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**Author:** Sipho Mabena

## High-living Busi faces eviction order

**Sipho Mabena**

The days suspended public protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane will be staying at Pretoria's palatial Bryntirion government estate are reportedly numbered, with her eviction looming.

Mkhwebane's stay at the lavish estate, which includes the official Mahlamba Ndlopfu presidential residence, has been at the taxpayers' expense.

The 1.07km<sup>2</sup> property boasts 15 tennis courts, a nine-hole golf course with a helipad, a 202 CCTV camera perimeter security system, four gatehouses and 8.1km of anti-climb motion detection fences.

City Press reported yesterday that Mkhwebane had moved into the estate near the country's seat of executive power, Union Buildings, in 2017 after citing threats to her life that could not be verified.

She reportedly moved into a flat within the ministerial estate at the rental cost of R11 000 billed to the office of the public protector.

Last month, the report reveals, the institution's chief executive Thandi Sibanyoni and acting public protector Advocate Kholeka Gealeka wrote to Mkhwebane, notifying her of the office of the public protector's decision to terminate its lease between it and the department of public works and infrastructure, which oversees the use of state-owned property.

City Press has reportedly seen a legal opinion, dated 17 October, recommending the accounting officer notify Mkhwebane of the lease agreement being terminated following an internal investigation.

According to the report, legal had to probe whether the arrangement was a perk or legal obligation in terms of her status as a protected VIP, as provided for in the risk information administration system.

The internal legal opinion reportedly found her conditions and benefits did not provide for access to prestigious state-owned accommodation.

Former minister of public works and infrastructure Nathi Nhleko had given her permission to move into Bryntirion, but reportedly made it clear this would be for her own account and a temporary arrangement of 12 months.

Mkhwebane is currently on suspension, pending outcomes of parliamentary proceedings assessing her fitness to hold office, after a panel established that there was substantial information constituting prima facie evidence of incompetence against her.

 *Permission to move into Bryntirion in 2017 was given on the basis that it would be for her own account and for 12 months.*