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SUSPENDED

## Mkhwebane might be evicted from state house

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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 move comes as a surprise since Mkhwebane is on suspension and not fired. President Cyril Ramaphosa suspended Mkhwebane from the Office of the Public Protector five months ago.

This was after Mkhwebane, then as public protector, 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 process has seen Mkhwebane being denied funding by the acting public protector Kholeka Gcaleka.

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

the 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 the 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 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.

She added: "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



PUBLIC Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane listens during a briefing at Parliament in Cape Town. | REUTERS/Mike Hutchings

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 R2000 per month, similar to what ministers pay for such). I reserve all my rights relating to this matter."

Mkhwebane said following 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 PP/SA had with Public Works following up on the lease and amount to be paid for accommodating me temporarily."