

We want to die here say aged

GRAHAMSTOWN — Families comprising mainly pensioners and young children at the Kenton-on-Sea location, were reluctant to pack and prepare to be moved 100 km inland to Glenmore.

All of those interviewed from the 35 family groups to be moved were emphatic that they did not want to go.

They hoped for a last-minute reprieve but were resigned to their fate. All interviewed had been given only 11 days' notice to be "resettled" after living there for 25 years. Elderly and infirm family heads said they wanted to die in peace where they had lived for so long.

"I'm too old to move. I want to die here with my friends," said one old woman.

None knew what to expect at the new place.

Some families will be split by the move with wage earners staying behind. For most, this is a dilemma.

One young man said he would go with his aged father "who needs me" despite his not having to go.

Many of the elderly people to be moved out have Section 10 rights to live and work in urban areas. Most of the children are settled and at school in Kenton.

The following is a sample of the families who have been ordered to move to Glenmore:

● Mrs Leverley Mbekeane, 66, who has lived in the Kenton-on-Sea location for the past 25 years, said: "They make us work like donkeys and then

they throw us out.

"They will move us and all the time there is someone waiting at the gate to take our homes".

She first learned of the move on Tuesday when she was told to appear at the Labour Department the following day. There a policeman and officials told her to get her family ready for a move within a week.

"We asked why some families and not others. I wanted to know why we are taken away today now that we are old."

● Mr James Veto and his wife, Esther, and their eight grandchildren. Both have Section 10b rights to live in an urban area. They have lived in Kenton-on-Sea since 1956.

He is 72 and has not been employed since 1966.

She is not working, but their son works full-time in Kenton and helps support them. He will not have to move. Six of the children who will be moved are at school in Kenton.

● Mr Joseph Gqozombana, 69, a blind man receiving a R43,50 disability grant every two months, will be moved with his wife and eight grandchildren.

She was in full-time employment but now works at weekends only. Mrs Maggie Gqozombana, the wife, has rights to live in an urban area. The couple are sent money by a son working in Port Elizabeth. One of the children is paralysed and four are at school.

"We are shocked and frightened to be moved out of our home to a new place none of us know,"

Mrs Gqozombana said.

● Mrs Tolile Nellie Gnashu, 84, is also on the removal list with her two daughters and eight grandchildren.

She receives a disability grant and money from the sons and daughters whose children she cares for. "I don't want to go," she said. "I have lived here since 1956."

● Mrs Grace Dabula and her family of 10.

She is unemployed through ill-health, but she has no disability pension. Her brother, who lives with the family, is unemployed. Her son does part-time gardening. She has rights to be in an urban area.

She said she was "sick and hurt" about leaving Kenton and felt helpless in the predicament.

● Mrs Dora Mkhliphi, a widow receiving a R47,50 pension every two months, will be moved with her family of six. She arrived in Kenton to live there in January 1956. She was given 11 days' notice that they would be moved to Glenmore. She also has rights to live in an urban township.

● Mr Mani Billy, and his wife and six children and grandchildren live off his pension and her earnings from a full-time domestic job.

He said he was "beginning to doubt Christianity".

"I have been a Methodist all my life. I always thought Christianity was good.

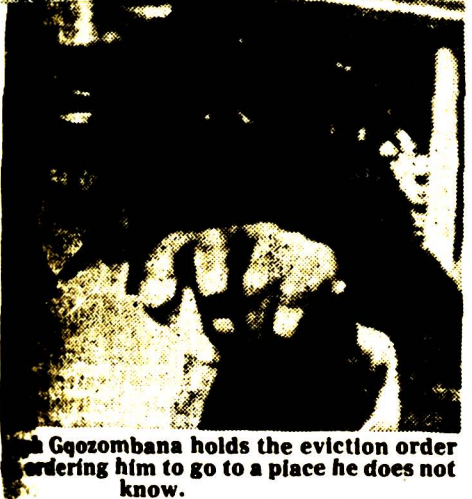
"If I'm supposed to leave, I should leave fairly. I haven't committed any crime."



Mr Mani Billy . . . beginning to doubt Christianity.



Mr Mononi Memani, 60, the head of a Klipfontein family about to be moved to Glenmore, says he does not wish to go.



Mrs Gqozombana holds the eviction order ordering him to go to a place he does not know.



A view of part of Glenmore, 40 km from Grahamstown, showing the temporary timber-and-concrete houses built for Kenton and Klipfontein families.

DD
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p 9

Klipfontein
resettlement at move