



public works

Department:  
Public Works  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, THULAS NXESI  
ON THE STORY ON NKANDLA PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE**

01 October 2012

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

We note the contents of the City Press article published on September 30<sup>th</sup> 2012 that makes allegations about renovations and upgrades that have been carried out at the President's private residence in Nkandla.

The Department of Public Works is in terms of the Ministerial Handbook responsible for general maintenance, renovations and upgrading of State-Owned and Private Residences of Members of Cabinet including that of the President.

I would like to state categorically that everything that has been approved and carried out at the private residence of the current President is in line with the Ministerial Handbook as far as it relates to security arrangements for private residences of the President. This is also the normal practice for the former presidents of South Africa.

Please be advised that Nkandla Presidential Residence, like all other Presidential residences in South Africa, is declared a National Key Point in terms of the

National Key Point Act 102 of 1980 (“the Act”). Therefore, any information relating to security measures of a National Key Point is protected from disclosure in terms of the Act, the provisions of the Protection of Information Act, the Minimum Information Security Standards (MISS) and other relevant security prescripts of the State Security Agency.

You are therefore informed that the Department of Public Works will not be in a position to divulge details of security improvements carried out at the President’s private residence. We are not aware of the amounts referred to in the City Press article of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012 relating to the renovations.

As indicated above, the Department of Public Works cannot divulge details on the amounts already spent and/or to be spent or budgeted for such upgrades as we view it as a security matter. However, it is evident that the City Press is illegally in possession of a top secret document from which it has quoted facts out of context for its own end.

The merely unlawful possession of a top-secret is a breach of the laws mentioned above. This therefore calls for an investigation to be launched to determine how the City Press illegally ended up in possession of this document.

Ends

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