



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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SAMANTHA GRAHAM-MARE, MP
SHADOW MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

19 July 2022

Office of the Public Protector
175 Lunnon Street
Hillcrest Office Park
PRETORIA
0083

Electronic message to: registration2@pprotect.org; WCRegistry@pprotect.org

Dear Sir/Madam

COMPLAINT: SUPPLYING OF GENERATORS TO MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AT TAXPAYER'S EXPENSE

With reference to the above-mentioned matter.

It has come to our attention that the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure ("the Department") has supplied a number of generators and fuel to certain Members of the Executive ("the Members") at their official residences. This information has come to light at a time ordinary South Africans are experiencing the worst periods of load shedding in South Africa's history.

I attach hereto for convenience, the "Guide for Members of the Executive" which regulates, *inter alia*, the allowances and benefits each Member is entitled to in the discharging of the duties ("the Guide").

In terms of Chapter 8, the following sub sections have reference:

Sub Section 3

Members are responsible for all costs related to the procurement, upkeep and maintenance of a Private Residence designated as an Official Residence.

Sub Section 5

5.1 The Department responsible for Public Works shall be responsible for the costs associated with the provision of water and electricity to a State-owned Residence, provided that such cost is limited to R5000-00 per month per State-owned Residence.

5.2 Any cost in excess of R5000-00 per month per State-owned Residence will be borne by the relevant Member.

In terms of the Guide, Members are required at all times to ensure compliance with the Executive Ethics Code while they continue to hold office as a Member.

It is alleged by *City Press* that the Department spent approximately R1.3 million and R31 750 in 2021 on generators and fuel, respectively, at Member's official residences. It was then stated that in 2022, another R681 000 and R621 000 was spent on generators and fuel, respectively. The link to the news article is as follows: <https://www.news24.com/citypress/news/taxpayers-cough-up-to-power-ministers-homes-20220716>

In terms of the Guide, Members are responsible for all costs and the like associated with their official residences and a monthly benefit of any electricity and water costs is limited to R5000 per month. Any amount spent over and above this amount *must* then be reimbursed back to the Department by the Member.

I refer you specifically to the previous Public Protector's Report on the Nkandla upgrades, "*Secure in Comfort*" in which she made various findings against the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and their failure in applying their minds when it came to upgrades at Nkandla. It is respectfully submitted that this complaint should fall into a similar category as the Nkandla controversy due to funds being unduly/unlawfully used to upgrade the houses of Members.

In light of the above allegations, and the fact that the costs incurred far exceed the R5000 per month allowance on electricity, I request that you investigate this with the utmost urgency. If it is found that Members have been unduly benefiting from generators and fuel being paid by the Department, then I submit that your investigation should find and declare that each respective Member, where applicable, unduly received a benefit to which they were not entitled to in terms of the Guide, and that they must be directed to repay that specific amount, which was then calculated by your office, back to the Department.

I trust that you find the above complaint in order and I look forward to your soonest response.

Regards



Samantha Graham-Maré, MP
Shadow Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure
Democratic Alliance