

SUNDAY TRIBUNE | Sunday, October 28 21

It's not beyond the morals of some of these people to use a funeral to steal

THEMBA GODI

Chairperson of the National Assembly



FW DE KLERK IN HOSPITAL

FW de Klerk was hospitalised on the Panorama Hospital, the FW de Klerk Foundation said in a statement.

Read more here: bit.ly/FWdeKlerk

R30m spent on three state funerals

Parties raise questions over 'unforeseeable and unavoidable' expenditure

LOYISO SIDIMBA

CONCERN has been raised over the government laying out R30 million on three official state funerals since April and declaring the expenditure "unforeseeable and unavoidable".

The unforeseeable and unavoidable expenditure was redirected from the Department of Public Works' budgets for property payments, administrative fees, advertising, communications, fleet services, travel and subsistence, venues and facilities, social benefits, consultants, training and development and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

According to the adjusted estimates of national expenditure released during Finance Minister Tito Mboweni's Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement this week, the department diverted amounts ranging from R70 000 to R4.8m for the three official state funerals.

The personalities who received official state funerals were not revealed, and the department's spokesperson Sabelo Mali could not respond to enquiries yesterday.

A number of Struggle stalwarts, legendary artists and other prominent South Africans have had their funerals declared state, official and provincial official funerals this year. Public representatives qualify for official state funerals.

The state, official and provincial official funeral policy, which was published in 2016, also affords the spouse of a serving president or a deputy president as well as persons of extraordinary credentials or specifically designated by the president.

Speakers of provincial legislatures, MECs, Judge-Presidents and distinguished and outstanding persons specially designated by the president on the request of a premier can have provincial official funerals.

The policy also states that in state, official or special official funerals, the



TITO MBOWENI in the Parliament's media centre during his Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement speech. | PHANDO JIKELO African News Agency (ANA)

the door for all sort of wrongs such as happened in former president Nelson Mandela's funeral.

ment on the R30m spent this year, he said the department should budget for funerals as contingencies. DA MP

tional and the government needed to be humane. "We are a caring government," he said.

vides fully furnished residen office accommodation to its such as political office-bear