

# WHAT'S WORSE: CORRUPTION OR CHARITY?

WHAT is more shocking – the burning of sacred manuscripts in Timbuktu – an ancient city in Mali where humanity to this day continues to search for life's etymology – or the R700 000 odd spent on a breakfast gig by the Gauteng government for an “over serviced” media group that now considers itself the black sheep of this notoriously vindictive media family?

What do we make of Nkandla's fantastic report, whose finer details are now tied to a mattress somewhere in the presidential hole so that the smell can come off it?

Are we jealous of the president for making his house a theme park for affluent citizens and his family?

Is the actuarial soundness of the report a swearword for “bold brazen



We greet the greed scandals with shock and goodwill tales with suspicion. But, whatever their motives, the 'nut jobs' challenge dog-eat-dog values, writes **MADALA THEPA**

crime” or are we reading too much into it? The DA wants to have the report, as if it was a rare modernistic piece stolen from a gallery.

The standard frontrunner stuff sustained by Minister of Public Works Thulas Nxesi in the media opens up a lot of questions.

But maybe we ask too much because, like petulant kids, we don't understand how government works or that the *Ministerial Handbook's* allowances are limitless.

What is worse – philanthropy or government scandal?

Is Patrice Motsepe's plan to donate a million or two to charity an act of human compassion or has the Marikana massacre gotten the societal elites guilt-tripped?

Is enlightenment and self-contemplation a communicable disease attacking the rich these days?

What did the Motsepes learn from Warren Buffet, the self-made billionaire whose reputation for

donates 90% of it to charities. Is he better than the Motsepes or our government? Is he for real?

“His only property is his old Volkswagen and he lives on a humble ranch on the outskirts of the capital,” the report said last year.

“But there are others who live with less,” Mujica is quoted saying.

The report also says “he would have included his presidential manor ... in the list of state shelters for homeless people compiled by the Ministry of Welfare.”

His South African counterparts must be thinking the man is nuts.

How do you forego the perks of power and live like a poor man?

But in reality, it is totally sane.

If we all did that no one would be poor.

being tight-fisted and emotionally punishing his kids is memorialised in *The Warren Buffet Story?*

Or are we just cynical about the jet set wanting to reinforce each other's mindsets on helping the poor?

What do we make of the Uruguayan president José Mujica, who slashed 90% of his salary and donated it to charity?

Mujica is reported to be “the poorest president in the world” as he earns “US\$12 500 a month and