Families given deadline to move

PORT ALFRED — A large number of the black residents of Kenton on Sea have been given 11 days notice to move to Committees Drift — more than 100 km away.

The warning was issued last Wednesday. The deadline expires on Monday when trucks will be on hand to cart their belongings.

"It is a rank injustice that these people, who have lived in this area all their lives, should give up their homes and make way for recent squatters on the farm Klipfontein on the western boundary of the Bushmansriver Mouth white township," Mr Donald Savage, a former member of the Kenton on Sea Village Management Board, said.

Mr Savage, a retired attorney living in Grahamstown, visited Kenton at the weekend.

He said Town Council might have had prior notice of the move, but no one concerned with the welfare of the blacks there was told and the news came as a bombshell to them.

"The situation is complicated," explained Mr Savage.

Blacks began to congregate on the outskirts of Kenton on Sea as the resort developed and provided labour for residents and firms, as well as crews for commercial fish-

ing boats.

He was a member of the Village Management Board 16 years ago when their shacks received official recognition as an emergency camp. They have lived there since.

Kenton on Sea, being a holiday resort, had no permanent employment. Some were employed as caretakers to clean up once or twice a month and then be employed by a property owner or a member of his family throughout the holiday season or weekends.

Pensioners, feeling the pinch, also employed domestic or garden labour only once or twice a week.

All these people in employment are rated as

not permanently employed and have to get out.

In the meantime, the farm Klipfontein is a property to which a number of Coloured families and their descendants have the right of occupation under testamentary trust.

Recently black squatters have been congregating on the farm.

Those unemployed will also go to Committees, but those who have permanent employment will go to Kenton and take the place of those moved out.

Mr Savage said those who received notice to move had been told houses and a school await them, but there was no prospect of employment.