



Group Areas Act

Written Notes for Learners:

The cornerstone of the Group Areas Act of 1950 was to prevent interracial contact while at the same time ensuring that those described as 'white' South Africans would be privileged with exclusive rights and enjoyment of prime property in the country. To achieve this, some 4 million South Africans were forcibly removed from their homes.

Government's reasons for removals:

1. Interracial interaction bred conflict.
2. District 6 was a vice den full of immoral activities.
3. It was a slum, fit only for clearance, not rehabilitation.
4. The area was crime-ridden and dangerous.

On 11 February 1966 more than 60 000 people were relocated to the sandy, bleak Cape Flats township complex. The old houses, apart from places of worship, were bulldozed. Residents believed that the government sought the land because of its proximity to the city centre, Table Mountain and the harbour. Due to international and local pressure the area has been left undeveloped except for the Cape Technikon, and police housing units.

Adapted from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/District_Six
<https://www.sahistory.org.za/article/group-areas-act-1950>