



Metro Police at a plot that was illegally being built on in Ext 13, yesterday (May 25).

# Land invasion brought to halt?

By BRIDGET LEPERE

THE City of Joburg Property Company (JPC), a division of the Johannesburg Metro Police Department (JMPD) put a stop to further building on an invaded property in Lenasia, Ext 13, on corner Turquoise, Bevel and Mocha Streets yesterday (May 25).

On arrival, the *Rising Sun* found two JMPD vans and a truck stationed at the scene to remove builders from the invaded property.

According to an official from JPC they had been sent to secure city property as the land was never on sale.

Residents stood on the street with their eyebrows raised awaiting action to be executed by JMPD. The residents vented their frustrations and said that they had been waiting for a very long time for this from Council's side.

They claim that one of the properties that was been invaded was meant to be a crèche and the land opposite it a park.

A very vocal resident on Mocha Street, Rita Naidoo, said she empathises with people who were deceitfully sold City of Joburg's land.

"Housing people must get to the source of the problem, because it is unfair for these

people, who have bought the land, to be arrested or have their buildings demolished when they didn't even know they were being sold land illegally."

"This whole thing must be sorted out. High walls are being built and the grass in half enclosed properties is growing very long and it is getting dangerous for us. We can't live like this."

The 'owner' of property that was invaded, Julius Mavela, of Rockville, Soweto - who was called to the scene by JPC - said he did not know about what was happening, as he was not aware that the property in question was sold to him illegally.

"I was given information from a woman who said she knows of stands that need to be sold and she can sell me land. If I had had anything to hide, I would not have come here after being called, so I know nothing about the illegal dealership. I was given papers with a Municipality stamp confirming that that I am the owner of the land and I may start building, and I think the lady is working for the Housing Department."

An insider from Council offices stated that the recent inspections conducted on some of the plots on May 3 by the City of Johannesburg has ultimately lead to the final protection of City's property by JMPD.

