

2003

August
Cabinet adopts a policy allowing for the SAPS and the then National Intelligence Agency (NIA) to evaluate the security of private properties owned and regularly used by heads of state. The main consideration of these evaluations is to determine how the safety of the individual, their family and property could be compromised as a direct result of their public position. No limit was placed on the cost of security upgrades.

2008

Jacob Zuma, then president of the ANC, hires architects to design plans for the renovation of his private residence.

2009

May
The Department of Public Works (DPW) becomes involved in evaluating the security of Zuma's Nkandla residence after Zuma is elected president.

October
The SAPS conducts a needs and security assessment of the Nkandla residence. Assessments were also done by the Department of Defence, involving the SAAF and SA Military Health Services, relating to "specific matters within the competence of the police and the defence force".

December
The *Mail & Guardian* reports on massive upgrades taking place at Nkandla.

2010

April
After a physical security assessment, the residence is declared a National Key Point by the Minister of Police.

June
Security upgrades and related activities start at the Nkandla residence. R77 million from other programmes (including city regeneration) is directed to Nkandla, but the previous approved amount was for R38.9 million.

2012

September
City Press reports R203 million of taxpayers' money was used in the Nkandla revamp.



Public Protector (PP) Thuli Madonsela confirms an investigation into allegations of improper conduct regarding security upgrades at Nkandla has been opened after at least two complaints were laid – one lodged by the DA.

Politicians interfered, says Public Protector

ILL-ADVISED: FINGERS POINT AT FORMER MINISTER AND HIS DEPUTY

» Doidge and Bogopane-Zulu 'didn't show any such intent though'.

Warren Mabona

Public Protector Thuli Madonsela yesterday said there was a political interference in the security upgrade of President Jacob Zuma's private residence in Nkandla, KwaZulu-Natal.

Madonsela made the announcement in Pretoria while releasing the report on an investigation into the upgrade.

She said former minister of public works Geoff Doidge and his former deputy, Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, were at some stage involved in the implementation of the Nkandla project.

"Their involvement, albeit for a short period of time, appears to have created an atmosphere that was perceived as political interference or pressure," Madonsela said.

OPPOSITION PARTIES REACT

DA sets ball rolling to impeach Zuma over abuse

Warren Mabona

Some opposition parties yesterday launched blistering attacks on President Jacob Zuma over the Public Protector's report on an investigation into the security upgrade to his private residence.

DA parliamentary leader Lindiwe Mazibuko said Thuli Madonsela's findings showed Zuma put



INVOLVED. Deputy Minister for Women, Children and People with Disabilities Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu. Picture: Refilwe Modise.

said. She pointed out, however, that evidence did not show any such intent on their part.

"The task team report also indicated that officials were uneasy with the operational involvement of politicians in the Nkandla project.

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Thuli Madonsela

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Madonsela said Zuma's conduct in relation to the implementation of the upgrades at his private residence may have been unethical and in violation of the Executive Ethics Code.

The findings indicated that the president benefited unduly from an upgrade.

The investigation into the upgrade was carried out in response to seven complaints lodged between December 13, 2011 and November 2012.

According to Madonsela, the first complaint came from an unnamed member of the public, and was lodged in terms of the Public Protector Act.

"The investigation took approximately two years and exceeded the one-year target the Public Protector team has set for complex investigations," Madonsela said.

She said the delay could be attributed to various factors, including internal capacity constraints, access to classified information as well as general delays in accessing information held by some departments in the Nkandla project. – warren@citizen.co.za

himself ahead of the masses. She said the impeachment of Zuma was the correct action against the abuse of public money.

"It should be noted that an impeachment process is without precedent in this democratic South Africa," Mazibuko said.

The findings of the report indicated that Zuma's conduct in relation to the implementation of the upgrades may have been unethical

cal and in violation of the Executive Ethics Code.

"Impeachment refers to the power the National Assembly holds, in terms of Section 89 of the Constitution, to remove the president from office. This is done if he has acted in serious violation of the Constitution or the law," Mazibuko said.

COPE leader Mosiuoa Lekota said Zuma lied to Parliament by

saying he did not know anything about the Nkandla upgrade processes. He said Zuma must be charged for "his involvement" in the security upgrades.

Bongani Msomi of the United Democratic Movement described Zuma as an embarrassment to South Africa. "Zuma is an embarrassment to the country respected by other nations because of the Nelson Mandela's legacy."