



**30 August 2018**

### **CASAC committed to opposing Zondo Commission's two-year extension**

The Council for the Advancement of the South African Constitution (CASAC) has said that it maintains its strong stance of opposition to the extension period of the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture. The lobby group had opposed the extension period requested by the commission in July this year, stating that Zondo should provide sufficient and convincing reasons for the two-year extension.

The North Gauteng High Court granted the extension in July 2018. However, this can be opposed by interested parties in October and CASAC's executive secretary Lawson Naidoo made it clear that the organisation will be first in line to oppose this court order as they believe Zondo has not given enough reasons for the extension.

"We will be proceeding to the court to oppose this court order and challenging this extension because we don't see why there should be extended time considering the fact that the commission has dragged already."

Naidoo argued that if the commission's chairperson Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo fails to provide persuasive grounds for why the extension was necessary, the commission will run for a long time and allow people who are implicated in the state capture get away with it – giving the Marikana Commission of Inquiry as an example of such a scenario.

He said that years after the Marikana commission's report was released, people are still waiting for implementation of the recommendations that were made.

#### **Teething problems cause delays for state capture commission**

Zondo had revealed in his first press conference that the commission will most likely go on for two years as there was too much work to be done at that time.

"It is possible that the High Court will be approached to seek permission for the Commission to be able to continue its work beyond the 180-day period given to us, there is no way that this massive work could be done in 180 days," Zondo said.

He gave the following reasons for the requested extension:

- troubles getting premises for the commission to start its work;
- failure to get promised investigators to go into the field and start investigating;
- some investigators had not yet signed their contracts;
- Also, a problem with the funding model as they struggled to get the required funds.

In his first press conference, Zondo said when the hearings begin, “Investigations should not take a day longer than they are supposed to, but with the hearings there might be some adjournment”.

The first hearings last week were adjourned for two days and Zondo also announced that even though there was a promise that the first hearings would take three weeks, the period might now be as much as six weeks, which means the commission has started to experience delays on its first steps.

**Useful links:**

[Court grants Zondo Commission request](#) for extension

[Zondo Commission](#) website

Marikana Commission of Inquiry - [report](#)