

■ GUIDE

New ministerial handbook rejected by Cabinet

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PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa's administration has rejected the new ministerial handbook.

It is understood that Ramaphosa's Cabinet ordered Public Service and Administration Minister Senzo Mchunu, his finance and public works and infrastructure counterparts, Tito Mboweni and Patricia de Lille, to consult further on financial implications of the new Guide for Members of the Executive.

This was after the new guide was presented to the Cabinet following its public release in June following

approval from Ramaphosa.

Issues addressed by the new guide include staffing in ministerial offices, the costs of official vehicles and class of domestic and international travel.

The guide also focuses on the class of international travel, special travel benefits for ministers and their deputies and the occupation of state-owned residences.

Security upgrades at private residences, payment of water and electricity as well as domestic services also came under the spotlight.

The 33-page guide applies to ministers, their deputies, premiers and MECs and was expected to replace

the ministerial handbook approved in February 2007. In terms of the new guide, the staff complements in the offices of ministers, their deputies, premiers and MECs have more than doubled in some instances.

The government will also increase the amount that can be spent on security at private residences designated as official residences from R100 000 to R250 000 and this will be adjusted annually based on the inflation rate.

The guide also gave Mboweni widespread powers to curb spending on luxury cars and other perks.

The DA has rejected the guide for being formulated without consulting Parliament.