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Nkandla report in March: Madonsela

A PUBLIC Protector investigation into the R200 million upgrade to President Jacob Zuma's private home in Nkandla, KwaZulu-Natal, could be completed at the end of March.

"We are aiming to conclude it (the report) by March 31, if everything goes according to plan," Protector Thuli Madonsela told reporters in Pretoria yesterday.

"We have only started to do more now, at the beginning of this year,

because we didn't have an investigator who had free hands."

Madonsela said her office would "not place much emphasis" on a report by the department of public works into the upgrade.

"We will request it from the minister... because we do want to see their take on it," she said.

Last month, Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi said the government spent R206 million on security up-

grades 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, evacuation mechanisms, and fire-fighting equipment.

Also included in the total was R26 million, to make changes to project (variation orders). — Sapa.