



MINISTRY
PUBLIC WORKS
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Your ref:
Our ref:

08 October 2012

Corruption Watch
Parkton North
Johannesburg

By Email: patience@corruptionwatch.org.za

Dear Sir/Madam

Clarity on Upgrade of Nkandla Homestead

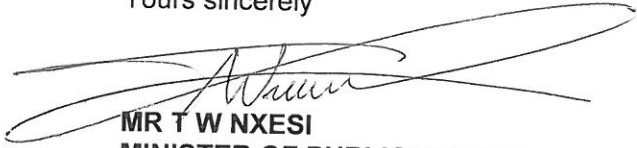
- 1 I refer to the above matter and to your letter dated 04 October 2012.
 - 2 On 05 October 2012 I addressed a press conference where I gave clarity on this matter. Without repeating what I said during the press conference, I would like to mention that when President Zuma was elected President, it was a requirement understood by all that the security would have to be beefed up at places of high security risk.
 - 3 An expert team representing the Departments of Police Service, Defence (and Military Veterans) and State Security reviewed the circumstances surrounding our principal and addressed all shortcomings. As part of meeting international standards for the security of dignitaries, plans were drawn up and implemented. As part of this process, new capacity was requested for Nkandla, in and surrounding the private residence of President Zuma.
 - 4 The approach to providing security at the Nkandla high risk area was based on a frank assessment of the security threat there and the requirements of the security forces. The security threat analysis pointed to a deep rural area in which there was basically none of the services we all take for granted in an urban area.
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- 5 It was noted that the venue was the location of many diverse type of functions. There were meetings of heads of state, cabinet ministers, other high risk dignitaries, local communities, provincial and national government and many foreign and local other categories of dignitaries.
- 6 Therefore after the assessment referred above, the following measures had to be taken in to satisfy the requirements of the security forces:
 - 6.1 The reinforcing of barriers;
 - 6.2 The erection of high security fences;
 - 6.3 The provision of local fire fighting capability for the helipads;
 - 6.4 The creation of safe havens as with other sites all over the country;
 - 6.5 The relocation of pylons to allow a clear access flight path;
 - 6.6 Roads constructions in and around the precincts;
 - 6.7 The building of a security compound to house security and support staff;
 - 6.8 Improving and rendering the water safe;
 - 6.9 The provision of waterborne sewage systems;
 - 6.10 The provision of an air crew pavilion;
 - 6.11 The provision of a clinic in a lower security area to allow for both dignitary care and later conversion to part of the community health service in the area;
 - 6.12 Security guard houses and stations;
 - 6.13 Security systems for all areas;
 - 6.14 The provisions of interim accommodation arrangements with Park homes etc. while the construction was on-going; and
 - 6.15 Earthworks and barriers erection.
- 7 The above required changes were effected whilst the President was himself undertaking a major upgrade to his residence on his own private account. We have taken special care to allocate expenses to private and public entities, as appropriate.
- 8 Indeed the upgrade was in line with the Ministerial Handbook which provides that the Department of Public Works will be responsible for *"security arrangements for private residence used for official purposes.....with due regard to security analysis referred to in chapter 2,paragraph 3."* Annexure E of the Handbook deals with security measures at the private residence of public office bearers and provides state contribution of a non-recoverable maximum amount of R100 000.
- 9 It should be noted that the residence in question is a private residence but is also used for official purposes. The Annexure E as referred to by your so called "constitutional expert"

refers to private residence of office bearers that are used for private purposes only. The residence in question is used for both private and official purposes.

- 10 The amounts referred to in the newspaper articles are not correct. I cannot disclose such information as it is classified information relating to a national key point.
- 11 All measures taken in upgrading the President's residence were done with due regard to the security analysis by security agencies.

Yours sincerely



MR T W NXESI
MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: 16/10/2012