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AUDIT

## Parliament restoration estimated at R1.5bn

MPs want real-time audits on the spending of the more than R1.5 billion in funding that will be needed to restore the buildings damaged by the fire in Parliament earlier this year.

This emerged on Friday when the joint standing committee on financial management of Parliament was briefed on matters related to the investigation of the fire and progress in the renovation efforts.

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure commissioned the Coega Development Corporation to conduct a detailed assessment of the damage.

The Old and New Assembly buildings were gutted by the fire on January 2. Zandile Mafe will face terrorism charges next month.

The report provided four restoration options, which included completely demolishing and rebuilding the Old and New assemblies to their pre-fire condition.

Coega programme manager Christos Beukes said they recommended the restoration of the Old Assembly, which would include replacing the roof structure, timber floor, and electrical, electronic and water services to the tune of R528m.

ANC MP Mandla Rayi said they should consider a real-time audit of the funds to be spent rather than wait for the normal auditing to take place.

| Mercury Correspondent