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LIFESTYLE AUDITS

12 Public Works officials in hot water

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TWELVE officials in the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure are in hot water after they failed to subject themselves to lifestyle audits.

This emerged in Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Patricia de Lille's response to parliamentary questions from IFP MP Sanele Zondo about the outcomes of the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) lifestyle audits of senior officials in her department.

Compulsory lifestyle audits for officials were introduced in April 2021.

De Lille said the final report was being compiled for the Phase One SIU lifestyle audit project, which focused on senior management personnel such

as the director-general, deputy directors-general, chief directors and chief financial officers.

She said 66 of the department's senior management personnel had been subjected to lifestyle audits.

De Lille also said several people had been red-flagged and these were being followed up to ensure a fair evaluation of the possible risk.

"Of great concern is that 11 officials did not submit any of the requested documentation, whilst another one submitted their documents after the final SIU deadline, meaning that 12 officials did not comply and could not be assessed," she said.

"They will be dealt with in line with the Public Works and Infrastructure disciplinary policy, referred for

further investigation and reported to the Department of Public Service and Administration per the lifestyle audit procedure," De Lille said.

In July, De Lille said integrity forms and supporting documents were received from 47 staff members, but 13 other officials were still to submit outstanding documentation.

The lifestyle audit checked whether senior management members held any positions or directorships at companies, what properties were registered in their names, financial disclosures and if they were registered on the government's central supplier database.

The lifestyle audit also included verification of criminal records for senior staff members.

Page 1 of 1