Land Trust, said

their redevelopment initiative predated the land claims process by several years, and that the application represented a unique opportunity for merging development and restitution in District Six in an innovative way.

"It is generally accepted that the area cannot be restored to its former self. Few of the original properties exist as they used to and much land has been lost to new development. Many properties are situated under roads and scattered haphazardly across vacant land.

"The application offers an opportunity for the creation of an integrated, high density, mixed use and affordable 4 000 housing unit precinct with the ex-residents targeted as prime beneficiaries.

"This would unleash the full potential of the site and create a vibrant inner city area capable of revitalising and bringing back life to central Cape Town," Mr Davidson said.

Cape Town City Planner Dave Daniels said the council had been involved in the process for the past six years and agreed that the only rational way to develop the area was to do it in an integrated way.

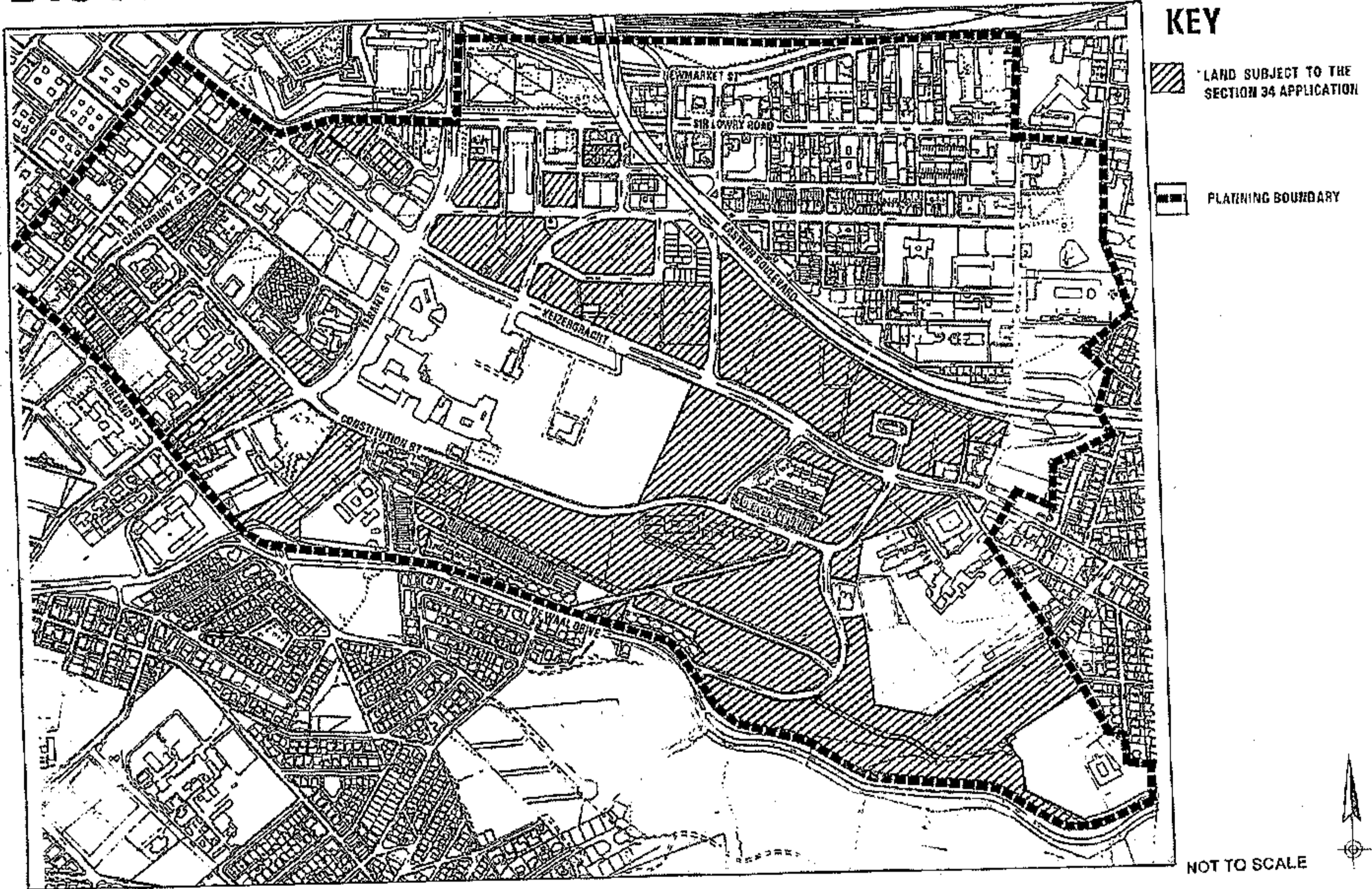
"We can create the opportunity for people to live closer to the city which is the most important employment node in the metropole, and the inner city development could be used as a model for the rest of the country."

Errol Myburg, director of regional co-ordination for the provincial government, said they were fully supportive and firmly believed that the application was the correct way to get the process of development moving forward in District Six.

Copies of the application with affidavits and supporting documents may be viewed at:

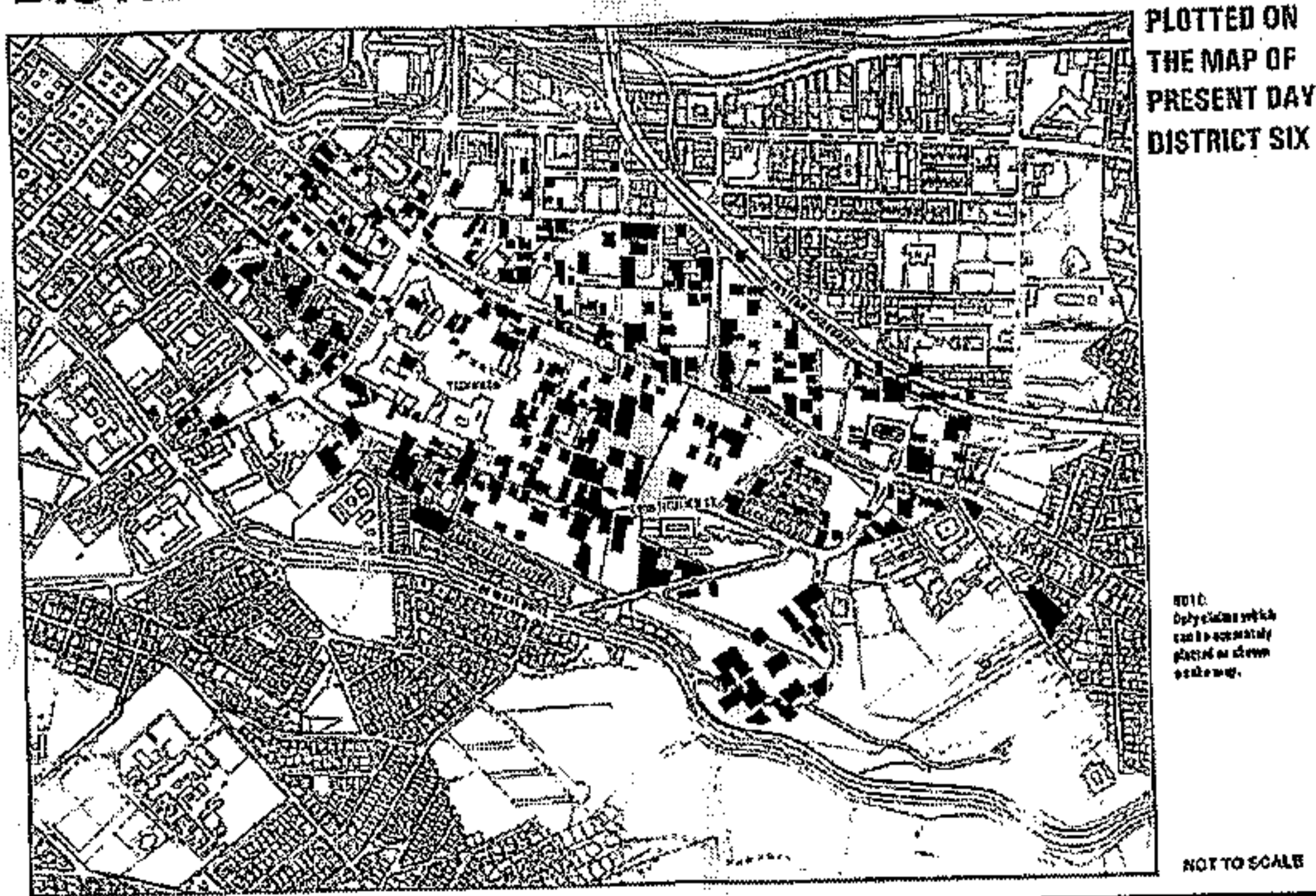
- The municipal reference library in the Civic Centre,
- Room 932 in the Provincial Legislature Building,
- Public libraries in Cape Town, Athlone, Hanover Park and Westridge,
- Cape Town, Athlone, Bellville, Wynberg and Mitchell's Plain Magistrate's Courts,
- The Regional Land Claims Commissioner's office, Matrix House, Strand Street, Cape Town, and
- At the offices of the Trust's attorneys, Mallinicks, Long Street.

DISTRICT SIX: PLANNING BOUNDARY and VACANT LAND



NEW DISTRICT SIX: The Community Land Trust's planning boundaries for District Six which incorporate the area's vacant land which is subject to a Section 34 application that was lodged with the Land Claims Court on Monday.

DISTRICT SIX: LAND CLAIMS SUBMITTED



District Six land handled as group claim

THE process of land distribution followed in District Six was an excellent example of how to reconcile different needs and priorities, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said yesterday.

(81) (24)
The Commission for the Restitution of Land Rights had announced all claims for District Six land would be handled together as a group claim to expedite the process.

"In the meantime, the Cape Town Community Land Trust — in conjunction with the Transitional Metropolitan Substructure and the province — is coordinating efforts to redevelop District Six and re-integrate into the city."

On Monday these bodies asked the Land Claims Court to exempt District Six from being returned to individual claimants:—

Political Writer

CT 14/6/96

Ex-District 6 (81) residents set ARG 28/6/96 for court fight to regain land

JOSEPH ARANES
Municipal Staff

FORMER residents of District Six are prepared to go to the Constitutional Court to challenge the plan to develop the site without giving land back to individual victims of forced removals.

They are challenging the Cape Town Community Land Trust, Western Cape provincial government and the Cape Town Central substructure, which lodged the plan with the Land Restitution Court.

In terms of the application by these authorities under Section 34 of the Land Restitution Act, the former residents, who were forcibly removed from the area, will not be able to get their original properties back.

If the former owners do not submit a claim for their land to the Land Restitution Court by Monday, they will cede all their rights to the land.

The District Six Civic Association and a number of other District Six-based organisations and institutions have decided to oppose the Section 34 application and will be holding a public meeting on Sunday to test the views of the former residents.

Anwar Nagia of the civic association said most residents were confused, traumatised and in the dark about what was happening about the future of District Six.

"We will be bringing them all together under one roof so a clear strategy could be worked out to challenge this Section 34 application. We cannot tolerate a situation where, after 30 years of being forced out of their homes, the residents are now faced with an uncertain and traumatised future and are again the victims of this new situation.

"In terms of the Land Restitution Act, the people have a right to get their land back, but the city council and the provincial government are using the Section 34 application to deny people this right. Yet these same bodies have negotiated for months and have paid excessive amounts of money to large companies to buy back land they acquired in the area after it was declared white in terms of the Group Areas Act.

"Instead of negotiating with the victims as well, the Land Trust and the local government authorities want the former residents to again sacrifice their rights."

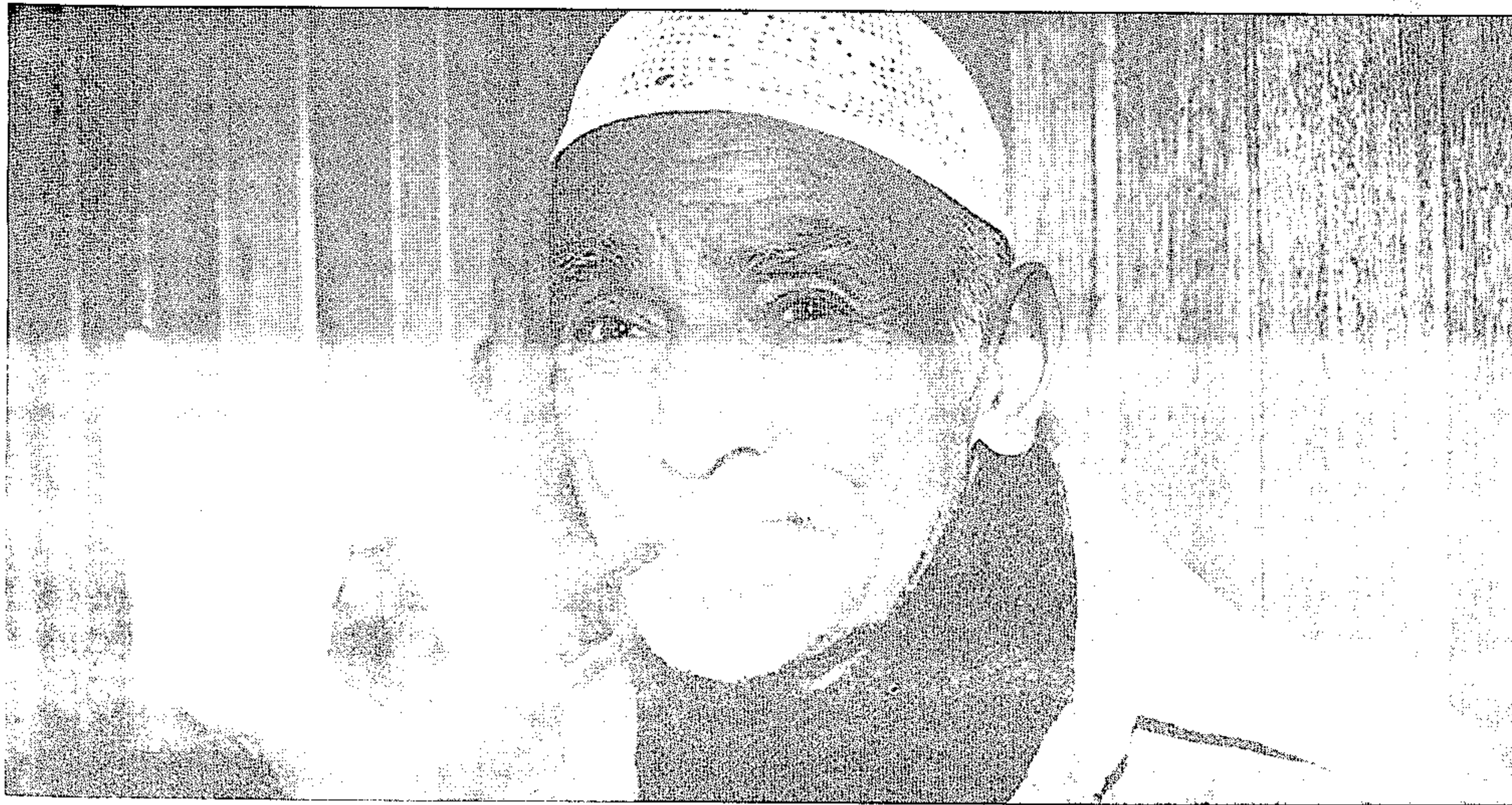
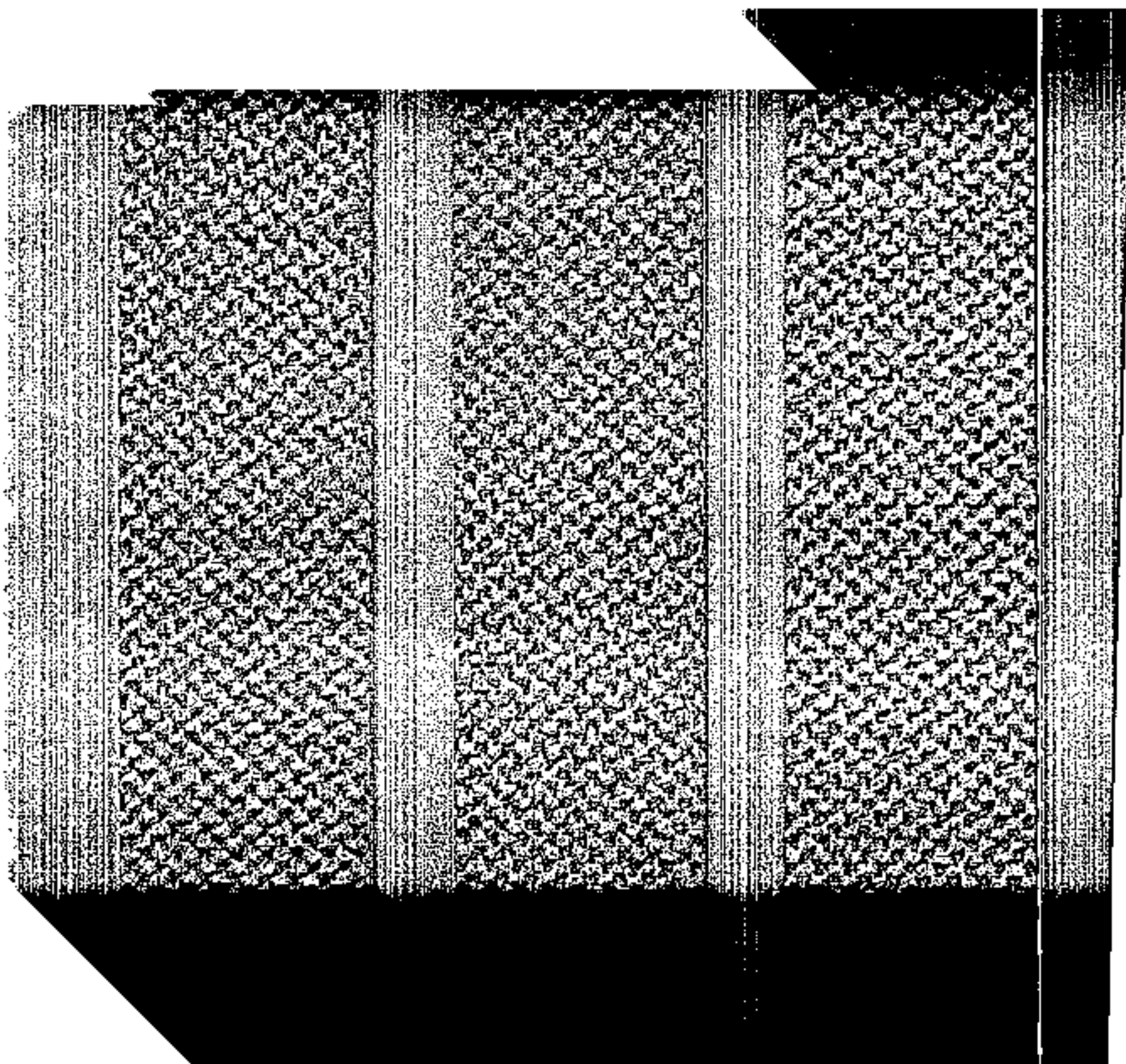
He said the civic association was not against the integrated development of District Six but felt that the former residents should be guaranteed involvement in the development.

Mr Nagia said if the authorities wanted to use District Six as an example of how land restitution could work, then they needed to negotiate with the residents and try to find a solution that would be acceptable to all.

"The government must also put a freeze on the transfer of land it owned until the whole restitution process is completed in the country and they must not use Section 34 as a stopgap measure to block individuals from claiming their land back.

"We will challenge the application in the Land Claims Court and in the Constitutional Court if need be, because we cannot allow this application to be used as a precedent to stop proper land restitution."

● The District Six Civic Association will hold a public meeting to discuss the future development of District Six and the Section 34 application at 2pm on Sunday at the Shelley Street Hall in Salt River.



WHERE TO NOW? Former District Six resident Mr Mogamat Cassiem, 85, now living in Grassy Park, is facing an uncertain future, while a legal battle looms over the possible development of District Six.

PICTURE: BENNY GOOL

Mass District 6 development opposed

LINDIZ VAN ZILLA

FORMER District Six residents will lodge an application with the Land Claims Court today to block the proposed en-masse development of District Six, ignoring individual land claims by former residents.

At a meeting in Salt River yesterday, about 300 former residents

unanimously opposed such development.

Plans for the development had already been lodged with the Land Claims Court by the Cape Town Community Land Trust, Western Cape provincial government and Cape Town Central substructure.

Under Section 34 of the Land Restitution Act the former resi-

dents, who were forcibly removed from the area, will not be able to get their original properties back.

The meeting was headed by the District Six Civic Association's Mr Anwar Nagia, who said the people of District Six should not be dispossessed for a second time.

Nagia called for all state land to be frozen, saying "no land in South

(81) 2/17/96
Africa should be sold until land restitution had taken place".

Calls were also made for the immediate scrapping of Section 34 from the Land Restitution Act.

Other community groups, including the District Six Museum and Ratepayers' Association were equally vehement in opposing the proposed development.

District 6 disappearing under 'mounds of filth'

JILYAN PITTMAN (81)
Staff Reporter

GOVERNMENT ministers who live in historic District Six should be ashamed of the refuse piling up in their area, say local residents who are concerned because tourists visit the area.

Dumping has got worse over the last nine months, they say, and the area bordered by Constitution Street, Cauvin Road, Heere Street (formerly Portsmouth Road) and Christiaan Road is full of building material, cloth, plastic, boxes, bricks and mounds of debris in the bushes and in the road. The worst mess is in Heere Street.

Former chairman of Fawley Estate Action Committee Burt Lloyd, who has lived in the area for about 25 years, said he is embarrassed and ashamed at the mess.

"Tourists who are brought up here in a topless bus and in other vehicles

to admire the magnificent view and to visit the site of the former District Six are greeted with filth on nearly all sides and the ministers and authorities don't seem to notice.

"The Malay community knew the area as Drydocks, formerly a more upmarket part of District Six, but now covered in bushes. "It is still a beautiful part of the city which deserves more respect from the authorities who either don't know about the dumping or don't care," said Mr Lloyd.

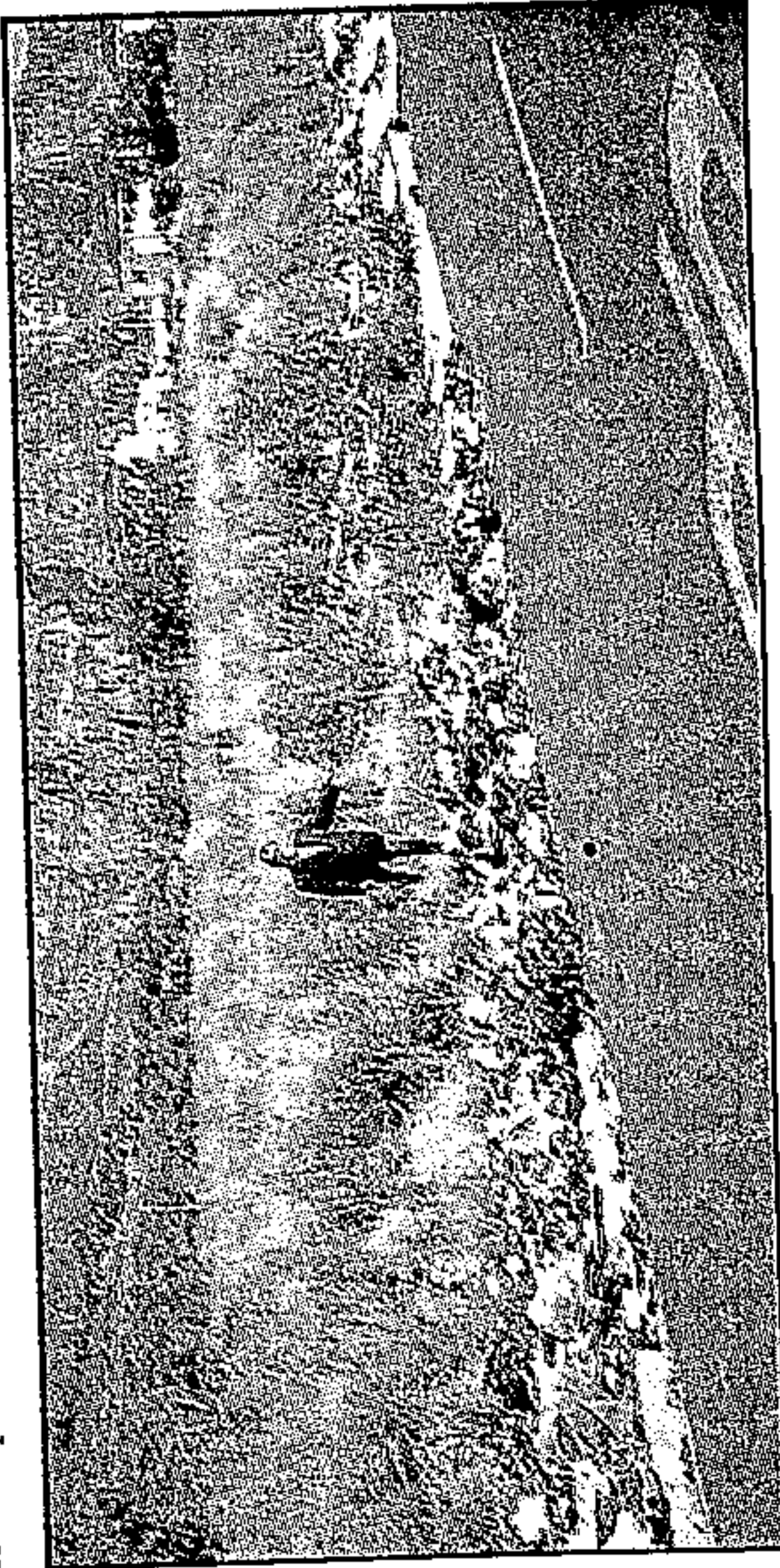
He said on school days there are many buses in the area and school children should not have to see the mess.

"How do we talk cleanliness to children if they see filth all around them", he asked.

"Holes for trees are full of rubbish or broken toilet bowls. There is a large open manhole full of rubbish. Bergies live in the area but deliberate dumping is taking place," he added.



ASHAMED: Local resident Burt Lloyd says the community is ashamed at the refuse lying in a historic part of District 6. Tourists visit the area regularly and should not be allowed to see the filth piling up.



Picture: JILYAN PITTMAN, The Argus

Plea to rethink court bid on District Six

STAFF WRITER

THE District Six Civic Association is to ask the Cape Town City Council to reconsider its application to the Land Claims Court about District Six.

Early last month the council was one of three bodies that applied to the Land Claims Court to exempt District Six properties from being returned to their original owners.

The council wants all vacant land in District Six initially to be under a single ownership so that a co-ordinated development can be planned.

The other two bodies are the provincial government and the Community Land Trust, which is to become the owner of the land if the application succeeds.

The application is due to be argued in the Land Claims Court at the end of this month, but it seems it will be postponed.

The application has prompted an outcry, mainly from the District Six Civic Association and the Ex-Residents and Traders Action Committee. Both of these have withdrawn from the District Six Development Forum.

Mr Anwar Nagia, who chairs the District Six Civic Association, said the application would be opposed in court. "One of the

arguments is that the white people who used to own most of the District Six property will get most of the benefits of restitution. This is nonsense because those whites were not dispossessed under the Group Areas Act. The area was declared white."

Nagia said people whose rights had been violated were being dragged to court again, potentially at great expense.

A National Restitution Front was being formed to put the case for those who had lost rights in property under apartheid and were struggling to gain restitution, he said.

When people were deprived of their property or of the chance to get it back, it was always argued that this was in the public interest, Nagia said.

Decisions about not restoring land to its original owners should be taken in conjunction with those owners, he said.

All District Six owners and former tenants should be called together so that the beneficiary community could be established at the start of redevelopment and could sign for the new homes.

He had heard that the planned District Six apartments would cost between R90 000 and R120 000, Nagia said.

"If this is so, then we are wasting our time. Where will they (the dispossessed) get that kind of money from?"

(81) (2/4) 23/7/96

District Six blacks urged to file claims

STAFF WRITER

81

CT 5/8/96

PERCEPTIONS that District Six had been inhabited exclusively by coloured people were inaccurate, Mr Anwar Nagia, chairman of the District Six Civic Association, said yesterday.

The question of black people submitting claims for land restitution was raised at a meeting of former District Six residents.

Few black people had applied, Nagia said, adding that an effort had to be made to include all former District Six residents who had been dispossessed.

Calls were also made for other former residents to come forward. Of the estimated 8 000 families forcibly removed from District Six, only 700 have applied for land restitution.

People of District 6 can claim compensation

Cape Town – Former District Six residents now have the opportunity to claim compensation for apartheid forced removals under the Group Areas Act simply by completing an application form.

This offer was made by the Restitution of Land Rights Commission to former residents of the area by giving them four choices of compensation.

The choices include the restoration of actual land if feasible, financial compensation, pro-

viding them with alternative state-owned land or restitution measures of relief.

Land Claims Commissioner Wallace Mgoqi said yesterday that there had been a poor response to the offer and no more than four application forms had been registered.

People were apparently misled into believing they did not qualify, without substantial evidence, to claim compensation. But Mgoqi said that even "oral

and hearsay evidence" was enough to make a claim.

Compensation will be given to those who did not want to return to their old properties but only sought alternative land or financial compensation.

This also applied to descendants of former residents and anyone who was under pressure to leave District Six after 1913. Deadline dates for claims were extended until November 30. – Own Correspondent.

Star 9/8/96

(81) (81)

District Six: Restitution or development?

The battle for District Six in the Land Claims Court promises to be as bitter as the fight against the forced removals from the area, writes **Rehana Rossouw**

THEY'LL be on opposing sides in the Land Claims Court (LCC) in October, but Basil Davidson and Anwar Nagja agree on a fundamental issue: the Restitution of Land Rights Act of 1994 is flawed.

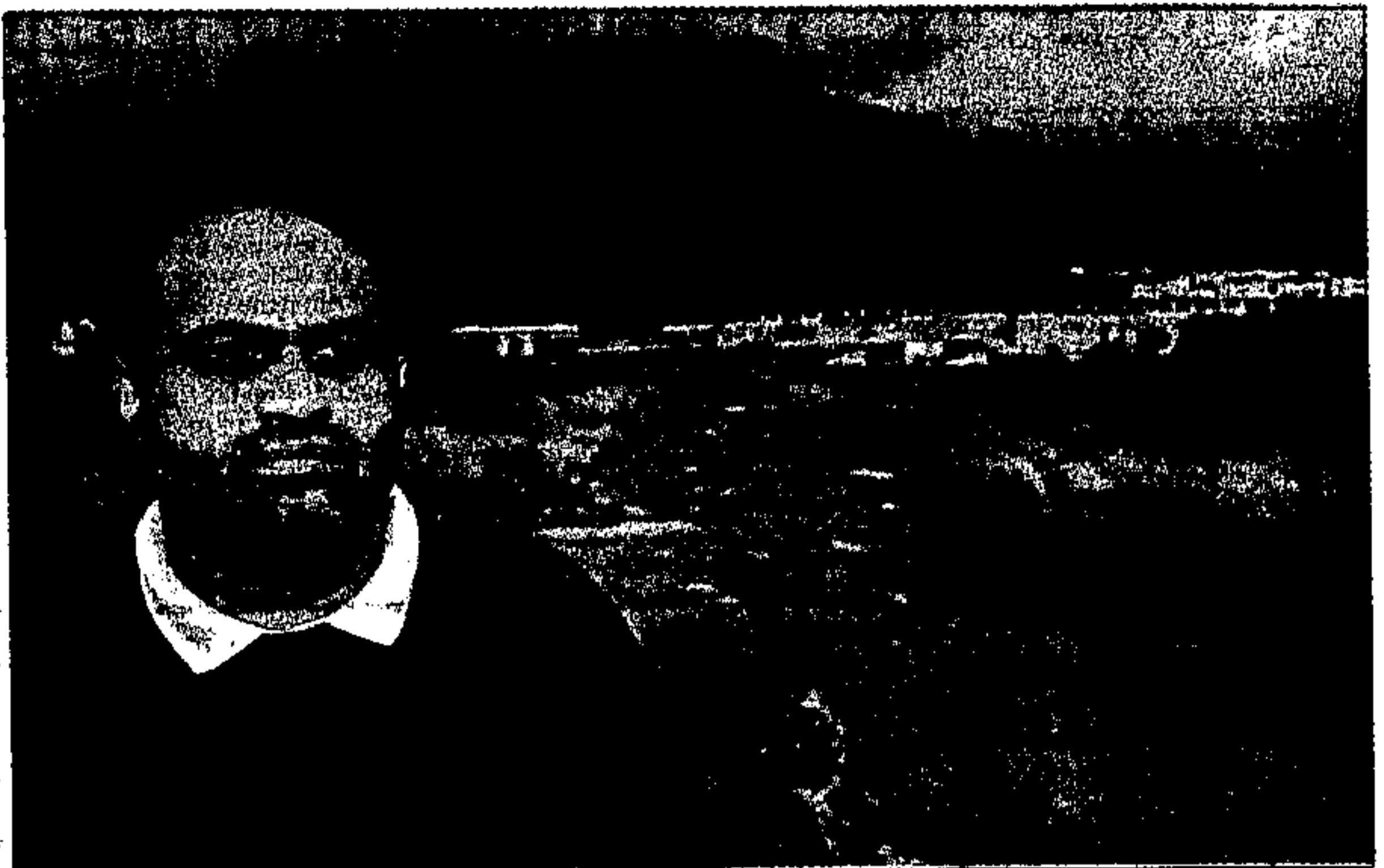
Davidson, chief executive officer of the Cape Town Community Land Trust overseeing the rebuilding of District Six, supports a June application in terms of Section 34 of the Act, under which restitution can be refused if it is in "the public interest".

If it succeeds, vacant land in Dis-

trict Six will not be restored to claimants who have applied to the Land Claims Commissioner, but will be redeveloped by the trust.

The application is being brought by the owners of the land, the city of Cape Town and the provincial government. They are paying the legal costs.

Nagja, chair of the District Six Residents' Association (DSRA), is opposing the application on the grounds that it is expropriation in a different guise, and will further traumatise victims of forced removals. He wants District Six claimants to be allowed to submit indi-



District Six Residents Association chair Anwar Nagja: 'We were tricked' (81) PHOTOGRAPHS: RODGER BOSCH

vidual claims and to be awarded compensation. They can cede their rights to the trust if they wish.

Davidson is motivated by practical considerations. The trust aims to house 4 000 families in an integrated development on the cusp of the CBD. If Cape Town is in the running for the 2004 Olympics, the building of sports venues will start soon and they would prefer the development to start before building costs rocket.

"If there is no Section 34 application, land will only be returned to the small minority of landowners and not to the tenants who made up the bulk of the population of District Six before the forced removals," said Davidson.

"We are not denying anyone their rights to claim for restitution, but redevelopment offers a broader benefit."

There were about 71 000 people living in District Six when it was declared a white area in 1966. The government expropriated 2 375 properties, of which 66% were owned by white absentee landlords.

Since then, more than half of the land has been sold and developed. Of the restitution claims already lodged, 28% is for land under existing roads, 18% for land developed by the Cape Technikon, 13% lies under homes erected after the area was declared white and 41% is for vacant land.

Should the trust redevelop District Six, most claimants would benefit from revenues

raised from what is built. The LCC has the authority to grant claimants alternative land if theirs is not available.

"An underlying problem with District Six is a bigger problem with the Act itself," said Davidson. "The original Act was drafted for application in rural areas and the drafters tacked on clauses relating to urban Group Areas Act removals without thinking through the procedures. I predict that Cato Manor in Durban will experience the same problems."

"If claimants become more realistic, we can get more participation in the planning of redevelopment. We don't want to ride roughshod over anyone, but we have to start moving soon."

"There is no alternative to the Section 34 application. It is the only way to make it possible for more of the former tenants to move back."

Nagja believes there has to be an alternative. He says the Section 34 application has stripped individuals of their rights and made them "ashamed" of pursuing their rightful claims.

The DSRA has been a leading light in the struggle to reclaim District Six. It was central in the campaign to halt development for white residents in the 1980s, it battled to rename the area District Six after the government changed it to Zonnebloem and it marched on private companies intent on developing the area and forced them to abandon their plans.

"When negotiations started we were

told the ANC was fighting for equitable redistribution of land." But, said Nagja, "We were tricked. Section 34 ... smacks of the same tactics the government and the council used when they declared District Six white."

"We represent a wounded community. In the interest of greater participation — therapy if you like — claimants should be allowed to lodge individual claims."



Basil Davidson: Supports District's redevelopment

The DSRA has held three public meetings since the application was filed in June and has secured power of attorney from 999 former District Six residents to oppose the court action. The organisation has withdrawn its participation from the District Six Development Forum, established by the trust to oversee the planning process for the area.

Nagja is incensed that the trust has chosen to fight the matter in court.

The costs of the application will be paid by the central substructure of Cape Town and the provincial government. Jeremy Gauntlett, SC, will represent them.

"If we want to oppose this matter successfully," said Nagja, "we will also have to brief a senior advocate and we estimate the legal costs will amount to R300 000."

The matter will probably be heard in October. Davidson is hoping to start planning the new District Six. Nagja is determined to stop him. "If the redevelopment does not have the support of 100% of the claimants, then District Six will remain barren," he vowed.

PREGNANT? BREASTFEEDING? YOUR SMOKING CAN HARM YOUR BABY

15 mg tar 1.4 mg nicotine. As per Government agreed method

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To live and die in the District

Rehana Rossouw

EBRAHIM JACOBS says his heart belongs in District Six, and he supports the application to the Land Claims Court because it offers the best opportunity for tenants to return to the area.

Jacobs's family was among the last to leave District Six. They were kicked out in 1981 after alternative housing was built for them in Lentegeur, Mitchells Plain — more than 25km from the city centre.

He lodged a claim this year with the regional land claims commission on behalf of his parents, who were both born in District Six and had hoped to die there.

Jacobs is the secretary of an organisation called Concerned Ex-Residents of District Six which represents 900 ex-residents and is part of the District Six Development Forum.

His grandparents, father and

mother were born in District Six, and his parents raised their nine children in a three-bedroom terraced home they rented in Upper Ashley Street. The house survived the demolition of the area, but the street has been renamed Blinders Street.

"We're not expecting to get our old house back, we know that's not possible, but my parents want to move back to the area at least," said Jacobs.

All the Jacobs children went to school in District Six, and when the family was moved to Lentegeur, they made a daily trek to school each day.

"We were never happy in Lentegeur. The only good thing about the move was that the families from District Six were all moved together and so neighbours could stay in touch with each other," Jacobs said.

"But the children grew up without the same kind of community

spirit there was in District Six and today the area is plagued with gangsterism and crime.

"My family has never felt settled in Mitchells Plain and so when the opportunity arose to claim back our right to District Six, we made sure our claim was lodged."

Jacobs said his parents had been tenants for all of their lives and would now have purchase a new home in the redeveloped District Six. Their nine children are all committed to assisting financially.

"My brothers, sisters and I would also love to move back, but we know that won't be possible. My heart is in District Six but the pain of leaving will be eased if at least my parents get the right to live there again."

He said it was very frustrating that the redevelopment was now delayed by the District Six Residents Association's opposition to the Section 34 application.

Front to fight for return of District Six land

(81) (81) CT 17/19/96

STAFF WRITER

A NEW body was formed yesterday to fight to have land returned to former District Six residents.

The District Six Land Restitution Front was launched to

oppose the application, under section 34 of the Land Restitution Act, by the Western Province government and the Central Substructure whereby the authorities can oppose land claims.

Front chairman Mr Anwah

Nagia said last night they had instructed attorneys to oppose the application. "This will be the first land claims case in the City Bowl, worth hundreds of millions of rand."

The Land Claims Court hearing will start on October 26.

District 6 victims could be left in cold ... again

Court poses threat to land claims

ARG 4/10/96 (81)

JOSEPH ARANES
STAFF REPORTER

Thousands of victims of the apartheid-era Group Areas Act could again be left out in the cold when a test case involving a District Six land claim comes before the Land Claims Court at the end of the month.

A Section 34 claim in terms of the Land Restitution Act for the holistic development of District Six has been submitted to the land commissioner by the Western Cape provincial government, the Cape Town municipality and the Cape Town Community Land Trust.

If this claim is successful, former residents of the area who were forcibly removed and who have submitted their own claims will not be able to get back their land.

The Section 34 claim, which will be heard from October 28 to November 8, could also set a precedent for other local authorities across the country to submit similar claims. Already the KwaZulu-Natal provincial authority has indicated it intends submitting a similar claim for land in the Cato Manor area, where thousands of people were also forcibly removed under the Group Areas Act.

But the District Six Land Restitution Fund, an umbrella organisation representing people forcibly removed from the area, is set to challenge the application and will hold a mass meeting in District Six on Sunday to discuss the pending hearing.

Spokesman for the group Anwar Nagia said they were calling on all the victims of the Group Areas Act to attend the meeting, as the court case could set a precedent for other land claims.

Mr Nagia said while they were not against the total development of District Six, it seemed that local authorities were abusing Section 34 of the act and that they were not genuine in their attempts to compensate people.

"Their plans for the development of District Six do not guarantee that the victims will get any land back or be in line for housing."

Mr Nagia said other state land that could be used to compensate people was being leased to businesses, sold off or being frozen and set aside for the Olympics. "It seems as if the State is not committed to land restitution in urban areas."

The meeting will be held on the open land behind the Oriental Plaza on Sunday at 2pm.

It will be addressed by several prominent community and religious leaders.



Fighting: Former land owners have formed the Land Restitution Front to raise funds to fight their cases

ROY WIGLEY

'Restitution a mockery' say ex-District Six people

GLYNIS UNDERHILL
CHIEF REPORTER

A bitter row over prime land in District Six, one of the symbols of apartheid, is headed for an acrimonious showdown in the Land Claims Court.

Land claimants have "cried foul" that, at short notice, October 28 has been the date set for the District Six land restitution hearing, the first to be heard by the Land Claims Court in the Western Cape.

Individual claimants are up against an application by the central substructure of Cape Town and the provincial government to the Land Claims Court to have vacant land in District Six set aside for an integrated redevelopment project. If this application is successful, the government-owned vacant land will not be restored to individual claimants, who can ask for alternative land or other compensation.

"How do we, as the victims of forced removals, know what form of compensation we will be given. It could be a few bricks on Robben Island for all we know," said Abdul Gaffoor Ebrahim, chairman of the District Six Residents' and Traders' Action Committee.

If the application under Section 34 of the Restitution of Land Rights Act is granted by the Land Claims Court and vacant land handed to the Cape Town Community Land Trust, many claimants believe they will be "robbed" of their land a second time.

"How on earth can anybody justify Section 34 when it has not yet been established how exactly claimants will be compensat-

ed or accommodated in the redevelopment of District Six. Isn't this making a mockery of the restitution process?"

"Is this how the government intends to restore the dignity of the victims of forced removals, after they violated their human rights by stealing the land from the oppressed people of this country?" asked Mr Ebrahim.

There are 600 individual land claimants in District Six and many claim they have not been given the legal representation which is provided for in the Restitution of Land Rights Act.

"The central substructure and the provincial government of the Western Cape, together with the Cape Town Community Land Trust, are deliberately pushing ahead with their plans, totally disregarding the rights of claimants," said Mr Ebrahim. His family was evicted from District Six in 1972 and he has submitted a land rights restitution claim on five large plots in the area, currently in the hands of the state. However, many of the impoverished land claimants have no funds to defend their cases at the hearing, he said.

"Victims of forced removals are dragged to court by the central sub-structure, provincial government and the Cape Town Community Land Trust at great expense. Land claimants appealed to the Land Claims Commission for legal aid assistance, but to no avail," he said. Former land owners, tenants and traders of District Six have now established a District Six Land Restitution Front to raise

Land claimants to stage a mass rally

From page (31) ARG 5/10/96

funds for people who wish to appear before the Land Claims Court. A mass rally is to be staged in District Six tomorrow to mobilise the people involved in land claims, said Mr Ebrahim.

Wallace Mgoqi, regional Land Claims Commissioner for the Western and Northern Cape, said he had written to the attorneys representing the Cape Town Community Land Trust to discuss requests to delay the District Six land claims hearing.

Mr Mgoqi said money for legal representation for the District Six land claimants who wanted to appear before the Land Claims Court had been requested from the government. Delays in processing the request and "red tape" were holding up the flow of funds, he admitted.

Many people did not understand the significance of Section 34 of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, which was a "special procedure" introduced into the act to enable local, provincial or national government to have land set aside to prevent it being restored to individual claimants, said Mr Mgoqi.

As a result of the misunderstanding of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, there was a certain "hostility" emerging, he said.

"It will be up to the Land Claims Court to decide on the just and equitable thing to be done in District Six," said Mr Mgoqi.

The Cape Town Community Land Trust was set up to recover prime land in the area from the government and the Cape Town City Council. Its objective is to oversee the redevelopment of District Six as "an affordable housing precinct". The trust claims this process will benefit the broadest grouping of ex-District Six residents, but Mr Ebrahim described it as a "bloody disgrace."

At the centre of the controversy is about 40ha of state and city council-owned land, of which the Cape Town Community Land Trust hopes to take transfer for the redevelopment of the area.

Anwar Nagia, chairman of the District Six Civic Association which has joined the Restitution Front, described Section 34 of the Restitution of Land Rights Act as "an amoral clause".

Many of the land claimants are disgusted with the Land Claims Commissioner for the lack of sympathy he has displayed towards them," he said.

ST 6/10/96

(81) (PT)

Anger at plans for District Six

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

FORMER residents of District Six have attacked government plans for the suburb, saying their chances for restitution are being threatened by a mass housing scheme.

But the Minister of Land Affairs, Derek Hanekom, says there is simply not enough space left to accommodate individual claims in the apartheid-era wasteland in central Cape Town.

Disaffected former residents have united to raise funds to oppose a Land Claims Court hearing on October 28. They believe it may dash their hopes of reclaiming the land from which they were removed under the Group Areas Act almost 30 years ago.

The row centres on long-standing efforts by the Cape Town Community Land Trust and local authorities to take transfer of state land so they can redevelop the suburb for as many former residents as possible.

But, according to the newly formed District Six Land Restitution Front, residents will be "robbed" of their land a second time if the court finds in favour of the redevelopment plan.

The front — apparently led by 23 former landowners — plans to hold a rally in District Six today.

However, Hanekom said yesterday that he planned an emergency meeting with the front to deal with its concerns and ward off further delays to the claim, which government has prioritised.

He said it was impractical to consider individual claims to land in District Six.

"Actual restoration of land to individuals is simply impossible. Only about one third, or 40ha, of the original land is still available, and that's why a group claim linked to an integrated development plan is the appropriate measure in District Six," Hanekom said.

The Land Claims Court is to hear the matter on October 28, but the Western Cape Land Claims Commissioner, Wallace Mgoqi, confirmed that he was trying to postpone the hearing to ensure that the objectors had legal representation.

"The commission is legally bound to ensure proper represen-

tation for objectors, but it's not true that are 600 of them," he said.

"We understand that there are about 150 people who have objections, but only 23 former landowners have objected formally.

"Once the court has decided, we will start prioritising claimants. Those who don't benefit directly can come into account for financial compensation, access to alternative state land or priority listing for state-funded housing schemes."

Mgoqi said the redevelopment approach was "more reasonable, more rational and more equitable". If land were restored only to previous owners, hundreds of potential beneficiaries would "be left out in the cold".

District 6 (81)

land claims 'hijacked'

ANC 7/10/96

say civics

ANDREW SMITH

STAFF REPORTER

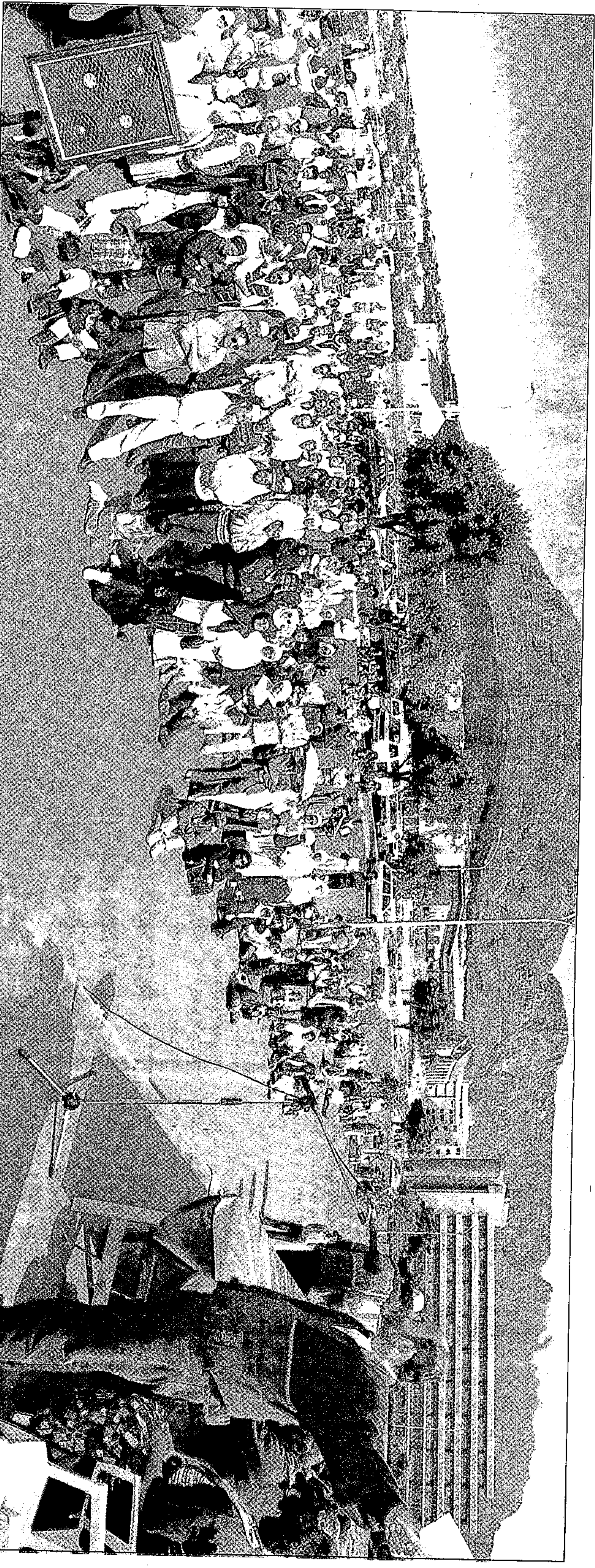
The National Party-controlled Western Cape provincial government has been accused of using the same Draconian methods to keep people from getting their land back in District Six as the apartheid government used to remove them in the first place.

By using the courts to challenge the rights of the former District Six residents to the restitution of their land, the provincial government was resorting to the same methods because they thought land values would deteriorate if the slums returned, said Anwar Nagia, chairman of the District Six Civic Association and the District Six Restitution Front at a meeting of former residents yesterday.

The front is demanding the withdrawal of a Cape Town municipality and Western Cape provincial government application to the Land Claims Court under section 34 of the Restitution of Land Rights Act which would have the effect of denying former District Six residents their rights.

Mr Nagia said people forcibly removed from their land had a right to it even if it was being used.

He said using the courts, to which the former District Six residents had no proper



HANNIES THWART

Demanding a settlement Anwar Nagia addresses the crowd at the meeting called to discuss the difficulties former District Six residents are having in claiming the right to return to the area access, to settle the issue was "the same Draconian method used by the same National Party to remove us originally".

"We demand that a negotiated settlement to the District Six question be achieved with all leaders present," he said.

He said the possibility of giving the people other land in place of land which was once owned by those forcibly removed, as proposed by Agriculture and Land Affairs

Minister Derek Hanekom, was "nonsense because the applicants (the Cape Town council and the provincial government) are leasing and selling state land, which leaves nothing for us".

Mr Nagia demanded a national moratorium on selling state land until all such land was linked to land restoration.

He said the reason for the provincial government trying to halt the District Six

restoration claim was that "they think we will build slums again, which would affect the value of the land which is presently being sold to developers who build houses like those at High Cape".

Mr Nagia said the government was involved in a "conspiracy of silence" in not properly explaining how people could reclaim their land.

"They tell us to simply fill in the forms

but then they add section 34, which involves lawyers and court battles which none of us can afford."

He said the demand for the withdrawal of the council and provincial government application in the District Six case would be used as a test case for a nationwide rejection of the government's use of the controversial section 34 "sunset clause".

"We received a letter from the people of

Cato Manor in Durban who are also faced with a section 34 application from the government and who want us to join hands in demanding an end to the use of the clause," he said.

Mr Nagia alleged that the government would use section 34 in all land claims to halt the process so that by the 1998 cut-off date for land claims none would have been settled, leaving claimants stranded.

District Six group forms new front

CT 7/10/96
ERIC NTABAZALILA

ABOUT 200 former District Six residents and other Capetonians who were forcefully removed from their areas, gathered at District Six yesterday in a bid to form an organisation called the South African Restitution Front.

The meeting was called by the District Six Land Restitution Front in opposition to the government's refusal to give back their land.

Mr Anwah Nagia, chairman of the District Six Civic Association and the District Six Land Restitution Front, said the Nationalist government declared the area a slum in 1966, but now it was prime land.

"We must not allow the Nats to do what they did before, of determining our destiny," said Nagia. "They told us they were going to develop the area, but even today it is still undeveloped."

"Why did they forcefully remove us out of our area?" he asked.

Mr Gilbert Fesi, chairman of the Ndabeni Land Restitution Committee, said people from Ndabeni were supporting the efforts of former District Six residents.

"We suffered the same consequences of apartheid.

"We were all forcefully removed and the treatment must be equal," said Fesi.

He said people were aware that not all of them could be moved back to areas like District Six.

Sheikh Nazeem Mohamed, president of the Muslim Judicial Council, said the 1966 forced removal was a great tragedy and its pain was still unbearable.

He urged the National Party not to come up with technicalities to prolong the agony of not giving back to the people what they owned.

Hanekom intervenes to calm tempers in District 6 land dispute

GLYNIS UNDERHILL

CHIEF REPORTER

Top-level discussions between Minister of Land Affairs and Agriculture Derek Hanekom and key role players over the restitution of land in District Six has led to a postponement of the hearings by the Land Claims Court.

An acrimonious showdown in the Land Claims Court on October 28 was promised by land claimants and mem-

bers of the newly formed District Six Land Restitution Front.

Wallace Mgoqi, regional land claims commissioner for the Western and Northern Cape, said: "We came to an agreement that the court action be postponed on a basis still to be agreed to."

It was hoped an agreement would be negotiated soon, said Mr Mgoqi.

The District Six Land Restitution Front was set up to raise funds for cash-strapped individual claimants to present their cases in the Land Claims

Court, which would have been the first to be heard in the Western Cape.

Land claimants in District Six face an application by the Central substructure of Cape Town and the provincial government to have vacant land in District Six set aside for an integrated redevelopment project.

In another breakthrough, Mr Mgoqi said R6-million had come through this week from the Government to ensure land claimants around the country could have full legal representation in court.

AR 12/10/96 (81)

If the application under Section 34 of the Restitution of Land Rights Act is successful, the government-owned vacant land will not be restored to individual claimants, who can seek other forms of compensation.

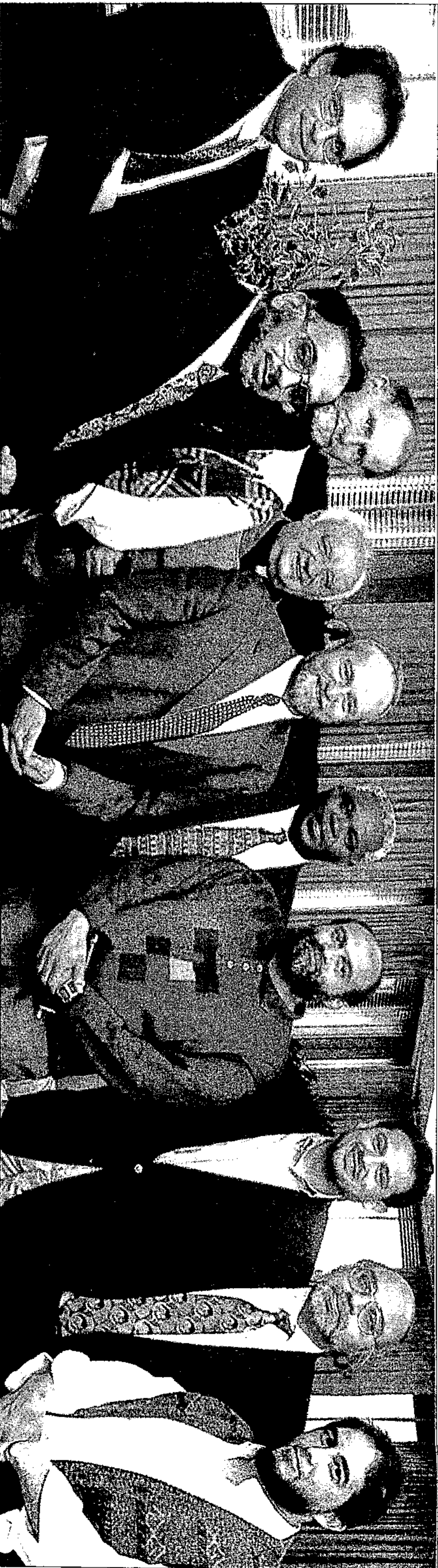
Mr Mgoqi said he believed land claimants now understood that restitution did not mean a return of the land necessarily, but forms of compensation that had to be negotiated.

Abdul Gaffoor Ebrahim, chairman of the District Six Residents' and Traders'

Action Committee, said after the meeting he believed discussions had gone well.

"We would like to thank Mr Hanekom for the concern he has shown the victims of forced removals. We are happy he has become involved to ensure restitution in District Six is fairly carried out," he said.

Mr Hanekom has said it would be impossible to restore all land to claimants in District Six. "This is a very important case which should be dealt with in the right manner. Restitution should not conflict with development."



Face in a crowd: Minister Derek Hanekom with Regional Land Claims Commissioner Wallace Mgoqi, centre, at the meeting with roleplayers from District Six. The government has made R6 million available for land claimants' legal representation

BRENTON GEACH

District Six land claim hearing postponed

(81) ST (PT) 13/10/96

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

A CRUCIAL Land Claims Court hearing on District Six may be postponed following crisis talks between Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom and claimants who have questioned the fairness of the restitution process.

Western Cape Land Claims Commissioner Wallace Mgogi has confirmed that all parties at Hanekom's meeting on Wednesday had agreed that the October 28 court action should be postponed.

It had also been resolved to appoint a facilitator to liaise between the groups involved in Cape Town's premier post-

apartheid restitution proceedings, he added.

Hanekom's intervention followed allegations by the newly-formed District Six Land Restitution Front that court endorsement of a state-sanctioned group claim and redevelopment project could deny hundreds of former residents a chance to resettle on land from which they had been evicted under the Group Areas Act.

"Many potential claimants are worried that the court application could take away their chances of regaining land in District Six without any guarantees of compensation," District Six Civic Association

chairman, Anwar Nagia, said on Friday.

"We asked that the court hearing be postponed as a prerequisite for negotiations to resolve the acrimony around the question of land restitution and objections to the court case," he added.

Talks would also have to address demands that "legitimate" claimants be included in the redevelopment proposal initiated by the Cape Town Community Land Trust, he said.

But according to a spokesman for the Cape Town Community Land Trust — which is steering the redevelopment scheme — it was "technically and practically impossible" to return individuals

to land they had occupied in District Six.

Dispelling rumours that the Land Claims Court would be ruling on the merits of individual claims in District Six, Mgogi said it would merely be determining if it was viable to return land to individuals — or to exempt individual claims in favour of a group claim linked to a redevelopment scheme.

Mgogi has assured that claimants who cannot be resettled in a proposed housing scheme in the razed suburb could qualify for financial compensation, other state land, or priority access to state housing schemes.

Further talks are expected next week.

Progress on District Six

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — The deadlock between government bodies and community organisations over the restitution of land in District Six was partially broken at a meeting of stakeholders this week when agreement was reached on the way forward.

The parties agreed on Wednesday night to ask the Land Claims Court to postpone the hearing scheduled for Monday until April 1 next year so they could attempt to come to an agreement on what should be done with the land.

The Cape Town municipality and the Western Cape provincial government instituted legal action in the Land Claims Court under Section 34 of the Restitution of Land Rights Act.

The two tiers of government applied to have vacant land in the suburb set aside for an integrated redevelopment project.

If it succeeded, this would deny former District Six landowners the right to an individual restitution of their land. But they would still be able to seek other forms of compensation.

The legal action was opposed by former landowners and community organisations who wanted individual restitution.

The municipality has held back on drawing up plans for the land until it had been secured, but broadly it envisaged a comprehensive development of affordable housing for former residents.

The parties agreed to enter into a facilitation-mediation-negotiation process as envisaged under

section 13 of the Act to find a solution "inclusive of all interested parties and in the public interest for the city of Cape Town".

A report on the outcome of the negotiations would have to be submitted to the Land Claims Court and the Western Cape Commission on Restitution of Land Rights by not later than March 14 next year.

The parties agreed that the facilitator would enlighten claimants about the practical difficulties involved in simply restoring the land to them and that doing this would not be fair to the majority of affected people.

However, this did not mean they would be deprived of their right to restitution or that some form of restoration or its equivalent would not be available.

(81) BD 25/10/96

Big breakthrough for District Six victims

SI(CM) 27/10/96 (277A) (81)
By CHARL DE VILLIERS

THE Land Claims Court is to be asked to postpone its historic hearing on District Six tomorrow following a breakthrough accord which could prompt a flood of new claims.

On Wednesday, parties to the claim buried the hatchet and agreed to the terms of the hearing's postponement and the terms of reference for a facilitation process which must be completed by March 14.

The court may also be asked to extend the November 30 deadline for District Six claims.

District Six Restitution Front spokesman Anwar Nagia said the accord was a major victory for defenceless people.

"Another five to six thousand families may now register claims," he said. About 600 claims have already been registered.

Instead of deciding how restitution is to

take place, the court — which is sitting in the Foreshore Customs House — is to be asked to postpone its Section 34 hearing to April 1 next year and to endorse a plan that irons out conflict.

"There was much dissatisfaction and it became clear that unless this was not addressed now, the whole process of restitution could be called into question," Land Claims Commission official Elizabeth Davison said.

Land Affairs chief Geoff Budlender said: "The people who were dispossessed should be as fully involved as possible in the design of alternative forms of restitution, including decisions about the manner in which the land should be used and the selection of beneficiaries.

"If these matters are not satisfactorily addressed, it is inevitable that claimants and other people who were dispossessed will feel aggrieved by what will be perceived as a second act of dispossession."

FORMER RESIDENTS, AUTHORITIES STRIKE DEAL

District Six delay — again

THE APPLICATION to have District Six exempt from the provisions of the Restitution of Land Act will be postponed for another five months. **PETER DENNEHY** reports.

AFTER five years of negotiations, the redevelopment of District Six is to remain bogged down for another five months as talks take place between former residents of the area and the authorities.

Today an application to exempt District Six from the provisions of the Restitution of Land Act would have been heard by the Land Claims Court.

The Provincial Administration, the Cape Town municipality and the Community Land Trust, a body formed to hold the land in trust while it is developed, want the 40ha of vacant land to be redeveloped as a single project, instead of scattered sections of land being given back to the original owners.

This is the reason for bringing the application, which was vigorously opposed by former residents — but they also agree to an integrated development that will make it impossible to restore the original titles or occupation rights to the dispossessed.

An agreement was reached last week between the two opposing sides, and this is expected to be ratified by the court today. The agreement effectively postpones a decision on the application for another five months.

The former residents say they do not want to claim back precisely the same pieces of land. But they opposed the application because it would have removed any right they had to the land.

Spokesperson Mr Anwah Nagia

said: "We support an integrated development. We have said so in our affidavits."

He explained that the former residents differed with the authorities and the trust over the removal of rights to the land without replacing it with something.

"The prerogative of restitution was given to the authorities," he said. "There was no guarantee for the beneficiary community. We are asking for our land back, but it can be in the form of an integrated development."

He said the District Six question can only be resolved through talking to the people who lost their rights to land there, whether as owners or as tenants.

Nagia said 71 000 people had been displaced when the district was destroyed. Only about 800 people have subsequently submitted claims for compensation. He hopes this number will now swell to thousands.

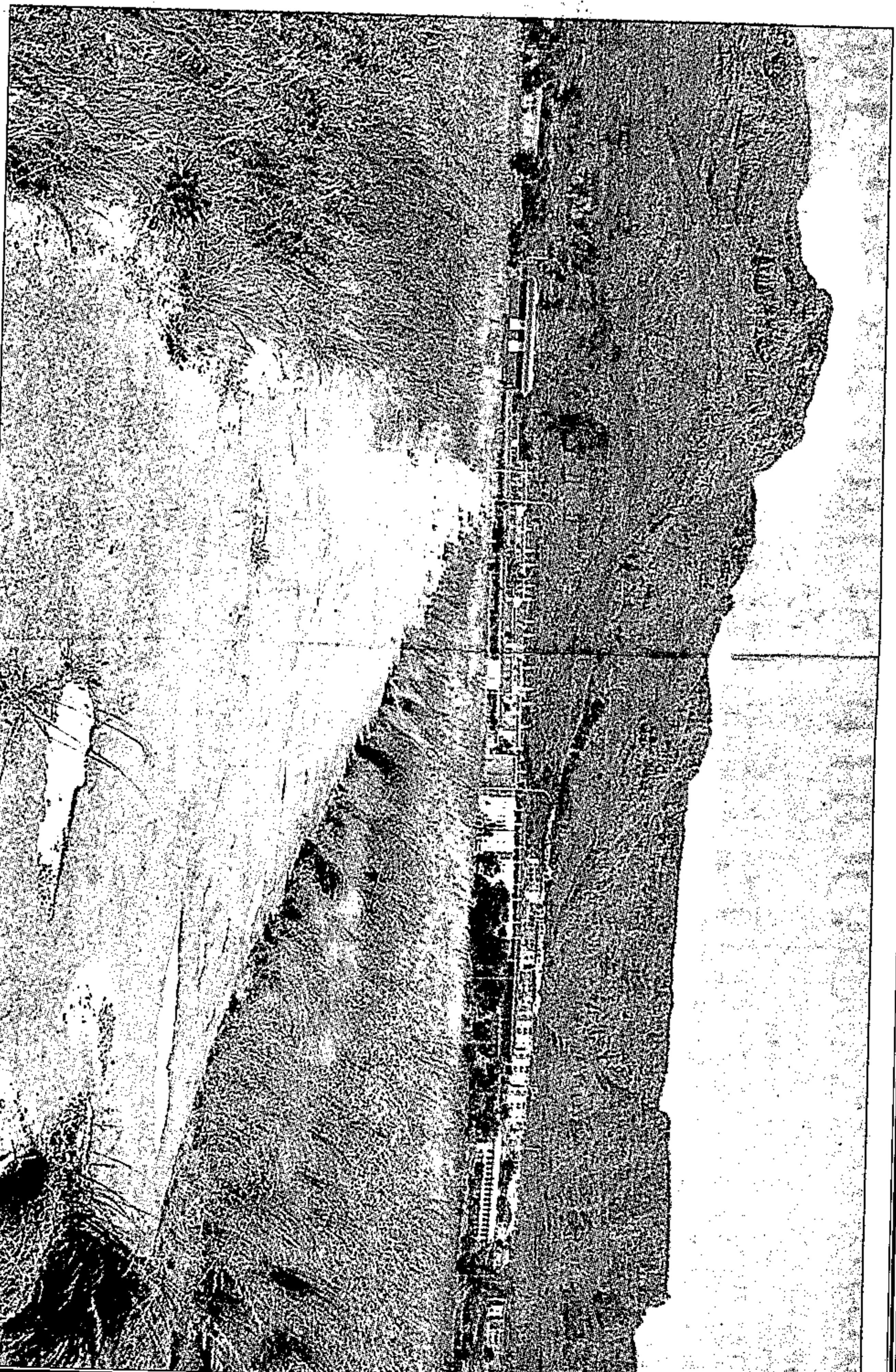
He hailed the agreement as a great victory.

"It means the ex-residents have a right now. The whole thing would have gone to the town planners, who would have been able to exclude people through a price structure by putting up units that cost R120 000 each," he said.

In the agreement one or more persons with knowledge of District Six "and land issues in general" will be appointed as facilitator(s). A report has to be written about the negotiations for submission to land claims commissioner Mr Wallace Mgogo by mid-March.

The court will order that claimants have to be told of the difficulties associated with giving back the same pieces of land.

Legitimate claimants' rights to return to any redevelopment of District Six must be spelled out in the next few months. The amount of money available for redevelopment must also be spelled out.



ROAD TO NOWHERE?: Many more months will pass before life comes back to these empty parts of District Six.

PICTURE: ALAN TAYLOR

Months before final District Six decision

Court orders all parties in case to negotiate an agreement

ESTELLE RAMMAL
Staff Reporter

A final decision about the future development of District Six has been put on hold for at least five months while the Government and former residents negotiate a solution to one of South Africa's most notorious cases of mass forced removal.

The Land Claims Court yesterday agreed to postpone until April an application for District Six to be exempted from being returned to the original owners or their descendants.

It has been argued that the application would have the effect of redressing the wrongs of the removals more equitably by enabling thousands of socially and economically disadvantaged people of the area to benefit.

Fragmented restoration of land to former tenants and landowners would perpetuate the ad hoc development of the city's eastern sector begun by apartheid planners, development authorities say.

The Western Cape provincial administration, Cape Town municipality and the Community Land Trust which made the application, want the estimated 44ha of vacant land in District Six developed as a single project, not handed back piecemeal to individual claimants.

The Community Land Trust was formed to hold the land in trust until it is developed into an affordable housing area with former residents as main beneficiaries. Discussion on the integrated development proposal began about five years ago, before the restitution options became available.

Giving back land to some original landowners, who may claim return of specific pieces of land lost through apartheid

forced removal, would make it impossible to draw up a plan to develop the whole area, the trust believes.

Former residents say they also want integrated development but oppose the application because they fear it will remove their rights to the land.

Anwar Nagia of the District Six Restitution Front said it had been a victory to get the Government to understand what reconciliation meant.

"The District Six debate can't be dragged through the courts. We support integrated development but victims of forced removal in District Six should be part of this development.

"We know there are only 44ha of undeveloped land but we believe we could bring back 5 000 to 6 000 families. Ex-residents should get first preference," he said.

John Oliver of St Marks Church in District Six said the agreement to pursue a

negotiated settlement was a positive step forward.

Yavib Ogier, who lives in Umhah Close in District Six, said the negotiations could bring everyone on board. "People have been shut out of the process through lack of information. We don't know how many people want restoration. We need a full sharing of information if we are going to reach a full settlement," he said.

In terms of yesterday's Land Claims Court order, all parties to the District Six case will enter into a mediation process to try to reach an agreement which is inclusive and in the public interest of Cape Town.

Wallace Mqogi, commissioner on restitution of land rights for the Western Cape and Northern Cape, will report to the court by March 14 on progress in negotiations.

The negotiations will enable claimants to be informed of the difficulties of simply

restoring land, explore other options and ensure they are involved in future redevelopment.

The commission has already received 926 claims of which 446 are from former tenants and 480 from former landowners.

After 1966, when the National Party declared District Six a slum, about 8 000 people were forced out of the area.

Mr Mqogi said he was a strong believer in alternate methods to resolve disputes and reach compromise.

"There has to be negotiation to help all parties accept there is no way that all people who own land there can get restoration if only about 44ha is available.

"Some people will have to settle for alternate land or financial compensation, or for priority funding in the areas where they live," he said.

Mr Mqogi will meet all involved to get agreement on who should act as mediator.

area, as well as proper compensation.

Sedick Cassiem of Tilbury Street said he was optimistic that the time had come for restitution, because his parents had been paid R6 000 by the state for forfeiting their four-bedroom home, which they built in the "Dry Docks" area of District Six below De Waal Drive.

Derek Kloppers, formerly of Virginia Street, said his family had lived on one of seven properties belonging to his grandmother, Muriel Kloppers, who had been paid a paltry R16 000 by the government.

District Six Civic Association chairman Anwar Nagia, who used to live in Hyde Road, said the court's adoption of the civic association's submissions, including the five-month postponement, was a "victory" for the people.

But he criticised delays which led to the hearing starting at 11am yesterday instead of the scheduled 9am.

"About 500 people waited from 8.45am and this had dwindled to about 150 people by the time the hearing eventually started, because people had to go to work.

"Even then, the court's recording equipment broke down, causing a further delay in proceedings," he said.

"We have patiently waited for this to happen and I believe that it is right and proper that the people of District Six should get preference for housing in the

area, as well as proper compensation.

area, as well as proper compensation.

Memory of uprooting still hurts as a community reclaims its past

SMARKE SAWS
Staff Reporter

Former residents of District Six have attended a historic Land Claims Court preliminary hearing in Cape Town, hoping for restitution 30 years after hundreds of families were uprooted and moved to the Cape Flats under the Group Areas Act.

Still vividly recalling the grim past, they sat patiently at the hearing yesterday while submissions were made for a postponement for mediation and for applicants to come forward for restitution.

The hearing was adjourned until April. Abdul Majid Latief, whose parents owned four plots in Tennant Street, said even if the hearing was adjourned for five months it would not dampen his optimism.

"We are determined to obtain restitution. It is something we battled and waited for for 30 years, so a few extra months won't really matter."

He said representatives of the old Group Areas Board had arrived at their home one day to buy the property for between R8 000 and R10 000 - an amount well below market value. "That was the final offer and it was



Apartheid victims: former residents of District Six who attended the preliminary Land Claims Court hearing

on a take it or leave it basis, so we were forced to sell and move out."

Arminen May, who lived at the corner of Stone and Lewis streets, said he was opti-

mistic about the preliminary sitting because he regarded the court as a light at the end of the tunnel of negotiations for proper restitution and compensation.

"We have patiently waited for this to happen and I believe that it is right and proper that the people of District Six should get preference for housing in the

area, as well as proper compensation.

Cape bank's assets rise 23,3%

45 District Six families benefit from home loans

ESAM DE KOCK
BUSINESS REPORTER

Cape of Good Hope Bank has broadened its community strategy by enabling 45 families who escaped eviction from District Six to buy their homes through a specially structured financing scheme.

This, together with the launch of a revolutionary new National Housing Board finance scheme in support of Nedcor's growth and development strategy, has been a contributing factor to the bank's expanded lending product range.

Announcing the bank's results for the year to September in Cape Town yesterday, managing director Mike Thompson said home loans and instalment finance grew by 20,1 percent to R556,2 million and

by 22,4 percent to R587,3 million respectively, while total assets rose by 23,3 percent to R2,5 billion.

The commercial and industrial property book passed the R1-billion mark, of which R705 million constituted the long-term component. Growth in the short-term development book was 47 percent, totalling R331,3 million.

Mr Thompson said the bank had also introduced fixed rate lending on home loans and commercial property bonds.

Lending initiated to local authorities had followed a well researched approach and Mortgage Indemnity Fund lending had been successfully implemented.

Cape of Good Hope Bank, South Africa's oldest bank, improved its net income after tax by 30,1 percent to R36,2 million. It recorded returns on equity and assets

of 24,2 percent and 1,6 percent respectively – well above the norm for the banking industry.

Shareholders' funds increased by 27,5 percent.

Mr Thompson said the bank's strong growth, and in particular its Return on Assets (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE) ratios, had helped boost parent Nedcor's results to over R1 billion.

"The bank continued to fund itself from a local and long-established client base, serving the Western Cape through a network of 12 branches and a treasury division.

"In spite of severe competition, particularly in the retail market, total depositors' funds increased by 22,9 percent to R2,3 billion with the support of discerning individual and corporate investors."

Mr Thompson said confidence in the bank's ability to manage funds had been evidenced by the substantial increase in deposits by local authorities and managed by Cape of Good Hope Bank's treasury.

The bank would continue its intense Western Cape focus, confident that it could achieve further growth in the region and gain greater market share.

This, he added, meant the bank would look at increased emphasis on providing banking services to the broader Western Cape community through partnerships.

The bank's joint economic and business development initiative with Wesgro – the association for the promotion of economic growth in the Western Cape – had enjoyed wider interest and involvement in strengthening the local economy, Mr Thompson said.

81
ART 13/11/1986

District 6 families win eviction battle

By TOM HOOD

(81)
COM ST 17/11/96
FORTY-FIVE families in District Six are planning a street party to celebrate a happy ending to their fight to escape eviction, after they were promised title deeds to their cottages before the end of the year.

They survived the big District Six demolitions because their terraced houses in Osborne Street were on land zoned for industrial use.

But earlier this year they faced eviction when their landlord decided to sell the properties for R1,5-million.

They feared they could lose the homes, in which many of them have lived for decades, because they were unable to raise the money and an extra R15 000 to subdivide the property into individual plots.

Banks lost interest when they found each of the Victorian cottages would cost about R35 000, bond repayments would be R150 more than current rents, and residents would need to earn R1 800 a month to qualify for a bond.

However, attorneys who had been brought up in District Six, and the Cape of Good Hope Bank devised a financing scheme which qualified for the government's R15 000-a-house subsidy, and brought down bond repayments.

Facilitators for District 6 claims

ST(CM) 23/2/97
By CHARL DE VILLIERS

(81)
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THE Western and Northern Cape Land Commission has announced the names of two prominent Capetonians who will act as facilitators in the troubled District Six restitution process.

Dr Neville Alexander and Dr Elaine Clarke will gather information, consult all stakeholders and find out if all potential claimants are aware of their rights.

Alexander is a former Robben Island prisoner, historian and educationist who heads the Project for Alternative Education in South Africa at UCT. Clarke, a doctor, has lived and worked in the Walmer Estate and District Six area for 22 years.

Asked yesterday about the challenges facing her appointment, Clarke said it was essential that all potential land claim beneficiaries be identified.

"One of our biggest challenges will be devising guidelines which can be applied to other urban claims arising from Group Areas Act removals. We'll also be looking at the rights of former tenants," she said, adding that many potential claimants were illiterate and had been left out of the District Six restitution process. Radio would be used to reach them.

Their appointment this week follows an urgent appeal to the Land Claims Court in October by former District Six residents who claimed that a state-sanctioned redevelopment plan in the bull-dozed suburb would strip potential claimants of their rights.

The court agreed to postpone its decision on whether to return land to individual claimants, or to exempt individuals' claims in favour of a group claim linked to the redevelopment scheme.

Instead, it instructed the facilitators to "engage in a process aimed at finding the most amicable way of resolving the District Six restitution claims and the section 34 (group claim) application. . .".

The two facilitators have been given till March 14 to report the outcome of their negotiations.

● Telephonic inquiries about District Six claims can be made to the Cape Town offices of the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights at (021) 262-930, or fax 245-146.

2 ● Win a VIP package to the

Old District 6 church takes a new direction

Changes at St Mark's

JILYAN PITMAN
STAFF REPORTER

Historic St Mark's Anglican church in District Six has a new direction and newly licensed woman lay minister.

Jodi-Anne Borien will be ministering to the congregation for the first time.

Presently a legal adviser with the Provincial Administration, Ms Borien is a graduate of the University of Cape Town and a candidate attorney for a law firm.

St Mark's priest the Rev John Oliver says the church has embarked on a new direction and is preparing itself for the new District Six community, with the ministry moving away from "priest directed ministry" to a "people driven ministry".

Originally named St Mark's on the Hill before the original District Six and its community were swept away in the late 1960s under an apartheid government, the church is now a thriving spiritual centre for Technikon students and former District

Six residents, many of whom have remained loyal to the church through hard times.

"The shift at St Mark's," said Mr Oliver, "has given people not only a responsibility for their church but a sense of self-responsibility for their own spiritual growth. The presence of women among the leadership of St Mark's is a natural acknowledgement of the great variety of gifts of the people of God."

"District Six people have always been resourceful and now the church looks forward to a varied ministry to include more students, people in the city and those still living in District Six."

He said the church survived the apartheid era with the help and support of a small number of ex-residents and their

families who attended services regularly.

Many more returned to the church for weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Although St Mark's comes from a traditional Anglo-Catholic foundation, Mr Oliver is often seen leading worship with the guitar and sermons are often replaced with people-participation, dialogue and sharing.

Mr Oliver said that despite numerous attempts by developers to buy the land and demolish the 110 year-old church, the congregation had fought back and the church has survived. The elegant church, built in 1887 in honour of the first 50 years of Queen Victoria's reign by Scots-born Cape Town architect George Murray Alexander, is bordered on three sides by Technikon buildings.

"Queen Victoria's golden jubilee was celebrated in the same year the church was built and St Mark's was the second largest in the diocese after St George's Cathedral. It cost three thousand three hundred and eighty pounds to build," said Rev Oliver.

Money is needed for ongoing renovation projects such as fixing the leaking roof before winter arrives, upgrading of the lighting system, raising and extending the sanctuary floor, providing new carpeting and toilets as well as the refurbishment of the crypt and building of a side hall for meetings and workshops.

To tackle the renovations, church members have organised an anniversary ball in the Witteboome Civic Centre on May 9 to raise funds for the various projects. Music will be provided by the SA Police Band.

Mr Oliver said the church was also an ideal venue for performers and they could contact him on 448-1006 (office hours) or 705-5502 (after hours) for more information. Tickets for the ball can be purchased by telephoning the same numbers.

'St Mark's Church is preparing itself for the new District Six'



New age: newly licenced lay minister Jodi-Anne Borien and Reverend John Oliver from St Mark's church in District Six

NEWS

District Six dispute continues

Mediators want delay in redevelopment hearings

ANDREA WEISS
MEMO CORRESPONDENT

The Land Claims Court is to be asked to postpone a hearing on the redevelopment of District Six for another four months to allow facilitators to resolve a dispute which blew up last year.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom had to step in at the last minute when former residents of District Six objected in October to an application to have the land exempted from individual claims.

The provincial government, the Cape Town municipality and the Cape Town Community Land Trust applied for the exemption on the grounds that they wanted an integrated development of the land, which would be hindered by piecemeal claims.

Last month, facilitators Neville Alexander and Elaine Clarke were appointed by the Land Claims Court to resolve the dispute.

Dr Alexander and Dr Clarke told a press conference yesterday they had established the central principles which would be put to the Land Claims Court in August. They will hold six public meetings to garner further opinions.

from former residents in Guguletu, Mitchell's Plain, Khayelitsha, Athlone, Langa and Cape Town-Salt River during April and May.

This will require a postponement of the April 1 return date set last year when the dispute erupted. Progress has been made in that all parties have now agreed that an integrated redevelopment of the land should take place but the rights of individual claimants are to be addressed more thoroughly.

Dr Alexander said all parties had discarded the idea of returning the original pieces of land to individual owners but they were working on several other possibilities.

These could include giving a similar piece of land of the same value within the new development to an owner, or alternatively providing compensation based on a predetermined formula.

A compensation formula for former tenants resident for 10 or more years continuously, who also had the right to make a land claim, also was being looked at. Former tenants might be given first preference in the new development, although for many this was not an economically viable option, or a preferential list could be drawn up for new housing

developments on state land elsewhere.

Dr Alexander said there were several political issues which needed to be addressed, among them the market value of the land which was taken from people at bargain basement prices and how to compensate people for the emotional and economic trauma of forced removal. Former residents also wanted to be involved in the planning of the redevelopment.

He said while the debate was "all very friendly" at this stage, there was still a lot of anger over the forced removals from District Six.

"People feel very strongly about District Six. People call it salted earth ... whatever is born out of District Six must come from the people, especially the people who were forcibly removed," he said.

Dr Clarke said former traders, for instance, complained that they had not only lost their homes but their livelihood when they were moved. They were calling for trading rights within the redevelopment.

Also, there was a lot of confusion over the rights of former residents with many tenants unaware that they were able to claim. Part of their job was to inform people of their rights.



Role model: Sol T. Plaatje, subject of an exhibition at the District Six Museum

Museum honours a leader of the struggle

NINA BERZOWSKI
Staff Reporter

Sol T. Plaatje, one of South Africa's most talented African leaders, writers and editors who devoted his life to fighting apartheid oppression, is being honoured at the District Six Museum.

An exhibition, *Sol Plaatje: Writer and Politician*, presented by the National English Literary Museum in collaboration with the District Six Museum in Buitenkant Street, opens tomorrow to commemorate Human Rights Day and runs until mid-April. Plaatje was born in 1876 in Griqualand West and died in 1932.

In celebration of his 50th birthday his many admirers, including Indians and coloured people, bought him a home in Kimberley as a token of their appreciation for his lifelong dedication to the struggle.

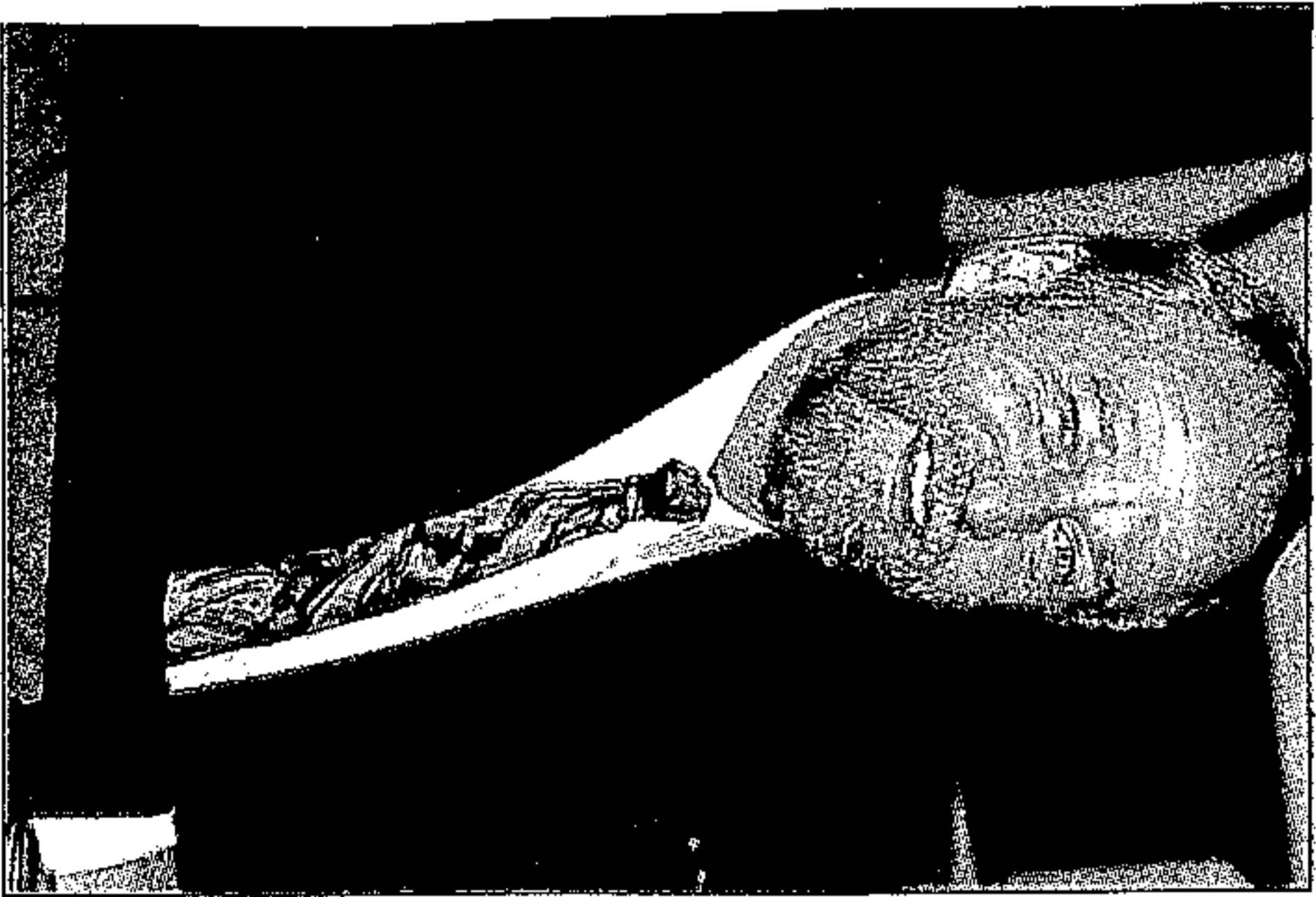
The house is now a national monument.

His achievements include the translation of five of Shakespeare's works into Setswana, his native language, and his novel *Mhudi*, one of the earliest novels with an African theme in English.

Other works of his include *Native Life in South Africa* and his *Boer War Diary*.

Plaatje was also a founding member and first general secretary of the South African Native Congress, which later became the African National Congress.

Spokeswoman for the Literary Museum Kate McDonald said the exhibition of text and photographs paid tribute to a man who overcame the limitations of a very basic education to become one of South Africa's most distinguished writers and political leaders.



Intervention: Derek Hanekom

RED-LINING BY BANKS OVERCOME

District Six residents combine to buy homes

CT 8/4/97

(81)

OSBORNE STREET in District Six escaped the Group Areas Act, but residents almost lost their homes recently when the owner decided to sell. Joint action overcame the problem. **LISA TEMPLETON** reports.

IPEL ONG Osborne Street resident Auntie Gracie Barron, 75, is one of 45 District Six household heads who yesterday became home-owners for the first time.

The residents — who were recently threatened with eviction when the 45 terraced Victorian cottages in Osborne Street were put up for sale for R1,5 million by the owner, Mr Sydney Schach — combined as a single debtor and signed for joint liability on a bond, overcoming the red-lining policy of many banks.

"These people have become home-owners for the first time in their lives. They have survived the Group Areas Act and the fear of eviction," said Mr Anwar Nagia, chairman of the District Six Civic Association.

Osborne Street, which survived the demolition of District Six because the immediate area was zoned for industrial use, was threatened again when the landlord put the houses on the market.

However, by the end of last year, with the help of the civic association

and a number of attorneys who grew up in District Six, the residents obtained a loan of R1,3m from the Cape of Good Hope Bank and arranged a settlement with Schach for this amount.

"All the other financial institutions slammed doors in our faces, without doing a thorough investigation into the community and assuming that a culture of non-payment existed," Nagia said.

He said some banks and financial institutions saw certain areas and communities as high risk and, fearing non-payment, employed a subtle red-line system to deny them loans.

He added that should these institutions continue red-line policies he would discourage people from participating in them.

However, the residents were all smiles yesterday when they became home-owners. They will pay less than R40 000 for their cottages, and bond repayments will be about R150 more a month than they paid in rent.

Auntie Gracie, who is the oldest resi-

dent in the street and was born in her house, said — as she stood among the flower pots of her little wooden balcony — that she was very excited.

"I am very much attached to this house, I have beautiful memories of growing up in a respectable home and playing with other children. There was a happy atmosphere here," she said.

She could remember when the pavements were cobbled and the fear of eviction at the time that most of District Six was razed.

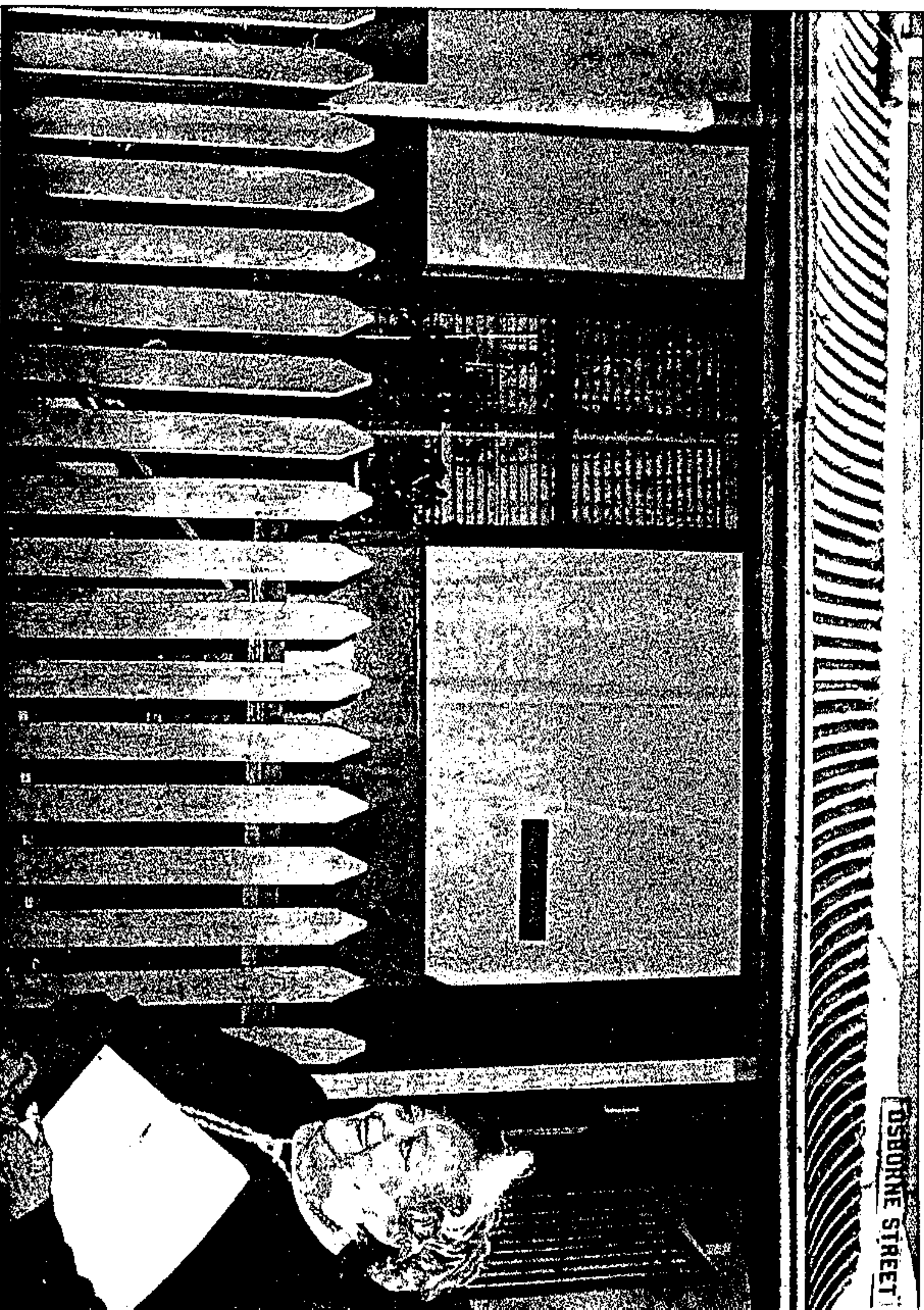
Her neighbour, Mrs Victoria Lakay, has lived in the street for 36 years and was "very over-excited" to buy her home.

"I never want to move out of this street, we are one family," she said.

Four generations have lived in Mr William Duncan's home since his grandparents moved in there.

"I am just glad I can at least now settle down," he said. "I can tell my two daughters and my grandchildren: 'If something happens to me you can go on with the Duncan house.'"

Ms Jenny Sym, whose grandmother and mother both lived in the street, said: "I feel very proud to be buying my house. I have reached my first goal in life."



ELATED: Yesterday was a red-letter day for 45 District Six householders who combined as one debtor to sign for co-liability on a R1,3-million bond to buy their Osborne Street houses. Gracie Barron, 75, was delighted when she signed for ownership of the house she was born in.

PICTURE: KAREN R

Council's about-turn on removals

CT 23/4/97

(81) (2)

REVEALING "about-face" by the city council then in charge of the affairs of Cape Town municipality has been disclosed in a study of events directly related to the removal of residents from their homes in Tramway Road, Sea Point.

Research undertaken by Dr Uma Mesthrie, of UWC's history department, describes how the council buckled from a firm anti-Group Areas Development Board stance in 1959 to a decision that effectively assisted in relocating those Cape Townians "disqualified" under the Group Areas Act.

Mesthrie states that when the media highlighted the residents' plight, it immediately focused attention on the city's critical housing shortage, which in that year stood at an estimated 12 000.

In June that year, when the board enquired whether the council was considering any additional housing schemes to cope with the number of disqualified families, it was told that the council could not be expected to provide homes for them, given the serious housing shortage.

The National Housing Commission had to provide enough money first, the council said, so that the target of 1 000 houses a year could be met.

Then mayor, Mrs Joyce Newton-Thompson, was quoted as saying: "There are no houses available to meet the needs of Group Areas..." while Councillor A Z Berman baldly told the government to "do their own dirty work" since the council would "have no truck with Group Areas".

The board later used the opportunity to blame the council for the problems of the affected families of Tramway Road, Gardens and Newlands, saying it expected the council to provide for Group Areas victims.

If it failed to do so, the board would unilaterally establish townships to re-house them. About the same time, former president P W Botha, then deputy minister of the Interior, was quoted at Villersdorp as threatening the city council, which he labelled a body of "Sappe, jingoes and coloureds". "We are going to make Cape Town a place where the coloured people live on one side and Europeans on the other — city council or no city council," said Botha.

Mesthrie says that "within a month, in an about-face, the council decided to appoint an ad hoc committee to confer with the GAB about housing for the disqualified".

"The agreement reached between the two bodies in the end was that 20% of the houses built as part of the council's housing schemes would be available to house the disqualified.

"Houses were eventually offered to the Tramway Road residents at the Bonteheuwel scheme, where some 5 464 sub-economic and economic homes were planned."

The board had bargained with the council in the manner of "you help us and we will help you". On October 7, 1959, the board chairman, Mr

W H L Heckroodt, met the council's housing committee and assured them the National Housing Commission would make funds available for the council to pursue its housing schemes.

But this came at a price — the board wanted the council to help in providing homes for Group Areas Act casualties.

The housing committee then recommended that the council help to house the disqualified, as long as it did not prejudice its own goal of eliminating the existing housing shortage.

Says Mesthrie: "The council was obviously seduced by the promise that funds would be available for them to undertake slum clearance."

"The view that the Group Areas Act was there to stay and that it could be used to eliminate slums predominated over the views of Berman and most of the coloured councillors who were against co-operating with the board."

The board had noted "somewhat triumphantly" that local authorities unwilling to co-operate had subsequently "changed their tune" once they realised that the provision of housing for the disqualified was associated with slum clearance. The council in 1963 bought most of the cottages in Tramway Road from the previous landlords, later demolishing the homes and establishing the present-day playground.

Mesthrie says her study "points to how easy it was for illiberal forces to be silent and seduced by the state when the magic words 'slum clearance' were mentioned".

"Although the Tramway Road area was by no means regarded by anyone as slum clearance, the question of housing the disqualified was linked to the general housing question: the state was resourceful in offering funds for housing which in the opinion of the council could be used to eliminate overcrowded slums."

She observes, though, that while Group Areas removals were harsh, coloured and Indian people were "granted some courtesies" by the state. "While not wishing to diminish in any way the experience and anguish of the Tramway Road residents," she says, "the tale of the removal of these 50-odd families lacks the drama of, for instance, the removals at Sophiatown, when 80 lorries and 2 000 armed police preceded the arrival of the 'demolition squads'."

"Many African communities were moved at gun-point and loaded unceremoniously like cattle on to trucks and then dumped in the open veld with tents for shelter, if they were lucky."



TRAMWAY ROAD RESEARCHER: Dr Uma Mesthrie.



"HAPPY WHEN WE ARE": After two evictions under the Group Areas Act, Mrs Dorothy Lawrence (left) and her daughter Ursula (above) have decided to move from their home in various ways.

PICTURES: L. M.

Call to consult past residents of District Six

AGG 13/6/97
ASHLEY SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

(81)

The state-sanctioned redevelopment of District Six should not go ahead without consultation with hundreds of former residents who were forcibly removed during the apartheid era.

This is the view of Neville Alexander, one of two facilitators appointed by the Land Claims Court to establish the central principles on restitution for former residents ahead of a hearing by the court in August.

At a meeting last night Dr Alexander said: "People who were removed must have a say in the redevelopment of District Six. Up to now they have had no say except for a sort of wishy-washy consultation with the other major stakeholders."

Present home- and land-owners in District Six could not be excluded from the restitution and redevelopment processes.

Referring to financial restitution for ex-residents, facilitator Elaine Clarke said a workshop would be held later this month to "calculate a formula for compensation".

District 6: All yours, families told

ANDREA WEISS AND SHARKEY ISAACS
STAFF REPORTERS

Cape Town judge Siraj Desai has resigned as chairman of the trust set up to redevelop District Six, to clear the way for the formation of a new body which is more representative of families thrown out by the Group Areas Act.

Mr Justice Desai made the dramatic announcement that he was leaving the Cape Town Community Land Trust at a public meeting.

He was responding to demands by residents for a more representative organisation to take the development and restitution process forward.

He said events had overtaken the trust, formed several years ago.

"I share the view that the trust is not representative of former District Six residents and stakeholders.

"I also agree it would be more appropriate that the land be handed over to those who were dispossessed," Mr Justice Desai added. Through the land claim process there



Siraj Desai: clearing way

was now an "emergent beneficiary community" that could be identified.

He formally tendered his resignation after making the announcement at a meeting in District Six attended by several hundred people.

It was convened by facilitators Neville Alexander and Elaine Clarke as the culmination of a series of meetings to consult former District Six families.

Dr Alexander and Dr Clarke were appointed by the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights to resolve a dispute over the way in which the redevelopment of the land was to take place.

At the meeting, the residents passed a

ARG 2/7/97

(81) To page 2

Judge quits District Six trust

ARG 2/7/97

From page 1

resolution expressing unhappiness with the Cape Town Community Land Trust. Judge Desai, who was the only trustee present, got a standing ovation when he announced that he would resign. The provincial government, which still owns a substantial part of the land, was not represented and only one Cape Town councillor was present, according to Judge Desai. Anwah Nagia, chairman of the District

Six Civic Association, said the step taken by Judge Desai was in the right direction and in accordance with an undertaking he had given at a previous meeting. "Dispossessed families had repeatedly called for a fair and a better deal and that is what was offered."

Dr Alexander said the facilitators were "on the verge of getting consensus on all the major controversial issues".

See page 8

Dist 6 residents coming home

ET 11/7/99 (813)

A LAND RIGHTS restitution process to be put to the Land Claims Court next month would enable the dispossessed of District Six to return. Special Assignments Team **ROGER FRIEDMAN** and **BENNY GOOL** report.

THIRTY-ONE years after District Six was declared a white area and its inhabitants forcibly removed to ghettos on the Cape Flats, the original community appears, at last, to be coming home.

In a proposed District Six land rights restitution process that facilitators Dr Elaine Clarke and Dr Neville Alexander will put to the Land Claims Court next month, the original inhabitants will form a Beneficiary Community Trust to drive, co-ordinate and monitor the processes of restitution and redevelopment in consultation with the relevant authorities.

The proposal was endorsed last night — without a hint of dissent — at a meeting of stakeholders held at the District Six Museum. Although the facilitators acknowledge that it is impossible to compensate the victims of forced removals adequately for their loss and suffering, their bottom line is that the government will have to pay for the reconstruction of District Six. Affordability will be the watchword.

There were about 71 000 people living in District Six when it was declared a white area under the apartheid regime's Group Areas Act in 1966. It is remembered as a place of vibrancy, of cultural, ethnic and religious diversity, as the birthplace of the first political organisations and trade unions of people of colour.

Residents fought a bitter and protracted fight against their forced removal, but the government ended up expropriating 2 375 properties — about two-thirds of which were owned by white absentee landlords. The eventual bulldozing of District Six reverberated around the

world. The area came to symbolise forced removals in South Africa, a barren blight on the Cape Town landscape. In spite of concerted efforts to prevent it, large tracts of the "salted earth" were later sold off by the previous government to friends, including a significant portion to the Cape Technikon, then a wholly white institution.

Because of this development the facilitators propose that alternative, preferably adjoining, pockets of land be identified to house members of the community who cannot be accommodated on the original site.

And because many of the former residents are elderly, indigent and poverty-stricken, they recommend that urgent interim measures be instituted, which could include interim monetary compensation. A number of former residents who have lodged land claims over the past few years have died without realising their dreams of returning.

After exhaustive consultation with all stakeholders — which included the first serious effort to identify former residents and involve them in the process — the facilitators propose that the trust negotiate with the Cape Technikon

Negotiated, amicable agreements are preferable to confrontation.

urgently to reach a solution acceptable to all parties. The technikon was built on the rubble of a prime portion of District Six at an estimated cost of R200 million.

In cases where former tenants request "restoration" of their original dwellings — as do some



FORMER RESIDENTS: Wilhelmina Abrahams and Fatima Johnson lived in Bloemhof Flats, now called Skyways. "Valhalla Park turned my children into gangsters," said Abrahams. Johnson said: "In Valhalla Park I lost my 10-year-old grandchild; they just shot her dead. It has never been our kind of place."

former residents of the old Bloemhof Flats (now re-named Skyways) — they propose that the trust serves as a vehicle for mediation between the former tenants and present owners. In certain circumstances, the facilitators

believe, cases could be made for expropriation from the present owners. But throughout their draft final report, unveiled at last night's meeting, they stress that

negotiated, amicable agreements are preferable to confrontation.

And they stress that there is agreement among the vast majority of former residents that whatever development is undertaken must be of an integrated nature, in the interests of the broad community.

Former residents — including expropriated land-owners, tenants of more than 10 years' duration and traders — have until the end of April next year to register restitution claims. All claims are subjected to a vigorous validation process undertaken by the regional land commissioner's

office.

Speaking to the Cape Times yesterday after "amicable discussions" with the City Council and provincial administration, Clarke and Alexander said they were "very hopeful" that the two bodies would agree to former residents driving the redevelopment process.

They went a step further at last night's meeting, saying they had every reason to believe that the proposal would win the council's and provincial government's support.

They were appointed as facilitators.

© To Page 3

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P.T.O.

SA NAVY PROPERTY TARGETED

Evicted families seek a return to Simon's Town



THIRTY YEARS after people were forcibly removed from the Simon's Town area, the rightful claimants to the town are asking to be rehoused there — on land and in accommodation left behind by a dwindling South African Navy presence. **DIANE CASSERE** reports.

(271) CT 14/7/97 (81)

LOOKING down on Simon's Town from the Redhill area, Mr Albert Thomas is oblivious to the scenic nature of the town.

He is pointing out the places where black and coloured people lived amicably, side by side, and worked at the naval dockyards. None of those families live there now.

Thomas is ANC chairman for Ocean View, the area near Kommetjie to where the people were removed during the forced evictions of the 1960's. Today he has a list of 1 400 families squatting in the area who require accommodation.

They are living in backyards and camps and he has nowhere for them to go — unless the Defence Force will hear his pleas to start rehousing people in Simon's Town, where the SA Navy population is dwindling.

"Waterkloof Barracks, like much of the land here, used to belong to the coloured people," said Thomas.

"At Luyolo Township (indicating a still-terraced area above the town), there was a thriving community of black people, but they were removed to Guguletu.

"The government had to put on a special train service to get them all the way here to work in the dockyards.

"The coloured people were all taken to the area now known as Ocean View.

"There was nothing there but wind and sand, and they had to get to work at Simon's Town as best they could," he said.

Mr Greg Sinovitch, who has been assisting the ANC and the

Surplus Peoples' Project with land claims in the area, said that "half of Simon's Town used to belong to the coloured people".

Thomas pointed out blocks of flats overlooking the dockyard that had originally belonged to the Royal Navy, the former occupants of the dockyard. When the British left (in 1955), the accommodation became the property of the SA Navy.

Now, explained Thomas, the navy has sold the flats to a private developer, who in turn is selling them to the public: "Why couldn't some of this accommodation be offered to coloured families who want to return to the area?"

Sinovitch said areas like the Waterkloof Barracks (occupied by naval cadets), the old Arsenal Road School and land between Simon's Town High School and the golf course should go to the rightful claimants.

"There are also warehouses that are not being used at all," said Sinovitch. "The people who were evicted should have the option to purchase land there, or be offered rented accommodation."

Mr Jannie Momberg, ANC MP for the constituency, said last week he would be happy to lead a delegation to Mr Ronnie Kasrils, Deputy Minister of Defence, to request that the land be offered back to the original inhabitants.

"I know the crisis in Ocean View and the Mountain View squatter area, and I will take the matter to the deputy minister," said Momberg.

"Simon's Town was the place where apartheid was manifested at its harshest.

"While the British were there, they left the coloured people alone, but when they left in 1955, they started kicking them out.

"People were taken out of their homes to Ocean View, which is now rife with gangs; it is a terrible place.

"I will do anything I can to alleviate the problem and I am sympathetic to any surplus housing being used to do this."

Cape Times queries to Kasrils last week went unanswered, with staff advising that the deputy minister was "too busy" with the defence budget.



en sold to a private developer, and
PICTURE: ANNE LAING

Simon's Town homes shuffle not so easy

DIANE CASSERE

CERTAIN properties in the Simon's Town area are subject to restitution claims by dispossessed owners, a spokesman for the South African Navy has confirmed.

Captain Fred Marais was replying yesterday to a report that the Ocean View branch of the ANC hoped that more than 1 000 families could be housed in properties that had become vacant as the navy shrank.

CT 15/7/97

He said the Waterfall Barracks, although "defence endowment property", was subject to a restitution claim.

The "only vacant warehouse is also on the same stand".

A number of restitution cases were pending, although not all the claims had been lodged yet. The SANDF could not dispose of land until claims to it had been finalised.

"There are also large portions of

(81) (277)
military endowment property and Admiralty Land," Marais said.

"The question is therefore not simply about the SA National Defence Force's vacating a building or area and making it available for communal needs."

The SANDF's transformation and the restitution claims would have to run their course before it could be established which buildings might be made available, Marais said.

Women rally to keep alive memories of District Six

ART 21/9/97

(81)

ASHLEY SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Hundreds of women gathered at the District Six Museum at the weekend to reminisce and read poetry about life in the suburb before it was razed under the Group Areas Act.

Moving forward by remembering the past was the theme of the Cape Town Women's Café meeting.

Maganthrie Pillay, a founder member of the Women's Café, said it was important for women to hear what had happened in District Six so that they could learn from the people who had experienced "these awful injustices".

The organisation was founded in February and holds monthly meetings which focus on issues important to women.

"We have already had meetings dealing

with reproductive rights, women in the media and women and healing. These issues are dealt with in innovative ways, including using poetry, drama and various interactive processes," Miss Pillay said.

A hit with the crowd was Lueen Conning performing an extract from her play *A Coloured Place*, which had rave reviews in Durban last month.

The play focused on a coloured community in Durban but had a universal message in that it portrayed a desperate search for heritage and roots, Miss Conning said.

"These days society is so fragmented and in the coloured community family units are continually broken down. In order for us to define who we are, we have to know where we come from and that is how our heritage can save us."

Miss Conning said the production was coming to Cape Town soon.

Plan to help District Six regain its soul

CT 21/7/97 (81)

FORMER residents of District Six are hoping to re-establishing the once vibrant community that was forced out by apartheid. **ROGER FRIEDMAN** and **BENNY GOOL** report.

LOOKING at the freshly painted wall surrounding the block of flats on the edge of District Six, from which they were forcibly removed nearly 20 years ago, a group of Valhalla Park residents wondered how they'd be able to prevent their children from rededicating it with graffiti.

They want to come back to their beloved Bloemhof Flats — now renamed Skyways — and are pinning their hopes on a community-based restitution and redevelopment proposal for District Six, which facilitators will put to the Land Claims Court next month.

The cornerstone of the proposal is that former residents form a community beneficiary trust to drive the process.

They want to come back, but the years in Valhalla Park have taken their toll. It's almost as if they don't believe they are good enough to live in town.

The forced removal of the people of District Six, and the deliberate attempt to destroy the sense of community after the area was declared white in 1966, were among the worst manifestations of forced removals.

"Nothing can undo the suffering caused by these actions," the Department of Land Affairs commented in an affidavit to the Land Claims Court last year. But it was essential that steps were taken to give effective redress as far as possible; steps the department was committed to helping achieve.

"We tried to stick together when they sent us there (to Valhalla Park)," said widow Ms Wilhelmína Abrahamns, whose family occupied flat 165D for about 40 years.

"My husband died of a broken heart and my daughter died of TB. My sons turned into gangsters. We stayed so nicely here, but we live in fear of Valhalla Park. They have

made our (Bloemhof) flats so nice now. They will never want us back," she said.

Ms Jennifer Price also stayed there for about 40 years, before the family was evicted in 1980.

"It changed my life so dramatically," she said. "I lost my lover. He just refused to move to Valhalla Park. And so I became a single parent. Until today my children have been unhappy in Valhalla Park. We will be so happy to move back."

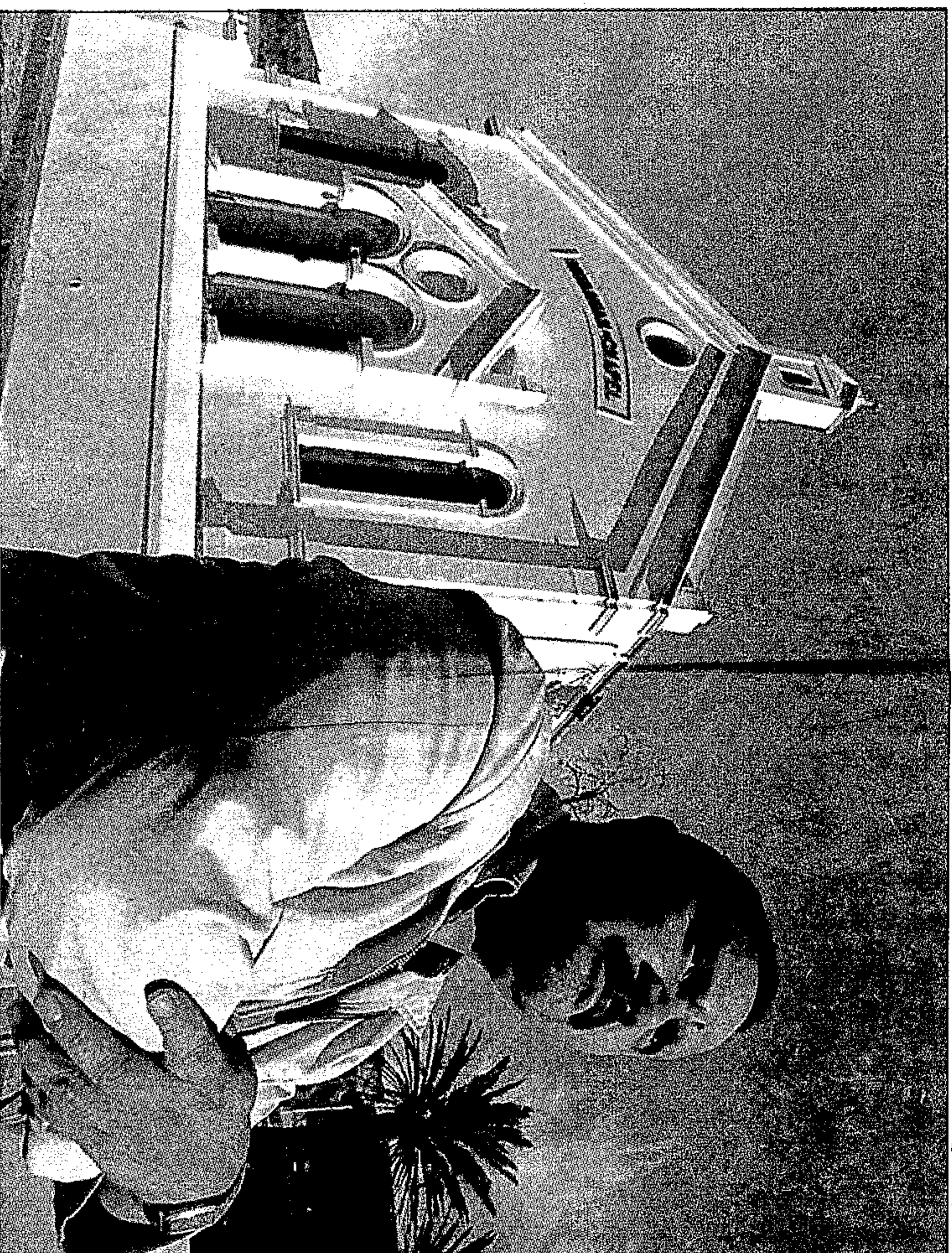
Mrs Fatima Johnson lived at Bloemhof for about 20 years. "In Valhalla Park I lost my grandchild. She was just 10 when they shot her dead. They crippled her mother and killed her father. Valhalla Park is not our type of place."

Even if she gets her flat back, Johnson wonders how she can ever be compensated for her family's misery, or for the extra hour spent travelling to town each day.

Mr Ganhief Abrahamns said former Bloemhof residents had recently considered occupying the flats until they could secure an undertaking they would be allowed to return, but this had been postponed to allow the court to make its decision.

"There are some people who don't want to come back, who say things will never be the same, or who don't want to confront so many sad memories. But the majority of us want our flats back." The facilitators propose that the beneficiary trust enters into negotiations with the present owners of the flats as soon as possible. The flats are shaping up as one of the trickier aspects of the restitution process. Paradoxically, because they were not flattened with the rest of District Six.

Another tricky aspect could be that of the Moravian Chapel, presently on land owned by the Cape Technikon. The chapel has been maintained by the National



CHURCH HAVEN: "It might not look as grand as the Anglican Cathedral in town, but we want our Moravian Chapel back. It is our cathedral in the city," Kallie August in front of the chapel which stands on ground owned by the Cape Technikon.

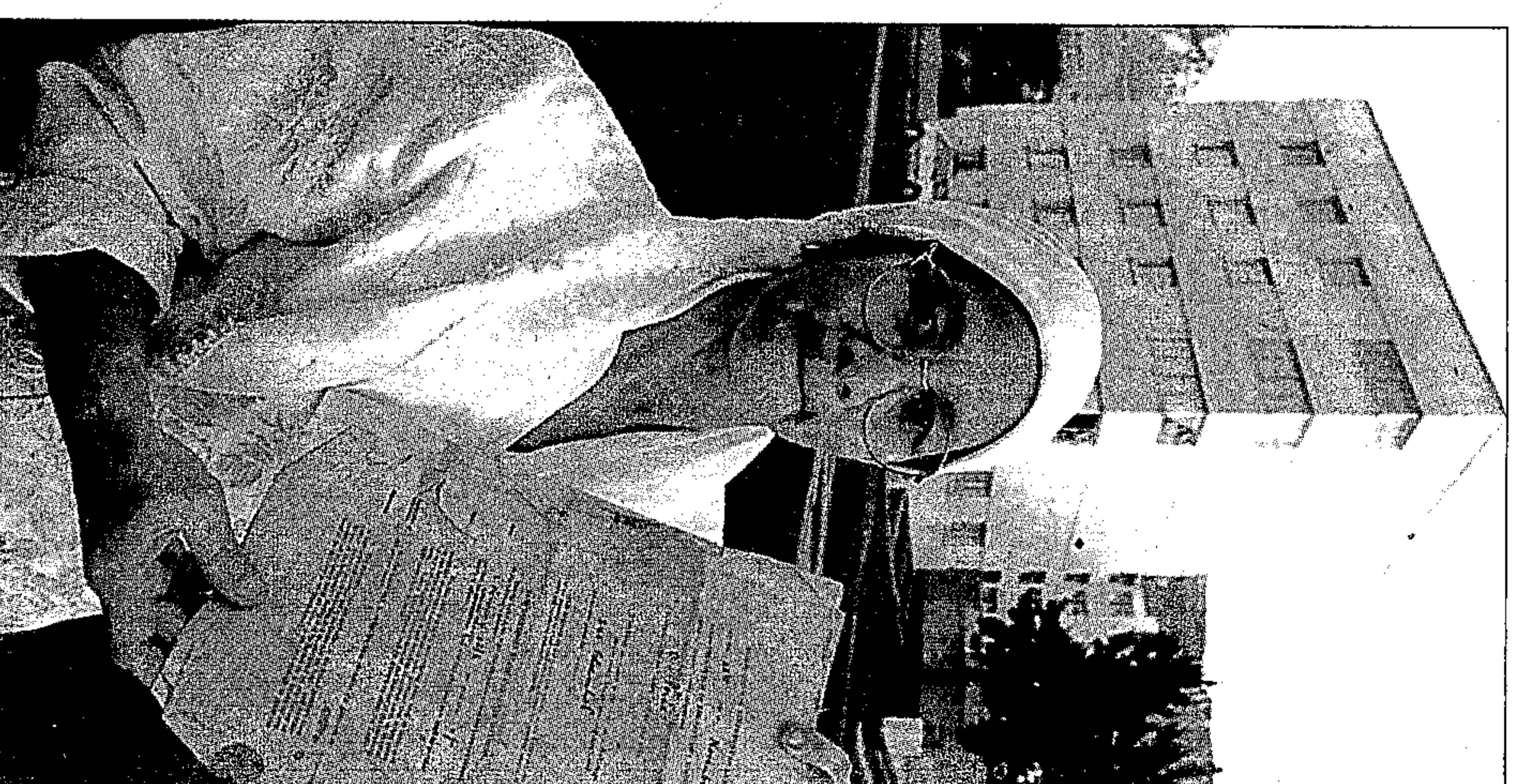
Monuments Council since its parishioners were sent away.

The facilitators will tell the Land Claims Court next month that former residents consider the return of all religious sites and structures as non-negotiable.

The Rev Kallie August was one of the last people to leave District Six at the end of 1980.

"All around us was bulldozed. We were alone here. We want to come back here now. This is our property. When we have reclaimed our land Moravians will come back to worship. A remnant of our congregation remained, some up at Springfield Terrace and some on the other side of the boulevard."

The facilitators propose the trust enter into urgent negotiations with the Technikon.



COMING HOME: "My parents moved into our flat in 1940. I was born in 1942. We stayed here for 40 years," says Jennifer Price.

Authorities will back restitution

ROGER FRIEDMAN

THE Western Cape provincial administration and the City of Cape Town have agreed to withdraw their application to the Land Claims Court to redevelop District Six in the "public interest", and to support, instead, a redevelopment and restitution process shaped by forcibly removed former residents.

Facilitators Dr Elaine Clarke and Dr Neville Alexander, who were appointed to search for an amicable solution after former residents opposed the province's and city's application to the court last year, were informed on Friday that they had succeeded in striking common

ground.

"A very relieved" Clarke said yesterday: "Both the province and the council have agreed to withdraw their Section 34 application, and have agreed in principle the formation of a vehicle such as a community beneficiary trust, to drive redevelopment and restitution."

The matter returns to the Land Claims Court in two weeks. It will be preceded by a pre-trial hearing today. After extensive consultation with former residents, the facilitators propose that the court grants an order under Section 35 of the Land Restitution Act which provides for the establishment of a trust or non-profit company.

Former residents will be the shareholders of the trust or company, which will drive, co-ordinate and monitor the redevelopment and restitution processes, in consultation with the relevant authorities.

A spin-off of the facilitation process has been the virtual reconstitution of the District Six community, scattered as it may be now. One of the arguments put forward in support of the "public interest" driven redevelopment proposal was that the community had completely disintegrated.

The consultation process appears to have been the catalyst for its miraculous reconstruction.

District Six land bid dropped (81)

20 22/7/97

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — The Cape Town municipality and the Western Cape government plan to withdraw their Land Claims Court application for District Six land to be developed on an integrated basis, despite thousands of individual claims.

The withdrawal would take place when the court sat on August 5, Judge Fikile Bam said yesterday at a meeting which included community and legal representatives. Contrary to the view of the applicants, a large identifiable community of "ex-District Sixers" had been found to exist, Bam said. This undermined the authorities' claim to be acting in the "public interest".

This followed the submission of a widely approved report by facilitators Neville Alexander and Elaine Clarke, appointed by the court to sound out community views and find a way of resolving the dispute.

While there was broad consensus on an integrated redevelopment of the land, stakeholders believed scope should also exist for individual restitution.

The report recommended that a beneficiary community trust be established, either as a section 21 company or a communal property association, to drive the restitution and redevelopment process.

All claimants would become associate members of the trust, and the province and municipality would be ex officio members of the board of trustees.

The report proposed that restitution take place on the basis of "just and equitable" compensation. Those wishing for restoration of their homes would be accommodated in the integrated development plan where possible, while those opting for compensation would receive equivalent land or accommodation elsewhere.

A baseline amount should constitute the

foundation to which all other due amounts can be added, the report said. This amount would be determined by the length of the claimants' residence in District Six.

The motivation for this approach is that it is impossible to pay people for the suffering and loss they have undergone. All the State can hope to do is to make a gesture in terms of redress, healing, nation-building and a new beginning. Something more than a token amount would be acceptable to most people, the report said.

Interim relief should be available to elderly, sickly and disabled former tenants and owners, many of whom were pessimistic about receiving compensation before they died.

Non-negotiables were the restoration of all former religious sites to their communities, the erection of a memorial to remember the forced removals and the acquisition of vacant land by the trust, the report said.

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Swaiziani puzizane

New trust to oversee land claims in ~~(81)~~ District Six

JOSEPH ARANES
STAFF REPORTER

ARG 22/7/97

An organisation charged with co-ordinating restitution and redevelopment in District Six will be launched at the District Six Museum on August 5.

It is also the date, set down by the Commission on Restitution for Land Rights, when the current holders of the land, the Cape Town Municipality and the provincial government, will apply to withdraw a controversial Section 34 application.

The Section 34 claim, which would have exempted District Six from individual land claims, was a thorn in the flesh of the many former residents and tenants of the area. They believed provincial and local authorities were using it to exclude individual claimants from submitting claims to the Land Claims Court.

Facilitators Neville Alexander and Elaine Clarke have for the past nine months engaged all interested groups in a process aimed at finding the most amicable way of resolving the District Six restitution claims and the Section 34 application.

The facilitators got the local municipality and the provincial government to withdraw the application, and all parties agreed to work together to form a beneficiary community trust.

Dr Alexander said the court hearing on August 5 was necessary to formalise the beneficiary community trust.

"Given the history of forced removals in District Six it is important that we use this moment to show the people of the Cape Town and the rest of the country that by resolving the matter there is hope in restitution," he said.

'WE PLAN TO STAY'

Battle looms as group sets up shacks in District Six

AS FORMER District Six residents celebrated the trust scheme which could return their land, an opposing group set up shacks in the area. **ROGER FRIEDMAN** reports.

A 600 forcibly-removed former residents of District Six gathered yesterday to celebrate the imminent return of their land to a community beneficiary trust, a small group of other former residents who are opposed to the idea of a trust was erecting shacks on the land.

By late afternoon two shacks were up. Spokesman for the group, Mr Ebrahim Jacobs, said they were the forerunners of a much larger group. Three organisations were involved in the land invasion, he said: The Concerned Ex-Residents Association, of which he is secretary, the Voice of District Six and

Roots.

Responding, Mr Anwar Nagia, chairman of the Land Restitution Front and convener of the interim Community Beneficiary Trust, said he wished to "extend an olive branch" to the group, which he feared was being misled by "another force".

After a long facilitation process, the Cape Town City Council and the Western Cape provincial administration agreed last month to withdraw an application to the Land Claims Court to redevelop District Six in the "public interest", and to support, instead, a redevelopment and restitution process shaped by former residents.

The formal withdrawal of the (Section 34 of the Land Restitution Act) application will take place when the Land Claims Court convenes in the District Six Museum tomorrow. Thereafter, a new application under Section 35 of the act will be lodged. This section allows for the creation of a community beneficiary trust.

This was the reason for the party yesterday, "a celebration for the victory of the return of our land", Nagia said.

Jacobs said the Concerned Ex-Residents Association spoke on behalf of about 800 people removed to Lentegeur, specifically, and on behalf of all the other former residents, generally.

He said the land invasion was taking place to protect former tenants, whose interests would be better served by the Section 34 application than by the Section 35 option. A second reason for the occupation was to speed up the

redevelopment of the area, which he believed should be taking place simultaneously with the evolving restitution process.

"We plan to stay here now. Word is out and people will be moving," said Jacobs.

He alleged that the group had attempted to participate in the facilitation process, "but we were denied it". Nagia denied this. He feared that the real reason for their opposing the trust was that they were opposed to black people being included as beneficiaries.

"There seems to be underlying racism. I cannot think of any other reason for them to cry wolf. There is this fallacy that District Six was purely a coloured area.

"Although the provisions of the Land Restitution Act make allowance for people to claim land stolen from them only after 1913, we believe that if we use that date it will only serve to vindicate the robbery of the land. Large numbers of the black community were kicked out between 1901 and 1912," Nagia said.

"I think those people (Jacobs' group) are being misled and there is another agenda behind this group. They were part and parcel of the entire process."

There were about 71 000 people living in District Six when it was declared a white area under the Group Areas Act in 1966.

Residents fought a bitter and protracted fight against their forced removal, but the government ended up expropriating 2 375 properties — about two-thirds of which were owned by white absentee landlords.

054/8/97 (81)



OLIVE BRANCH: Anwar Nagia, chairman of the Land Restitution Front.



OUR LAND: Former resident Hadjie Lewy is one of those behind the occupation of District Six land in opposition to the proposed formation of a trust to guide the redevelopment of the area. **PICTURES: BENNY GOOL**



DOUG PITHEY

Back to their roots: squatting in District Six are, from left, Riaz Isaacs, Shafiek Isaacs, Sedick Jacobs and Suleiman Nordien, all of Lentegour, Mitchell's Plain

Joy as ex-residents win back District 6

ARG 4/8/97

(81) (21)



Street life: a display in the District Six Museum

SHARKEY ISAACS
STAFF REPORTER

Rain failed to put a damper on the spirits of former residents of District Six when they paid tribute to the campaign to win back their right to return to the area.

Nearly 400 people attended the meeting of the District Six Civic Association in the District Six Museum in Buitenkant Street to celebrate the return of the area to its former residents.

Association chairman Anwah Nagia, who was loudly applauded for his part in getting the land returned, said the Land Claims Court would sit tomorrow and give the people the right to drive the development process in District Six.

He was referring to the impending formal withdrawal of the Section 34 application by the Cape Town Municipality and the Provincial Government.

The local authorities, who own the land, will ask the court to withdraw the application, in terms of which the local authorities

could have excluded individual former residents in redevelopment plans.

At a pre-trial conference last month the local authorities and representatives of various District Six community organisations agreed that the Section 34 application be withdrawn. This followed nine months of hard work by facilitators Neville Alexander and Elaine Clarke.

A trust or communal property association will be established which will be registered as a Section 21 company and will monitor the redevelopment of District Six.

Mr Nagia stressed the victory was not merely for the people of District Six but for all people removed from their homes under apartheid group areas legislation.

"It is a milestone in the history of the people of South Africa," he said.

The meeting was held 24 hours after dissident members claiming to be from District Six Development Forum's Voice of District Six and CERT (Concerned Ex-Residents of District Six) staged a protest and erected a shack near the Cape Technikon in Kaizersgracht.

Landmark to be used as courtroom in restitution hearings

STAFF REPORTER

The historic Central Methodist Church, now home to the District Six Museum, will be transformed into a courtroom when the Land Claims Court makes its ruling in the District Six land restitution case tomorrow.

A new representative body charged with co-ordinating the process of restitution and redevelopment of District Six will also be launched.

The current holders of the land, the Cape Town Municipality and the provincial government, will apply to the court to withdraw their Section 34 application that

was a thorn in the side of the majority of the area's former residents and tenants.

In terms of the application, local government could have excluded former residents from their land claim rights.

The court will sit from 9am at the District Six Museum on the corner of Buitenkant and Albertus streets.

NEWS

New tussle over District Six

Development forum challenges successor

ARLT 5/8/97

(81) ~~81~~

97

CITY EDITOR

Fresh controversy surrounds the redevelopment of District Six after the withdrawal of a court action to prevent piecemeal claims on the land.

The latest controversy is over the formation of a new organisation to take the process forward after the Cape Town municipality and province formally withdrew their Section 34 application today.

The application was aimed at preventing piecemeal redevelopment of District Six, but was plunged into controversy when former residents said it affected their individual rights.

The withdrawal of the application came

after facilitation by Neville Alexander and Elaine Clarke, during which it was agreed that a new body should be formed to drive the redevelopment.

But now the District Six Development Forum, under Basil van Rensburg, John Oliver and Gamsa Martin, has questioned the way a new organisation is being set up.

The forum maintains it was established in 1995 as "an all-inclusive stakeholder body" and that it had agreed in principle to dissolve as soon as a new "legitimate, non-discriminatory and representative body is created".

In a statement, the forum said it believed the Land Claims Court hearing opened the way for a "new initiative lead-

ing to a more credible and representative process" and congratulated the facilitators on their work.

But the forum said it could not recognise the ad hoc steering committee elected "without any notification at an unscheduled meeting on July 10". It also said that it could not recognise the draft constitution of the beneficiary trust to which the facilitators referred.

"The narrowing down of beneficiaries to claimants with verifiable claims excludes the majority of ex-residents who have an interest in District Six," the forum said.

The new body was due to be launched at the District Six Museum tonight.

After 30 years, District 6 goes back to the people

ANG 6/8/97

Technikon apologises for moving in

JOSEPH ARANES
STAFF REPORTER

After more than 30 years of being a symbol of apartheid's hated Group Areas Act, District Six has been handed back to its former residents so they can drive its redevelopment.

Yesterday the Land Claims Court, sitting in the historic Central Methodist Church, now home of the District Six Museum, granted the owners of the land – the Cape Town municipality and the provincial government – leave to withdraw their Section 34 application, which could have excluded thousands of victims of forced removal from claiming restitution.

The applicants applied for the ruling last year because they felt it was the best way to ensure the area was developed in a holistic way to benefit all former residents.

Excited former residents, who packed the museum, applauded Land Court Judge-President Fikile Bam's ruling.

For Langa resident Cyril Mandindi, who grew up in District Six and was forcibly removed in 1963, the ruling renewed his hope and faith in the land restitution process.

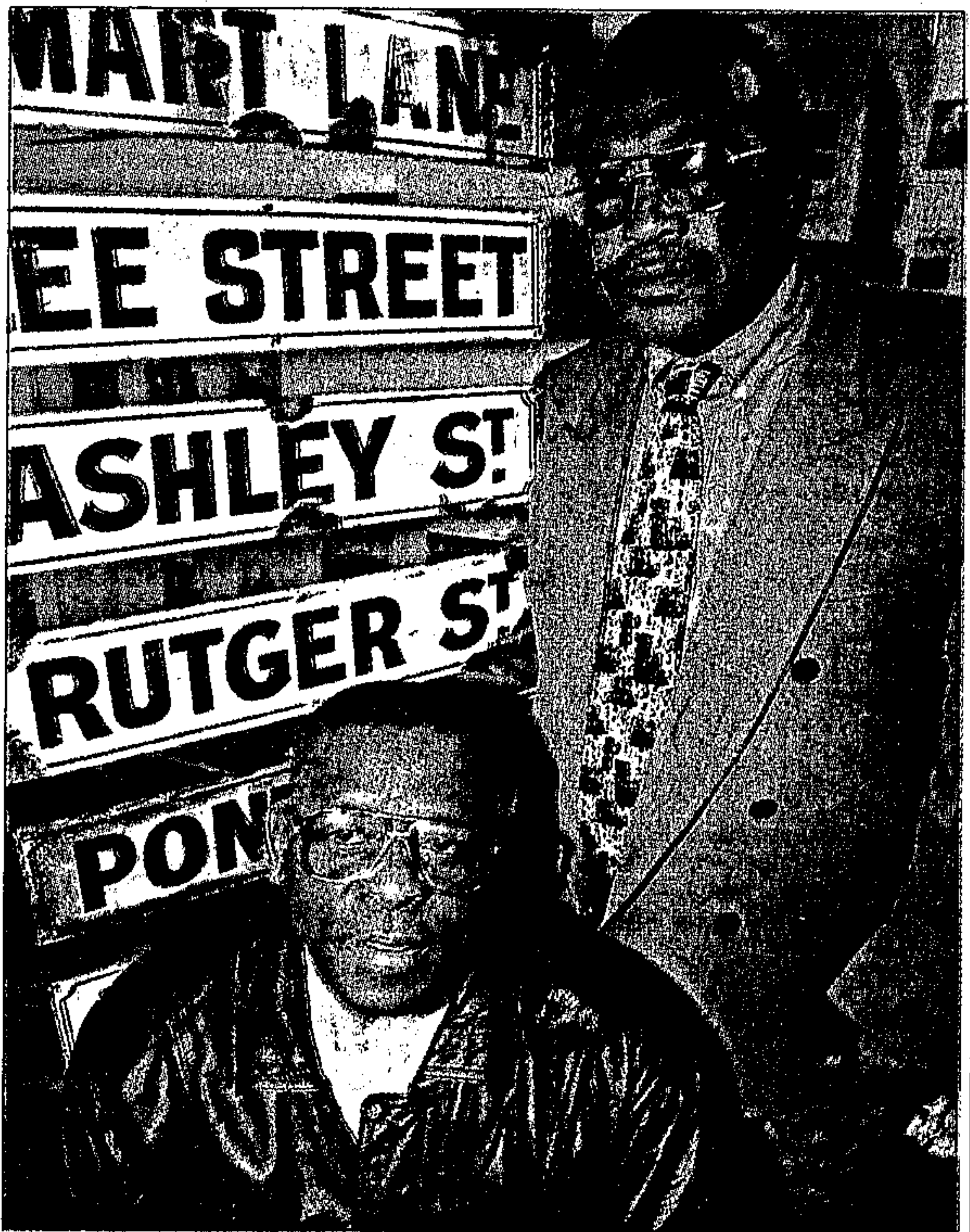
"We were forced out of our homes and dumped like cattle in the middle of nowhere. The apartheid government treated us like dirt but this ruling now makes it possible for us to be compensated.

"The wishes and dreams of people can now be realised," he said.

In recent months most former residents had united under the banner of the District Restitution Front and opposed the Section 34 application. Facilitators were appointed by the land commission office and it was agreed to withdraw the application.

After the formal court session, facilitator Neville Alexander appealed to the various parties to support an eight-person steering committee elected recently to bring the beneficiary community together.

But not all parties are happy with the decision. The area's former Roman Catholic priest, Basil van Rensburg, made a submission on behalf of the District Six Development Forum saying they did not recognise the steering committee and the conflict situation developing could hamper



LEON MÜLLER

Group Areas victims: former District Six tenants Cyril Mandindi and George Makupula at the hearing

the process of attracting the funds necessary for affordable housing.

Much to the surprise of those present, a representative of the Cape Technikon, Jacques van Zyl, stood up and apologised

for the role the technikon had played in the area. He said staff acknowledged the technikon should not have been established in District Six and were "truly sorry" it had moved into the highly sensitive area.

LAND CLAIMS COURT PAVES WAY FOR EX-RESIDENTS TO TAKE OVER

All District Six needs now is plan of action

ET 6 | 8 | 97

(21)

THE NATIONAL and Regional Land Claims Commissioners have urged former District Six residents to bury their differences and forge a spirit of community, **ROGER FRIEDMAN** reports.

THE table has been laid for the redevelopment of District Six; now it's up to former inhabitants to halt their interminable squabbling and come up with a mutually acceptable menu and ingredients.

Sitting in the District Six Museum yesterday, the Land Claims Court ratified the withdrawal of an application by the Cape Town municipality and Western Cape provincial administration to redevelop the land in the public interest. This paves the way for a new body, comprising former residents, to be established to guide the restitution and redevelopment.

The president of the court, Mr Justice Fikile Bam, said afterwards he thought the District Six community would set an example for the rest of the country by demonstrating it was possible to move forward in spite of differences in thinking.

Regional Land Claims Commissioner Mr Wallace Mgoqi emphasised the importance of all stakeholders being "broadminded". He hoped that "the kind of acrimony and hostility that has characterised this claim will now come to an end".

National Land Claims Commissioner Mr Joe Seremane said he did not wish to "mess about with the nuts and bolts and grease and spanners with which you are busy. In other areas one sees fists flying — at least here you are talking."

Seremane said restitution was about rebuilding, not revenge, and should be approached in the spirit of *ubuntu* or *ubuntu*.

"We are compelled to co-operate with each other. Set aside your baggage to free your hands to help someone else," he suggested.

Father Basil van Rensburg, representing the District Six Development Forum, congratulated District Six facilitators Dr Elaine Clarke and Dr Neville Alexander for their contribu-

tion "towards the establishment of an identifiable beneficiary community". The forum comprised about 30 stakeholders, Van Rensburg said.

The facilitators were appointed after the Land Claims Court proceedings de-locked last year when a number of former residents opposed the city council and provincial government's application to redevelop the land in the public interest, but without taking cognisance of individual claimants.

The facilitators have proposed the formation of a community beneficiary trust, with former inhabitants as shareholders, to drive the restitution and redevelopment process. It is envisaged that the trust will work closely with present landowners and the authorities.

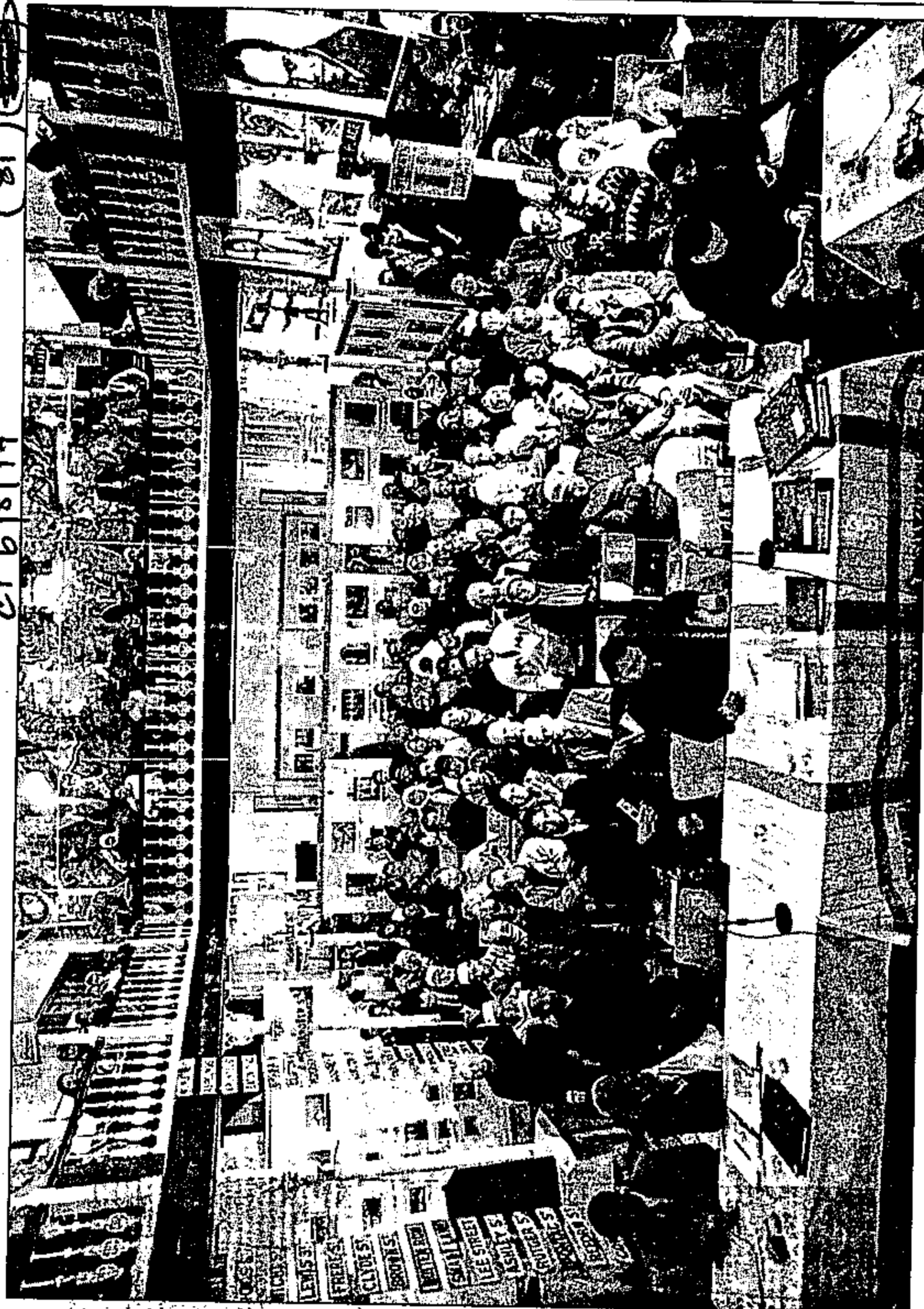
Van Rensburg, however, said several stakeholder organisations believed they could not participate fully in the facilitation process because of its "nature".

"The forum cannot recognise the ad hoc steering committee elected without notification at an unscheduled meeting on July 10," he said. "Nor can we recognise the draft constitution of a beneficiary trust (as there has been) no discussion or debate around such a document and no possibility of playing a part in its formation."

"We call upon the Regional Land Claims Commissioner to call immediately a meeting of all stakeholders to set up a representative process."

The facilitators suggested that any individuals or organisations who felt excluded should make their opinions known urgently to the steering committee. This would accelerate the evolution of a fully-representative executive structure.

"The only concern we should have today is protecting the rights of people who were forcibly removed,



TURNING POINT: Lawyers, former residents and other interested parties filled the District Six Museum for the Land Claims Court hearing yesterday. The court ratified the withdrawal of the Cape Town municipality and Western Cape administration's application to develop the area. **PICTURE: BENNY GOOL**

not the rights of organisations," said steering committee chairman Mr Anwah Nagia, who has campaigned persistently for about 17 years for the restoration of District Six to its rightful owners.

The registrar of the Cape Technikon, Mr Jacques van Zyl, said the technikon acknowledged that it should not have been established in

possible, its resources with the community. The technikon commits itself fully to working with whichever structure this court creates or puts in place."

Former District Six residents have until April to register claims for restitution. Each claim is to be subject to strict verification.

All parties seemed to agree yesterday that the sooner they reached consensus, the sooner redevelopment could get under way. The first item required is an acceptable recipe.

The invasion of District Six, threatened by former residents who are members of three Lentegeur organisations, has not materialised. Only two shacks were built at the weekend.

Fresh hopes of a return to District Six

M+C 8-14/8/97

(81)

Swapna Prabhakaran

Thousands of people evicted from Cape Town's District Six in the apartheid era were given hope of restitution this week — to regain their land or get financial compensation.

Their hope springs from a joint decision by the Western Cape provincial government and the Cape Town city council to withdraw an application made last year for the land.

The application, in the Land Claims Court, sought to challenge the claims of former residents on the grounds of "public interest".

District Six is valuable land within walking distance of Cape Town's central business district. The city council had planned to develop land made vacant by the previous government.

Starting in the 1960s, government bulldozers flattened houses after the suburb was zoned for whites in terms of the Group Area Act. The 35 000 coloured residents were forcibly relocated to townships in the Cape Flats. Much of the suburb remains a wasteland.

Former residents fought against the redevelopment plans prepared by the city council and the Western Cape government. They argued that the Cape Town Community Land Trust, the body set up to implement the plans, was not representative.

Dr Elaine Clarke, one of two facilitators appointed by the Land Claims Court to identify all possible claimants to the land, said this week: "The people who were thinking 'Nothing will ever happen in our lifetime, we will never get anything back while we live', are now thinking 'We know we will get our land'."

Former residents can now claim their original land, other land in the area, financial compensation or land in the area in which they now live.

The Land Claims Court will move swiftly to set up a commission to validate the claims of former residents before the end of the month.

Anwah Nagia, chair of the District Six Land Restitution Fund, said a trust is to be formed for the victims of the forced removals. Building new houses, to enable people to return to their land, will start within six months.

THE BIG STORY

A people's victory in District 6

After 30 years of heartbreak, residents can go home

ARG 11/8/97

(81) (81)

THE RECENT LAND CLAIMS COURT RULING ON DISTRICT SIX MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR FORMER RESIDENTS TO MONITOR REDEVELOPMENT. REPORTER JOSEPH ARANES LOOKS AT WHAT DEVELOPMENT IS PLANNED.

On February 11 1966, the apartheid regime's Community Development Minister PW Botha and Planning Minister Jan Haak announced the government's intention that District Six was to be declared a group area for whites.

In the following months, hundreds of families were forcibly removed, their homes bulldozed and they themselves dumped on the sandy dunes of the underdeveloped Cape Flats townships.

The bustling, cosmopolitan and racially mixed area - a practical embodiment of South Africa's rainbow nation, years before its time - was no more.

In its place were the shattered memories and dreams of people, piles of rubble that once were their homes and the unsightly desolate land on the foothill of Table Mountain became a symbol of the hated Group Areas Act.

From their match-box houses scattered across the ghettos of the Cape Flats, the victims continued the struggle to reclaim District Six.

Finally, last week, they claimed victory when the Land Claims Court ruled that the people should drive the redevelopment process of the area.

The court granted the present holders of the land, the Cape Town Municipality and the Western Cape Provincial Administration, leave to withdraw a Section 34 application, which they had lodged in June 1996 to ensure the area was holistically developed.

Former residents opposed the application, arguing the Section 34 application denied them their individual right to claim back their original properties.

Dozens of excited former residents who attended the court hearing spontaneously applauded Land Court Judge-President Fikile Bam's ruling.

For Langa resident Cyril Mandindi, one of the 1 067 people who had submitted a restitution claim, the ruling renewed his faith in the land restitution process.

"We were forced out of our homes and dumped like cattle in the middle of nowhere. The apartheid government treated us like dirt, but this ruling now makes it possible for us to be compensated.

"The wishes and dreams of people can now be realised, although it remains a pity that the new development will not be able to re-create the vibe and energy that we experienced before the bulldozers," said Mr Mandindi.

But what, exactly, that compensation will be, when it will be dispensed or who will be allowed to re-settle in the new District Six, still has to be agreed upon by all the roleplayers.

Brian Hurwitz, legal officer of the Western and Northern Cape Commission on Land Restitution, said the court ruling paved the way for all former residents to form a legal body to liaise with the local authorities on the redevelopment.

The body would provide a represen-



HANNES THART

Bone of contention: the future of District Six has swung in the balance since its inhabitants were forcibly moved out of the area under the Group Areas Act

tative, democratic and comprehensive framework to give all legitimate claimants the opportunity to obtain legal redress.

Mr Hurwitz said part of their brief would be to agree on the mechanisms, criteria and framework to be used for dealing with the restitution claims.

"Not all of the claimants have indicated that they want to resettle in District Six; some opted for alternative land while others have submitted claims for financial compensation.

"The exact amount of financial compensation has not been decided upon by the Land Affairs Department yet as all claims must be validated and factors, such as how long people stayed in the district, have to be identified and taken into account.

"The court also needs to rule on the issue once consensus has been reached."

With regard to resettling the victims of the Group Areas Act back in District Six, regional land commissioner Wallace Mgoqi is on record as saying he is confident the first batch of claimants and families will move back into the area within a year.

Mr Hurwitz said that in all cases where there was a group claim it was the policy of the commission to encourage claimants to form a restitution committee.

At present, an eight-person steering committee, representing the beneficiary community, has been established to con-

sult with all the claimants and to come up with acceptable proposals on compensation and for the redevelopment of the area.

Committee spokesman and veteran District Six civic campaigner Anwah Nagia said they had argued from the outset that the problems of restitution could not be predominately resolved in a court, as was done under the previous regime.

He said the court ruling empowered the victims to drive the process and they would not allow the Government or the local authorities to seize the initiative from the people.

"We will sit down round a table with the affected people to jointly come up with solutions and this process must take into account people who were forcibly removed from the area as early as 1900."

Hundreds of families, largely African, were removed from the area from 1901 onwards in terms of the then health laws following an outbreak of the bubonic plague.

These people were resettled in N'dabeni.

Mr Nagia said development plans for the area, commissioned by the Cape Town Land Trust last year, might not be technically flawed, but the new body would have to look at the proposals again as they had been put forward without broad consultations taking place with claimants.

"We will canvass the support and ideas of the victims and find out exactly

what their needs are and, if necessary, develop new plans to cater for the needs of the beneficiary community."

He said a separate stakeholders' consultative forum would be established to take into account the concerns of organisations and other interested bodies.

"While we will not let ourselves be trodden on, we will consult the business community and the already emerging new District Six community and be sensitive to their needs.

"But we will not allow them to shape the redevelopment policy.

"They must realise that we are not new neighbours moving into the area, but are the victims of forced removals who were robbed of their land and are moving back home."

The new body also will assist the regional land commission's office in drafting compensation packages for those victims who have applied for compensation and will help with the validation of claims.

Mr Nagia said hundreds of families had not submitted claims because they never believed they ever would be compensated for the hurt and suffering they experienced under apartheid.

People have until the end of April to submit claims to the Commission on Land Restitution Rights, Matrix House, 73 Strand Street, Cape Town.

Mr Nagia said: "There is no reason why construction of the first batch of houses can't start in January and the first families be resettled by early next year.

"People must be hopeful and positive, yet approach the project humbly and not allow other parties to throw a spanner in the works or let bureaucracy delay the process."

'There is no reason why construction of the first houses can't start in January and families be resettled early next year'

Trust established to guide District Six development

Louise Cook

BD 26/8/97
A NEW trust, representing land claimants, was set up earlier this month to guide the future development of Cape Town's District Six, sources said yesterday.

After the withdrawal earlier this month of a court application by the Cape Town city council to ban restoration of land in the area, the new trust would be launched formally in a month's time to oversee development, Interim Beneficiary Trust chairman Anwah Nagia said.

"The new trust represents a major switch away from the past in as far as the process (of development) will now be community driven," Nagia said.

District Six had been the focus of the local and international media for years after the forced removal of thousands of people from the area during the 1960s under Group Areas legislation. In recent years a Cape Town city council housing project had to be stalled to allow land claims from residents to be sorted out.

To date 1 600 claims have been lodged, but Nagia said the launch of the new trust could see the number of claims rise to 5 000 by next year. He said the new trust would speed up development, but sources warned restoration of land would "complicate" progress.

"We are forced to look at medium to high density (housing) if we want people close to the inner city.

"Restoration of land could complicate this severely," Cape Town's city council planner Dave Daniels said.

Provincial land affairs spokesman Terence Fife said another problem was that there was no obligation on claimants to use the new trust — they could insist on operating on their own.

The District Six case was also likely to qualify for a special unit — separately financed by the land affairs department — to probe the validity of claims.

Forgotten folk of Simon's Town

OT 3/11/97 (81) (82)



SIMON'S TOWN lost its soul when the Group Areas Act drove out its fishermen and farmers. Even if they could return, they wonder if they would be welcome. **DIANE CASSERE** reports.

UNFORTUNATELY the old Simon's Town is dead. What is left of it is pure white, as blank as a piece of paper.

This quote, by one Dumps Willis, has pride of place in the Project Phoenix exhibition, marking the 30th anniversary last month of forced removals of coloured and black people from the town, at the Simon's Town Museum.

In 1973, the (Cape) Argus reported in an editorial that Simon's Town was a ghost town, with a curfew of 6pm to 6am for any of the former fishing and farming communities of the town and Red Hill, who had to return to work in the town by day.

Today, members of these communities meet only at funerals and some church occasions, when they talk about the old days. There are tears when they recall being moved from comfortable homes and neighbourhoods to the concrete boxes and sand gardens of Ocean View, then called the despised "Slangkop".

"The only thing you could say about Slangkop, as the area was at first known, was that it had an ocean view, and only from some places. After the people moved there, they renamed it. They hated the Afrikaans name because they felt they were an English community, which Simon's Town was," says Mr Gregory Edwards, 33, who was six years old when his family was moved to Ocean View in 1970.

"When we lived in Simon's Town, we had white, coloured and Muslim neighbours. Suddenly we were enemies."

Edwards, who accompanied the Cape Times to Simon's Town and Ocean View, had lived with his family in a comfortable flat at Waterfall Barracks, where they had running water, a bath and a fitted kitchen.

They were moved to a concrete block of flats at Slangkop, where the pipes were bare against the wall and there were only a toilet, a sink and two rooms for four adults and two children.

Edwards now lives with his mother and father, Gladys and Gabriel Edwards, in Plumstead. They would dearly love to return to Simon's Town and have filed a land restitution claim, but they could not afford to buy property there.

"My grandfather on my father's side was an Englishman who married a coloured woman. When he drowned, she moved back in with her own family. She was a quiet woman and she didn't keep any of the papers to prove that he had owned property at Klein Vishoek."

Mr Albert Thomas, African National Congress chairman for Ocean View, says about 1 300 families from Ocean View desperately need accommodation. Naval buildings stand unused in Simon's Town — why, he asks, can't these be given

Daughters and sons who have made good

SOME well-known members of the Simon's Town community — and where they are now, where this is known:

Vincent Hampton, principal dancer with the Royal School of Dance (London).

Frank Brown, poet, artist and art lecturer (Baltimore, United States).

Peter Clark, poet and author, some of whose work was banned in South Africa (shares his time between Ocean View and the US).

Christopher Kindo, ballet dancer (Sun City/Johannesburg).

Adam Small, poet and author (Cape Town).

Gladys and Albert Thomas, authors (Ocean View).

Adnand Davids, lawyer. Brendan Roberts, trade industry journalist (Hong Kong).

Raymond O'Mally, businessman (Namibia).

Anthony Andrews, former principal of Ocean View Senior Secondary School (Glencairn).

Joan Orgill, formerly a teacher and now at the Simon's Town Magistrate's Court (Ocean View).

HISTORICAL FIGURES

Mr Baker, imam in Simon's Town, who translated the Q'uran into Afrikaans.

Mr Cotton, who apparently single-handedly caught a whale.

Mr Dawood Amlay, first coloured councillor in Simon's Town.

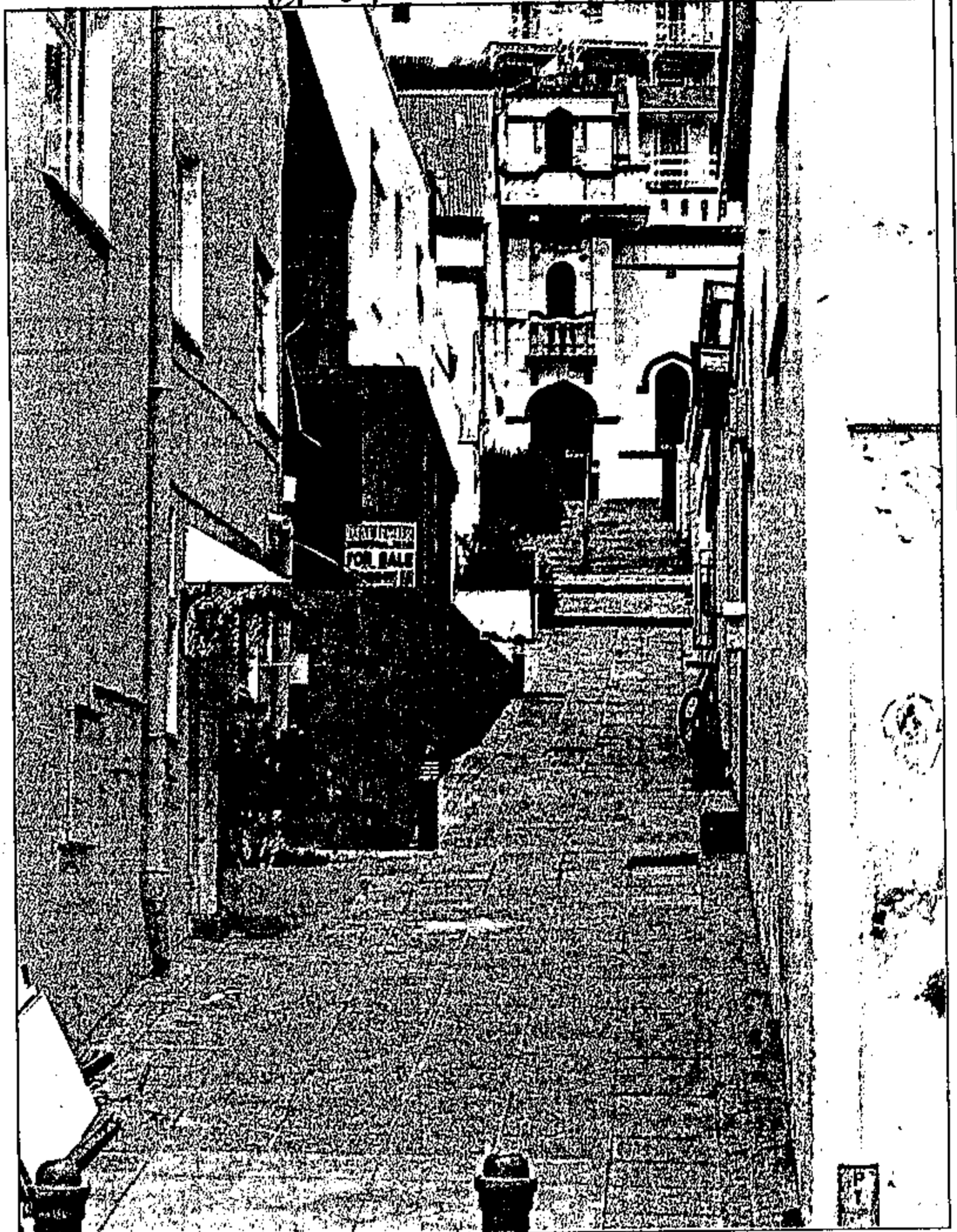
Mr Fakier, Labour Party member for Simon's Town.

back to the community?

The SA Navy's only reply to date to Cape Times queries is to acknowledge that some of its property, such as the Waterfall Barracks, is subject to land restitution claims.

Mrs Patty Davidson who, with Thomas, is a Project Phoenix committee member, has moved back into her family home, the former Villa Zain, now called Amlay House, in Simon's Town.

Although she is happy to be back, she says Simon's Town has changed: "It's not the place we knew — there is no spirit if the community is not there. A lot of the homes are owned by people who come only at weekends or for holidays."



MUSLIM QUARTER: The lanes of Simon's Town were once home to many families. This area, with the mosque in sight at the end of the lane, was part of the Muslim quarter.

Ocean View is a depressing mix of concrete "boxes" and more upmarket homes, with wooden houses and shacks in the backyards. Many homes have a small fishing boat in the back garden or the driveway, but like Mr Gabriel Edwards, who was a fisherman and became a house painter, the residents can no longer ply their trade because they have been removed from the sea.

Instead, what you find in Simon's Town below Jubilee Square, once a town square and now a tourist attraction with its statue of Just Nuisance and tourist curio shops, are crisp yachts owned by the well-heeled. And, of course, the remains of the navy.

Across the road, in what used to be the Criterion Cinema, there is a café and restaurant. Former fish and chip shops and clothing emporiums now hustle pottery and bric-a-brac.

Would they be welcome here, the Simon's Town community continues to ask?

Pictures by **ALAN TAYLOR**



FAIRS AND THE SQUARE: Gregory Edwards remembers Jubilee Square as the informal hub of the town where the circus would pitch its tent. The square is now the heart of "tourist Simon's Town".

(81) (28)

Links with painful past kept alive

ET 311197

DIANE CASSERE

FORCED removals under the Group Areas Act of 1967 caused untold misery — and for some people it is not yet over.

Mr Gabriel Edwards, of Plumstead, returns to Simon's Town every month to his barber, Mr Faiek Karlie. The link with his old home is important and he travels there by train. On his return, he walks to Glencairn, where he boards a train for home.

Seeing the old places and walking by the sea keep him in touch with his community, he says.

Karlie, a barber in Simon's Town for 24 years, travels to his shop every day from Grassy Park. "At first I could-

n't have a business in my own name — I had to have a white man give his name for me."

Many members of the former community perform rituals to keep alive their links with the past. Brothers-in-law Mr Herbie Levendall and Mr Herbie Lawrence visit their derelict homes at Red Hill every weekend.

They walk through the fynbos and reminisce: this was the church that doubled as a schoolroom, here was our house and here the priest lived. Levendall and Lawrence have lodged land restitution claims and dream of the day when they can live again on top of the mountain.

Others find journeys into the past too painful. Mr Andrew Carlson, a

painter-storeman with a city company, lives in Ocean View, to which he was moved in 1969. He is too "heart-sore" to return to his old home.

"I've been back only twice, for the march to commemorate 25 years since the first removals and the 30th anniversary this year at the museum.

"Simon's Town is beautiful, it was a lovely community. I'm in two minds about going back, but will the people accept us? I feel the people who are in charge don't want us to go back. We were like a big family. Then came the removals and one brother was white, the other coloured. It broke up families.

"My children can go back if they want to. It's too late for me, I think."

Uprooted District Six people a step nearer justice

SHARKEY ISAACS

STAFF REPORTER

(81) ~~211~~

AR5-8/12/97

Former District Six residents are a step nearer restitution for being uprooted from their homes under the Group Areas Act after the election of a beneficiary trust. Nearly 1 000 people attended a meeting of the Interim Beneficiary

Trust in the District Six Museum on Saturday.

Land restitution chairman Anwah Nagia said the establishment of a democratically elected beneficiary trust was an important step.

"But while many were uprooted to Hanover Park, Lavender Hill, Mamenberg, Valhalla Park, Belhar and elsewhere, District Six must not be seen

as something special, like a holy cow," he said.

"It must not be forgotten that people from Claremont, Diep River, Constantia, Sophiatown and elsewhere were also uprooted by the same draconian apartheid legislation.

"But today is the day we will give the victims the democratic opportunity to make claim for their homes

they lost."

The deadline for restitution claims is January 31.

Trust officials are Rashida Ridley, Mariam Richards, Yasmin Abrahams, Nadeem Hendricks, Nazier Khalife, Cyril Mandidi, Abduragmaan Parker, Sedick Christians, Terence Fredericks, Stan Abrahams, Princess Makapula, Carel August, Jennifer Price and Anwah Nagia.

GROUP AREAS

- CAPE -

1998 - 1999

District 6 land claim squabble

(81) CT 27/1/98

POLITICAL differences between the government and those driving the District Six restitution and redevelopment process could explain the latest setback to the hopes of former residents, reports **ERIC NTABAZALILA**.

FORMER residents of District Six, who for nearly 30 years have been sustained by their dream of "coming home", were dealt a body-blow yesterday when Minister of Land Affairs Mr Derek Hanekom ordered the land restitution and development process back to the drawing board.

Addressing a meeting of Land Affairs officials, members of the District Six Beneficiaries Trust, the Cape Technikon and other interested parties, Hanekom said the restitution and redevelopment process, which got under way six months ago with the formation of the trust, excluded certain key stakeholders.

He ordered new facilitators to be appointed, who would report directly to him.

Sources close to Hanekom said the minister had no objection to the formation of the trust, but felt the body was deliberately excluding roleplayers such as the Cape Technikon, certain churches in the area, and the owners of apartments from which former residents were evicted. The sources said Hanekom was also concerned that the trust was "not prepared to accept expert advice".

But an "extremely angry" chairperson of the trust, Mr Anwah Nagia, accused Hanekom of "setting back the process by 30 years, and now the dreams of some of the South Africans who were forcibly removed from District Six will never be realised".

Mr Terence Fife, provincial director of the Department of Land Affairs, dismissed these claims and said the minister merely wanted "to re-establish clarity on the whole process".

Said Fife: "There were stakeholders who were left outside the process. As the government, we have to intervene where we feel some of the stakeholders were left outside

and this might create problems later. We can't just leave this process to a group of people who claim to represent everybody."

There were about 71 000 people living in District Six when it was declared a white area under the Group Areas Act in 1966. It is remembered as a place of culture and vibrancy and, through its destruction, became one of the most powerful symbols of the injustice of apartheid.

A lengthy consultative process under the auspices of facilitators Dr Elaine Clarke and Dr Neville Alexander was concluded last July with the formation of the trust — set up to drive, co-ordinate and monitor the restitution and development processes, in consultation with the relevant authorities.

It was trumpeted as restitution and redevelopment "by the people for the people", but yesterday it all seemed to fall apart.

Nagia, who has tirelessly campaigned for more than 20 years for a return of the land to its dispossessed former inhabitants, threatened to ask the Constitutional Court to reverse Hanekom's decree.

"I think Hanekom has undermined the process he had put in place himself. He has been misdirected by his so-called advisers who never went to Guguletu, Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain and other parts of the townships to listen to and address the people who were forcibly removed," Nagia said.

Nagia said the trust would call meetings country-wide to explain to the people how the minister "has terminated a process which was going to fulfil the dreams of thousands of South Africans".

Fife said he believed the meeting was "very positive, as the way forward was discussed". He said the meeting agreed on drafting a record of understanding, clarifying roles and functions of all stakeholders and the need for negotiations to establish an appropriate development and delivery vehicle.

He said about R2,9 million had been allocated for the validation of restitution claims, and that a District Six Validation Unit would be formed.

Fife added that the facilitators, Alexander and Clarke, felt they had played their part in taking the process forward, and that they did not wish to continue with it.

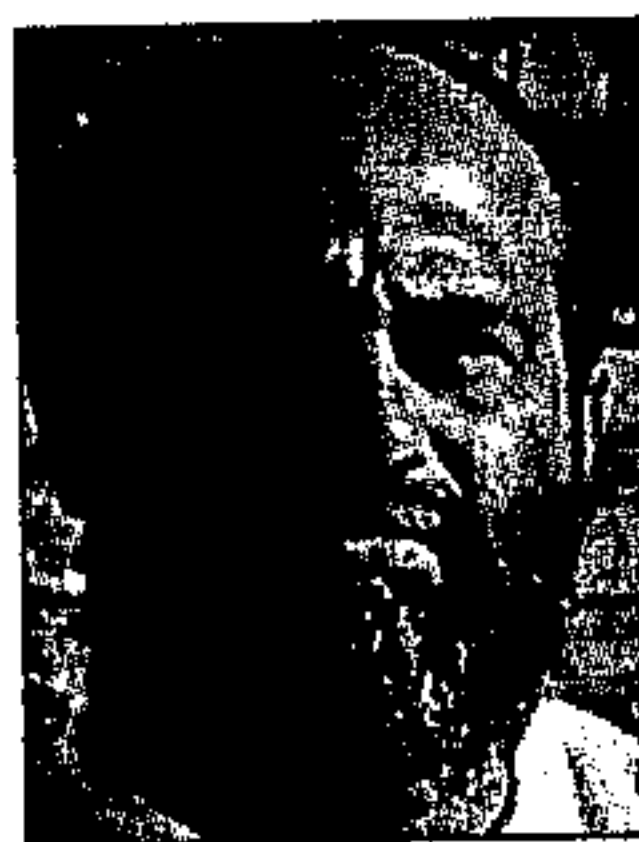
But Clarke dismissed the claim that they wanted to recuse themselves from the process as "nonsense".

"We never said we did not want to continue with this process. We felt that if the minister was to elect new facilitators, we were not going to be part of that. We would not stop the process of facilitation because a few individuals did not feel like taking part in the process. The people who elected us showed their approval by attending the launch of the trust.

"It is because the final results of this process, and the reports we have made, are not approved in certain quarters that Hanekom has decided to take control of this facilitation process.

"We feel he is undermining the work we have done for the people of District Six. We were under the impression that the people who would tell us to stop the process were those who were forcibly removed from District Six. But it is not so.

"Why didn't the minister come from the onset and said he was going to take control of the process? Why is he coming out now?" she asked.



EXTREMELY ANGRY:
Anwah Nagia

Hanekom in new war of words over District 6 land claim

Trust storms out of meeting

JOSEPH ARANES
STAFF REPORTER

81
 District Six, for 30 years a ghastly reminder of apartheid's Group Areas Act, is again at the centre of a row - this time over its development.

The area has been the subject of a land claim dispute with hundreds of former residents challenging the Cape Town Municipality and the provincial government over an acceptable process to restore their lost properties.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom will appoint two new facilitators to bring together the various stake-holders to map out a plan for redevelopment.

However, the District Six Beneficiary Trust, established in December under the chairmanship of Anwah Nagia, stormed out of a meeting at Parliament yesterday, saying Mr Hanekom's proposal was setting back the process.

Mr Nagia accused Mr Hanekom of

turning the issue into a political football months before the elections.

Last year two independent facilitators, Neville Alexander and Elaine Clarke, were appointed to mediate between local government structures, former residents and other interested parties.

Their efforts resulted in the Land Claims Court accepting a motion by the local authorities to establish the Beneficiary Trust and to withdraw an application which would have made it impossible for the former residents to submit individual claims.

But the process failed to gain momentum as some parties would not accept the *bona fides* of the trust, prompting Mr Hanekom's personal involvement.

Mr Hanekom said: "It is obvious that some people felt excluded and frustrated at the unfolding process and we need to accommodate them in an all-inclusive process.

"While it is unfortunate that some people walked out of the meeting, they must realise that they can't

decide on their own what is best for the area as there is more than one organisation representing the interests of the former tenants and residents of District Six.

"We hope they come back on board."

Mr Nagia said a few liberals and the minister's advisers were to blame for the latest developments.

"Some of these people, council officials, a few businessmen and residents of the new Bloemhof Flats are not happy with the recent Land Claims Court ruling, which empowered the former residents to drive the process," he said.

"They want to be in control of the process, but we will go back to the court and ask it to set the land aside for the trust and the real owners of the land - those who were forcibly removed from their homes."

Mr Alexander warned that if the views of the trust and the court ruling were not taken into account the process would have to be started from scratch.

Politicians in District 6 wrangle

ST(CM) 1/2/98

(271) (81)

CHARL DE VILLIERS

LAND Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom and Cape Town's leading left-wing politicians are at loggerheads over how decisions should be taken about the future of District Six.

Hanekom this week unleashed a storm of protest when he announced that he would be appointing new facilitators to decide how to rebuild the area.

This has outraged the District Six Beneficiary Trust, which has accused Hanekom of "firing" two prominent Capetonians — who pioneered a landmark agreement on District Six — because the government wants to control all development projects itself.

The two fired facilitators are Dr Neville Alexander and Dr Elaine Clarke.

But Hanekom said key players in the District Six process had complained of being marginalised by the trust, which was set up to facilitate a restitution and redevelopment process. This has been denied by the trust and Clarke, who have instead accused Hanekom of being misinformed and out of touch.

Hanekom said: "At my meeting with stakeholders on Monday virtually everyone stood up and expressed dissatisfaction with the current process, and everyone welcomed my intervention — except for the chairperson of the District Six Beneficiary Trust, Mr Anwah Nagia."

The aggrieved parties included the Cape Town municipality, Cape Technikon, churches and the Voice of District Six which represents some claimants forcibly removed to the Cape Flats about 30 years ago, he said on Friday.

"Whatever decisions are taken about the future of District Six, this will have to involve the biggest possible range of stakeholders. Former residents would obviously be central to this.

"It's absurd, however, to continue the planning process without the endorsement of the city council.

"Our intention is not to undermine the trust, but to recognise and build on the work that it has done. But we now have a less than perfect situation, and the next step is to get a memorandum of agreement signed," he said.

To this end he had decided to appoint two facilitators who would be accountable to himself.

They would help stakeholders work out an appropriate method for redeveloping District Six, agree on principles, look at the responsibilities of the state, and identify resources.

But according to Nagia, Hanekom was using "small groupings of spoilers" and individuals in local and provincial government as "a naive smokescreen" to mask the government's intentions.

"This is political interference at the highest level. Victory is being snatched from working-class people who want to return to District Six. It seems the government is having a rethink on urban restitution," he said.

The trust would not meet Hanekom until he had "unconditionally apologised" to Alexander and Clarke for "questioning their integrity".

Nagia said Hanekom seemed to be equating the victims of the Group Areas Act with businesses, the Cape Technikon and the city council.

Clarke said she had a "terrible message" for people pinning their hopes on returning to District Six. "Hanekom says business has the same status as them and they'll have to stand in line."

'I did not hijack District Six' - Hanekom

Land Affairs Minister left us in the dark, say former residents

GLYNNIS UNDERHILL

SPECIAL WRITER

Minister of Land Affairs Derek Hanekom has dismissed claims by former District Six residents that he "hijacked" the land restitution process for political gain.

Members of the District Six Beneficiary Trust say redevelopment plans for District Six have come to a standstill because of Mr Hanekom's intervention last week.

"My intervention has nothing to do with politics - even the National Party Provincial Government has expressed support for my intervention - and I strongly believe that it is very important that restitution is not politicised," said Mr Hanekom.

Eighteen organisations, representing thousands of former residents, maintain they have been left in the dark. Mr Hanekom announced he would appoint new facilitators, yet they said no further negotiations had taken place. A constitutional court battle over the issue was on the cards, said former residents.

Mr Hanekom said attempts were being made to set up new discussions to clear up misconceptions.

"The need for the appointment of new facilitators, who would have facilitated the creation of a record of understanding, will be discussed in this process," he said.

Mr Hanekom said he had ultimate responsibility for restitution as Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs.

"I would not have interfered if there had not been a real problem. Besides which, my intervention was requested by a variety of people."

The claimants and their organisations were absolutely central to the process of restitution in District Six.

"If the District Six restitution and redevelopment is going to succeed, we must include everyone. Of course, the claimants must take centre stage



DOUG PRINCE

Questions: eighteen District Six organisations want to know why Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom has left them in the dark. Former District Six residents, from left, Cyril Mandini, George Makupula, Terence Fredericks and Rashida Ridley are seeking answers

but we cannot dismiss the views of residents and duly-elected representatives in the council and province."

But Cape Town city council executive committee deputy-chairman Saleem Mowzer said the council had not opposed the process or requested new facilitators. "Our status was one of an observer and we did need full participation. The city council is the legal owner of some of the land and we are holding the land in trust."

"It needs to be a process where all roleplayers are involved."

Mr Mowzer said he believed Mr Hanekom's intervention was a result of the Government's belief that nothing much had happened in the way of progress on District Six.

Abdul Gaffoor Ebrahim is one of

the former residents angered by Mr Hanekom's "interference".

"Why ignore the community? The minister must have a hidden agenda. Maybe he wants to put in place facilitators who will steamroll the District Six process in his favour. Why is he interfering now?" he asked.

Mr Ebrahim's father, a general dealer who owned a shop in Windsor Street, did not live to see District Six rise from the rubble. Today broken glass and litter cover the five plots of land once owned by his family.

While Mr Ebrahim once cherished a dream of moving his family from Rylands back to District Six, he has come to accept that this will probably not happen.

As a result of negotiations over the past year, he now believes alternative land or financial compensation in cases like his would benefit most people. Alternatively he would like participation in shareholdings in the redevelopment of district six.

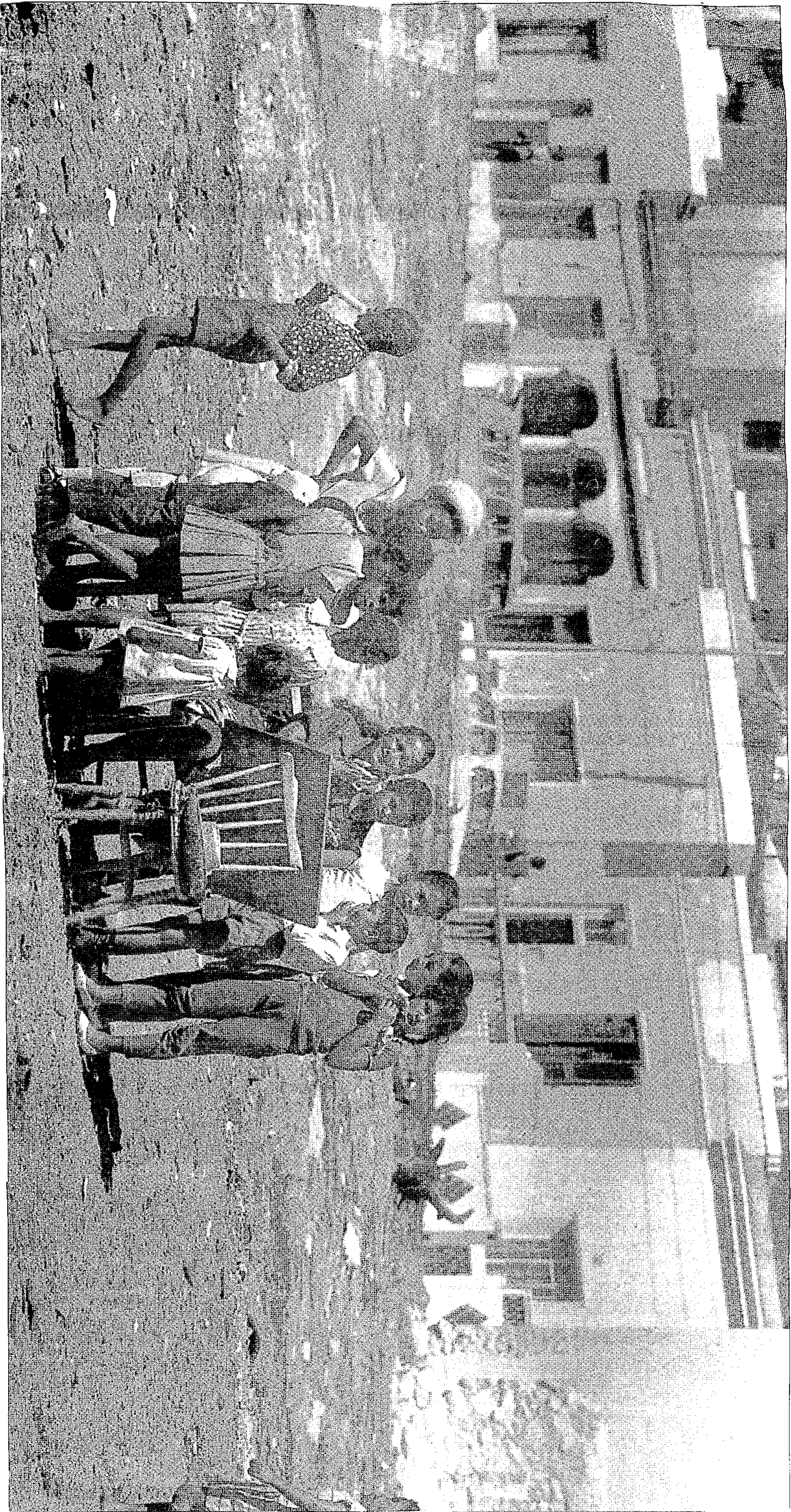
Having won a battle against the Cape Town council and the provincial government to have land in District Six set aside for an integrated redevelopment project, claimants say the process has been derailed again.

An angry Anwah Nagia, chairman of the District Six Beneficiary Trust, said Mr Hanekom had hijacked the process and his role was divisive.

Former property owners who had been convinced of the merits of an integrated project may now abandon the process. This would leave the way open for claims in the Land Claims Court, he said.

"There is no genuine will on the part of Government for urban restitution," he said.

Mr Hanekom said urban restitution was difficult. "My involvement in this case is a genuine attempt to find solutions that will be beneficial to former residents and at the same time to the city of Cape Town."



Familiar sight: artist Sandra McGregor surrounded by curious children was a regular visitor to District Six

District Six pictures tell 1000 stories

ANDREA WESS

JACQUE HEYNS

A popular columnist in the now defunct Golden City Post, Auntie Sammy, could not read or write, but she was given voice by journalist Jackie Heyns who put her words in print, and people hung on her every word.

Her ribald views embodied the spirit of Cape Town's District Six, a place where no one batted an eyelid at a Jewish butcher selling pork chops in a predominantly Muslim suburb, where priest and prostitute lived side-by-side.

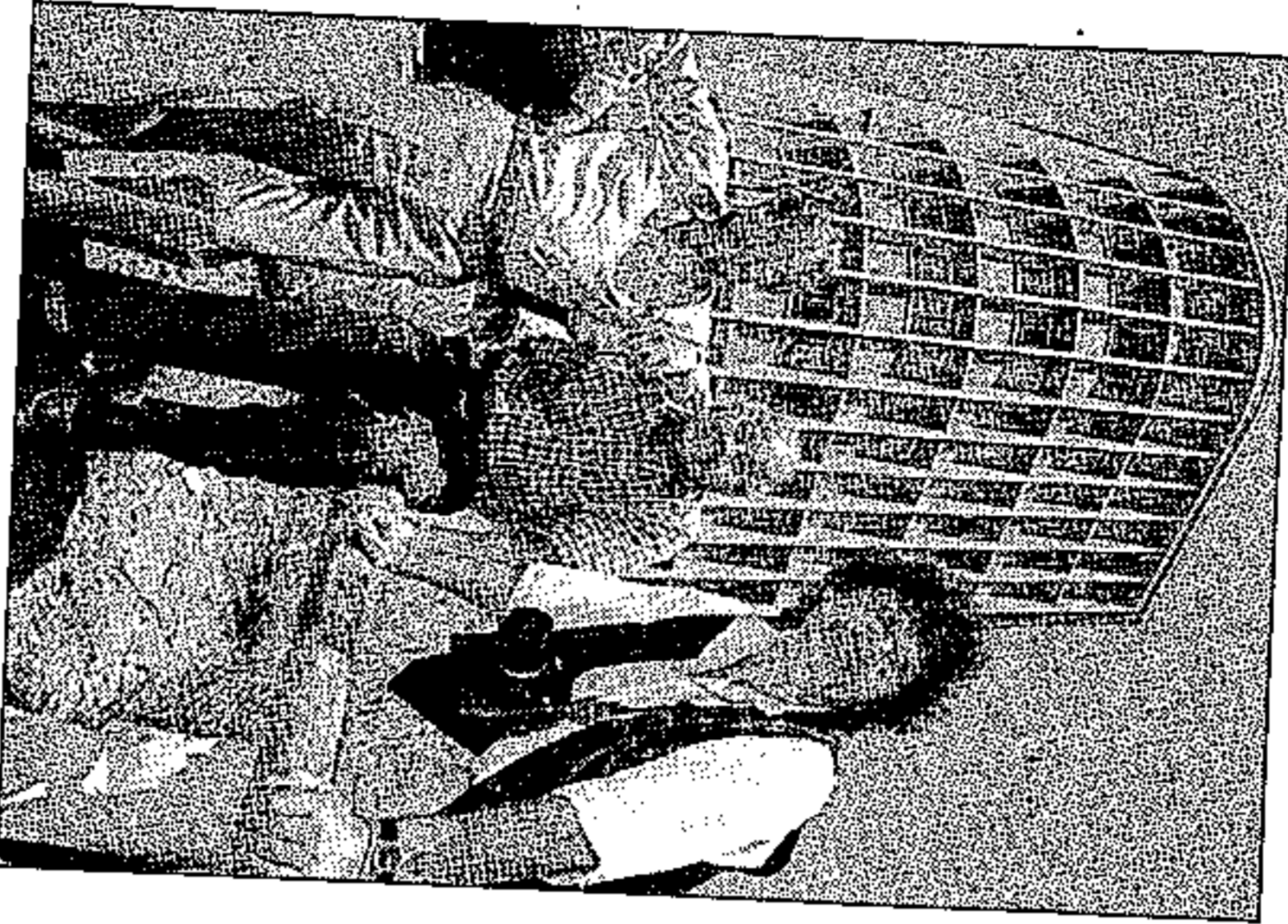
Auntie Sammy once emulated Lady Godiva, opting for a bathing suit and a donkey, in a ride through the now-bulldozed suburb.

Another time, she was the star turn in a boxing match which only really took off once she was out of the ring and she laid into her challenger with bare fists, watched by an eager circle of sailors.

When Auntie Sammy died, nobody believed that she had passed on and people gathered at the cemetery to see what her next trick would be. But, this time, there was no punch line, and her bones now rest along with the memory of Cape Town's deepest scar, District Six.

Unlike the blighted suburb, her old house still stands on the fringes of the wasteland which has become the subject of bitter dispute over how it should be redeveloped.

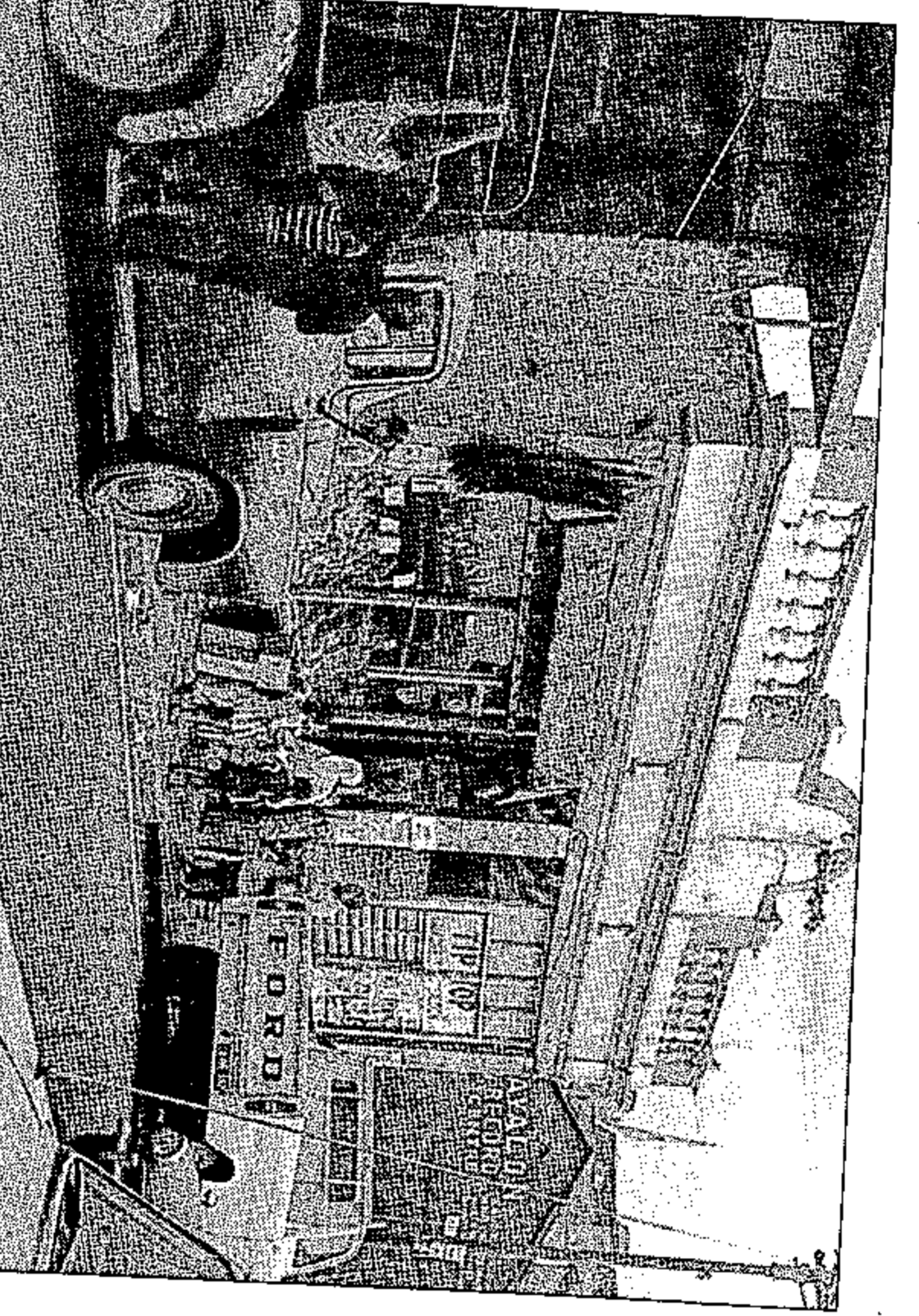
Her memory was conjured up by Heyns, a former journalist with Drum magazine and the Golden City



Memories: photographers Jackie Heyns, left, Clarence Coulson and George Hallett

Post, who met photographers George Hallett and Clarence Coulson this week at a St George's mall coffee shop for a walk down memory lane.

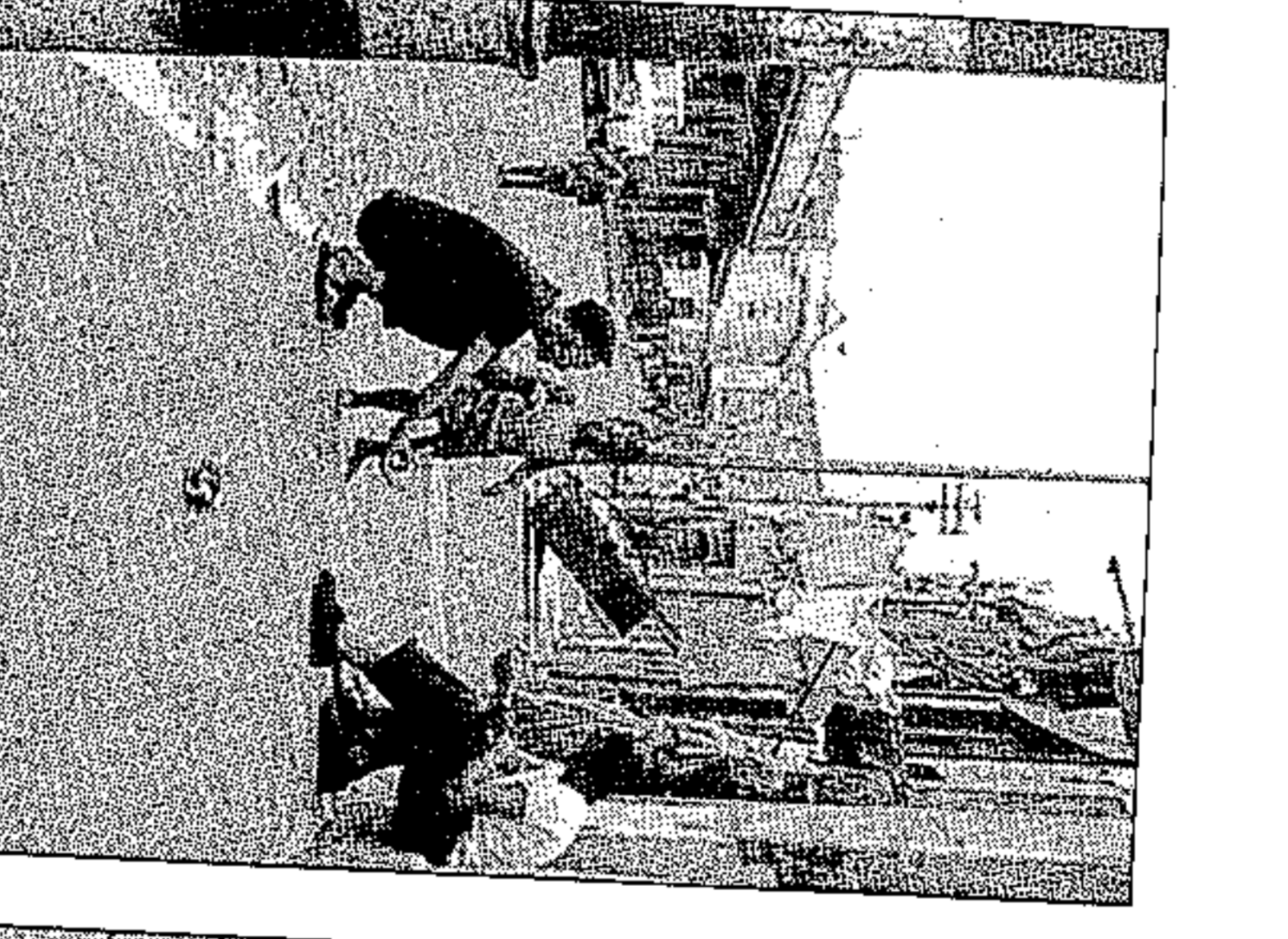
Their photographs are on exhibition at the District Six Museum in an exhibition entitled *District Six Revisited*, also featuring works of Wilfred Pause and Gavin Janjies. It's the first time the five, who lived and worked in District Six, are exhibiting together and the occasion calls for huge doses of nostalgia. Two of the group are missing because Janjies lives in London,



Hanover Street: children hang on to a truck outside a grocery store in Hanover Street, once the hub of District Six

lecturing at the Chelsea School of Art and Design, and Pause is down-and-out in Brazil, desperate to come home, but without the means to do so.

Heyns admits that after the funeral he did write a few more columns in which Auntie Sammy said she was prepared to write from heaven, complaining about the lack of drink in her new, cloudy home. He gives voice to the memory of how he found District Six when he arrived from Johannesburg to work for Drum in 1959. "Oh, it was wonderful," he



Street culture: two friends share a drink and a chat in Longmarket Street

enthusias. "It was full of people, full of life. The coons really ruled. At Christmas time they just took over. There were churches, thieves, brothels, all next to each other."

Hanover Street was abuzz on a Saturday morning, with kids catching rides on the buses going up and down the street. The "professional ladies" would be hanging over balconies, shouting bargain prices for the morning, and every now and then the cops would run by chasing a thief, while "hawk-ers galore" sold all kinds of things. He remembers a local restaurant



Local meeting place: two men chat outside the entrance to the Westminster Restaurant in Hanover Street

Coulson is the quiet member of this trio. He owns a chemical firm today, but cherishes his photographs and the memory of what made them.

He and Hallett's photographic documentary of District Six was initiated through Abdul Karim's Palm Tree Studios in Hanover Street. In those days, the practice was to send photographers out to take "street pictures", charging customers 40c a piece. For 27 years, Hallett was the guardian of the negatives of these photographs toting them all over

Europe. "Memory is a weapon, against forgetting," he says. Of the present controversy about the District Six land, Heyns says: "Wouldn't it be 'nice' if we could all go back to District Six. How the hell can you! It's gone."

But then the conversation meanders on to the subject of a gay netball league which had its origin in District Six and Heyns writes a quick headline in the air: "Men who put their balls in a net."

We all laugh uproariously, and, for a moment, the spirit of District Six is tangible.

ARG 7/8/98

Land claims threaten privatisation process

Robyn Chalmers
and René Grawitzky

A BID to halt the privatisation of Aventura and SA's first aboriginal land claim, at Alexkor, threaten government's privatisation process.

The Legal Resources Centre applied last week for an interdict to halt Aventura's 100% privatisation on behalf of chiefs with claims on land held by the holiday resort company. The Land Claims Commission is also finalising papers to interdict the process.

At the same time, the Richtersveld community in the Northern Cape has lodged both a land claim and an aboriginal rights claim — effectively an indigenous property rights claim — with government and management of diamond mine Alexkor.

Claims have already been lodged on Aventura's Blydepoort, Swadini, Badplaas and Tshipise resorts by the Mashilane, Moletete, Embhuleni and Manenzhe tribes respectively.

Public enterprises ministry adviser Kennedy Memani said at the weekend the sale of Aventura would be subject to the resolution of the land claims.

Memani said government would help attempt to sort out the claims, but the five short-listed consortiums bid-

ding for Aventura had been called on to play a part. "We will look at the ability of the candidates to work out a plan with the communities ... but we will also consider their proposals to foster growth and create value at Aventura."

The five bidders are: Kopano ke Matla (Cosatu's investment trust); Phalafala Leisure Consortium; Sanco Consortium; Boiketlong Investment Consortium; and Shomang Investment Holdings. They will meet the land claimants and other communities on Aventura's 15 resorts from this week as part of a due diligence exercise.

Sanco's bid co-ordinator Natie Engelbrecht welcomed government's move to involve bidders in resolving land claims, saying Sanco had close ties with communities on affected resorts.

However, sources close to the process said government was downplaying the land claims issue. Some questioned the ethics of bidders individually approaching claimants, saying there would be no transparency in this process. "Claimants often lack skills to deal with fairly sophisticated parties with the land claims," said one source.

Land claims commissioner Durkje Gilfillan said the interdict could have been averted if government had allowed claimants to be more involved in

the process, including having a say in finalising the short list. She said government had been urged to involve the claimants on numerous occasions to avoid holding up the process, as they were potential owners of the land.

Government and Alexkor management also face a land and aboriginal rights claim from the Richtersveld community.

The reserves of the mine in the Northern Cape are depleting rapidly as no further exploration has been undertaken to extend the life of the mine.

Public enterprises ministry spokesman Wandile Zote said government did not foresee problems with the land claim as it did not fall under the period of review. The cut-off period for land claims in terms of the Restitution Act was 1913.

However, in terms of an aboriginal rights claim — the first such claim in SA — the community has to prove that it had title to the land since time immemorial. The affected community will not have to go through restitution if it can prove it never lost the ownership rights to the land.

A source said this claim need not end up in court if the privatisation process ultimately took into account the needs of the local community.

BD 9/2/98

(81) (81)

District Six remembers

SHARKEY ISAACS
STAFF REPORTER

(81)
ART 12/2/98

The displacement of residents of District Six under the Group Areas Act was recalled at a candlelight vigil last night.

The vigil in District Six Museum was launched by its chairman Terence Fredericks after opening prayers were delivered by former residents Mogamat Burnes and Stan Abrahams.

The vigil was followed by a candlelit march through the area by about 150 people.

Chairman of the District Six Civic Association Anwah Nagia said the

vigil was held on the 32nd anniversary of the government notice that the area was to be cleared.

The vigil was a grim reminder that people of District Six and their offspring would never forget that day.

"People in the future will judge us and reflect on our uphill fight to save the area and then to gain restitution after they stole our homes and our land with apartheid legislation," he said.

When the Group Areas axe fell, Mr Nagia was living in Hyde Street with his parents Washeela and Ebrahim Nagia, and brothers and sisters.

"But the spirit of the people never died," he said.



REMEMBRANCE: Former District Six residents hold a vigil to remember the harsh times they went through when they were evicted 32 years ago.

PICTURE: THEMBINKOSI DWAYIS.

Day recalled when bulldozers came to District Six

CT 12/2/98

(81) (27)

PRISCILLA SINGH

MR OLWYN PETERS spoke poignantly about the good old days in District Six, before the Group Areas Act ripped people from their roots and heritage, of the days when people of all cultures and races lived side by side in harmony and peace.

"Everybody was hit by the horrendous Group Areas Act. We can forgive, but it has broken up families and District Six will never be the same again," Peters said.

He was addressing a small gathering at St Mark's Anglican

Church, one of the oldest standing and untouched landmarks in District Six, to commemorate the 32nd anniversary of when thousands of families had to face resettlement in sub-economic housing on the sandy wastes of the Cape Flats.

After a brief ceremony, the group gathered at what used to be the Seven Steps, now the Hanover monument, for a candlelight vigil.

Peters said he remembered vividly the day the bulldozers started demolishing houses to make way for developments the National Party had in mind.

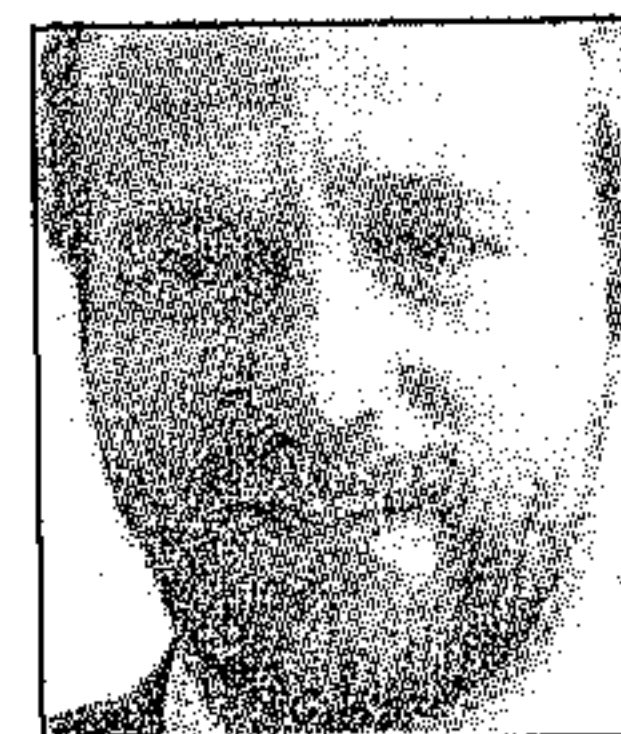
"We were standing around watching the destruction around us and then this bulldozer just rammed into a friend's house. We quickly called him at his workplace and told him there was a bulldozer in his dining-room.

"He arrived and we all helped to get his furniture out. He did not have anywhere to go, but had to get his family and things out. Such were the humiliations we had

to suffer," he recalled.

Since efforts were set in motion to give the land back to its rightful owners, the District Six restitution process has been fraught with problems.

The latest setback this year saw Land Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom ordering the restitution and development process back to the drawing board because it



HALT: Hanekom

"excluded key stakeholders".

The Cape Technikon has been

at the brunt of the anger from District Six residents because the campus was built on a site where thousands once lived.

Several thousand District Six families have lodged claims with the Western Cape Land Restitution Commission and what remains of the District Six land has been earmarked for a housing development of about 7 000.

"We don't want them (government) to build supermarkets and shops in District Six because we can shop in town, but we need houses to bring back the community spirit," Peters said.

NP chief sees lesson in history

District 6: 'Never again', says Van Schalkwyk

ARG 25/2/98

MICHAEL MORRIS

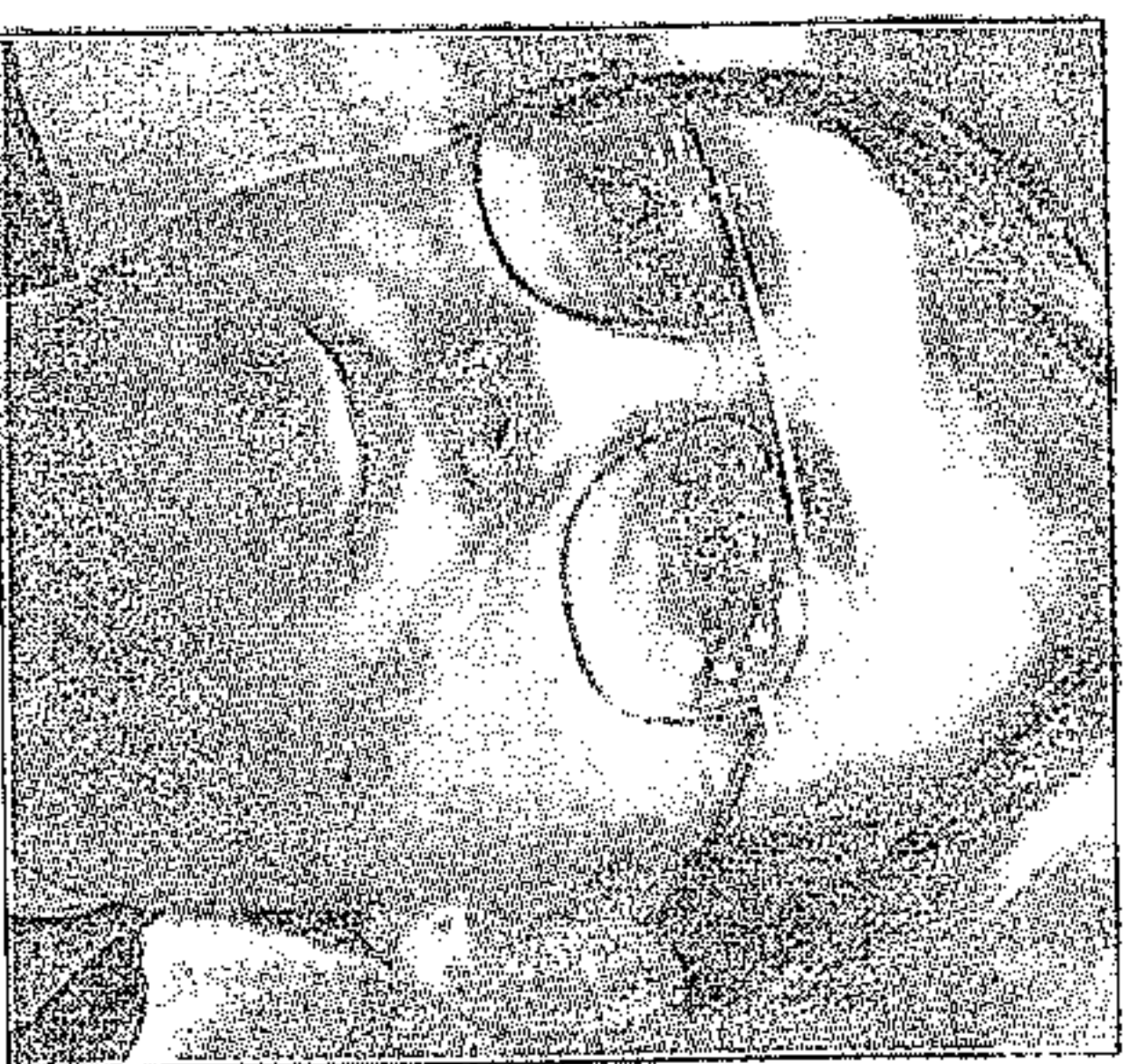
SPECIAL WRITER

For a moment, with a finger thoughtfully crossing his lips, Martinus van Schalkwyk seemed a reluctant conqueror of sorts.

With one polished shoe on Sir Lowry Road, the other on Francis – and then, as he shifted his weight, Selkirk – Street, on the huge annotated map spread under plastic across the floor of the District Six Museum, there was something hesitant about the National Party leader as he listened to museum educationist Noor Ebrahim recounting the infamy it represented.

Every street, every alley, every building of the bulldozed district is recorded here, and in every block, lines of smaller, misshapen script record who lived where and when.

This living memorial has offered former residents the opportunity to get down on their knees and write their names into the houses and tenements in which they once lived. Many have done so, and there is something unnerving about walking across this map,



Martinus van Schalkwyk: learning lessons

because it seems sacred.

One sensed the young Leader of the Opposition was faintly uneasy about it on his visit on Monday. Sceptics would insist he should be queasy, since it was the racial decrees of the old National Party that led to District Six's razing.

But the sobering political reality is that many of the people forced out in the

late 1960s are followers of Mr Van Schalkwyk's party. And his visit – the first official one by a white MP, museum staff said – had, as its theme, a very new South African sentiment: heeding the lessons of the past.

Mr Van Schalkwyk was five when District Six was given its death sentence, the declaration that turned it into a white group area.

Now, at 37 – no doubt with an eye on refreshing his party's image ahead of next year's election, but also asserting a fundamental political morality – he has set out on a "tour" of landmark sites of the past (others are the Boer War Women's Monument in Bloemfontein, and Robben Island), to express something of his vision for a future free of the racism that defined his predecessors' politics.

He and his wife, Suzette, and two senior NP MPs, Cobus Dowy and Abe Williams, spent time with Mr Ebrahim and museum facilitator and historian Linda Fortune, familiarising themselves with the landmark that District Six unquestionably is.

They studied the photographs of a community that was teeming and

imperfect: the poignant ranks of old, enamel street names; a hefty chunk of the legendary Seven Steps and other mementoes.

The idea, Mr Ebrahim told the visitors, was to "keep the memory alive".

"There is no hate," he said. "And we are not living in the past. We forgive the government for what it did, but we want to keep the memory alive."

When his turn came to record his visit on one of many muslim scrolls draped there for the purpose, Mr Van Schalkwyk summarised his purpose: "Aangrypend! Distrik Ses moet nooit weer gebeur nie." (Touching! District Six must never happen again)

Earlier, he told the museum staff, a handful of journalists and some intrigued foreign visitors that he was visiting some of South Africa's landmark sites because it was "important to know your history, and, especially, to understand the lessons of history".

"The lesson for me," he said, "where we see a lot of new racism or reverse racism in South Africa, is that racism can never be good, and will always end in things like District Six."

Squatter shacks torn down

BABALWA SHOTA

ST(CM) 10/5/98

TYGERBERG municipal workers and police moved in on the latest squatter camp in Khayelitsha and tore down two shacks this week as tensions mounted.

The action came after more than six months of peace at the Lindelani settlement. Joseph Mala, a member of the local street committee, said people were scared and confused by the council's actions.

"We thought the council had no problem with us staying here. In January we wrote them a letter asking to stay here legally. We have not had any reply yet, but we know they are aware of us because they come to collect the rubbish," said Mala.

The settlement has come under fire from other local people, particularly train commuters, as it is situated next to Nonkqubela train station and the Sanlam shopping centre in Site B.

As a result the residents of Lindelani have to put up with daily abuse from commuters forced to dodge between the concentration of shacks and washing lines to catch their trains.

Mala said his small community had done all it could to make it easier for the commuters.

"We have left a path where these peo-

ple can run for their trains, but they still swear at us when they pass. They tell us to move, that we are making the place dirty. But we will not be forced out by the people of Khayelitsha. This is the only home we have," said Mala.

About 250 people lived in the area, but they had no running water or sewerage, said Mala. They relied on facilities at the nearby shopping centre, clinic and the Site B township.

However, people at Site B complained that their taps and sewerage were "being ruined" by the Lindelani folk.

Bongani Mtyhobile, who also lives in the settlement, said the clinic personnel chased them away whenever they went to the toilets there. He said the station's toilets closed early so people were forced to go to the clinic and Site B.

Mala said the residents desperately needed their own facilities and were worried about children crossing the railway line to fetch water.

At one stage they had negotiated with a council representative on getting bucket toilets, he said.

"But now it seems the council has changed its mind about letting us stay here. We are waiting to see what is going to happen," said Mala. "We did not choose to be here. All of us were living in other people's properties and being mistreated. Even though the houses got flooded, it's still home."

Thomas JOHNSON, chairman of a community task group, said the court case was closed for a trial on charges of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Morkel rejects

GERALD Morkel, premier of the Western Cape, has rejected a proposal to sub-divide land for residential development at Zondolweni, he said on Friday.

His decision to refuse to grant a permit means the area will remain near the Silvermine River as a Protected Natural Area, he said.

Pedal power

THE race against crime in the Tygerberg area this week has been proposed to buy bicycles.

According to a council spokesman, 14 "Gary Fisher" bicycles are expected to be adopted for the local police.

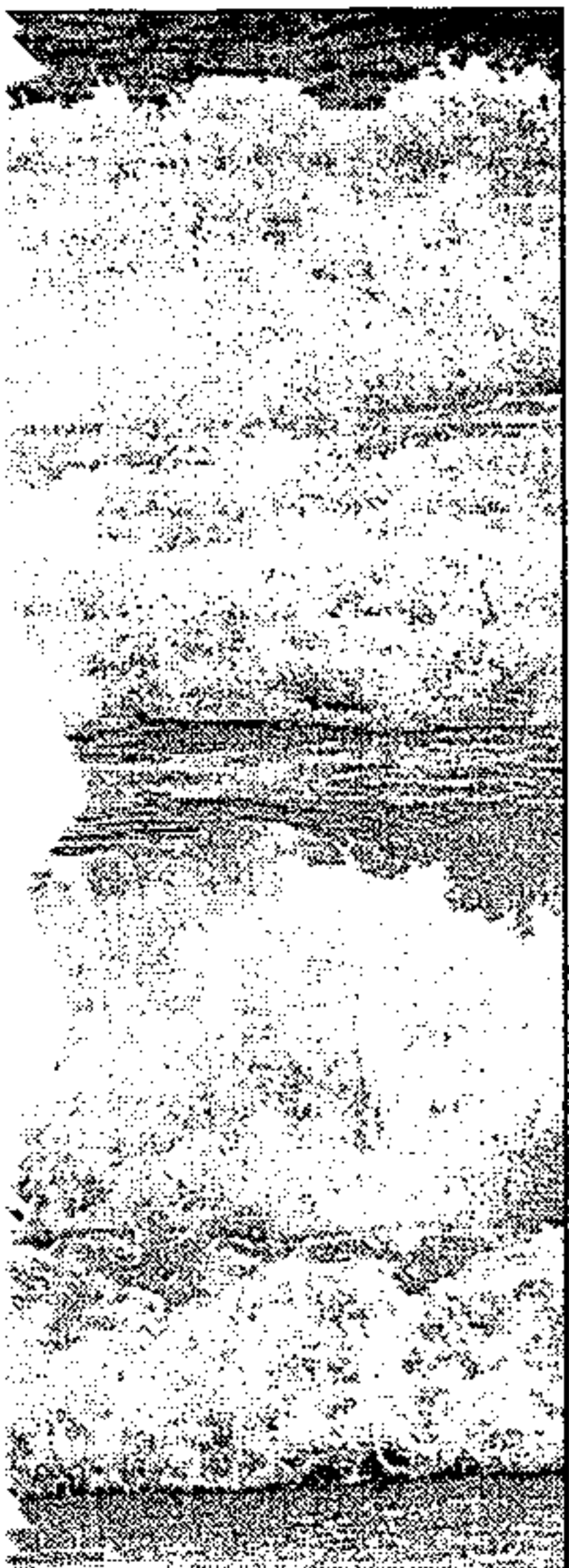
A police spokesman said the bicycles will be used for police foot patrols in emergency areas.

Robben Island

FOUR crew members of the Challenger were plucked from the sea after their boat ran aground yesterday morning.

They had been trying to salvage a Japanese trawler, the Kian, which ran aground on April 30.

All reports by Cape Met



merciless weather when
Island to Bloubergstrand.
Picture: TERRY SHEAN

It's never too late to own a piece of District Six

YVETTE VAN BREDA

A HISTORIC banking deal has made 93-year-old Amalia Kamphor a proud first-time home owner this weekend when she took possession of the District Six terraced cottage where she has lived for 61 years.

Kamphor and her family, together with 44 others in her street, were part of a deal between the Cape of Good Hope Bank and the

District Six Civic Association, which enabled 45 families to own the homes they had been renting for more than 70 years in Osborne and Francis streets, Woodstock.

"We are very grateful to the bank for giving us the chance to own our homes," said 77-year-old Grace Barron, who was born in the corner cottage she now owns.

"But it's a pity it had to come so late in my life," she added.

The widow of 27 years recalls how she was determined to stay in "my birthplace" even

though her husband had bought a piece of land in Heideveld over 40 years ago. "He had to sell it because I did not want to leave my birthplace and go and live in the bush, which it was at the time.

"I've been so happy here," she says of the little cluster of houses on the outskirts of District Six.

The houses managed to escape demolition and the Group Areas Act in the apartheid era because they were built on land classified as an industrial area.

ST(CM) 10/5/98

(81)

Thrilled



TEARS OF JOY: An ecstatic Jenny Syms embraces Chris Vietri, general manager of the Cape of Good Hope Bank, after hearing that she would finally own her home. **PICTURE: KIM LUDBROOK**

District 6 residents get ownership

ERIC NTABAZALILA

A LANDMARK agreement, the first of its kind in South Africa between a bank and a civic association, was signed on Friday night between the Cape of Good Hope Bank and the District Six Civic Association.

The agreement, termed the "Record of Understanding", will enable 45-odd families to own the houses they have been renting.

The announcement this weekend was followed by a party at which hundreds of former and current District Six residents danced and cried tears of joy.

For the first time they will own their own homes in the area.

Their dreams have been realised by a loan of R1,3 million, which the Cape of Good Hope Bank advanced

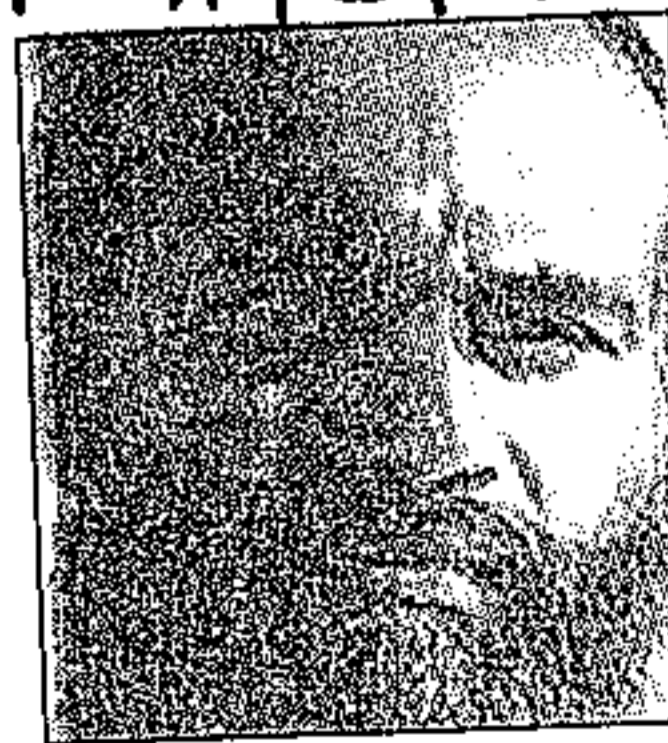
to purchase the properties.

The terraced Victoria cottages in Osborne Street on the outskirts of District Six were not demolished during forced removals because the area was zoned for industrial use.

The owner of the houses, Mr Sydney Schach, allowed the tenants to stay on at the time, but later changed his mind and decided to sell the houses.

A settlement of R1,3 million was reached as the price for the cottages.

Mr Anwah Nagia, chairperson of the District Six Civic Association,



DELIGHTED: Anwah Nagia praised bank.

tion, praised the bank for its belief in the community and for making it possible for them to buy: "All the other financial institutions slammed doors in our faces without doing a thorough investigation into the communities and assuming a culture of non-payment existed. "We are going

to warn our people against these institutions for red-lining certain communities as high risks. Cape of Good Hope Bank must get all the praise and support for taking such a bold step."

The bank's managing director, Mr Mike Thompson, said his bank

had an affinity with District Six.

"Many of our first clients were residents of District Six, some of whose successive generations we still serve today. "As a Cape bank, we see this initiative as totally appropriate in our community involvement programme and will extend it much further," he said.

He said the bank had worked out a package that meant the residents would be able to pay off a mortgage at about the same amount as their rent. All residents have now acquired individual title to their homes.

A valuation showed the condition and building quality of the houses to be good. Significant roles were also played by attorneys and other friends of District Six at no cost to the residents.

CT 11/5/98

(81) (271) (124)

District Six players agree to co-operate

Meeting to thrash out future

(81)
ST 12/7/98 (M)

KEN VERNON

THE District Six Beneficiary Trust, the Department of Land Affairs and landowners have agreed to form a united front in the face of continued sales of land that former residents say belongs to District Six.

Dr Elaine Clark, elected by former residents as a facilitator, said it had been agreed that the only hope of progress was for the development of District Six to be integrated into wider Cape Town City Council plans for the area.

"This is a landmark decision in which all role players agreed for the first time to submerge their individual rights in a search for a wider agreement," said Clarke.

The city council is to host a meeting to thrash out the contentious questions of District Six's boundaries, the alienation of land and who is en-

titled to compensation.

Confirming this, Cape Town city manager Andrew Boraine said the council, Department of Land Affairs, provincial administration, District Six Beneficiaries Trust and the Cape Technikon would be represented at the meeting.

A number of present property owners would also attend.

However, Boraine could not give a date for the crucial meeting.

Preliminary meetings had taken place, he said.

The city council had made it a priority to resolve the District Six question.

"We are committed to the development of District Six and are moving towards a solution," said Boraine.

Government authorities have expressed reservations about leaving the restitution process in the hands of former residents, especially as this involves the transfer of all vacant land into the control of

the District Six Beneficiaries Trust.

Still unresolved is the question of finding funds to develop the area.

Compensation for residents forcibly removed during the apartheid era has to come from the government, but Clarke fears that by the time agreement is reached, the state coffers may be dry.

"Residents have tried to keep big business out of the development of District Six, but I fear there will be no other way because hundreds of millions or rands will be required," said Clarke.

The Cape Technikon occupied almost 50 percent of the land.

While former residents were quibbling, sales continued of pieces of land.

"The question of District Six is vital to the development of Cape Town," Clarke said. "Even the Culemborg Casino site is in what used to be District Six."

PLACES IN THE HEART

The day Nellie lost her past in the dust of District Six

(81) S. Times Metro 16/8/98

NELLIE CHRISTIANS is 91 and all she wants is to go home. In the 19 years of her banishment in Valhalla Park, she has prayed daily to move back to the home in District Six from which she was driven in 1979.

It is a hope she has held before her like a light. She went back last week for the first time. There was little left. She could not recognise the block, Bloemhof, where she had a flat. It had been changed, as had its name.

The houses, the schools and the fish market were gone. And there was no sign in the dust and rubble and overgrowth of the other familiar landmarks that stood bright and tall in her mind's eye.

The details of District Six remain as clear as the events of November 1, 1940 — the day "during Hitler's war" — that she and her eight children moved into their council flat in Bloemhof.

"We were society people," Christians says with aplomb.

"We were decent and respectable."

The people of District Six "got on well with each other, irrespective of race and religion".

On Sundays, she and her family went to services at St Paul's, the Anglican church in Bree Street, with people of all races.

After school and at weekends, the children of District Six used to box in the hall, play tennis and go ballroom dancing.

Christians and her friends used to go to see films at the Avalon, British and National cinemas.

"When we lived in District Six we could walk to the shops, to work, bioscope, the Gardens and the museum. "I worked in De Korte Street as an office cleaner and used to take a stroll to work every morning and back again."

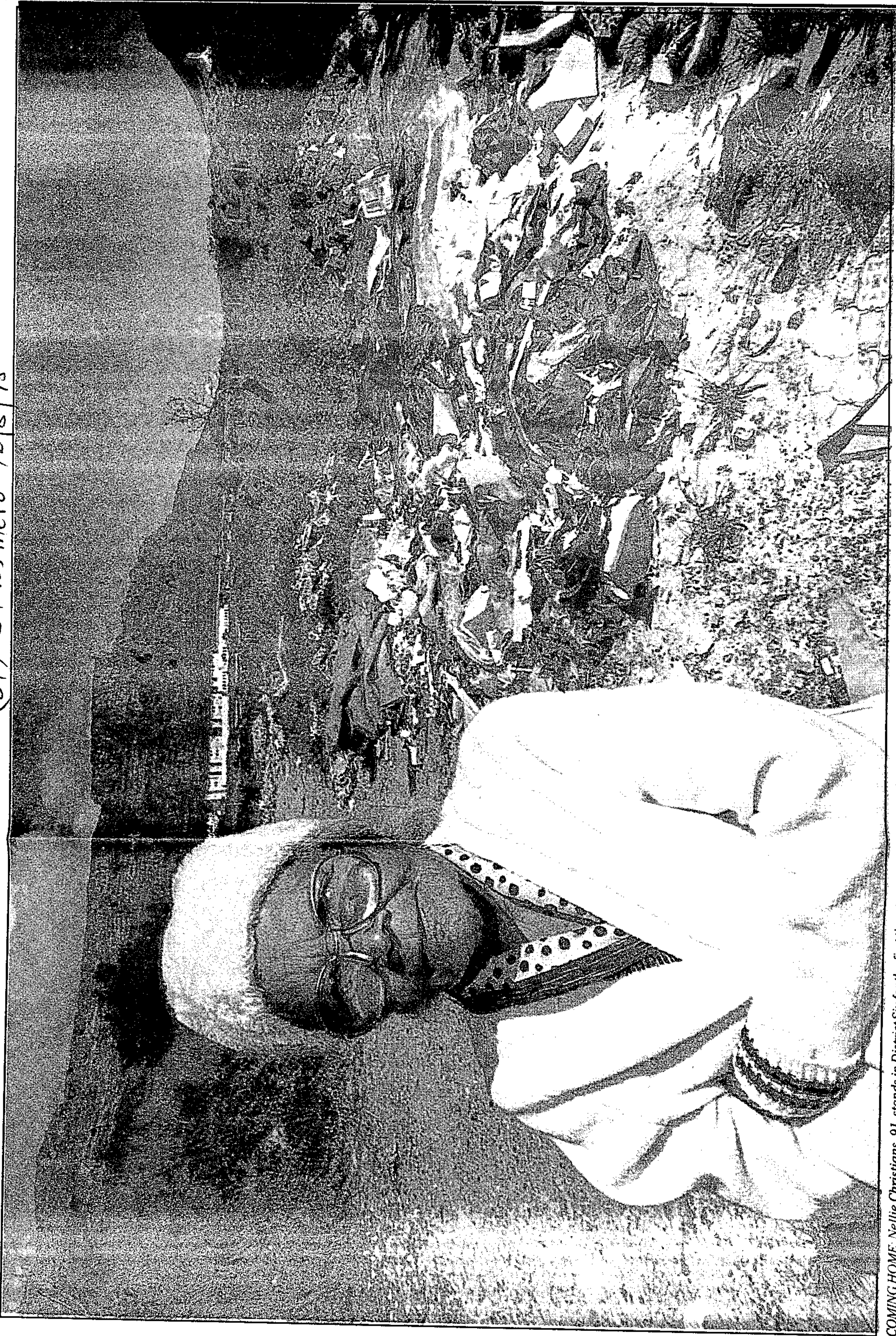
Families regarded the city as their own. They would walk to the Gardens on Sundays to feed the birds and squirrels.

"Now the place is deserted," Christians says.

And in District Six, only the wind blows where the voices of children used to rise up to the mountain that was a strong and sheltering presence.

Christians's family is scattered and her grandchildren — 30 at the last tally, which is when she stopped counting — are growing up across the Cape Flats where it is violence that looms like a mountain over their daily lives.

On the streets of District Six, the gangsters used to protect residents and fight



COMING HOME: Nellie Christians, 91, stands in District Six for the first time in the 19 years since she was forcibly removed. She did not know that most of the buildings in her old neighbourhood had been pulled down — but discovering this has not shaken her belief that one day she will return to live there. Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

the bakkie and cried all the way — restitution policy.

All factors, among them

CIRCUIT BREAKERS

- ★★★★ Must see
- ★★★★ Almost brilliant
- ★★★ Nice try
- ★★ Only if desperate
- ★ Stay away

★★ **GANG RELATED:** Tupac Shakur's last film begins promisingly as a bit of gloom and doom about corrupt detectives.

Davinci (James Belushi) and Rodriguez (Shakur) sell cocaine, lifted from the police evidence room, to drug dealers, then kill the dealer, replace the cocaine and pocket the money.

But things go wrong when one of the drug dealers turns out to have been an undercover cop.

It's a great plot, but the movie begins to meander and becomes predictable. Director and writer Jim Kauf cannot seem to find the right emphasis and lets his film fall between an unmotivated character-based drama and a cop action movie.

Belushi is good, but his bad cop goes nowhere dramatically and drifts off into a trite and contrived ending.

Shakur, as always, has presence: he was great at conveying violence beneath the surface. He is effective in his role here, but he needed a good script.

James Earl Jones as a lawyer is his dependable, deep-voiced self, while Dennis Quaid is interestingly off-beat as a homeless man.

This is the kind of film to waste an afternoon when there is nothing better to do.

★★★ **DEVIL'S ISLAND:** Heart-warming comedy-drama about the exuberant and bittersweet Karolina (Sigurveig Jonsdottir) and her grandchildren, who live in an abandoned army barracks in Iceland.

★★★★ **SHALL WE DANCE:** Charming Japanese film about ballroom dancing and the breaking of social taboos.

WILLIAM PRETORIUS

★★ **BENT:** Self-indulgent driver in this action look at the Nazi persecution of gays.

★★ **BLACK DOG:** Patrick Swayze plays macho a messy movie about a monster.

★★★ **IN GOD'S HANDS:** Entertaining and glossy movie, set in Bali, Mexico, Africa and Hawaii, about the tribal and macho rites of surfers.

★ **LETHAL WEAPON 4:** Martin Riggs (Mel Gibson) and Roger Murtaugh (Danny Glover) are back in this bit of racist junk that is best forgotten.

★★★ **LOLITA:** Although this follows Vladimir Nabokov's novel closely, it lacks its European nuances and comes across as a bit nasty.



BITTERSWEET: Sigurveig Jonsdottir, Sveinn Geirsson and Baltasar Kormakur in the heart-warming Devil's Island

SCREEN SCENE

Like Christians, they only hope and pray that it will be completed in their lifetimes so they can go home and re in peace.

Whether people were fairly compensated at the time they were dispossessed, are to be taken into account.

Like the day when the stranger with a bakke came like an angel to answer her need for help, Christians is confident that she will go back to live again in District Six.

For that is what the people call Valhalla Park. It is just 20km from District Six, but for Christians it is on another planet.

There was no Anglican church when she moved there. So Christians went to the City Mission Church, a fair distance from her home.

"I'm too old to walk there now and it is also too dangerous."

The church elders sometimes come to her home to give her communion.

"But they have not been here in a long time because it is too dangerous," she says.

Her life story mirrors the hardships brought to the lives of ordinary people by apartheid.

Yet Christians carries her faith like a walking stick and it keeps her steady and strong.

She prays every day to return to the place where she belongs in District Six.

Her prayers help her carry the pain of the day that the "group" (officials enforcing the Groups Areas Act) came to evict her in 1979.

The details are vivid, so it is no matter that she cannot recall the date.

"The man from the group, Du Plessis, told me that I had to be out by the Sunday. My husband had already died and I had no one to move my goods to Valhalla Park."

But her need of the hour was met.

Four of her grandchildren were standing on the balcony on the Saturday and spotted a man driving past in a bakke.

They signalled to him to stop and asked him if he could take their grandmother and her furniture to Valhalla Park.

"It was the saddest day of my life. I got into

SUNDAY SORTIE

GROWING INTEREST

BONSAI LECTURE (Kirstenbosch stone cottage, diagonally opposite Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, Kirstenbosch Drive, Newlands): Danny Barnard demonstrates the art of turning indigenous plants into unique sculptures at 11.30am. Call 615-468.

FYNBOS ENVIRO EXPO (museum hall, next to Sandveld Huisie Information Bureau, Citrusdal): Don't miss this exhibition of fynbos specimens, spring flower arrangements and environmental displays in a charming country museum. Teas and lunches served. Open 9am to 5pm today and daily until September 20. Call 022-921-3210.

SUGGULENT SHOW (Kokerboom Nursery, Van Riebeeck Street, Vanrhynsdorp): Spring flower displays include 200 succulent species endemic to the Vanrhynsdorp and Knersvlakte areas. Open 8am to 5pm today and daily until the end of September. Call (02727) 91061.

SPRING FLOWERS (West Coast and Swartland Sandveld, take R27 coastal road to Veiddriff): Take the family to see the daisies and vygies alongside the road. Wild flowers are already blooming in the Postberg Flower Reserve (call 022 772-2144), the Saldanha Nature Reserve (022 702-3999), Cape Columbine Nature Reserve (022 752-2718) and the Darling Flora Reserve (call 02241-3361). Call the MTN flowerline at 080000-1704 between 7am and 7pm weekdays and 8am to noon Saturdays.

ART BEAT
BRINGING UP BABY (William Fehr Collection, Castle of Good Hope, Cape Town): A collection of work shown at the National Arts Festival at Grahamstown and exploring the theme of the reproductive body. Open 9am to 4pm daily. Call 462-3751.

BALLROOM STRAND CC (Road, V & A) the ballroom drawing the mild rock school Harold Dani.

SUNDAY HIL Bay Museum park near the Nature Reserve hour walk to mild rock school Harold Dani.

SIRENS JAZZ Main Road, jazz band's Call 615-535.

VIRTUAL JAZZ Street, Cape ensemble and sessions as

MADAM FRE Street, Tambi funk group to Call 242-289.

MAC MACK QUARTET (B building, Col Flautist Alice Mackenzie an

OBSERVE NA (Groot Constantia E) Knobel's exhibit lifestyle and harmony and between man to 5pm today September 1

are expected by the December 31 cut-off date for claims.

They will qualify for different forms of restitution, says Rhoda Kadalle, head of the District Six Land Claims Unit.

Those who owned land are to get it back or be given other land.

"It depends whether the land is still available," says Kadalle. "Some people will qualify for monetary compensation, while others will be given Reconstruction and Development Programme houses."

She has applied to the Land Claims Court for her home to be returned.

She is among 1 200 residents of District Six who have applied under the government's land

claimants more applications are expected by the December 31 cut-off date for claims.

Whether people were fairly compensated at the time they were dispossessed, are to be taken into account.

The exiles of this once vibrant community can rest assured that the planning of District Six's redevelopment is on track, says Kadalle.

But it will take time.

Like Christians, they only hope and pray that it will be completed in their lifetimes so they can go home and re in peace.

Whether people were fairly compensated at the time they were dispossessed, are to be taken into account.

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LABIA Gardens, Tel. 24 5927
TODAY WEBSITE: www.labia.co.za
RIS (Main Show RIS) Subject to concessions 5:30, 10:00 PM
THE HORSE WHISPERER Nil by Mouth (Gael) 2:50, 5:15 PM
MA VIE EN ROSE Lolita 12:00, 10:00 PM (Gael)
Lolita from - cabaret, new drama - 4 Aug CT

SK SIER-KINEKOR Aug. 14 - Aug. 20
SHOWS AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Family Movie DD = Dolby Stereo Digital = Digital Sound
Movie Guide

RETURN OF DISTRICT

Deal set to give back what apartheid

GLYNIS UNDERHILL

SPECIAL WRITER

District Six is set to rise from the ashes of apartheid social engineering when a historic deal between the Government, the City of Cape Town and evicted residents is signed this weekend.

The pact is expected to pave the way for more than 45 000 people - families of tenants and landowners thrown out under the despised Group Areas Act in the 1960s - to return to affordable housing close to the city.

"This is the deal of the century," said Anwah Nagia, chairman of the District Six

Beneficiary and Redevelopment Trust and the District Six Civic Association, who has been fighting for this day for 17 years.

He believes years of conflict over land restitution in District Six will end with the signing of the agreement on Sunday by the trust, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom and the city.

"I am still pinching myself that it is finally happening this weekend. This agreement signals hope for the whole country. We want now to race against the clock to redevelop the area we lost so many years ago," said Mr Nagia, a former resident of District Six.

Details of the agreement, which will

include a letter of intent and a project framework, are being kept under wraps.

But it is understood that more than 45 000 people will be accommodated in a project that will take the form of an integrated redevelopment, with the emphasis on affordable housing.

Mr Nagia said a joint statement would be made after the signing, but District Six would become a blueprint for mass urban land restitution across the country.

The agreement heralds a new chapter in the history of District Six, one of the bitter symbols of apartheid. The area was reduced to rubble after people were forcibly removed

and scattered across the Peninsula.

Former residents will be bused to the District Six Museum for Sunday's signing.

It is understood that, after years of wrangling, the Cape Town municipality and Western Cape provincial administration will make land available for redevelopment by former residents.

Cape Town Municipality and the provincial government have been at loggerheads with former residents over the valuable inner-city land.

Disputes began when the municipality and the provincial government applied to have land in District Six set aside for an

ARG 9/9/98

100%
18

SIX

District Six owner fears housing 'slum'

GLYNNIS UNDERHILL
SPECIAL WRITER

When a Cape Town computer analyst bought a house in District Six last year, he was assured his property would not be affected by the proposed redevelopment of the area.

Today, fears about the fate of his R200 000 home are growing.

The resident, who does not want to be named, has been trying unsuccessfully to get reassurance he will not be evicted when the area is redeveloped.

On Sunday, a historic deal to be signed by the District Six Beneficiary and Development Trust, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom and the City of Cape Town is expected to speed up the development.

In what Anwah Nagia, chairman of the trust, has described as "the deal of the century", vast tracts of Government-owned land will be made available in District Six for an integrated development, with the emphasis on affordable housing.

A major concern of the homeowner is that the value of his house will plummet when an estimated 45 000 people move in.

"Bringing all these people into the area will destroy the values of houses here. They will create a slum."

Mr Nagia said yesterday every piece of land in District Six was subject to restitution. However, there was no desire to evict people.

Putting District Six together again

'Restore the dignity of our suffering,' cry evicted residents of former vibrant community

GLYNIS UNDERHILL

A vision of District Six as "a community of the future" will be outlined at the signing of a historic deal between evicted residents, the Government and the City of Cape Town tomorrow.

The signatories will pledge to recognise the pain and suffering of the community and to re-establish the vibrancy of District Six in its redevelopment.

Major land claimants like Abdul Gaffoor Ebrahim, whose father owned nine properties and two shops in District Six, have also thrown their weight behind the deal, which will pave the way for the speedy redevelopment of the area.

"Nowhere in history have landowners been prepared to sacrifice their land a second time in the interests of the broader community."

"I am hopeful that the Government is committed to restitution and will carry out its moral duty by delivering on its promises. But landowners must be fairly and justly compensated," said Mr Ebrahim.

More than 45 000 people - families of tenants and landowners who were thrown out under the despised Group Areas Act in the 1960s - are now expected to return to affordable housing in District Six.

Cape Town municipality and the provincial government have been at loggerheads with former residents over the valuable inner-city land.

But now the three parties will commit themselves in writing to work towards healing the damage caused by apartheid, putting to rest years of wrangling.

Plans to create an inner-city community, with emphasis on the most affordable housing, will be developed and discussed at workshops.

Mr Ebrahim said the international community was watching events unfold in District Six and was witnessing this "sorry chapter" in our history come to an end.

"This will be a victory for the victims of apartheid," he said. A set of principles will be agreed



Picture: LEON MULLER

ARG 12/13/98 (81)

(ART)

HEAL OUR PAIN: Abdul Ebrahim, a District Six land claimant, with family members Mohamed and Abdurhman. They want the dignity of victims of forced removals to be restored.

on at the meeting, including dispute mechanisms.

The valuable vacant District Six land still in the hands of the Western Cape provincial government and the Cape Town City Council is expected to be placed in a trust.

About 45ha of vacant land, some of which is in private hands, is believed to be available for redevelopment. Negotiations over the land will take place with private owners. Wallace Mgoqi, regional land claims commissioner, said the com-

mon vision found by the different parties for District Six constituted a breakthrough.

"It is a milestone in the protracted struggle which has been going on since the commencement of the claim," he said.

Money for the redevelopment would be sourced from the Government as well as from local and international donors, said Mr Mgoqi.

Anwah Nagia, chairman of the District Six Beneficiary and Redevelopment Trust, said fears that the

area would become a slum were completely unfounded.

"Nobody wants to encourage the building of a slum in District Six. We are not into building houses that are uninhabitable."

"We will be looking at erecting affordable housing, not sub-economic housing," he said.

The plan was to present claimants who wished to return to District Six with title deeds to property, he said. However, Mr Nagia said he did not believe that white landlords - whom

he felt had been well compensated when they left the area and had not been forcibly removed - should be given priority in the redevelopment.

Mr Nagia, a former resident of District Six, said he personally would not lodge a claim as he already owned a house in Walmer Estate and he would prefer to see those less fortunate being given homes.

Many former residents are not sure whether the spirit of District Six can be recreated after so much pain and suffering. The area was

reduced to a windswept landscape after residents were forcibly evicted in terms of the Group Areas Act.

Mr Ebrahim said: "That's the million-dollar question. But we believe restitution must also be about restoring the dignity of our suffering."

He said his father, Jamaloodien Ebrahim, died a heartbroken man after he was thrown out of District Six, where he owned nine houses and two shops.

Mr Ebrahim said he hoped to see the restitution of this land if possible, but he would be prepared to consider accepting alternative state land in the area or financial compensation instead.

Another alternative would be for stakeholders to be given shares in the rebuilding of District Six, he suggested.

Mr Ebrahim was 24 when his family was thrown off their land and moved into a two-room flat in Gatesville. From being a businessman running his father's general dealer company, he became "a beggar" overnight.

"Landowners have to be given fair and just compensation. As shopkeepers, most of us lost not only our businesses but our livelihood.

"I became a beggar and it was only because of the support of my family that I survived," he said.

Mr Ebrahim said he saw the signing of the three-way agreement between representatives of evicted residents, government and local authorities as a breakthrough in the restitution process.

"It shows we can work together to make this happen. Government must remedy past violations of human rights.

"We all suffered substantial losses when our land was stolen - we got pennies for our land and property," he said.

Another land claimant, Abdul K Ahmed, said he hoped the Government would not make a mockery of the restitution process.

"It must carry out its moral duty to the victims of forced removal and ensure that former landowners are justly and equitably compensated," he said.

Mr Ebrahim said Mr Nagia, who also heads the District Six Civic Association, was the right person to drive the community redevelopment in District Six.

"He has always tried to bring everybody together and to understand all the disputes. He is one of the old fighters of District Six," he said.



Former District Six resident Mrs Fatima Benting (83) wept yesterday as she witnessed the signing ceremony marking the redevelopment of District Six.

By **ANDRÉ KOOPMAN**

Key role-players, including the Government, city council and District Six Beneficiary Trust, signed a record of understanding yesterday to launch the District Six Redevelopment Process in the city centre. Thousands of residents packed the District Six Museum to witness the signing of the document in an emotional and moving ceremony. The battle to reclaim the

A new day dawns for District Six

land was long and hard, "but we won", said former resident Tahir Levy, who was obviously pleased. Normaindia Mfeketo, chairperson of the Cape Town City Council executive committee, said the occasion was historic and significant as it marked the process of healing the wounds and legacy of racism.

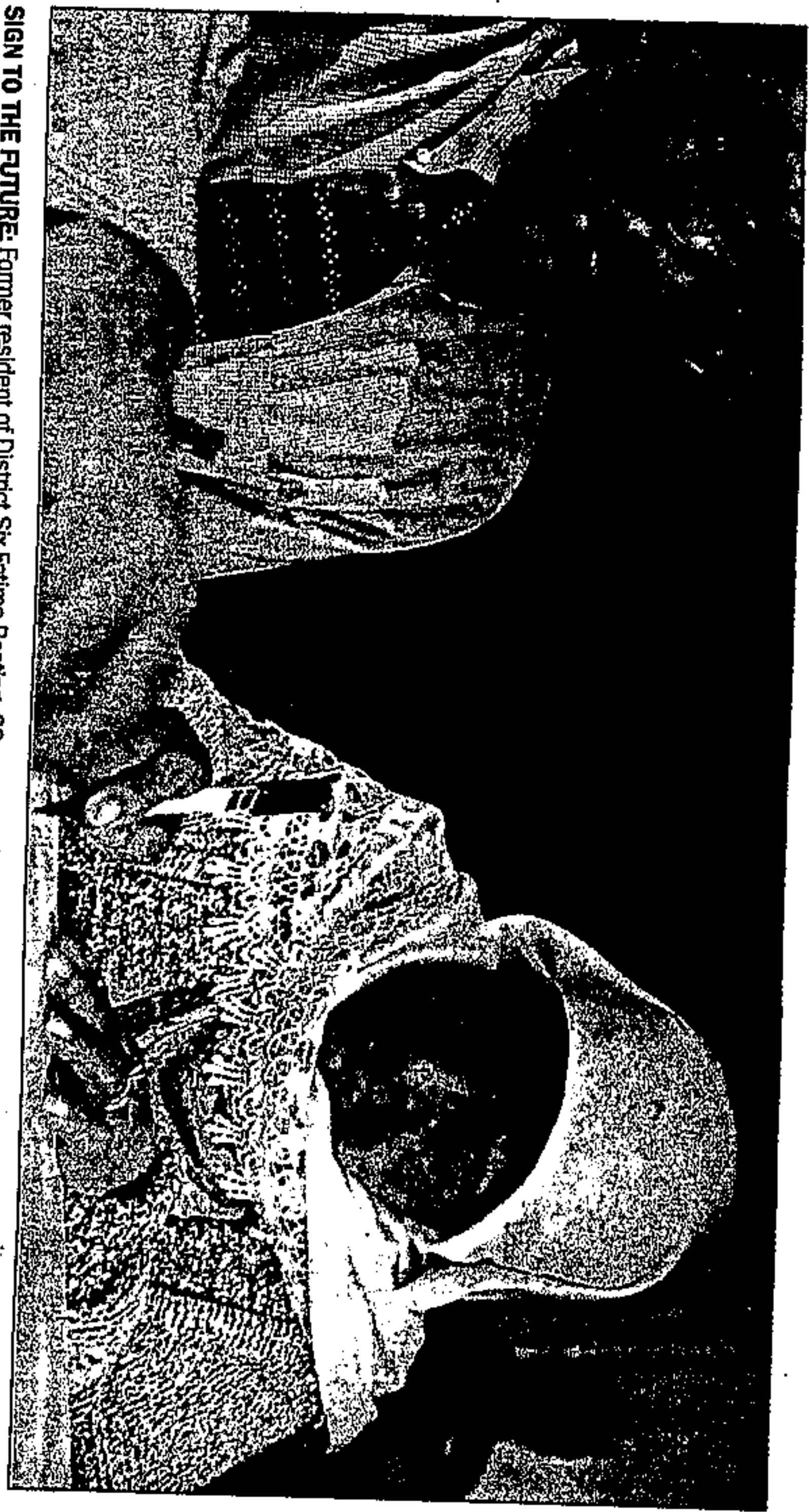
The record of understanding marked an important breakthrough in once stalled negotiations between the community and the municipality and provincial government. The two government bodies had applied to have land in District Six set aside for an integrated redevelopment project. The move had been opposed by Judge Siraj Desai, who oversaw the signing ceremony yesterday, praised Nagia for opposing efforts to develop the land since the early 1980s.

Mfeketo said District Six must be redeveloped for those who were displaced and must be reintegrated into the city. District Six had occupied a very special place in the hearts of Capetonians, said Nagia. The "magic" of District Six was that the former government had thought that those who had been forcibly removed to the Cape Flats would "lie down", but instead they "rose in their thousands" in the fight to reclaim their land.

Land Claims Court ruled last month that residents should drive the redevelopment of the area.

A new day dawns for District Six

The record of understanding marked an important breakthrough in once stalled negotiations between the community and the municipality and provincial government. The two government bodies had applied to have land in District Six set aside for an integrated redevelopment project. The move had been opposed by Judge Siraj Desai, who oversaw the signing ceremony yesterday, praised Nagia for opposing efforts to develop the land since the early 1980s.



SIGN TO THE FUTURE: Former resident of District Six Fatima Benring, 83, wept as she signed the District Six redevelopment document as a witness yesterday. Judge Siraj Desai, who oversaw the signing, is on her left.



PICTURES: BENNY GOOL

District 6... the joy of returning home

THE WOUND on Table Mountain called District Six has started healing with a plan to redevelop the area regarded as sated earth by many Capetonians after apartheid bulldozers destroyed the community of 45 000. **ANDRE KOOPMAN** reports.

Key roleplayers — including the government, city council and District Six Beneficiary Trust — signed a record of understanding in the city centre yesterday to launch the District Six Re-Development Process.

Thousands of residents packed the District Six Museum to witness the signing of the document in an emotional and moving ceremony. The battle to reclaim the land removed in 1966 was long and hard "but we won", said former resident Tahir Levy.

Chairperson of the Cape Town city council executive committee, Nomahla Mfeko, said it was an "historic occasion" which would start "healing the wounds and legacy of racism". The record of understanding marked an important breakthrough in negotiations between the community, the municipality and the provin-

dial government.

The two government bodies had applied to have land in District Six set aside for an integrated redevelopment project. The move had been opposed by the District Six Beneficiary Trust led by Anwar Nagia. The Land Claims Court ruled last month that residents should drive the redevelopment of the area. Judge Siraj Desai, who oversaw the signing ceremony yesterday, praised Nagia for opposing efforts to develop the land since the early 1980s.

Mfeko said: "District Six must be redeveloped for those who were displaced and must be reintegrated into the city. The redevelopment process should serve as a model for the rest of South Africa."

District Six occupied a very special place in the hearts of Capetonians, said Nagia. The "magic" was that the government thought that those who had been

forcibly removed to the Cape Flats would "be down" but instead they "rose in their thousands" to reclaim their land.

Nagia and Land Affairs and Agriculture Minister Derek Hanekom, who had been at loggerheads over redevelopment plans, adopted a conciliatory tone with Hanekom candidly admitting the difficulties that the principal partners had experienced. Hanekom thanked Nagia and the beneficiary trust for their efforts saying, "without you we would not be here today".

Referring to acrimonious exchanges between himself and Nagia, Hanekom quipped he had "nothing to do" with Nagia's missing tooth. Nagia said they had both realised that restitution, not personalities, were important and that "muddling" made no sense.

Hanekom said District Six represented the success of the land restitution process to which the government was committed and which was enshrined in the Constitution. Hanekom called for the speedy implementation of a redevelopment plan "within six months let's have a comprehensive settlement."



GOING HOME: Former resident Mams Theysen celebrates. ● See Page 5

Spirit kept alive by people

(81)

FORMER District Six residents were in a nostalgic but celebratory mood yesterday, congratulating all the parties involved for launching the development plan. As they pointed out their former homes in pictures of the museum walls, they were heard discussing plans to return "home".

Fatima Benring, 83, wept as she signed the document as a witness. "I cried because I was so happy to think that my children can have a better life and go back to where they came from," she said afterwards. She wept again as she spoke of the significance of District Six as a cauldron and repository of Cape Town culture.

Another former resident, Tahir Levy said to loud applause: "You can take the people out of District Six but you can't take the spirit of

District Six out of the people.

The forced removal of the people of District Six, mostly to the Cape Flats including Maitland, Mitchell's Plain, Bonteheuwel, Gugulethu and Langa was "like a knife through our hearts", Levy said. "My mother cried when they moved our old coal stove out of her kitchen and that broke her. It broke up our whole family and our community because we were all dispersed and moved to sandy soulless places like Maitland."

Benring said she would be happy if her children and grandchildren would return to District Six. Her mother, Mofije Moege, "died heartbroken" when the family were forced to leave their home in 1968. "I miss the comfort we had there. We were close and united. We were one community and

there was no need to put bars on our windows. We could walk and visit each other late at night and we could even walk to town!" She was interrupted by Yasmin Abrahams, 52, who was born in District Six but forced to leave for Grassy Park. She asked Benring if she remembered her grandmother. Benring, after a bit of reminiscing exclaimed: "Oh I remember your grandmother. You are from the komfy' Abrahams, you used to sell komfy'."

Abrahams expressed a keen desire to return to District Six. "I was born and bred there and my roots are there," she said. Mams Theysen, 65, now of Valhalla Park, said after dancing to the music outside the museum: "You know what I miss most about District Six? The people."

Signed, sealed — but now to deliver District Six

CHANTAL ERROTT

STAFF REPORTER

Former residents packed the District Six Museum to see the signing of an historic agreement which will lead to the redevelopment of the area.

The agreement was signed by representatives of the City of Cape Town, the District Six Beneficiary and Redevelopment Trust and Minister of Land Affairs Derek Hanekom. Judge Siraj Desai presided. Among members of the District

Six community present was one of the oldest living former residents, Fatima Bendey, 83.

Ms Bendey was emotional when she signed the documents and had to be helped to her seat when she broke down in tears of joy.

The signing means more than 45 000 people who were evicted in the 1960s (or their families), will be able to return.

Facilitator Elaine Clarke said: "Those forcibly removed from the land will be the chief beneficiaries of the Land Restitution Act. We have to

start redevelopment to make it possible for the people to go home.

"District Six belongs to all of those who were forcibly removed, not only those who owned the land."

The redevelopment of District Six will be a costly process funded by the Government and local and foreign donors.

The chairman of the District Six Trust, Anwah Nagia, vowed to force the Government to deliver on its promises.

"I don't want to see another District Six family member die before a

brick is laid in the new District Six."

Mr Hanekom expressed his dedication to the project.

"People are still dumping their rubbish on the land. I think it's an insult to the people of District Six, the people who own the land."

He called on former residents to commit themselves to the hard work that lay ahead during the restitution and redevelopment processes, saying only they could make it a success.

"Without dreams, we are nothing," he said. "But a dream without vision and action is also nothing."

(B1)

AR 14/9/98



Skyscrapers ruled out as District Six rises to the challenge

ELVANNIS UNDERHILL
SPECIAL WRITER

Although 45 000 people are likely to live in the new District Six, it is unlikely to be in skyscraper blocks of flats.

Its eventual shape would depend on the wishes of those who would live there, said the chairman of the District Six Beneficiary and Redevelopment Trust, Anwah Nagia.

"I've had dozens of calls about District Six. The truth is we don't

have any plans and we will work-shop all ideas to reach agreement," he said.

More than 45 000 people - families of former tenants and landowners - are expected to be accommodated in the project, giving rise to concerns about skyscraper blocks of flats.

Cape Town city manager Andrew Boraine said high-density living did not mean high-rise living.

The City Bowl was already high-density, but not high-rise. In Oranjezicht and Woodstock there was high

density, but there were small plots, terraces of houses and one- or two-storey homes. "We have no plans for a high-rise development."

Mr Boraine said the planning for District Six should be driven by the community.

"Any work the Cape Town Municipality has done should be regarded as pre-planning. We have collected technical data, like the land available and the existing service connections. What would be erected on top has not even been looked at. We will work in

harmony with the community.

"In its next budget, the Cape Town Municipality will include municipal infrastructure and community facilities in District Six," said Mr Boraine.

Years of conflict over land restitution in District Six ended with the signing of a historic agreement between the central government, the City of Cape Town and evicted residents at the weekend.

Mr Nagia, who also heads the District Six Civic Association, said he

would be guessing if he had to envisage how District Six would eventually look. "We have no plans whatsoever and we have to create a contextual framework for the development process, including the size and how we will accommodate 45 000 people.

"But everybody should remember that this figure includes a few people in each family that has applied for restitution," he said.

A District Six redevelopment committee would be formed soon to drive the process.

The land negotiations herald a hopeful chapter in the history of District Six, one of the bitter symbols of apartheid.

The area was reduced to rubble after people were forcibly removed under the Group Areas Act in the 1960s.

Mr Nagia said: "We want to race against the clock to redevelop the area. We don't want one more person to die before the first brick is laid. But how it will eventually look, we just don't know right now."

(81) (81) (81) ARL 15/9/98

Museum thrown a lifeline of R3-m

(81) ARG 12/10/98

GLYNNIS UNDERHILL
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

While Cape Town's priceless art collections are threatened by a shortage of public funding, the District Six Museum has just been thrown a R3-million lifeline.

The funding comes from overseas and the Reconstruction and Development Programme through the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology.

Museum trustee Stan Abrahams, who was born in District Six and witnessed his family being forcibly removed, said he was delighted with the financial backing for the museum, which has had to rely on donations for its running costs.

"The whole exercise of forced removals was an exercise in obliteration. When we initiated the dream of opening a museum, the mission was to ensure that the historical memory

of District Six endured to keep alive the rich cultural diversity of the area, and I believe the museum is doing just that," he said.

The cash will be used to upgrade the museum - established in a church in Buitenkant Street in 1994 as a testimony to the forced removals - into a community centre, which will take centre stage in redevelopment plans for the area.

With the District Six redevelopment programme back on track, expectations are high that victims of forced removals or members of their families will return to live in low-cost housing in the area.

The museum, with its community centre and child-care facilities, is expected to become a focus of community life.

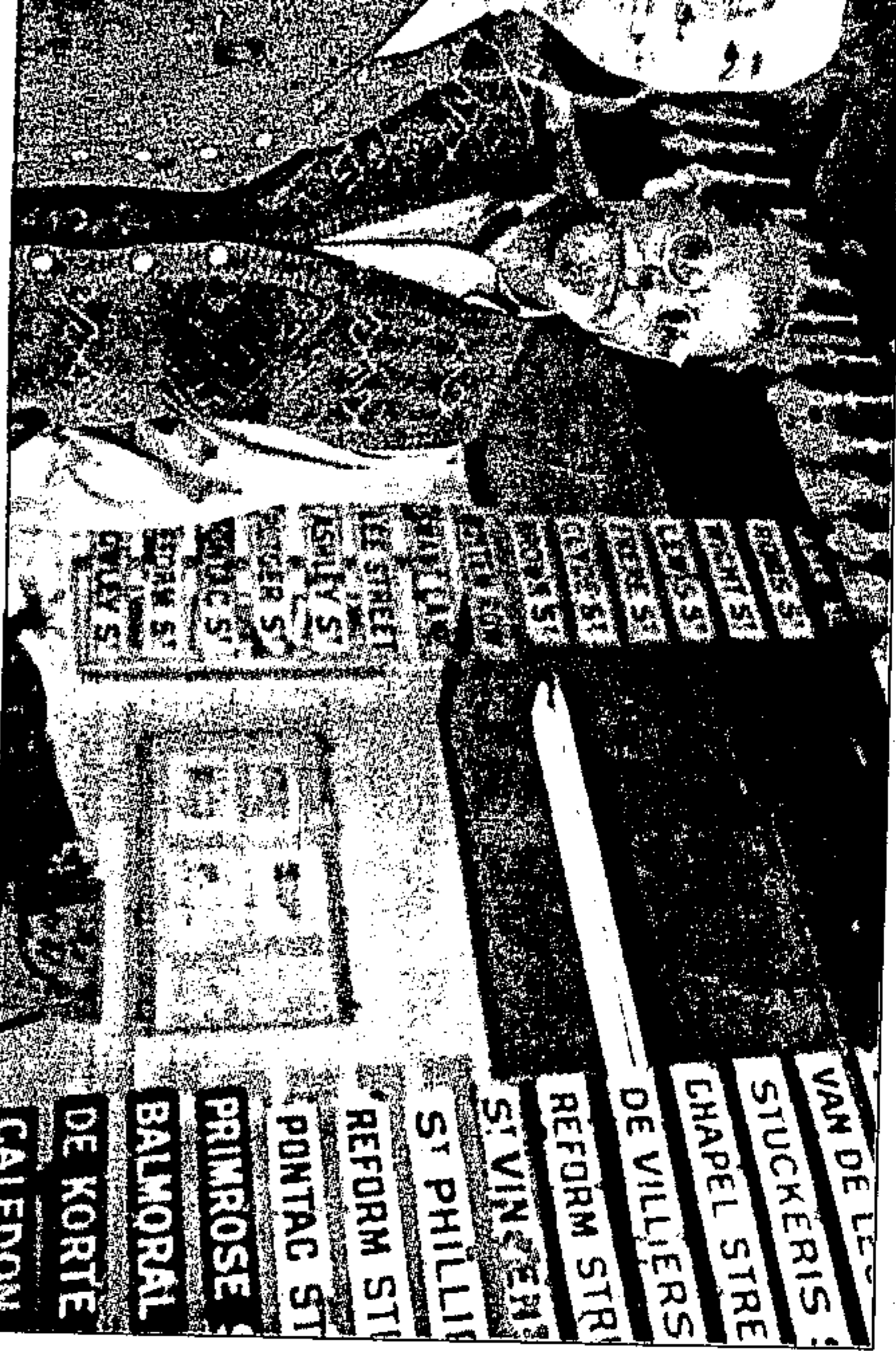
Already a rallying point for a dispossessed community, the museum still lacks recognition as a national cultural institution that could expect

funding from the state. Yet the museum has become a venue for meetings of former residents of District Six, and was used for a hearing of the Land Claims Court.

It was in the museum that a moral victory was declared by former residents when the court decided redevelopment of District Six should be community driven. Land claimants had vigorously contested a controversial application brought by the City of Cape Town and the provincial government to re-develop the area.

Foreign and South African dignitaries are among the 4 000 visitors to the museum each month, but local recognition has been slow.

"It has been one of our surprises that we have been an international success," said museum director Sandy Prosalendis. "We have been featured in many (foreign) magazines and journals, from the National Geographic to the New York Times."



District Six Museum project director Sandy Prosalendis and trustee Stan Abrahams with the original street signs

Museum thrown a lifeline of R3-m

OLYMPIA UNDERHILL
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(81) ARTS 12/10/98

City needs its old heart sparked into life

Planners see District Six, the soul of the city, as key to rebuilding and uniting Cape Town

JERMAINE CRAIG

The Cape Town Municipality wants to use the District Six redevelopment to unite a divided city and revive its ailing central business district.

This is the view of the council's new executive committee chairman, Saleem Mowzer, who believes the newly integrated council can break down age-old barriers and bring fairness to a previously unfair administration.

District Six, on the slopes of Table Mountain and on the doorstep of the city centre, was once a vibrant multicultural hub of activity where people of all creeds and colours mixed, oblivious to draconian measures aimed at preventing racial integration.

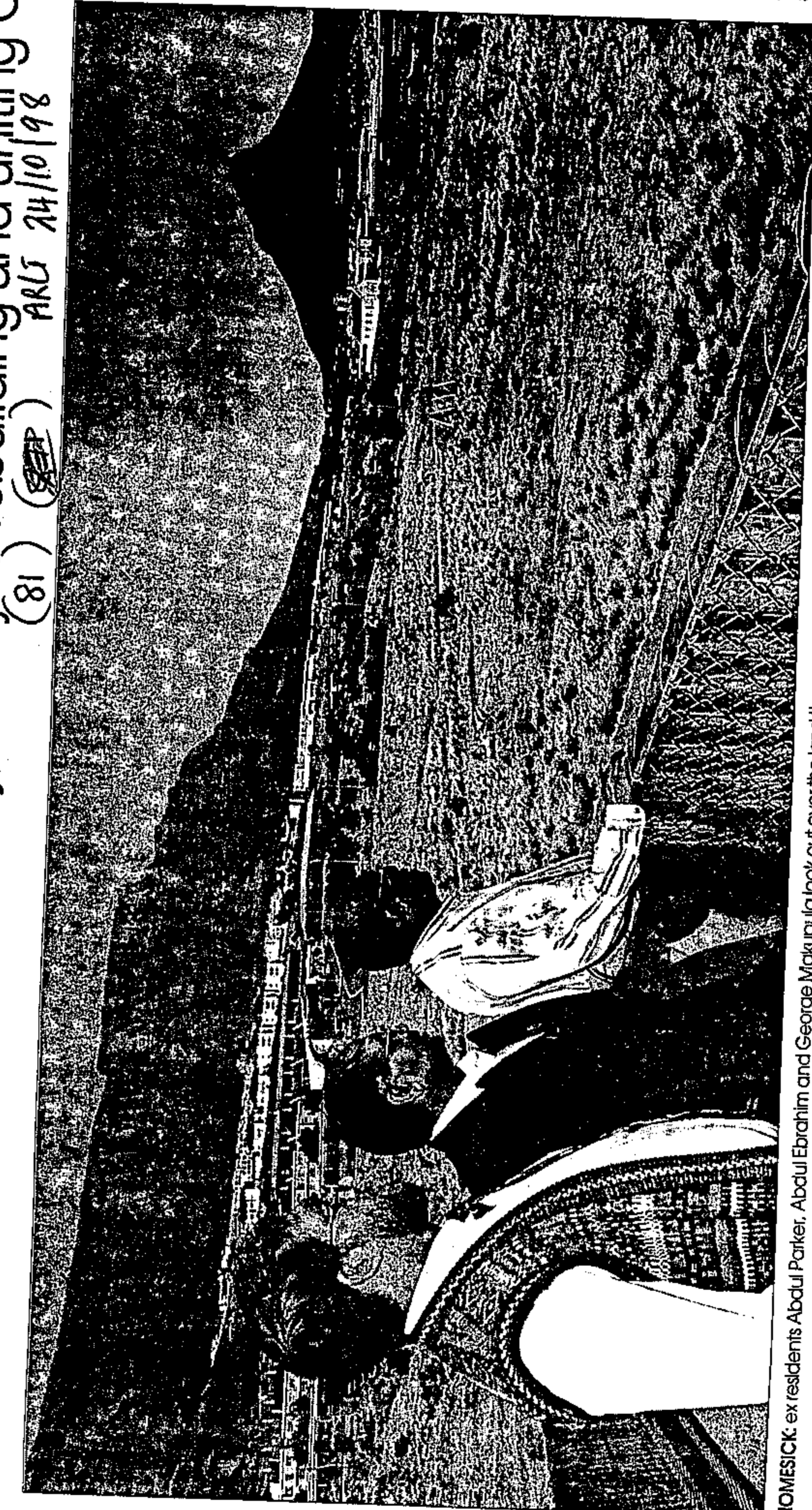
Then with the advent of the Group Areas Act, the bulldozers came in 30 years ago and blacks and coloureds were scattered to desolate areas of the Cape Flats and the city's soul was scattered with it.

Now years later, the approval of the District Six redevelopment has set tongues wagging and given the council a chance to bring unity to a community.

Mr Mowzer's eyes light up when he talks about how the redevelopment could link up District Six with the CBD, Culemborg, the Waterfront, Woodstock and Salt River - all nearby, but divided.

There are no plans on the table for the District Six project at this stage, but it is clearly seen as a big opportunity for the city.

"The District Six redevelopment is critical in terms of integrating the city. Cape Town is a deeply divided city where racism is still rife. In the coming months it is going to be a key



HOMESICK: ex-residents Abdul Parker, Abdul Ebrahim and George Makupula look out over the land they once called 'home'

challenge, spearheaded by the mayor Nomandla Mfeketo, to look at bringing together all the people of our city. We believe District Six could become a model area where people of all cultures, races and different social backgrounds can come

together and be good neighbours in a way.

"We also see the project as an opportunity for the regeneration of the CBD. We need to create that vibrancy that existed before, that must be projected and taken for-

ward. It is no use talking about it any longer.

"We need agreement with all stakeholders and good expertise so we can start working on the planning framework," Mr Mowzer said.

However, he said uniting a divid-

ed city was but one of seven strategic priorities the council would be focusing on, with the 35-year-old former high school teacher at the political helm.

Mr Mowzer, a committed African National Congress activist since his

days on the student representative council at Belgravia Senior Secondary, said that under the previous apartheid administration the city's resources were spread very unevenly with blatant favouring of former white areas.

"At the moment we have an inequitable system of service delivery skewed in favour of white areas. This is evident when you see that things like garden refuse collection and street sweeping only take place in white areas and 80% of the parks and forests budget is concentrated in former white areas.

"This needs to change and I am optimistic that we will be able to meet the challenge of bringing about equal and fair services to all," Mr Mowzer said.

The council has identified Manenberg, Hanover Park, Kewtown, Langa, Guguletu, Brown's Farm and Crossroads, areas where about half of the population live below the poverty line, as the areas in dire need of upgrading.

"We need to look at how we shift resources to look at the provision of housing, proper facilities and amenities to those communities," Mr Mowzer said.

The issue of crime and providing housing for the thousands of city families without a roof over their heads is also high on the agenda of the council.

The city is to take part in a number of crime prevention projects as part of a United Nations-sponsored Safer Cities programme.

Special emphasis will be given to tourist areas such as the Waterfront and the CBD.

Projects such as the upgrading of the Athlone and Green Point stadiums and the construction of a world-class convention centre in the city are also high on the list of priorities for the city.

It is a momentous task, but one which the city's team of local government leaders feels it can come to grips with.

Malay Quarter is reborn

BUNTY WEST
METROWRITER

CT 18/8/99

BO-KAAP, the historic area west of Buitengracht Street and north of Wale Street in central Cape Town, is to lose its Afrikaans title and return to its former name — the Malay Quarter.

The Forum for Malay Culture, which canvassed many of the area's 12 000 residents and lobbied for more than a year to have the name changed, will celebrate the event on Heritage Day, September 24, during the *One City* Festival.

Bo-Kaap was originally an area where white artisans were housed during the 18th century. Later the Malays — people of Indonesian descent brought to South Africa as political exiles or slaves — moved in. The area is now 90% Muslim.

The area boasts the oldest mosque in the Southern hemisphere. In 1794 Imam Abdullah Ibn Kadi Abdun Salaam (also known as Tuan Guru) established the Auwal Mosque in Dorp Street. The build-

ing was originally a warehouse. There are now five mosques in the area, all used daily for prayer and teaching.

Bo-Kaap is also home to the largest concentration of pre-1840 architecture in Cape Town.

In the years leading up to the scrapping of the Group Areas Act, whites began moving back into the area and turning the historic terraces of Victorian and Georgian cottages into upmarket homes.

The area's spectacular views over the bay, its proximity to the city and relatively cheap property prices attracted many white people working in central Cape Town.

But Bo-Kaap also has a few skeletons in its cupboards. Drug trafficking was rife in the early '90s and police were called in to stop the Mandrax, dagga, cocaine and LSD trade.

The ceremony to celebrate the rebirth of the Malay Quarter will take place outside the Bo-Kaap Museum in Upper Wale Street from 4.30pm on September 24.

Bid to settle District Six claims hampered

Louise Cook

DIVISION among claimants was hampering progress in settling the high-profile District Six land claim, sources said yesterday.

In addition, a special office set up two years ago to deal specifically with more than 2 000 claims in District Six, was facing closure in March next year.

Regional restitution commissioner Alan Roberts said yesterday

that once the office was shut, the work would be taken over by the land affairs office in Cape Town.

"By the end of next year I hope to have tangible agreements to take forward. Restoration of original land will be very difficult as development like the Cape Technikon has taken place in the area and restitution would probably have to include a combination of financial settlements

and alternative land."

The District Six Restitution Trust representing many of the claimants was not available for comment.

During the 1960s and 1970s more than 20 000 people, many of them tenants, were removed from the area by the previous government.

Roberts confirmed that no claims in the area had been settled yet.

BD 23/11/99

(81)

(271)