

## R5m for municipal police housing

THE IBHAYI Town Council is to spend five million rand in upgrading the houses occupied by Ibhayi Municipal Policemen.

Other residents living in the area known as "Single Men's Hostels" in KwaZekele will have to wait until 1989 for the upgrading of their living quarters - if the money is forthcoming.

Andries Piek, hostel manager of the area, said R2,5m has been allocated by the council for the upgrading which started this year. The same amount will be spent next year and the complex should be completed by the end of 1988.

The complex will house 860 council employees consisting mainly of municipal police.

Ten years ago, residents from Red Location and Kwaford near Port Elizabeth moved to the Kwazekele Single Men's Hostels, also known as Kwandokwenza, in the hope that their destination would contain dirt-free streets and houses far superior to the ones they voluntarily left.

Kwaford now houses the elite of Port Elizabeth's black community who could afford the plush 12-roomed houses, while the original residents live in conditions worse than before.

The houses stand in streets filled with garbage and potholes. There is no electricity and no drainage system. Street taps serve as the only source of water. Buildings which used to contain cold water showers are now duntrodden and the water has long since ceased to flow.

There is a block of toilets containing five cubicles for over 200 people.

Residents tell of outbreaks of typhus and cholera and children constantly suffer from diarrhoea and stomach pains. There are no clinics or hospitals in the area.

Eunice Sopangise, 70, said she moved from Kwaford because it was going to be upgraded.

"Some people were told that the houses we were getting would be much better. We expected to go home once the new houses were built, but they were so expensive we could not move back."

Sopangise said the children were corrupted by the municipal policemen who lived in single quarter housing nearby. "They have to buy love as they don't have girlfriends. So they pay our girls to be prostitutes."

The area which at present is being upgraded for the council employees shows green grass, freshly painted houses and tarred roads. The grounds within the walled area are guarded by municipal police.

Their unwelcome status in the community is illustrated by the chunks of broken glass adorning the walls of enclosure.

Piek said money was first being spent on homes for the municipal police, because they were "intimidated and hounded" from their homes in the townships.

When asked about the conditions of other homes in the area, Piek said: "I can't see how it is ever going to change."

He said the solution would be to upgrade the area, once funds became available after 1988.

## Township living - a battle for survival

GRAHAMSTOWN has attracted more than 10 000 visitors to the city for the annual National Festival of the Arts. These visitors spend more than R1m per day during their stay in the so-called "City of Saints".

For the majority of residents, life is nothing more than a constant battle for survival.

The 75 000 people living in the black townships, however, do not benefit from this money. More than 70 percent of them remain unemployed, and many of them remain homeless. There is a shortage of at least 3 323 sites to provide housing for all families.

The average wage for adult males has been calculated at R70 a month, while women, the majority of whom work as domestics, earn only R40 per month.

There are only eight street lights, while 277 communal taps provide the majority of residents with their water.

Only 232 dwellings have water-borne sewerage, while 2 360 houses are served by the bucket-system, which is collected twice a week.

There are virtually no sport or recreational facilities, and 26 soccer clubs in the township have to share three sand fields, not only amongst themselves, but with other sport groups. Recently, the government authorised the re-routing of a major highway which passed through Grahamstown, at an estimated cost of R44m, because of incidents of stone-throwing and "unrest".

---

## What is Update?

---

*THIS is a trial edition of the East Cape Update. The Eastern Cape is one of the most controversial regions in South Africa, and Update will be coming out every two weeks with in-depth information and analysis on the area.*

*The Eastern Cape has a rich history of democratic opposition to the white minority South African government, and has often led the way for other regions in implementing successful strategies of resistance.*

*It is also one of the poorest regions in the country - its economic infrastructure has been neglected by the state and its population, especially the black community, is largely poverty-stricken and unemployment is estimated at seventy percent. In addition many of its people have suffered at the hands of the state and its security forces and more than a 1 000 Eastern Cape people have been detained during the present State of Emergency.*

*Yet information about this region has been poor, and for this reason we feel it is vital that information on the Eastern Cape be placed before a wider audience.*

*The East Cape Update, initiated by the Association of East Cape News Agencies (ECNA), aims to provide a reliable index of information, filling in the gaps created by press censorship and other media constraints.*

*We will communicate the subscription rates to you as soon as subscriptions to the East Cape Update become available.*

*Contributors to this edition are:*

*Liouse Flanagan, Ncedo Ntamnani, Franz Kruger - East London News.*

*Peter auf der Heyde - Albany News Agency.*

*Mbulelo Linda, Edyth Bulbring, Mike Loewe - Port Elizabeth News.*