

■ W A S T A G E

Millions to fix official houses

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Nxesi hastened to say that “no works were registered for the Cape Town presidential residence”.

He revealed that the department had conducted repairs to the existing security system, including the faulty electrical system, at Mabuzza’s Oliver Tambo official residence.

“The cost of the repairs amounted to R856 000. No works were registered at the Cape Town official residence of the deputy president,” Nxesi said.

Mathys did not immediately comment, but referred questions to EFF communications manager Sixolise Gcilishe, who could not be reached for comment.

The renovations come months after the Public Works Department blew R10m on revamping the JL Dube presidential house in Durban, which was condemned as unfit for habitation in 2016.

In 2014, Nxesi’s predecessor, Nkosinathi Nhleko, said in a written reply to a parliamentary question that R586 854 was spent on refurbishments at Mahlamba Ndlopfu in Pretoria in 2010/11.

A total of R312 263 was spent on refurbishments at Oliver Tambo House in 2011/12 and a further R296 063 in 2013/14.

In 2011, former public works minister Gwen Mahlangu-Nkabinde halted upgrades to the presidential homes and offices, as well as to the Bryntirion Estate in Pretoria, after it emerged that they would cost about R400m.