

Corruption Watch (RF) NPC
Reg. No. K2011/118829/08
4th floor Rosebank Corner 191 Jan Smuts Avenue (cor 7th Avenue)
Parktown North 2193 Johannesburg
P O Box 113 Parklands 2121
T +27 (0)11 447 1472 F +27 (0)11 447 2696
info@corruptionwatch.org.za www.corruptionwatch.org.za



Attention: The Honourable Mr. Thembelani Thulas Nxesi

Minister: The Department of Public Works

Per fax: (021) 461 4309

And c/o: The Minister's Personal Assistant

Per Email: babalwa.nkasela@dpw.gov.za

4 October 2012

Dear Honourable Minister Nxesi,

RE: CORRUPTION WATCH SEEKS CLARITY ON UPGRADE OF NKANDLA HOMESTEAD

1. This letter is addressed to you by Corruption Watch.
2. Corruption Watch is a non-profit, civil society organization. We receive reports of corruption from the South African public via *inter alia* our website; Facebook page and sms line.
3. We investigate certain reports of corruption; as well as mobilise the South African public to take a stand against corruption and the abuse of public funds. We also engage in research and analysis of information with a view to identifying patterns of corruption.
4. In such capacity as a civil society watchdog organisation, we have been following the recent developments pertaining to the upgrade of President Jacob Zuma's Nkandla homestead.
5. We have noted your comments in the press regarding your Department's plans for the R203 million upgrade of President Jacob Zuma's private homestead in Nkandla.

6. We have noted in particular your comment that the Nkandla homestead is a 'national key point' and that information relating to such a key point is protected by the National Key Points Act.
7. We have noted further your comment that the upgrade is in line with the Ministerial Handbook which authorises the State to pay for security-related renovations of the private residences of Cabinet members.
8. We however have also noted the comments of Constitutional law expert Pierre De Vos (De Vos) who asserts that in Annexure E of the Ministerial Handbook the rules for the funding of security measures at private residences of Cabinet members are set out. Such rules, De Vos asserts, allow for a maximum amount of R100 00.00 to be contributed by the State towards security measures at the private residences of Cabinet Members.
9. In light of the above apparent discrepancy between your Department's supposed approval of the R203 million upgrade and the maximum amount allegedly set out in the Ministerial Handbook; as well as the massive amount of public funds involved, we hereby request that you provide us clarity by answering the following questions (alternatively referring us to the appropriate person who can answer our questions):
 - a. Has your Department indeed approved the R203 million upgrade of the Nkandla homestead? If so, when and under what authority?
 - b. Is the President's Nkandla homestead designated a national key point under the National Key Points Act? If so, when did such designation take place?
 - c. To your knowledge, was the budget for the upgrading of the Nkandla homestead approved by the Defence Ministry in line with the National Key Points Act?
 - d. Does Annexure E of the Ministerial Handbook set limits on the amount that can be spent on security upgrades of the private residences of Cabinet members? If so, what is the amount?

- e. Is the Special Account for the Safeguarding of National Key Points (established under the National Key Points Act) being used to fund the Nkandla homestead? If so, how much?

10. Kindly respond to us in writing **by no later than Friday 12 October 2012 at 1pm.**

11. We look forward to receiving your response as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully



Bongwiwe Mlangeni

Acting Deputy Executive Director

Corruption Watch