

Public Works roasted over braais

SOUTH Africans cannot be expected to pay R500 000 for braai areas at ministerial homes, Parliament's Standing Committee on Public Accounts has said — this after reports that the Department of Public Works spent half-a-million on such facilities at three ministerial houses in Cape Town.

"The committee is concerned about what seems to be a priority for government. Is it really necessary to spend that kind of money just for a braai area for a Cabinet minister?" the oversight committee said in a media

statement, after meeting with the department in Parliament yesterday.

It has given the Public Works just over a week to report back. Earlier in the month, the *Sunday Times* reported that Public Works had spent R30 million on five homes for ministers in Pretoria, Johannesburg and Cape Town. It reported three Cape Town homes had been kitted out with braai areas costing R500 000 in total. The payments appear to fly in the face of efforts to curb spending on government ministers.

Ministers have previously come un-

der scrutiny for using executive privileges to book themselves in luxury hotels while doing government work, and flying business class.

Scopa said it was informed that Public Works owned 148 sites of "prestige accommodation" allocated to ministers and deputy ministers.

Some houses, it said, were not being utilised. The committee also wants a limit on what Public Works spends on ministerial homes, after learning R9 million was paid for a ministerial house. Scopa wants a report by August 29. — News24.

*The Witness, August 22, 2018
front page.*