

■ LIFESTYLE

# Minister waiting for go-ahead for lifestyle audits

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PUBLIC Works and Infrastructure Minister Patricia de Lille yesterday said the integrity and lifestyle audits for the employees of her department would be undertaken once the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) obtained a presidential proclamation.

De Lille revealed this in a written response to DA chief whip John Steenhuisen, who asked whether the integrity and lifestyle audits of senior officials in her department had commenced.

Steenhuisen also asked for the details for the audits, whether they were conducted by an external service provider and how was the service provider appointed.

De Lille had undertaken during her budget vote speech in July to institute lifestyle audits for senior officials.

In her written response, De Lille said the integrity and lifestyle audits of senior officials within the department had not as yet commenced.

“The SIU has been identified to conduct this work in government departments. This mandate will be effected through a presidential proclamation which is still under consideration,” she said.

“On the day of the budget vote, July 10, the department formally advised the SIU of its readiness to subject the minister, deputy minister, the director-general and the rest of senior management to integrity and lifestyle audits,” De Lille added.

De Lille said the department would be advised by the SIU as soon as the proclamation was issued by the Presidency. The proclamation would spell out the terms of reference of the audit, she said.

Asked if the results of the integrity

and lifestyle audits of senior officials in her department would be available to the public, De Lille said the decision had not been made in that regard.

“The decision to disclose the results of the integrity and lifestyle audits has not been made. I will apply my mind after consulting with Cabinet colleagues on the best way to deal with the outcome of the reports arising from lifestyle audits,” she said.

The lifestyle audits were first mooted by President Cyril Ramaphosa when he took office early last year.

Ramaphosa had undertaken to tackle corruption and state capture, saying they would conduct lifestyle audits of all people who occupied positions of responsibility, starting with the Cabinet. In August 2018, the National Assembly heard that Ramaphosa established a technical team under the leadership of the director-general in the presidency to explore various options

to conduct of lifestyle audits.

Last month, Public Service and Administration Minister Senzo Mchunu said his department was still forging ahead with setting up an ethics enforcement unit to conduct lifestyle audits on all civil servants in all spheres of government.

In a written response to parliamentary questions, Mchunu said the unit was mandated to support and provide technical assistance for the management of ethics, integrity and disciplinary matters relating to misconduct in the public service, among other things.

“This unit is the legal custodian of all integrity testing information and is responsible for lifestyle audit and integrity testing in all spheres of government,” he said.

Mchunu also said his department was not mandated to conduct lifestyle audits on members of the executive.