

Otavi ignored

I WANT to bring certain facts to the attention of the authorities - facts which are ignored. It is now time to give serious attention to the following:

□ last year a beautiful complex, a clinic, was built in the black township. The black community complains about the lack of medicine and say that only painkillers and Panado are available. Many could lose their lives because of this.

□ Old-type toilets are still in use in the township. The workers who take the buckets from the toilet do it at their own risk. They are not even taken to a doctor for a general check-up. When they become sick they are paid off. Those who die rest in peace, but the few who survive death are kicked out of their homes if their rent is in arrears.

□ the so-called single quarters are in a very bad condition. The one room you rent is only big enough for a bed, and you have to pay R10 a month. The rooms are not private and are divided with 1,5m walls in the middle.

□ the streets are in a bad condition with holes which makes it difficult for

vehicles to drive safely.

□ one thing that really surprised me is that there are more than a thousand old houses. Some of them are in the process of falling down. The local authorities have plastered and painted only 70 of them, and have provided the materials for 40 hirers to do the job themselves. The rest of the people have been told there is not enough money for the project and that the rent would then increase by R5 or more. Present rentals are R25 for a four-roomed house; R20 for three rooms; and two rooms, R15 a month. Many of the renters are jobless men and women and pensioners.

The local authorities mention in their most recent report this year that everything is going well in Otavi. What they should know is that everything is going well with the whites there.

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