

# Spy fund splashes R10m on minister's mansion

Special project' turns  
out to be fancy new  
house for politician

by MZILIKAZI WA AFRICA

A top-secret state spy fund has been used to splash out R10-million on a luxury mansion that could become the new home of the minister of state security after she rejected the house provided by the government because of maintenance challenges".

Minister Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba is understood to have personally negotiated the purchase of the Waterkloof property after meeting the owner and the estate agent in March this year.

Just a month after taking occupation of a house allocated by the Department of Public Works, Letsatsi-Duba had complained of damp on the walls, leaks and faulty plugs.

A few weeks later, the minister personally approved the deviation from the supply chain management process by signing off on R10-million from the State Security Agency's slush fund to cover the cost of buying the house and any furniture required.

SSA spokesman Brian Dube said that while the house had not been specifically bought for the minister, it was among a number of accommodation options being considered.

The purchase of the house is likely to form part of the review by a panel headed by former safety and security minister Sydney Mufamadi to "assess the mandate, capacity and organisational integrity of the State Security Agency". The panel is expected to probe controversial acquisitions by the agency and abuse of state resources.

For years the SSA has been accused of abusing millions, if not billions, of rands of its operational funds to buy luxury cars and houses for its officials as well as pay ghost "informers" who are relatives of some of its top management.

The SSA slush fund is supposed to be used for top-secret projects, paying informants and buying special equipment.

The Sunday Times has seen a letter from the SSA, dated March 23, requesting "procurement of a property in special project". Letsatsi-Duba approved it on April 9 after a further note requesting deviation approvals

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Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba



The house, in Waterkloof, Pretoria, that could soon be occupied by State Security Minister Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba, after she rejected the accommodation provided by the Department of Public Works. Its kitchen, below, and one of its bathrooms. Picture: Sim



Fit for a