



SundayWorld

THE BEST SUNDAY BY FAR

COMMENT

Stand firm, our public protector

FACED with mounting pressure over the controversial security upgrade at his Nkandla residence, President Jacob Zuma has evidently pulled out all the stops to defend himself against any accusations of wrongdoing.

His deployment of four cabinet ministers to the task of handling the matter, as witnessed at a press conference this week, indicates as much.

Present with public works minister Thulas Nxesi to announce his probe's findings were justice minister Jeff Radebe, police minister Nathi Mthethwa and state security minister Siyabonga Cwele.

This was a bulwark against the enduring controversy, gathered in defence of the President to present a formidable justification of the R206m expenditure for the security upgrade.

Their unanimous defence seemed a mere formality from a team in which Radebe was cast in the usual role of legal eagle, with both Mthethwa and Cwele present as the security hawks and with Nxesi pitted in the uncomfortable role of the metaphorical trapeze artist.

Ironically, what was unsaid by Nxesi was eloquently expressed by his diffident posture.

For the trapeze artist to perform on the day anything other than doing what comes with the territory – walking the tightrope using some fancy footwork – would have been something out of the ordinary.

What could be gleaned from Zuma's juggernaut in the end was that the guns were cocked in anticipation of the findings of Public Protector Thuli Madonsela's investigation of the Nkandla issue.

Nxesi's refusal to publicly release his report – justified by citing the National Key Points Act as the reason – is suspiciously pro-empive.

It will be intriguing to see if the same legislation is not flaunted as another bulwark to water down the Public Protector's public findings.

With the stakes clearly high this time, Madonsela might well be facing her biggest challenge yet since being appointed to her office.

If perceived to cower at any seemingly contrived hurdle, she is doomed. Not many would want to be in her shoes.

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JZ IS DESTRUCTIVE

IN his book, *Eight Days in September*, Frank Chikane exposes how the leftist faction of Zwelinzima Vavi, Sdumo Dlamini and Gwede Mantashe attacked interim president Kgalema Motlanthe after the purging of Thabo Mbeki.

It's a fact that Motlanthe could be a better president than President Jacob Zuma, hence attempts to dent his image.

The attack by Vavi's faction on the R206m splurge on Zuma's Nkandla residence is a publicity stunt to show that it is still pro-poor and has not lost its moral compass.

Vavi led the onslaught against the Scorpions and supported the purging of Mbeki and Vusi Pikoli. He and his leftist comrades lied that "Zuma was pro-poor". Vavi said efforts

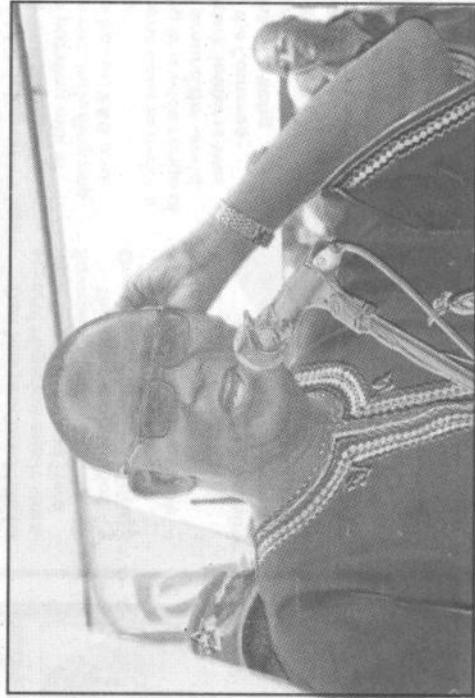
indeed Zuma is destructive to our moral fibre and under him, thieves steal with impunity.

The nephew of the "tsunami", Khulubuse Zuma exploited Aurora workers, Zuma refused to go to court to explain his Mauritius trip with Schabir Shaik, he put up road-blocks to frustrate his prosecution and he has not built his house from his pocket.

What surprises the nation is that the state spent R206m on the Nkandla upgrade when our people live in poverty.

The reason Motlanthe was removed at Mangaung was his reluctance to defend Zuma. That is why the Dlamini faction tried to replace Vavi with Nehawu's Fikile Majola.

Nomthandazo Nhlapo
Upington



UNDER FIRE: Cosatu's Zwelinzima Vavi supported the purging of Thabo Mbeki, says the writer. *Picture by Sydney Seshibedi*

to stop Zuma were as futile as attempts to stop a tsunami. He forgot to tell us that a tsunami is destructive, and