HOW OTHERS SEE IT

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Not at fault for Treasury's R7,5m gaffe

MATTERS concerning the cost of renovation to the Gauteng premier's house have been referred to the Public Protector, writes DA Gauteng caucus leader **JACK BLOOM** by e-mail.

Vuyo Sabani endorses my right to question the costs of renovation to the Gauteng premier's residence, but says I omit facts (Letters, March 21).

The fact is that this house was bought in 2004 for R11,5 million, but R13,5 million has already been spent on maintenance and renovation.

I am not to blame for an alleged "mistake" in the budget book that R7,5 million would be spent on the house in the next three years.

The corrected R1,2 million figure is still outrageously high. I suspect that we have been ripped off by fishy contractors who did a poor job.

Why have we spent more on this house than we paid for it?

The Ministerial Handbook prescribes that renovation of official residences is carried out "in consultation with the relevant occupants".

This applies to Premier Nomvula Mokonyane and to President Jacob Zuma's Nkandla residence as well.

I have referred this matter to the Public Protector and will continue to probe it in the interests of good government.