

**MINISTRY**

**HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**

 **REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X645, Pretoria, 0001. Tel: (012) 421 1309, Fax: (012) 341 8513

Private Bag X9029, Cape Town, 8000. Tel (021) 466 7603, Fax: (021) 466 3610

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: PQ 4112 [NW5125E]**

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**MRS M R MOHLALA (EFF) TO ASK THE MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**

Whether her department conducted any investigation into illegal occupation of low-cost housing by government officials in the Free State; if not, why not; if so, what are the full, relevant details of the progress report of the investigation?

**REPLY**

The Free State Provincial Department of Human Settlements has advised that its Security Management and Anti-Corruption (SMAC) unit conducted an investigation into illegally occupied low-cost housing in the following areas of Welkom, Warden, Sasolburg, Clarens, Schoonplaatz, Harrismith, and Mangaung Hillsideview. The Provincial Department states that the investigation was in response to the public outcry about the illegally occupied houses in the province, and that the aim was to determine the extent of illegal occupation of low-cost housing in the province.

The Provincial Department further indicates that the investigation though not necessarily targeting government officials, revealed that government officials were occupying some of the low-cost houses. In total 326 houses were found to be illegally occupied and 15 of those were occupied by government officials. For the benefit of the Member, detailed findings of the investigation to date is attached (Annexure as provided by the Free State Provincial Department of Human Settlements) however the investigations are still ongoing in order to establish the full extent of the illegal occupation of low-cost housing in the province.