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THREAT TO SECURITY

Mkhwebane facing eviction

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SUSPENDED Public Protector advocate Busisiwe Mkhwebane could soon be evicted from the state-owned house in the exclusive Bryntirion Estate in Pretoria.

This comes as a surprise since Mkhwebane is on suspension and has not been fired. President Cyril Ramaphosa suspended her five months ago.

This, after Mkhwebane was investigating Ramaphosa regarding his Phala Phala farm scandal in which millions of US dollars were stolen.

According to a press statement from the Presidency in June, Mkhwebane will remain suspended until the Section 194 process in the National Assembly has been completed.

The Star newspaper is in possession of a five-page letter of response from Mkhwebane, after being told that she will be given notice to terminate the lease that she said chief executive Thandi Sibanyoni signed with Public Works and Infrastructure Department (DPWI).

"I have noted and perused the opinion from legal services and the related attachments into the reasons and the conditions that informed the decisions of the then and current accounting officers to be liable for the financial obligation and the related rental expenditure incurred for the provision of my state-owned accommodation, at both 18 Bryntirion Estate, and Flat No 1 Lisdogan Park, Bryntirion Estate Pretoria," Mkhwebane said.

In the letter addressed to Sibanyoni



SUSPENDED Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane. | MIKE HUTCHINGS Reuters

and Deputy Public Protector Kholeka Gcaleka, Mkhwebane said she did not have a problem with vacating the house.

"I have no problem with vacating the house and the CEO can go ahead and give notice to DPWI accordingly," Mkhwebane said.

"Can I have a letter of confirmation from SAPS that they were informed about my vacating the residence and confirming that I am no longer under any high risk category by November 15.

"The reference to payment to be debited from my account related to services rendered like water and electricity usage (Mr Leon) Mbangwa the former chief of staff of the minister of public works once said it might not be more than R2 000 a month, similar to what ministers pay for such)."

Mkhwebane said after the threat assessment report dated August 17, 2017 from the acting divisional commissioner: Crime Intelligence Major-General PM (Pat) Mokushane, ad hoc protection was provided, while the Risk Information Administration System (Rimas) Policy was reviewed and pending to be tabled

in Cabinet in 2018.

"There is a letter dated 18 October 2017 from the former commissioner Khehla Sitole to the minister of public works about the threat to my security. It deals with provision of official residence following the malicious damage to my property at Pebble Rock on 1 September 2017 and case number 1/09/2017 which was opened.

"I have attached all the correspondence PPSA had with Public Works following up on the lease and amount to be paid for accommodating me temporarily.

"I have also attached a submission by Themba Dlamini, the former CEO of PPSA and other correspondence to DPW following up on the issue of the lease and rental amount. A risk and security threat assessment were further requested from SAPS as per the letter dated 29 April 2019 from the erstwhile CEO, Mr Mahlangu and on May 25, 2020 from the late Mr Sibusiso Nyembe, COS. SAPS responded on July 17, 2020 and confirmed the status quo.

"This was not a nice to have arrangement and there was a State Security Agency threat and risk assessment at my house which proposed that my house be upgraded and I did not agree to that arrangement avoiding the Nkandla saga.

"I opted to move from the comfort of my house to the state house and I kept maintaining and servicing my house in Pebble Rock until I sold it in July 2021.

"After the house was sold I rented a place to keep my furniture and all my belongings," said Mkhwebane.