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## Brett Herron's Leeuwenhof hypocrisy

TO deflect from the fact that his boss, Patricia de Lille, is the one who implemented the secret Ministerial Handbook provisions, Brett Herron is now spreading lies and scraping the barrel with Whataboutism.

Leeuwenhof Estate dates back to 1693 and has served for decades as the seat of government in the Western Cape. It is not a private residence, and like most heritage buildings, Leeuwenhof is part museum, part working office and a designated national monument.

The private residence is a small part of the 12ha Leeuwenhof Estate. The rest of the estate is used as a gallery to memorialise the history of slavery, as a venue to host diplomatic receptions and government functions, and as the office and seat of the Western Cape Government.

The premier receives dignitaries and hosts state functions with heads of mission and other representatives in line with the prevailing rules concerning the management of these types of properties.

Would we expect the president to pay rent for using the Union Buildings in his capacity as Head of State, like a WeWork space? The Union Buildings are valued at over R1 billion, but that valuation has no bearing or relevance beyond being an impressive number. It is the seat of government, much like the

premier's residence is the seat of the Western Cape Government.

National monuments are vastly different from the homes of that of a minister or deputy minister which is never required to serve any other function than to be a residence.

Surely Herron is not suggesting the state must sell off all its national monuments, including those dedicated to memorialising the history of slavery? Would he also expect us to sell the Union Buildings, or for the US president to sell the White House for scrap?

Rather than trying to sell off the Western Cape's heritage, Mr Herron should explain why his party leader, Patricia de Lille, did not speak out against the new perks that President Ramaphosa secretly introduced in the new Ministerial Handbook in April. In fact, it is De Lille's own department of public works that gleefully implemented these perks until the DA put a stop to it.

The reality is that Herron's GOOD for nothing Party is in coalition with the ANC at national level, which makes them complicit in the fleecing of taxpayers by the ANC government. His attempt to equate a national heritage site with Minister De Lille's complicity in ANC misrule is nothing but a cheap attempt to distract from that fact.

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