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Nkandla report concluded soon

A PUBLIC Protector probe into the R200m upgrade to President Jacob Zuma's private home in Nkandla could be completed by the end of March, it has emerged.

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

"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.

"It wouldn't hamper the investigation we are doing if we don't get that report. (However) we have our own list of documents that we want."

Last month Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi said the government spent R206m on security upgrades and consultants for Nkandla.

Included in this amount was R135m for the "operational needs" of various government departments, R71m

for consultants, and security features such as bullet-proof windows, security fencing, evacuation mechanisms and fire-fighting equipment.

Also included in the total was R26m to make changes to the project (variation orders).

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.

State Security Minister Siyabonga Cwele said at the time that neither Zuma nor his family had had any input on the security upgrade. - Sapa



IRREGULARITIES: Joe Public will know at the end of March if there has been any wrongdoing in the upgrade of Nkandla. PICTURE: GALLO IMAGES