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## 'DA's Ramaphosa whine won't get them votes'

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President Cyril Ramaphosa's promise to downsize the country's bureaucracy and trim his inherited Cabinet came under fire from the DA yesterday.

"The bloated Cabinet of former President Jacob Zuma continues to live on through the current administration," said DA shadow minister of public administration Desiree van der Walt.

"This Cabinet is by far one of the biggest in the world, with 35 ministers, far bigger than the United States at 15 ministers, Kenya with 18 ministers, and the United Kingdom with 21 ministers."

Van der Walt said government's 35 ministers and 37 deputy ministers would earn R163.5 million this year.

"The Department of Public Works has a specific division called the Prestige Portfolio, which manages the accommodation for the Presidency, ministers, deputy ministers and other VIPs. The department spent more than R188 million on acquiring 33 properties in Pretoria and Cape Town," Van der Walt said.

In Ramaphosa's 95 days as president, he has installed interim boards at Eskom, Denel and Prasa, instituted action against Sars

commissioner Tom Moyane, taken over the administration of the North West province, put Pravin Gordhan in at public works, Nhlanhla Nene at Treasury, set up a review panel of the State Security Agency, and stopped paying for Zuma's legal fees.

Political analyst Ralph Mathekga said the "bloated Cabinet" was a "boutique issue". "It is unrealistic that Ramaphosa can make such major changes before going into the elections. That would unsettle some in the party," Mathekga said.

"As for the DA taking up this issue, I think the party is desperately shopping for issues upon which to take a position against Rama-

phosa."

He felt the party was struggling to craft a position in relation to Ramaphosa. "The DA should rather focus on more important issues that relate to service delivery instead of boutique issues such as a bloated bureaucracy," he said.

"Voters do not care much about a bloated bureaucracy; they worry about inequality and poverty."

Political analyst Daniel Silke said Ramaphosa's policy framework was still elusive.

"I think there's been some progress, but there hasn't really been sufficient progress and it's too soon for it to have occurred, to be fair."