

HIA (7)

1 500 residents resolve not to pay

# Rent anger in Sharpeville

MORE than 1 500 angry Sharpeville residents have resolved not to pay new house rents and service charges increases to be introduced by the Lekoa Town Council as from September 1.

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

The resolution was taken at an emotion-charged meeting held at St Cyprian Church at the weekend when residents also called for the boycott of shops and other concerns owned by councillors, whom they asked to resign.

Members of the Security Police in two vehicles watched the proceedings from a distance amid shouting of black power slogans and chanting of songs by the crowd which crammed the church.

Several leaders from various political and civic associations, including the United Democratic Front

Azapo, Azanian National Youth Unity, Soweto Civic Association and trade unions, launched a scathing attack on the councillors for increasing the rents.

Mr Tom Manthata, of the Soweto Civic Association, said that when councillors campaigned under the new Black Local Authorities Act, they had promised that rents would not be hiked, but now they have increased rents.

He asked the council and the Government to pay the rents in the black residential areas because "they are re-

sponsible for building apartheid houses for blacks."

Azanyu's Patrick Baleka said most blacks were already reeling under the escalating cost of living and could not afford to pay high rents. The delays in receiving Unemployment Insurance Fund payments, the increase in the General Sales tax and the high rate of unemployment have "frustrated most blacks."

"The increase in rents will be a heavy blow to them," he said. "We are being robbed of our rights."

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