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Busi loses free stay at estate

'She must
pay herself'

Suspended public protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane has lost her free stay at the Bryntirion ministerial estate in Pretoria, which was funded with taxpayer money.

If she wants to continue living there, she can enter into a private lease agreement at her own expense, her office says.

In a statement, the institution said it served notice to the public works department last month about its intention to terminate the lease.

"This was done to rectify the obligation of who bears the financial costs of Adv Mkhwebane's accommodation, in line with the relevant applicable institutional policy as well as her conditions of service.

"The institution confirms it started looking into this issue before advocate Mkhwebane was placed on suspension, due to media inquiries and reports on the matter. The process to rectify has been fully communicated to advocate Mkhwebane.

"Advocate Mkhwebane is not being evicted from the residence, as she may continue to occupy the residence, should she elect to do so, in her personal capacity and at her own cost."

A section 194 inquiry into her fitness to hold office resumed yesterday, although she has filed papers in the Western Cape High Court challenging the chairperson's refusal to recuse himself.

The amount spent by Public Protector's Office on litigation and legal opinions has led to a public outcry. - *TimesLIVE*