

KZN funded Nkandla soccer fields

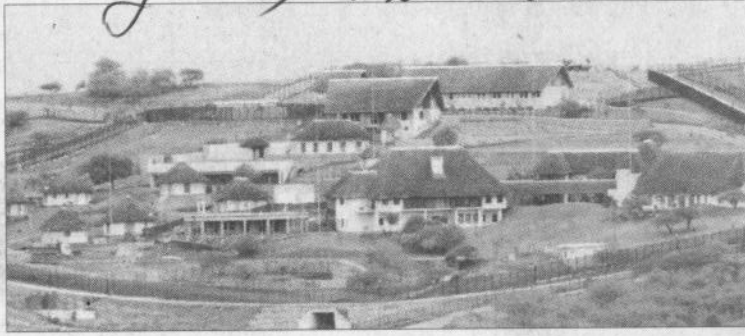
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SIPHO KHUMALO

THE TWO state-of-the-art Astro-Turf soccer pitches and a tennis court that complement President Jacob Zuma's upgraded Nkandla homestead were constructed by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Sports and Recreation at a cost of R4.2 million, it has emerged.

A further contribution of R650 000 came from South African Breweries (SAB), the department said.

The pitches and a tennis court, just a stone's throw from Zuma's home – controversially upgraded to the tune of more than R200m – had previously been assumed to be the part of the upgrade undertaken by the Public Works Department.



CONTROVERSIAL: President Jacob Zuma's home in Nkandla.

The soccer fields are visible when approaching the Zuma homestead from Kranskop.

The pitches are emblazoned with KwaZulu-Natal Sports and Recreation Department slogans, urging young people to stay off alcohol.

They are separated by a fence from 10 security cottages built outside Zuma's home.

Department spokesman Mluleki Mntungwa said the project was initiated after his department had received a request from local people.

"Once completed, it is going to be utilised by the entire community," he said, adding that the department had entered into a partnership with SAB to build the facilities.

"Other facilities of this nature have been constructed in uMbumbulu (completed) KwaNxamalala (completed, waiting for second phase) and Engome in Umvoti (completed)," he said.

Mntungwa said the project consisted of two phases, the first being the earthworks, fencing and drainage.

"We are now on phase two. Once completed, the project will be handed over to the municipality. A service agreement has been signed with the municipality for the maintenance of the infrastructure."