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Ministers don't care about the poor, only themselves

I SERIOUSLY do not believe that any of the ANC ministers in Cabinet really fought in our "Struggle".

If they did, it was a pure masquerade where they flattered to deceive the unsuspecting among us.

A weekend newspaper report suggesting that "our" government forked out almost R400 000 just to eliminate "pests" at one Cabinet minister's house in three months and a total of R93 million on adding splendour to the lavish lifestyle and residences of Cabinet ministers' official residences – our so-called "Struggle stalwarts" – had me gobsmacked and got my goat.

An unnamed company – obviously it had to be unnamed, for it might well be a relative or friend or a cadre of someone in government who got the job – billed Public Works just over R79 000 on three occasions at one minister's home – to eliminate pests – all paid for by you and me.

A job that sources in the industry suggested could have cost a mere R5 000.

Then there was R3.4m on swimming pool maintenance and water features on no fewer than 388 occasions between 2019 and 2022 – also all paid for by you and me.

Further, R2.1m was spent on diesel for generators at 71 ministerial homes in Pretoria, plus an additional R454 000 to install a generator at one ministerial residence in Pretoria – all paid for by you and me.

A further R470 000 was spent on repairing an intercom and a security camera at one minister's home in Houghton Estate, Johannesburg – all paid for by you and me.

R1.6 million was spent on fixing leaking roofs at one ministerial home in Bryntirion Estate in Pretoria – all paid for by you and me.

To cap it all, you and I have paid over R43m between 2020 and 2022 just so that ministers who are busy plundering this country could have free electricity, water and municipal services to their ministerial homes – all paid for by us.

Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure Sihle Zikalala seemed "shocked" at this, and guess what: he stated that he would launch government's favourite new game when thuggery is exposed – an inquiry, into what he said "appears to be hugely inflated prices".

And who pays for such a frivolous inquiry that will yield nothing? You and I do.

Apparently "no minister has a say in the multi-million-rand public works spending spree", according to Zikalala. This has to be a joke!

Even if they didn't, where was the oversight to prevent such gratuitous overspend on public servants who are nothing but leeches?

This daylight robbery by those who once falsely proclaimed that the people come first, as the feeding trough has become much too long and much too easy to access – and all the while, the country teeters on the brink of economic disaster.

My caution to all of South Africa, and this as serious a caution as can be: if you don't act where it matters – the ballot box in 2024 – you are looking down the barrel of a very long gun that is highly loaded and thugs who are simply trigger-happy to shoot first then ask questions.

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