



MINISTRY OF STATE SECURITY

MEDIA STATEMENT

FACTS RELATING TO FRONT PAGE SUNDAY TIMES STORY OF 22 JULY 2018

23 July 2018

The Ministry of State Security wishes to reiterate its position with regards to the Sunday Times front page story published on 22 July 2018 under the heading “*Spy fund splashes R10m on minister’s mansion*”.

The article made allegations that the Minister ‘personally negotiated this purchase, even going to the extent of meeting the owner’ of the house in the process.

The impression created by the article is that of an irresponsible Minister who disregards supply chain processes for personal gain and personal comfort at the expense of taxpayers. The Minister rejects this assertion as it is unfounded.

In terms of the law, the Department of Public works is charged with the responsibility of providing accommodation to all Ministers and Deputy Ministers for purposes of fulfilling their constitutional duties.

The property referred to was not purchased for the residence of the Minister of State Security. It was acquired as part of the SSA’s operational mandate.

However following months of engagement with DPW to find suitable accommodation, given the well documented maintenance challenges relating to the current residence, the Minister is considering a number of accommodation options that now include this house.

The current house the Minister resides in was allocated to her when she was Deputy Minister. It has serious maintenance challenges. She had initially refused to take occupation but was informed these defects would be addressed while in the house. Sadly, after numerous engagements and efforts to resolve same, these challenges remain.

The cost of security upgrades at Minister's private residence would have cost the department an excessive amount which could not be recovered after her term of office.

There are ongoing discussions between officials of State Security Agency and Public Works as to what alternative arrangements can be made in the accommodation for the Minister of State Security taking into account all the sensitivities around her work. These measures could not be met in current residence.

Ends

Issued by the Ministry of State Security.