



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

15 October 2012

Dear Honourable Minister Nxesi,

RE: CORRUPTION WATCH SEEKS RESPONSE TO OUR LETTER DATED 3 OCTOBER 2012 ASKING FOR CLARITY ON UPGRADE OF NKANDLA HOMESTEAD

1. This letter is addressed to you by Corruption Watch. It is addressed to you further to our letter dated 3 October 2012, to which we have not yet received a response.
2. We annex hereto marked 'A' our letter dated 3 October 2012 for your ease of reference.
3. Corruption Watch is pleased to note the comments made in the press by your Deputy Minister Jeremy Cronin that the Nkandla homestead upgrade is being monitored by your Department.
4. We still however call upon you, as a civil society organisation that *inter alia* monitors the use of public funds, to respond in writing to our questions as contained in our letter dated 3 October 2012 regarding the Nkandla homestead upgrade.

5. Kindly now respond to us in writing **as a matter of urgency**.
6. Should we fail to hear from you as matter of urgency, we will use the resources available to us to get clarity on what we believe is a matter of considerable public interest and concern, including *inter alia* our communications platform; our investigatory resources and our legal resources.

Yours faithfully,



David Lewis

Executive Director

Corruption Watch

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corruption
watch



(A)

Attention: The Honourable Mr. Thembelani Thulas Nxesi

Minister: The Department of Public Works

Per fax: (021) 461 4309

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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