

PACTOA announces plans to take over management of ECDC, Public Works buildings

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THE Public Assets Community Based Tenants and Owners Association (PACTOA) officially launched their plans to take over the ECDC and

Public Works buildings in Mthatha on Monday, September 24.

The launch was attended by a number of residents, mostly those living in ECDC buildings around the Mthatha area.

PACTOA president, Zamuxolo Wiseman Mkrazuli, said the main objective of the organisation was to fight corruption and fraud in government organisations and institutions.

PACTOA is already in a court battle with ECDC over the ownership of the buildings. PACTOA claimed that earlier this year, ECDC passed a decision to evict residents, which was an illegal decision that gave local gang groups the right to occupy these buildings.

“We are sick of corruption in these buildings. Government officials removed innocent poor people from these buildings and allowed criminals to take over and we are not going to allow that,” said Mkrazuli.

He added that they took a resolution that only needy and unemployed people would occupy these buildings. “As we speak, PACTOA has already placed a number of unemployed young people in the buildings,” he said.

Asked whether their decision of forcefully replacing people in these buildings was not ille-

gal, Mkrazuli said, “I don’t want us to use the word illegal because the ones who have made an illegal decision are those who are doing corrupt activities and evicting innocent people.”

“We are not inciting any violence or doing any illegal things by placing these poor people.

“People are being raped and killed because there is no safety. They failed to maintain the buildings and the roofs are leaking,” he said.

According to the organisation president there are more than 100 buildings targeted by the PACTOA in Mthatha alone. He said they have consulted government surrounding their grievances but government failed to listen to them.

“ECDC is not benefiting, instead only individuals are earning thousands of rand through these buildings,” said Mkrazuli.

He said they are going to focus on farmers, firms and government flats, ensuring that workers exercise their rights.

One of the residents placed by PACTOA in the ECDC building in Mthatha, Mfezeko Gebuza from Springs, said, “I started living here in January, this year after moving around looking a place to stay, surprisingly I was approached by a PACTOA member who organised the room that I am staying in right now,” said Gebuza.

Gebuza who is currently seeking for a job said he is 100% supporting PACTOA’s decision.



PACTOA president, Zamuxolo Mkrazuli (right), was accompanied by the organisation’s delegation to address the launch at the Mthatha Civic Centre. PHOTO:HOSEYA JUBASE