

Bonuses for Nkandla officials

No criminal cases, only big salaries

CAPE TOWN — While no criminal proceedings were instituted against three officials implicated in the Special Investigations Unit's (SIU) report on Nkandla, two of these officials each received salaries of more than R2 million.

Furthermore, several bonuses were paid out to officials also implicated in the report.

In answering a parliamentary question from Democratic Alliance leader Mmusi Maimane, Nathi Nhleko, minister of Public Works, stated the SIU referred evidence for possible criminal action against three former senior officials of the Department of Public Works and one contractor involved in the Nkandla matter to the National Prosecuting Authority. "The latter declined to prosecute the three officials and the inquiry against the contractor is apparently still pending," reads Nhleko's answer.

When the SIU report was released it was reported that the three officials were Solly Malebye, Sam Vukela and Siviwe Dongwana, who were acting or permanent directors-general between 2009 and 2012.

"The SIU instituted a civil claim against Makhanya Architects, the

principal architect in the Nkandla matter, in the KwaZulu-Natal High Court. The proceedings are pending."

The SIU referred evidence for possible disciplinary action against 12 employees who were involved in the Nkandla matter to the department. The department instituted disciplinary actions against all 12 of the employees.

One employee pleaded guilty and he was found guilty of misconduct. The penalty was suspension without pay and a final written warning. One of the employees died. The disciplinary hearings against the remaining ten employees have commenced.

"The names of 12 officials that were subjected to disciplinary hearings cannot be disclosed until the cases have been finalised," reads Nhleko's answer.

Of these employees, six received performance bonuses between April 2012 and March 2017, totalling R222 743,35. The highest amount is R60 766,35 and the lowest R11 205,66.

Maimane also asked what the total remuneration earned by each of the officials, whom the SIU referred to the NPA to be criminally charged in

each of the past five financial years, was. One of the officials was paid R2 398 851 between April 1, 2011 and June 30, 2013, and the other R2 450 384,25 from April 1, 2011 to October 31, 2012. The last dates reflect when the officials left the department's employ.

The third official was not in the employment of the department in the past five financial years from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2016.

The SIU's investigation, tabled in Parliament in September 2014, exonerated President Jacob Zuma from any wrongdoing regarding the so-called "security improvements" to his private home in Nkandla in KwaZulu-Natal.

An inter-ministerial task team came to a similar conclusion, but former public protector Thuli Madonsela found that Zuma and his family unduly benefited from the improvements and that Zuma should pay back some of the money.

An ad hoc committee of Parliament challenged Madonsela's findings and referred the matter to Nhleko, then in his former position as minister of Police, to determine which of the improvements were security related. — News24.