

# Alexandra's agony

SHEENA DUNCAN

**Y**OU are hereby notified that you will be resettled to the City Deep Compound on Thursday the 29th day of November 1977.

Transport will be available for yourself and your personal belongings such as mattress, suitcase and blankets.

Please note no furniture...

NB Your housing permit will be cancelled as from the above mentioned date, and as the room will be demolished on the same date, you are requested to remove all your belongings as early as possible'.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER, WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD 9/11/77

'No married man would be moved from Alexandra Township to the single men's hostels at City Deep, the deputy chairman of the West Rand Administration Board, Mr Carel Venter said yesterday' — Rand Daily Mail 7/12/77.

**I** HAVE been notified that I am to be moved from the above address to single quarters at City Deep Compound. I maintain that I am entitled to be resettled to family accommodation in the West Rand Administration Board Area.

I was born in Alexandra on 6th March 1936.

I have always lived at Nos... X Avenue, Alexandra which properties were occupied by my family since long before I was born... I am married to DISEGO... who entered Alexandra lawfully and was given a permit to reside in the Women's Hostel.

We have one child who was born in Alexandra in 1971. I have made application to the Township Manager on many occasions for a family permit but have always been refused'... Affidavit

**W**HAT they are creating is a vertical filing cabinet where they file away humanity and which they surround with barbed wire prejudice. It is a potential time bomb'... Mr Joe Sibiyi, social worker, speaking of City Deep Compound — Sunday Express 20/11/77

**T**HE chairman of West Rand Administration Board, Mr Manie Mulder, yesterday accused some Alexandra Township residents of abusing the Board's goodwill... "It is correct, I have said the transfer of single men will not disrupt family life in Alexandra. However, it now appears that many of the men who have been notified of the transfer are bringing women from the homelands into Alexandra for the purpose of marrying them... According to the Bantu Affairs Commissioner there have been numerous applications from Alexandra men wanting to get married since the transfer commenced"..."... Rand Daily Mail 9/12/77

**I** WAS born in Alexandra on 21st March 1940. Since October 1968 I have been married by customary union to... In that month he paid lobola for me to my brother.

We have five children.

On the 1st November 1977 my husband was ordered to get ready to move to City Deep Compound. We went together to the Township Manager at Alexandra to appeal against this order. He told us to go to the Bantu Commissioner to get a marriage certificate. We did so and were married by civil rites on 14th November 1977. When we took the certificate back to the Township Manager he still did not help us because my husband does not qualify as 10(1)(a) or (b)'... Affidavit

**W**E have more than 500 documented cases of married men who have been moved or are under orders to move'... The Reverend Sam Buti, President SA Council of Churches, RDM 8/12/77