



**MEDIA BRIEFING BY THE JUDICIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO CRIMINALITY,
POLITICAL INTERFERENCE AND CORRUPTION IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM,
HELD AT THE BRIGITTE MABANDLA JUSTICE COLLEGE**

8 SEPTEMBER 2025

***STATEMENT BY JEREMY MICHAELS, HEAD OF COMMUNICATION AND
SPOKESPERSON OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY***

The Commission has called this briefing to update the media and all South Africans on the progress made by the Commission, and to take the public into confidence regarding preparations for the much-anticipated public hearings.

Since President Cyril Ramaphosa formally proclaimed the Judicial Commission of Inquiry by way of Government Gazette on 23 July 2025, and since our first media briefing on 28 July 2025, we have made significant progress in establishing the Commission whilst simultaneously conducting investigations into the allegations made by Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi and consulting witnesses.

As we are seated here, the Commission's senior team is seized with preparations for the commencement of the Commission's hearings next Wednesday, the 17th of September 2025. I will return to those preparations shortly.

On the progress we have made with regard to setting up the Commission:

The Proclamations establishing the Commission and the Regulations governing its operation were published in the Government Gazette on 22 August 2025. The Proclamation and

Regulations govern the proceedings of the Commission and the documents are available online at <https://www.gpwonline.co.za/Government-Gazettes/> and can be found under said date by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

Working together with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, which has the legal mandate to assist Commissions of Inquiry in setting up, we have taken delivery of most of the necessary physical and ICT infrastructure.

With regard to physical infrastructure:

The Commission's hearings will take place here, in the main auditorium of the Brigitte Mabandla Justice College in Central Pretoria. As you can see, the auditorium has been repurposed specifically for the hearings, with the necessary alterations having been effected by the Department of Public Works, facilitated by the DOJCD.

The Commission's offices are also located here at the Justice College and whilst there is still some work continuing to ensure our offices are suitable, we have been assured that this should be completed in coming days.

With regard to IT equipment and ICT infrastructure services that were awaited:

The Commission has taken delivery of equipment configured with the necessary software including data security software. Most of our staff have now been trained on the systems and they have conducted tests to ensure that the hardware and software are fit for purpose, which indeed they are.

The ICT systems which have been procured include a cybersecurity solution, a secure internet connection and a live streaming service, as well as transcription and stenography services, amongst others. Whilst the delay in procuring these items was regrettable, we are now pleased to confirm that the necessary systems are up and running.

In addition, we have onboarded a confidential reporting hotline for receiving reports from the public. The hotline consists of a number of platforms, including a telephone line where members of the public can confidentially talk to an operator and offer the Commission information related to the Terms of Reference. The hotline's contact details are madlangacommission@behonest.co.za and its contact number is 0800 111 369. The

Commission will issue a comprehensive statement to educate the public on how to use and access the other hotline platforms.

At the same time as the required infrastructure was being procured and set up, preparations for the Commission's hearings have been advancing steadily. The Commission's evidence leaders and investigators have been in consultation with witnesses and following up on information within the Commission's terms of reference.

As Justice Mbuyiseli Madlanga said at our first media briefing on the 28th of July, consultation with the first witness was "imminent". We can now confirm that the consultation to which the Chairperson of the Commission referred was with Lieutenant-General Mkhwanazi, whom the Commission intends to call as its first witness. The Commission has simultaneously been in consultation with a number of other witnesses whose details, based on security considerations, we are not at liberty to divulge.

The preparations for calling a witness are intricate. I will not elaborate on the details involved, suffice to say that there is a lot of legal and investigative work which goes into such preparations. It is important to clarify that this work was delayed by the procurement challenges which arose with regard to the ICT systems and, in particular, issues with data security (having regard to the nature of investigations which the Commission must conduct, and the technical sophistication of the parties it must investigate). With the procurement, training and testing completed, the preparations are on track. Until we were sure that these systems were fully functional and that our electronic records could be securely stored, we could not have proceeded responsibly with those preparations.

The Commission is still in consultation with Lt-Gen Mkhwanazi. It has reserved him and plans to continue those consultations throughout this week, as well as the early part of next week, ahead of the first public hearing to be held next Wednesday, the 17th of September 2025.

We are aware that the Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee would also want Lt-Gen Mkhwanazi to testify before it as soon as possible and we are communicating with the Ad Hoc Committee to ensure that this happens cooperatively.

We are acutely aware of the public's keen interest in the work of the Commission, which is essentially to investigate the very serious allegations made by Lt-Gen Mkhwanazi that the Criminal Justice System has been infiltrated by criminal syndicates and drug cartels, and that

those are unduly influencing our country's law enforcement agencies. That is why we deemed it necessary to update the public on the work of the Commission which has been continuing behind the scenes, as well as our readiness to hold the Commission's first public hearings.

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