



North West Public Works and Roads contracts sheriff of the court to serve eviction orders and collect debt of more than R4.4million in arrears from 27 rent defaulters...

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A The Department of Public Works and Roads (North West) has enlisted the services of messenger of the court (sheriff) to serve eviction orders and collect debt from 27 rent defaulters and illegal occupants of state houses totaling more than R4.4million.

The majority of the culprits are senior public servants currently employed by the provincial government. The list also includes former high-ranking public servant who continue to occupy state houses ``for free”.

The unprecedented move to approach the sheriff, followed challenges the department had in evicting illegal occupants from its state owned houses and getting tenants to pay monthly rental.

The department is the custodian of the said residential properties.

The 27 houses identified for eviction and recovery of debt from tenants are in the suburbs of Riviera Park, Golf View and Mmabatho Unit 2, 5 and 6.

The rental on the houses, range from as little as R200 a month to R9 500 yet the culprits to be rounded-up by the sheriff owe the provincial government between R21 000 and a whopping R750 0000

This was also followed by numerous emails, letters, telephone calls and visits by departmental staff to tenants in the past months to encourage culprits to make arrangements to pay monthly rentals and arrears. This also failed to yield positive results.

``We had no option but to raise the game plan and take stringent action that we are serious and cannot be taken lightly,” warned the accounting officer of the department, Pakiso Mothupi.

He said another list of defaulters and illegal occupants of state houses was in process of being finalised, and would also be handed to the sheriff to deal with, in the next two weeks.

``The starting point is Mahikeng as the provincial capital, but we have plans to extend this to all districts in the province where we have people occupy state houses illegally and refusing

to pay rental. The fiesta must come to an end at some point ,” he said.

“The expectation from the provincial administration is to ensure that each public body collects revenue as per allocation,” Mothupi said.

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