

# Letters to the Editor

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## Nxesi needs education

DEAR EDITOR — I was listening to Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi on Xolani Gwala's Forum@Eight radio show (January 28) being interviewed about the Nkandla expenditure report. Mr Nxesi says the report is not going to be made public because of "security" concerns. That's a convenient way of concealing embarrassing revelations. This is exactly why these guys wanted the information bill.

Why is the report not going to be made public when public funds were used to upgrade President Jacob Zuma's private residence?

During the interview, Mr Nxesi's answers were not convincing. He insisted there were no limits in the ministers' handbook as to how much could be spent on the head of state.

The Democratic Alliance's leader in Parliament, Lindiwe Mazibuko, called in to the show and asked who was politically responsible for the decision to spend money on Nkandla, only to be told that she did not understand how things worked.

Mr Nxesi said if there had been such political intervention, it would have been inappropriate. He portrayed Ms Mazibuko as a person who was ignorant of how government departments worked.

When Ms Mazibuko said the report should be made available to Parliament, the public protector and the auditor-general, Mr Nxesi said he could not be told by Ms Mazibuko to release the report to those institutions.

Mr Nxesi and other African National Congress government officials are very arrogant. They conflate the government and the ruling party. They treat the government as their personal property. We need to educate the likes of Mr Nxesi on the distinction between the state and the ruling party.

The public will wait for the reports of the public protector and auditor-general. It is about time that those ministers and MPs who mislead the public were charged with perjury.

**Sam Ditshego**  
Kagiso



## Invalid Nkandla report

DEAR EDITOR — Surprise, surprise! The Nkandla report showed no public funds were spent on the upgrades to President Jacob Zuma's home.

Go tell that to the FNB kids. Blame inflation. How can the president not know that upgrades are happening in his backyard? Questions must be asked. Why is a private clinic dedicated to one individual? Why are there two soccer fields for one individual in the so-called Zuma Palace?

It is clear that massive expenditure — more than R200m — was spent on the project.

**Tsepo Mhlongo**  
Johannesburg

## Know-who, know-how

DEAR EDITOR — The recent revelation that the government is spending about R33bn annually on consultants should really come as no surprise. This is naturally one of the consequences of over 19 years of the disastrous cadre deployment policy of the African National Congress. It's all well and good placing cadres into positions based on know-who rather than know-how, but the work still needs to be done. The first symptom of this policy's negative effects was the rapid decline in service delivery, particularly in key areas of sanitation and infrastructure. As this decline set in, the job still had to be done and this precipitated the arrival of consultants.

The reality, of course, is that even if the government took a decision to cease using consultants, it would cause widespread collapse across municipal-