

Sowetan

Nkandla costs not justifiable

THE Nkandla report presented by Minister of Public Works Thulas Nxesi does not help the government justify why it spent R206-million on Jacob Zuma's private home when it spent R23-million on Nelson Mandela's home and R8-million on Thabo Mbeki's. Is Zuma more equal than the other former presidents?

The apartheid era presidents did not spend such huge amounts.

The SA Communist Party and Cosatu applauded this report, but it is no surprise that the richest man in Angola is President Eduardo dos Santos, a "communist".

In 2009 we had a recession but government ministers, including Blade Nzimande, spent a fortune on flashy cars in contradiction to their pledge that the ANC would be pro-poor and narrow the gap between the rich and poor.

This R206-million and the R36 000 we pay to

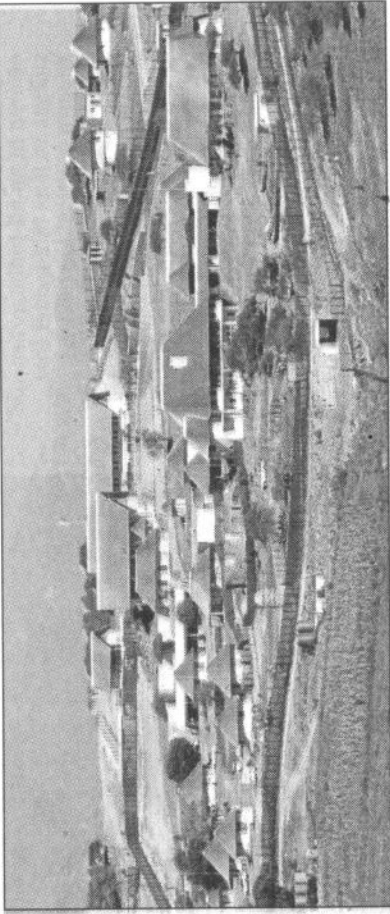


PHOTO: THEMBINKOSI DWAYISA

DISPUTED: President Zuma's homestead in Nkandla.

each of the president's wives is not justifiable.

When Zuma took over he promised a review of the "ministerial handbook". We are still waiting.

In Parliament the president said he had a "bond" on Ingonyama Trust Land. Surprisingly, his spokesman on the issue was Vivian Reddy, not a family member.

Can the president take the nation into his confidence and show us the "bond" he claims he has?

The ANC and some in the SACP and Cosatu have rejected lifestyle audits for reasons we all know.

As we speak, Julius Malema is being subjected to one by the SA Revenue Service. We cannot have a separate moral code for Malema and Bheki Cele from that for Zuma, Mac Maharaj and those close to the president. We are neither a "banana republic nor *Animal Farm*."

Nxesi must tell us why

we spent R23-million in Qunu, which is rural like Inkandla? Do we have bunkers in Qunu? What does a gym and a clinic have to do with the president's security?

Our people live in abject poverty and other areas have high crime rates. There is no imminent threat of a war, so why R206-million on Zuma and R200 000 on Police Minister Nathi Mthethwa's home?

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