



**18 January 2019**

**Zondo Commission's secretary Khotso de Wee implicated in bribery by Angelo Agrizzi**

Chairperson of the commission of inquiry into state capture, deputy chief justice Raymond Zondo, has accepted an offer by commission secretary Khotso De Wee for the latter to go on special leave while an investigation into allegations of corruption against him ensues.

De Wee was implicated in the statement of witness Angelo Agrizzi, the former chief operations officer (COO) of Bosasa, now African Global Operations, who is currently giving evidence before the inquiry. In his affidavit submitted to the commission, Agrizzi said he was told that De Wee was one of the senior officials of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development who received bribes from Bosasa. "This is in regard to a tender procured by the department in 2013 for a security system in various courts across the country," said Zondo in a statement. Agrizzi, however, also stated that he cannot confirm the validity of the claims. De Wee was the COO for the department at the time.

Agrizzi's statement, according to the oral evidence he has given so far, has named several senior public officials who he said were on the payroll of Bosasa, at the instruction of CEO Gavin Watson. It was typically people who would have helped the company in achieving – and maintaining – government contracts.

"After I became aware of the above statement in Mr Agrizzi's affidavit, I brought it to Dr De Wee's attention," said Zondo in a statement. "He confirmed that he was COO of the department at the time, but he has informed me that he was never at any stage paid any money by Bosasa or by anybody from Bosasa including the person mentioned in Mr Agrizzi's affidavit."

Zondo further noted the seriousness of the allegations and said that the commission's investigators are probing the allegations. De Wee, he said, would go on special leave from 22 January 2019 to allow the investigation to take its course. This will give Zondo time to appoint an acting secretary during De Wee's absence.

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