



**17 June 2021**

**Zondo commission – Zondo to critics: I will not be rushed into concluding inquiry to satisfy you**

The state capture commission will on Thursday launch its fourth application, with the North Gauteng High Court, for an extension of its term. This was announced by chairperson Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo at the start of proceedings on Thursday morning.

He said while all efforts were made to try to finish all oral evidence by the end of June, indications are that some of it will spill over into July, with several more witnesses expected then, including President Cyril Ramaphosa.

“We’re going to ask for an extension of time from the end of June up to the end of September. My assessment is that the preparation of the report should be complete by the end of August, but I’d like to have September just in case we don’t complete the report at the end of August,” said Zondo.

He has previously expressed that he wishes for Ramaphosa to be the last witness heard, so as to conclude oral evidence with his testimony. Ramaphosa had been tentatively scheduled for 29 and 30 June, but a need arose for the evidence of several implicated persons to be heard, and none of them were available in June.

While making the announcement, Zondo also took a swipe at the commission’s critics, saying he would not be pressured into closing shop just to satisfy certain people who are pushing an agenda.

“I know that some within the public have grown impatient with the commission, demanding that it should complete its work. Some of the people who say that, do so in good faith, but others do so for their own reasons.”

He added that he was very keen that the work of the commission be completed as soon as possible. “I have a very dedicated team in the commission, all of whom are working very hard to try and make sure that the work of the commission is completed as soon as possible.

“This is one thing I will not do. I will not end the work of the commission in an irresponsible manner just because I want to satisfy those who demand that the commission should finish its work.

“When I started with this commission, I made it quite clear that this commission will do its work properly. That remains important ... I have a responsibility to make sure of that.”

The first extension application happened just after the commission was established in early 2018, when it asked for more time beyond the six months recommended by former public protector Thuli Madonsela. Two more followed in due course, the last at the beginning of this year, for a further three months from March to June. If this extension is granted, it will take the commission to just beyond three years of public hearings, which started in August 2018.

The commission is scheduled to hear Transnet-related evidence from its former CFO Anoj Singh as well as former public enterprises minister, Malusi Gigaba.

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