

Extra

Police issue in Tembisa rent row

DA207

Mail Reporter

THE Tembisa Town Council yesterday came under heavy criticism from the Tembisa Civic Association (TCA), which warned it to desist from informing Security Police about the group's activities regarding the controversial R4 increase in electricity fees announced two months ago.

Speaking at the TCA meeting yesterday, a spokesman for the organisation, Mr Solly Ngobese, said: "Why should the council need police protection if they are working in the interests of the people?"

"The council exercised dirty tactics by informing the police we will use violence in the event of the increase coming through.

"We want to make it clear to the people we don't believe in violence, as nothing could be achieved through force.

"We maintain the town council has no knowledge of our support — we represent the 83% silent majority which did not vote in the previous community council elections.

The 17% that voted has indicated its disaffection, for instance in Ward 14, Mangweni, and ward 12, Mphahlele.

Mr Ngobese challenged the mayor of Tembisa, Mr Lucas Mothiba, to call a public meeting at which "everybody will be allowed to do a head count as far as voting for or against the R4 increase is concerned.

Mr Ngobese said, however, the TCA was happy to have given the council new priorities such as ambulances that were now on order, although sewerage in the area was still left "unattended".

"It is misleading to say the Hospitalview residents have withdrawn from the fight against the increases," said Mr Ngobese.

Although Mr Mothiba could not be reached for comment yesterday, he told the Rand Daily Mail last week that as far as he was concerned residents were not perturbed by the R4 increase.

Their main worry, he said, was when they would get the facilities the increases were intended to finance.

He said the council had never stopped installing sewerage pipes, and spent several thousand rands towards sewerage annually.

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