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The North West Department of Public Works and Roads has been found guilty for failing to register and transfer ownership of property to one of the complainants in Lichtenburg for over a decade.

The complainant known as Ms DC Dihemo lodged a complaint with the Office of the Public Protector in 2012 after approaching the provincial department for years to no avail. According to an investigative report released by the Public Protector, Busisiwe Mkhwebane, this department has unduly failed to register and transfer ownership of a property to the complainant despite having paid over R112 000 for the building to the department back in 2008. Mkhwebane in her report released earlier on Wednesday states that the department has failed to transfer the said property into Dihemo's name and has thus suffered prejudice as a result of the conduct of the Department. She further states that the complainant has continuously been paying monthly occupational rent of R200 for the past 10 years and has been prohibited from effecting any alteration or any extensions to the property whereas the reasonable period within which the property should have been transferred into her name, was six months.

She says failure to ensure transfer of the property for over a decade has caused severe financial prejudice to the complainant, in the form of occupational rental.

Mkhwebane has ordered the Head of the Department to provide the office of the State Attorney with all the necessary documents to enable the State Attorney to register and transfer the said property into the complainant's name within 30 working days, to refund the complainant all the money paid as occupational rental, minus the rental for six months which would have been a reasonable time to register the property.

Mkhwebane also demands, amongst other things, that the Head of the Department send an apology letter to the complainant for the undue delay to transfer ownership of the property into her name, within 30 days.

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