

# 'So who got the Nkandla millions?'

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THE civil society organisation Corruption Watch said it had written to Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi asking for a copy of a report of an investigation into the upgrade of President Jacob Zuma's residence in Nkandla in KwaZulu-Natal.

Corruption Watch executive director David Lewis said the organisation wanted Nxesi to publish the names of companies or individuals who were awarded the upgrade contracts.

"The information does not fall within the information relating to security measures and we see no reason to keep this away from the public. Corruption Watch is concerned with the procurement process considering public money was spent on the upgrade," Lewis said.

"It is appropriate for the minister to reveal details of the tendering process and to explain how the amounts mentioned in Sunday's media briefing were arrived at. Transparency around these issues will go a long way towards establishing the public's trust."

Lewis said they also wanted to know whether projects that fell under the Public Works department's prestige portfolio, like the upgrade, were subject to procurement rules as laid out in public finance management legislation.

He said public procurement was one of the most common types of corruption reported to the organisation.

While delivering an investigation report in Pretoria on Sunday, Nxesi said there was no evidence suggesting public money was spent to build Zuma's residence or that any house belonging to the president was built with public funds.

He said the investigation had found the supply chain management regulations were not fully complied with in the procurement of goods and services. For instance, treasury regulations allowed for a variation from an initial procurement order of up to only 20%.

Public Works could not be reached for comment.

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