

PFP, Black Sash slam planned removals

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By BEN MACLENNAN

THE Progressive Federal Party and the Black Sash in Albany have both condemned the planned removal next week of squatters at Kenton-on-Sea and Klipfontein to Glenmore, on the Fish River.

The PFP has called on the authorities to reconsider the move.

The Albany constituency chairman of the PFP, Mrs Thelma Henderson, said last night that the PFP had been consistently opposed to mass removals, and specifically opposed the Glenmore scheme since its inception.

Mrs Henderson said it was a shock to hear reports from Kenton that people, including old age pensioners, were being summarily evicted on about 10 days' notice.

Among those receiving such notice were people in employment. This was contrary to assurances by the authorities that only unemployed people capable of contributing to the work force in Glenmore would be required to move.

Tensions

Mrs Henderson said this action was an unnecessary heightening of racial tensions. She called upon the authorities to withhold action and reconsider the steps that were being taken.

The Black Sash said the removals should be seen as the vanguard of a discarded people.

A statement released by the organisation's Albany branch in Grahamstown last night, said the uprooting of the families after 10 days' notice showed once again the Government's callous contempt for the human suffering of the people involved in the State's resettlement schemes.

It appeared that under the Glenmore scheme 35 families comprising the old, disabled, unfit, unem-

ployed and their dependants and families were selected from the Kenton emergency camp residents to make way for an equal number of fortunately employed residents presently living at Klipfontein.

The less fortunate "unproductive" and therefore redundant Klipfontein tenants would also be settled in Glenmore.

Deplored

The Black Sash deplored the fact that had it not been for the vigilance of a concerned former Kenton resident, the mass removal of families from these areas would have proceeded smoothly and without public censure.

There seemed to be no justification for the resettlement of this community.

After years of faithful service people legally in the Kenton area had their site permits summarily cancelled.

It appeared that not only was the statutory 30 days' written notice not given but that, from

passes examined, that these retired people had a legal right to be in an urban area.

Contrary to official assurances it appeared that a large number of these retired people to be resettled at Glenmore would be unable to serve as the professed labour contingent in the construction of further houses on site.

Neither the argument that the State was assisting the community in finding gainful employment nor official insistence that the settlement existed to provide squatters with alternative accommodation were valid in the proposed removal.

The Kenton families were to be removed from a viable community and dumped in an isolated location where they would be unable even to eke out a subsistence.

As Glenmore had never been defined as a scheduled African homeland, the removal could not even be justified by the authorities as part of their "grand apartheid plan," the statement says.