

**27 November 2018**

**No evidence will be considered unless formally submitted to Zondo Commission**

Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo, who chairs the commission of inquiry into state capture, has commented on the recent protest action taken by the EFF outside the inquiry's venue in Parktown, Johannesburg. EFF president Julius Malema addressed a crowd of the party's supporters on Tuesday last week, making several allegations against public enterprises minister Pravin Gordhan as well as commission head of legal Paul Pretorius.

Malema accused Gordhan of being the proponent of state capture, saying that his very re-appointment to the position of finance minister in December 2015 was because of pressure exerted on then president Jacob Zuma by white business. In this regard, Gordhan serves the interests and agenda of this grouping.

He went on to accuse commission head of legal Paul Pretorius – who led Gordhan's evidence over three days – of being compromised, as he has in the past represented Gordhan's former spokesperson Adrian Lackay in a separate matter. Another issue raised by Malema was the fact that the inquiry takes place in a building owned by a private media company, Tiso Blackstar.

In addressing all of the complaints, Zondo appealed to anyone with evidence that would be useful to the commission and that could help reduce the high levels of corruption in the country, to come forward and submit an affidavit that supports their position. They should also be prepared to give their evidence under oath, he said.

"The commission will not consider what is said outside the commission and in media, and anyone with credible evidence should come forward and give it," he said, adding that witnesses who come forward to testify in front of the commission have a right to do so without intimidation. "If no one gave evidence to this commission, this country would not get to know if state capture happened, or how it happened."

For the process to achieve its task of determining measures to drastically reduce the high levels of corruption in the country, the commission needs to be given the space to do its work.

Regarding the selection of a venue for the inquiry, Zondo said that right at the beginning of setting up the process, he asked those designated with the task to preferably look towards government facilities. Several were approached, but were all unavailable for the anticipated duration of the inquiry.

He has decided not to lay a complaint with the police, because he sees the importance of letting the commission do its work without further interruptions. He took the same position, said Zondo, when it emerged two weeks ago that Gordhan's statement to the commission had been leaked to media.

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