# 12 off the hook over Nkandla

## Officials who signed off R246m are back at work

By **Bongani Mthethwa**

The 12 public works senior officials who were facing a disciplinary hearing relating to the controversial R246-million security upgrades at former president Jacob Zuma's Nkandla homestead are off the hook – and for good.

Public works spokesman Thami Mchunu confirmed that the department settled all cases with the officials last year and that they were all back at work.

"They were settled through negotiations with employee representatives," Mchunu said without elaborating.

This was also confirmed by the Public Service Association's KwaZulu-Natal manager, Claude Naicker, who said: "They resolved it via a settlement agreement and the unions are not prepared to talk about it because of the non-disclosure clause."

However, TimesLIVE has established that while all 12 officials are back at work, the cases against two of their colleagues are still pending.

A source with direct knowledge of the agreement said: "We won't be going back to the Nkandla issue anymore and that has been settled. I cannot divulge anything because the employer can take me to task for that because it's been stamped in front of the commissioner."

The disciplinary hearing centred around the 12 officials not following the correct procedures regarding procurement, project management and supply chain management.

The officials maintained their innocence throughout, arguing that they had followed all proper procedures in terms of the security upgrades at Zuma's homestead.

The Sunday Times reported at the weekend that should Zuma be convicted of corruption, the state could confiscate his Nkandla homestead for having been built with the "proceeds of crime".

Zuma is facing charges of corruption, fraud, money laundering and racketeering.

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