



MEDIA STATEMENT

17 December 2025

STATEMENT BY JEREMY MICHAELS, SPOKESPERSON OF THE JUDICIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO CRIMINALITY, POLITICAL INTERFERENCE AND CORRUPTION IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Criminality, Political Interference and Corruption in the Criminal Justice System has today, 17 December 2025, delivered its Interim Report to President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The Commission's Interim Report was delivered to President Ramaphosa exactly three months after Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi appeared as the first witness on 17 September 2025 to place before the Commission, under oath, the allegations he made at a media conference in Durban on 6 July 2025.

In total, the Commission has heard 37 witnesses over 45 days of hearings in formats varying from fully public to partially public, with one hearing being fully in-camera. The Commission has heard 28 witnesses in Phase One as part of the airing, substantiation and corroboration of the allegations. As part of Phase Two, the Commission has thus far heard 9 witnesses who have testified in reply to the allegations levelled against them and to tell their side of the story, with dozens more due to appear in 2026.

The brutal killing of Mr Marius van der Merwe outside his home on 5 December 2025, in full view of his wife and children, marked an inflection point for the Commission. Mr van der Merwe's murder is a reminder of the determination of certain criminal elements who do not want to see accountability and justice take its course. The Commission will not be intimidated and urges the relevant law enforcement agencies to track down and bring to book all those who seek to undermine the work of the Commission and the rule of law. The Commission has also been encouraged by the fact that more witnesses have come forward to assist it in getting to the bottom of the very serious allegations of criminality, political interference and corruption in the criminal justice system.

Since its establishment, the Commission has received evidence from 28 walk-in submissions and 45 of the 89 submissions to the Commission's hotline were found to be within the terms of reference.

As part of the Commission's record to date, it has 8,087 pages of transcriptions of the hearings and 120 document bundles used during the hearings, including witness statements and evidence files.

On behalf of Justice Mbuyiseli Madlanga, his co-Commissioners Advocate Sesi Baloyi SC and Advocate Sandile Khumalo SC, and the entire Commission, we would like to thank all witnesses and all those who have come forward to assist the Commission in its work.

Furthermore, we would like to thank all State entities and service providers for their support, both at the Brigitte Mabandla Justice College and off site, over the last few months. The Commission appreciates the long hours worked by personnel to deliver the administrative, audio-visual, catering, cleaning, communications, livestreaming, security, sign language, transcription and translation services.

The Commission's livestream service has carried the proceedings to millions of people, at home and abroad, who have been able to watch and listen uninterrupted and unmediated. The Commission has provided this service free of charge to mainstream and social media platforms.

Journalists, too, have played a crucial role in helping to ensure that citizens receive information about and from the Commission. We would like to thank the editors, reporters, presenters, producers, photographers, videographers, technicians and all those who arrived at the Commission in the early hours of the morning and worked until late at night to ensure that the public receives wall-to-wall coverage of the hearings.

The Commission will be closed between Christmas and New Year, with only essential staff on duty. The evidence leaders, investigators, secretariat and support staff will continue to prepare for the Commission's work next year. We will make an announcement regarding the resumption of public hearings in January 2026.

We would like to thank all members of the public who have engaged with the critically important work of the Commission over the last few months, and we wish all South Africans a blessed and safe festive holiday season.

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ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO CRIMINALITY, POLITICAL INTERFERENCE AND CORRUPTION IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Media enquiries:

Jeremy Michaels, Commission Spokesperson and Head of Communication – 082.772.1122