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## **The eviction of illegal tenants is on the right track.**

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The remarkable progress registered by the Departmental Legal Division towards implementation of the eviction orders to tenants illegally occupying state-owned houses, has not been plain-sailing. Some illegal tenants obstinately dispute the order to be removed from the properties without sufficiently providing reasonable reasons in defense of their stance. It became apparent that such persons have not signed any lease agreement with the Department, have been staying illegally in those state-owned houses for a considerable amount of time and refused to pay rent and taxes.

After continuously called to come forth and present their side of the story and having received numerous written correspondence explaining the harsher stance and intentions of the department in case of perpetuation of such indecision. The Legal Division had no option but take the 'eviction files' to the Office of The State Attorney for intervention and to resolve the eviction impasse.

To date, close to fifty eviction cases have been handed over to the State Attorney and various attorneys have been appointed to deal directly with allocated cases.

Apparently there is a case which according to the attorneys had been stricken off the roll as the tenant had satisfactorily squared the count. In another different instance, it was realised that the tenant had been regularly paying rental at the local municipality, resultant from that, the Legal Division exonerated him from the eviction exercise.

“ Dealing with this momentous task, we are bound to search for information from the files relating to the availability of the Title Deeds, proof of residence, copies of receipts for payment of water and electricity, declarations of intend and lease agreements,” said Mr Morabe Mabilo of the Departmental Legal Division.

“ We also need to establish reasons why the tenants had to be evicted, how much do they owe the department, when last they paid rent, the arrears and whether the house is vested nationally or provincially,” elaborated Mabilo.

“ The desire is to rest this eviction impasse as accurately and as professionally as expected. It implies that a lot of caution, sanity and diligence have to be exercised,” concluded Mabilo.

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