

■ REPAIRS

Millions spent to upgrade presidential houses

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THE government has splurged nearly R8 million to renovate the official houses of President Cyril Ramaphosa and his deputy, David Mabuza.

This emerged in a written parliamentary reply from Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi to a parliamentary question from the EFF's Leigh-Ann Mathys.

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Nxesi said Ramaphosa took over from Jacob Zuma in February to find the Mahlamba Ndlopfu official residence in Pretoria with a leaking roof and a faulty electricity and security system.

Mabuza, too, found his official residence, the Oliver Tambo House, with security and electrical problems.

Mathys had enquired about the amount spent by the Public Works

Department on the upgrades to the homes of Ramaphosa and Mabuza since they took office.

In his reply, Nxesi said more than R8m was spent to refurbish the official residences of Ramaphosa and Mabuza.

He said the repairs made at the Mahlamba Ndlopfu official residence included a leaking roof, gutters and downpipes.

Nxesi said it also needed paintwork

to the interior and exterior walls.

The repairs on paintwork, he said, extended to areas where water damage was identified, as well as "ailing" existing plumbing systems.

Nxesi said the faulty electrical systems, including the existing security system, were also repaired.

"The total cost for the repairs was R7 314 514,48, he said.

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