

Investors: 'Act quickly'

REYANA STEYN

PEOPLE who have invested money with Mr Ashraf van Wyck's company Nationwide Mortgage Centre, have been urged to lay criminal charges against Van Wyck and "not to give up and part with their hard-earned money".

According to Mrs Sara Scheiner of the South African Law School in Cape Town, investors should go to their nearest police station and lay a criminal charge.

They should mention to the officer on duty that the case be added to the file which has been opened against Van Wyck at the commercial crime unit in Bellville which is investigating the case.

This will make the civil case to get their money back much stronger, according to Scheiner.

Scheiner addressed hundreds of investors who went to their offices at the Absa building after they gathered at the Waalburg building in town last week Tuesday to attend Van Wyck's hearing.

He was scheduled to appear in front of the Estate Agents Affairs Board regarding the Wood Green Housing Project after people laid complaints about the housing project at the Mitchell's Plain constituency office.

The investors were bitterly disappointed when Mrs Lindiwe Bulu from the Estate Agency Affairs Board decided that the matter was out of their jurisdiction and that the hearing will not be taking place.

As stated in previous articles published by *People's Post Mitchell's Plain*, thousands of people have invested money with Nationwide in the hope of receiving a house in the



Mr Ashraf Van Wyck was confronted by scores of investors outside the Waalburg building where he was scheduled to appear for a hearing. The Estate Agency Affairs Board however decided that the matter falls out of their jurisdiction and cancelled the hearing.
Photo: Reyana Steyn

Wood Green Housing Project.

Building was supposed to start in 2004 on the vacant land between A-Z Berman Road and the R300 highway, but no soil was ever turned. In 2006 Van Wyck sold the land to New Age Property Developers without letting his investors know.

The new owners plan to start building the Watergate Estate on

the same site in a few months' time.

Despite selling the land, Van Wyck still received money from the investors. When the investors started asking questions, Van Wyck organised a public meeting to address their problems.

At the meeting he tried to pacify those present by saying they "will be satisfied", but failed to answer

the question regarding the whereabouts of their money.

According to Scheiner the contract between Van Wyck's company and the investors was "designed very carefully to fool people".

"It's not a contract of sale, it's not saying what it's selling."

It has also emerged that Van Wyck changed his name for busi-

ness purposes. His real name is Anthony Warren Van Wyck, but he changed it to Ashraf.

To add to the confusion his company has three different names: Nationwide Mortgage, Nationwide Group and Nationwide Warranty.

Scheiner urged people to take steps sooner rather than later to try and get their money back. "We need to keep the heat on him. Once the criminal charges are laid by investors, it makes the civil case much stronger," said Scheiner.

She also advised people to write to political parties and put pressure on them for help.

"Don't give up and part with your hard-earned money."

Attorneys at the Law School said they'll help the investors. Groups of 10 to 15 people should make appointments together, and not individually.

Van Wyck is allegedly involved in other housing projects too, one of which is the New Hampstead Housing Project which is being built in Ottery.

Thousands of people have already invested money in the project. These people should also make an appointment to see an attorney and have their contracts viewed.

For more information or to make appointments, contact Mrs Sam Hristov at the South African Law School on 021 422 5610 or 082 224 5624.