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Democracy under dark cloud

THE long-awaited Nkandlagate report from Minister of Public Works Thulas Nxesi has finally been released. The report raises more questions and is clearly structured to protect President Jacob Zuma.

The first question we need to ask is whether the four ministers who delivered the report – Nxesi, Security Minister Siyabonga Cwele, Police Minister Nathi Mthethwa, and Justice Minister Jeff Radebe – are not all too compromised and conflicted to be part of any investigation involving Zuma.

The ministers are Zuma's appointees and are crossing their fingers that he will keep them in office after the 2014 general elections.

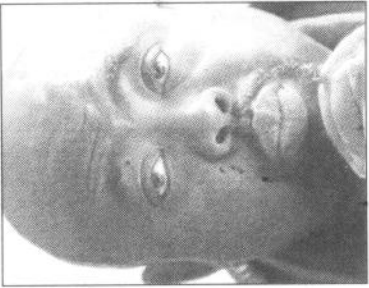
The contents of the report are farcical to the point of being laughable. The taxpayer is told that there were irregularities in the use of government money in Zuma's compound, but we are not entitled to a detailed



CONFLICTED: Jeff Radebe



UNDER FIRE: Jacob Zuma



WHITWASH: Thulas Nxesi

such as the Nkandlagate one to the public, are a sign of worse things to come if we do not change course.

We have a critical institution of our democracy, the National Prosecuting Authority, defiantly in contempt of a court order to release the spy tapes since last year.

Anyone who says they cannot see the dark clouds forming over our democracy must be blind.

Don Shongwe,
Windsor East

president Thabo Mbeki out of the Union Buildings.

Slowly our country is being reduced to a pseudo democracy by an arrogant government that has begun to be sensitive to the mildest criticism but very bold in ignoring its own shortcomings.

A democracy is nothing but the institutions that form it.

The erosion of our institutions, driven by the puppets that are appointed to feed whitewash reports

explanation because the compound is a "national key point". What a load of nonsense.

So far this year has been very hard.

Firstly, we are told that our country is run by consultants who take R100-billion of our GDP because we have incompetent public servants.

Polokwane unleashed a wave of cadre deployments, fuelled by the heavy paybacks Zuma's faction had to effect to reward the foot soldiers who bulldozed former