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Ukrainian 'Darth Vader' wants land plot for spaceship

AFP November 21, 2011

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A Ukrainian wearing a Darth Vader costume speaks to a policeman in the city hall of the southern Ukrainian city of Odessa on November 14, 2011.

Photograph by: AFP, Getty

KIEV — A Ukrainian wearing a Darth Vader costume made an unexpected appearance at a city hall in the south of the country, demanding a plot of land on which to park his spaceship, local authorities said Friday.

The man wearing the Star Wars villain's costume was shown in a video posted online walking up to the white pillars of the Odessa City Hall with a plastic light sabre as wind ruffled his long black cloak.

"I am Darth Vader," he told a guard at the entrance speaking through his voice-distorting face mask.

"I heard that land is being carved up in the city of Odessa," he said holding up his right hand, "and that many deputies, city administration, and the mayor have joined the Dark Side."

"I have come for my parcel of land for the spaceship," he declared to three blank-faced guards.

The visit comes on the heels of a controversial decision by municipal authorities to distribute coveted coastal land plots among just five Ukrainians for free, said the local website Dumskaya.net.

Although the local mayor has publicly admitted a mistake, he has not reversed the decision, the website said.

"Darth Vader" is then shown delivering his official application to a dour municipal official who stamped it once the man removes his helmet mask revealing his youthful appearance.

"I will receive an answer within 30 days whether or not I can receive land on the hills of Odessa for my landing craft. I think everything will go smoothly as the mayor and many deputies are with the Dark Side," he said.

Odessa City Hall spokeswoman Anna Osipchuk appeared offended, however.

"We are not the Dark Side, there are only Princess Leias here," she told AFP.

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