

New deputy, new cars

The Department of Public Works shifted money from its support services budget to pay for the cars.

The Department of Small Business Development bought big cars for minister Lindiwe Zulu (a Mercedes-Benz E400 at R1.1-million) and her deputy Nomathemba November. November, got two vehicles – a Lexus GS 350 at R900 000 and a BMW 5 Series for R1-million.

The department said the previous ministerial car was due for replacement and November, new to the post, was entitled to two new cars.

Faith Muthambi, the minister of public service and administration, scored a new Lexus RX 350 EX (R813 886) after her previous vehicle was damaged in an accident.

Spare no expense

The Department of Transport bought four vehicles. Minister Joe Maswanganyi received a Toyota Fortuner at a relatively modest R557 927 and a Mercedes-Benz E350d at R984 000, while his deputy Sindi Chikunga now has a BMW X5 (R984 000) and a Jaguar (R800 000).

Zanele kaMagwaza-Msibi, the deputy minister of science and technology, has received a new Audi Q7 at R1-million, after the previous vehicle notched up 150 000km.

New Deputy Minister of Communications Tandi Mahambehla has two new vehicles – a Jaguar XF 2.0d R-Sport at R748 941 and a Mercedes-Benz GLC 250 at R755 888.

Yesterday, finance ministry spokesman Mayihlome Tshwete said there was no cap on the cost of new ministerial cars at the moment because none had been passed by the current cabinet.

Limos for the lucky

Maynier said he was shocked.

"It is just wrong, when we are facing the biggest fiscal crisis since the global financial meltdown, for ministers – who should ultimately be leading the belt-tightening fight – to be spending millions of rands on flashy ministerial vehicles, especially when ordinary people are struggling every day just to put food on the table," Maynier said.

"National Treasury, to their credit, have implemented cost-containment measures, but they appear to be simply ignored by the departments."

'Middle finger'

Howard Dembovsky, chairman of the NGO Justice Project South Africa, which monitors road traffic administration, described the vehicle expenditure as an abuse.

"What possible justification does one have for that other than 'I want to be flash'?"

"What is the difference between this and Robert Mugabe's son buying two Rolls-Royces? It simply astounds me that they feel it is necessary to keep showing everybody the middle finger," Dembovsky said.

Department of Transport



Joe Maswanganyi



Sindi Chikunga

Sunday Times, pg 6, (part 2 of 2) 26 Nov. 2017



R557 927 Toyota Fortuner 2.8 GD-6 4x4



R984 990 Mercedes-Benz E350d



R984 896 BMW X5



R800 000 Jaguar XJ3.OL

Science and Technology



Zanele Magwaza-Msibi



R1-MILLION Audi Q7 2017



"What is the difference between this and Robert Mugabe's son buying two Rolls-Royces? finger

Howard Dembovsky,

Chairman of the NGO Justice Project South Africa

Department of Communications



Tandi Mahambehla



R755 888 Mercedes-Benz GLC 250 (X253)



R748 941 Jaguar XF 2.0d R Sport