



PICTURE: BEATRICE WILTSHIRE

■ Several Helderberg residents joined an angry crowd of over 2 000 people who marched up Chapman's Peak on Sunday January 22, in what was considered a test for democracy. The protest was against proposed "selling off" – by Provincial Minister for Transport and Public Works, Robin Carlisle – of part of Chapman's Peak, for the construction of a luxury two-storey office block as an intended toll plaza, estimated to cost R54 million of taxpayers' money. The residents will be taking legal action, saying it is unlawful to build on parks land. The march was organised by the Civil Rights Action Group (CRAG), supported by the Greater Cape Town Civic Alliance (GCTCA), and the Hout Bay Residents' Association. Mr Carlisle, who expressed surprise at the size of the protest, said: "Government expects people to abide by the rule of law" – to which Somerset West resident Gavin Smith responded: "In a democracy, people also expect government to abide by the will of the people." Pictured, right, is Gavin Smith readying the banner, with Alan Jackson, left, of the GCTCA.