

BACK TO BASICS

TOWARDS A SAFER TOMORROW



Briefing to the Portfolio Committee on Police
Accommodation – Protection & Security Services, Bloemfontein

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Introduction

- The current lease contract was concluded by the National Department of Public Works (NDPW) for a period of three years that commenced on 2014-04-01 and expired on 2017-03-31 with a total of 1 668m² and 40 parking bays against a monthly rental of R152 753-50.
- The lease agreement is currently on a “month-to-month” basis, whereby the SAPS highlighted in the past that this agreement should not be renewed and alternative accommodation must be sourced in this regard.
- The process to procure alternative accommodation (and therefore not to continue with the lease) commenced on 19 November 2015 with the compilation and certification of the needs assessment indicating the need for 2 157,26m² and 48 parking bays. NDPW then proceeded with the tender process for alternative accommodation based on the signed needs by the SAPS.

Condition of the Building



- Numerous reports and complaints were issued to NDPW regarding the condition of the building since inception of the lease.
- It should be noted that various interventions by the SAPS were initiated to rectify this situation but none of these requests were implemented by NDPW.
- The maintenance of this building was only attended to in some instances as noted by an inspection conducted by the SAPS on 2016-04-04.

Response to the Portfolio Committee



- The National Department of Public Works (NDPW) reported that the request for accommodation for the PSS (Free State) was advertised three (3) times on dates 22 January 2016; 15 July 2016 and 12 October 2016. NDPW communicated to SAPS that advertised tenders were unsuccessful.
- The National Department of Public Works (NDPW) is preparing to go out on tender again. The approach will be to engage several landlords and do an outright negotiation as all efforts on Open Tender have not been successful.
- Verbal indication has been received from NDPW that the process to engage prospective landlords will be completed within two (2) months.

Response to the Portfolio Committee



- The SAPS has in the meantime, cancelled the existing leasehold as it was on a month-to-month basis and members will immediately vacate this building.
- The intention to seek alternative accommodation commenced quite some time ago. Recent interaction reiterated to NDPW that alternative accommodation is urgently sought and reflects a clear intention not to continue to renew the current lease agreement.
- Affected members will be placed temporarily in parkhomes until a permanent building has been obtained by the National Department of Public Works (NDPW).



- At the last briefing to the Portfolio Committee on Police on 24 May 2017; the Committee required immediate action and that SAPS had to report on this matter within seven (7) days.
 - ✓ The Provincial Commissioner of the Free State, Lt Gen Tsumane and the Provincial Head: PSS, Brig Motsieloa, were engaged and the proposal to erect park homes as a temporary solution was recommended.
 - ✓ Permission was requested from NDPW to place park homes at the identified site but no feedback has been received. Follow-up communication was also send to NDPW as no feedback was forthcoming from the department.
 - ✓ The Provincial Commissioner of the Free State also confirmed that no other accommodation is readily available to accommodate this unit.



- At the last briefing to the Portfolio Committee on Police on 24 May 2017; the Committee required immediate action and that SAPS had to report on this matter within seven (7) days.
 - ✓ A few alternative sites were considered. The Divisional Commissioner: Supply Chain Management, Lt Gen Mokwena and the Provincial Commissioner visited an identified site at 75 Crow Street, Bloemfontein, on 01 June 2017. The 10 000m² site, that is under the auspices of the NDPW, is considered appropriate for the construction of park homes to temporarily accommodate the PSS Free State unit.



- The Divisional Commissioner: Protection and Security Services, Lt Gen Sithole raised a concern with the regard to:
 - ✓ the time frame members will be accommodated in park homes
 - ✓ physical security and access control at the proposed site
 - ✓ safekeeping of firearms and ammunition
- The Divisional Commissioner: Protection and Security Services does not consider the interim arrangement as a viable option

Response to the Portfolio Committee



- In the absence of alternative accommodation and taking into account the current challenges the construction of park homes is considered the most viable interim solution.
- The NDPW, in consultation with the SAPS, will continue to identify a permanent solution.
- The site audit at the interim location where the park homes will be placed is scheduled to be completed by 31 May 2017. Once completed the appointed contractor will commence with the erection of park homes, anticipated to be completed in two months.
- There are however challenges regarding the connection of power and other site clearance matters that could delay final implementation.

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Thank You

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