

**EDITORIAL**

# **Nkandla no millstone**

**THERE** are two dimensions apparent in the report of the task team that probed the state funding of President Zuma's Nkandla residence and the public criticism arising from it.

First, was Zuma guilty of impropriety in the way the Department of Public Works went about upgrading security at the family residential complex in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands? Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi was quite categorical in the finding of the task team in this regard.

"There was no evidence suggesting that public money was spent to build Zuma's private residence or that the house belonging to the president was built with public money," Nxesi said.

The president was not involved in the process and the upgrade was done by Public Works.

Zuma's detractors, of course, will not rest and have accused the task team of a cover-up. Nkandla was part of the mud-slinging before the Mangaung conference in the hope he would be ousted as president of the ANC.

Now it is about the 2014 election and a renewed attempt by the ANC's opponents to ensure "Nkandlagate", as it has been dubbed, hangs like an albatross around Zuma's neck.

Second, the task team has found that "supply chain management" regulations were not fully complied with. Nxesi said there were a number of irregularities with regard to the appointment of service providers and the procurement of goods and services.

The minister was using fancy words to describe corruption in the processes. It's maybe a good thing it happened literally "close to home" for the president, which we hope will spur him on to stamp out graft increasingly pervasive in government. As shown, it could taint his presidency.