

Nkandla report in March – Madonsela

PUBLIC Protector Thuli Madonsela says a probe into the R200-million spent on upgrading President Jacob Zuma's private home in Nkandla, KwaZulu-Natal, could be completed by the end of March.

"We are aiming to conclude it [the report] by the 31st of March," she said in Pretoria yesterday. "We have only started to do more now ... because we didn't have an investigator who had free hands."

Last month, Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi said the government had spent R206-million on security upgrades and consultants for Nkandla. Included in this amount was R135-million for the "operational needs" of various government departments, R71-million for consultants and security features such as bullet-proof windows, security fencing and evacuation mechanisms.

Nxesi said the task team investigating the spending found irregularities in the appointment of the 15 service providers and consultants who worked on the project. – *Sapa*