

Ravensmead residents face eviction, but they say . . .

'WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED'

THOUSANDS of Ravensmead residents are being threatened with evictions by the Parow Municipality. The people are determined to stay and are saying "we shall not be moved."

Ravensmead is about 20 years old and many of the people staying in the area came from Vasco and Goodwood where they were affected by the Group Areas Act.

Since the Department of Community Development has put a freeze on the buying and selling land, about 12 000 people face eviction. This is 1 500 families.

Parow Municipality is saying that the people will have to move because there is not enough land on which to build houses.

But the people are

saying "why did they not think of that when they planned Ravensmead".

Residents feel that they have been living under poor housing conditions for too long and are demanding proper housing.

"Give us proper housing. It is dehumanising to stay in these wet shacks", they said.

The Parow Municipality intends housing people in Belhar, but

the residents are dissatisfied as they will not be able to afford it.

According to the Ravensmead Students Organisation, (RASO) it has been found that out of the 1 500 families affected, 75 percent

will not be able to afford the new housing.

"We are already earning such low wages, how do they expect us to give them the last cent that we have?" a mother asked.

"It is right, we shall not be moved", said another resident.

"It will mean that we will have to travel and spend more money on transport. Also, the students will be moved and the community spirit will be broken".

RASO is hoping to help fight alongside their mothers and fathers in their refusal to be moved.

So the cry is quite clear. Ravensmead, we stay - we shall not be moved.



Avonwood needs creche

AVONWOOD Residents Association are a small group of Avonwood Residents in Elsie River, who are concerned about their community.

The lane running across Avonwood, which is a hive of gang activity, lack of playing space for the children and the high crime rate in the area are but some of the problems that they are faced with every day.

Last year they tried to do something about the high rentals people have to pay.

However, they did not succeed in doing this. People also started losing interest. The group dwindled and lost courage and hope.

This year they decided to tackle something else to get more people involved.

They are planning to have a big public get

together at the Avonwood Sports Grounds where demonstrations, sports, games, marches and fund raising activities will take place on the 3rd October 1981, at 8.30 a.m.

The money raised at the occasion will be used for the needs of the pre-school children and the old people in Avonwood.

The area has no creche yet hundreds of children are running around.

The association would like to take the old people out on outings and make life easier for them.

Furthermore, after the 3rd October 1981, they wish to become involved with other things that concern everybody as tenants of the council. But for this they need to organize more people in Avonwood.

Trade unions issue joint statement

Twelve trade unions who met in Cape Town on August 8 have issued a statement setting out their attitude to certain aspects of the new law covering trade union activities.

The statement says: We accept that trade unions are public bodies and accordingly we do not object to providing information with respect to our constitution finances and representativity.

However, we refuse to subject ourselves to control by anybody

other than our own members.

We therefore resist and reject the present system of registration insofar as it is designed to control and interfere in the internal affairs of the union.

The meeting specifically agreed to support each other in defiance of any abuse in the powers of investigation given to the authorities by the Industrial Conciliation Act.

The meeting also agreed that unions would support each other in defying the restrictions on supporting striking workers.

It is an internationally recognised right of workers to withhold their labour.

Moreover, under present conditions and legislation, strikes happen so frequently because of low wages, inadequate bargaining procedures and com-

pletely unworkable official dispute procedures.

Workers therefore have no alternative to strike action outside of the law.

It is, in any event, the duty and function of unions to stand by its members in any circumstances including the payment of strike pay. The prohibition on financial support for strikers will not be obeyed.

Resolution - Industrial Council:

The meeting rejected the present Industrial Council system as an acceptable means of collective bargaining.

The meeting recommended that unions that are not members of Industrial Councils should not enter any Industrial Council and requested that participating unions refer this back to their respective

unions for endorsement.

The unions agreed to support each other in the event of any union resisting participation on the Industrial Council.

Resolution - Ciskei:

The meeting noted the severe difficulties created for workers by the homeland authorities and in particular by the current situation in the Ciskei, where union members and officials are subjected to severe harassment and constant detentions.

The meeting resolved to send a delegation to Chief Minister Sebe to express our extreme displeasure at his anti-union stance, and to obtain assurances about the security of the workers after the so-called Ciskeian independence.

Resolution - Banning and Detentions:

The meeting resol-

ved to continue resisting banning and detention in any way possible and warned that continuation of this practice could only worsen the already deteriorating industrial relations situation.

Resolution - Solidarity Action:


To give effect to the resolutions at the meeting the unions resolved to establish ad hoc solidarity committees in each region.

These committees would discuss and initiate solidarity action arising out of our co-operation.

The meeting also resolved to convene again by November.

The following trade unions were present at the meeting and endorsed the statement:

The General Workers' Union; The Food & Canning Workers' Union; African Food and Canning Workers' Union; The Federation of South African Trade Unions (FOSATU); Council of Unions of South Africa (CUSA); South African Allied Workers' Union (SAAWU); NACWUSA (Motor Assemblers & Component Workers Union of S.A.); The General Workers Union of SA (GWUSA); The Black Municipal Workers Union; CCAWUSA (Commercial, Catering & Allied Workers Union of SA); The Orange Vaal General Workers' Union; General & Allied Workers Union; General & Allied Workers Union (GAWU); Cape Town Municipal Workers' Association.



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