

4 December 2020

Zondo commission - New Zondo dates set for Zuma

The commission of inquiry into state capture has announced new dates in January and February 2021 on which former president Jacob Zuma must make himself available to appear. Commission secretary Professor Itumeleng Mosala released a statement on Friday on behalf of the chairperson, Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo.

"The chairperson has determined the dates of 18 to 22 January 2021 and 15 to 19 February 2021 as the dates reserved for Mr Zuma to appear before the commission," reads the statement.

"Two summonses were served on Mr Zuma late last week and early this week, respectively, requiring him to appear before the commission on the dates given above."

Mosala further made an urgent application before the Constitutional Court as per Zondo's directive last month, following the infamous walk-out of proceedings by Zuma and his legal team. Zuma left the proceedings soon after his legal team's application for Zondo to recuse himself from the commission on the basis of potential bias against Zuma, was dismissed.

In the application, Mosala submits that Zuma's walk-out on 19 November 2020 without Zondo's permission, was unlawful, as was his failure to appear the next day, which would have been his last. The statement further asserts that Zuma is required to account for his exercise of public power as president of the country in regard to the matters being investigated by the commission.

"The Constitutional Court should compel him to comply with the new summonses that have been issued against him, by appearing before the commission on the dates given above, and that he must answer questions that will be put to him."

Furthermore, the Constitutional Court should prevail on him to not leave the commission proceedings without the chairperson's permission, and to pay the commission's costs of the application on attorney and own client scale.

"The order sought also will, if granted, declare Mr Zuma's failure to comply with the chairperson's directives issued under regulation 10(6) unlawful and order him to comply with them."

Useful links:

Zondo Commission website

Corruption Watch's **Zondo Commission update page**