

'I was taken for a Govt. man'

Staff Reporter

THE Indian Council member, Mr. Ismail Mayet, who was prevented from speaking at yesterday's prayer service to Ahmed Timol, said last night he belonged to the school of people who believed justice must be seen to be done.

"I can't blame the attitude of those present. I might have done the same in the highly emotional circumstances," he said.

"The comments that I am a Government stooge were not meant for I. Mayet, I think, but for the seat I am holding. The intolerance is understandable under the circumstances.

"They said it because they thought I was a Government man."

Mr. Mayet said he had wanted to lead a prayer at the meeting and to pass on his condolences to the Timol family.

FRIEND

"I am a close and intimate friend of Mr. Yusuf Timol."

Mr. Timol is a registered partly-blind man with the Coloured and Indian Welfare Association. Mr. Mayet is a founder-member of the 25-year-old association and is its chairman.

He said that after the families of detainees had seen lawyers, he had been inundated with requests and calls for help.

"Many of these people were in a dilemma and confused. They were told by their lawyers that their family members had been detained under a section of the Terrorism Act, and there was nothing anyone could do."

He said the South African Indian Council was a consultative body which had nothing to do with legislation. All it could do was write letters.

He said he had been in contact with the Department of Indian Affairs about the detentions.

Mr. Mayet said he was well known as a community man. He had involvement with sporting and cultural activities, was a member of hospital committees and had made representations on behalf of the community on a number of occasions.