



17 September 2026

MADLANGA COMMISSION REPORTS DEMONSTRABLE PROGRESS AS IT MARKS ONE YEAR OF INQUIRY INTO CRIMINALITY, POLITICAL INTERFERENCE AND CORRUPTION IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

STATEMENT BY JEREMY MICHAELS, SPOKESPERSON OF THE COMMISSION

The Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Criminality, Political Interference and Corruption in the Criminal Justice System, commonly known as the Madlanga Commission, has made demonstrable progress since sitting for its first hearing exactly one year ago, on 17 September 2025.

This statement serves as a report to the South African public, who have taken great interest in the work of the Commission.

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced on 13 July 2025 that a Judicial Commission of Inquiry would be established to investigate the allegations made by Lieutenant General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi. The Commission would be headed by Justice Mbuyiseli Madlanga, who was the Acting Deputy Chief Justice at the time. It was simultaneously announced that Advocate Sesi Baloyi SC and Advocate Sandile Khumalo SC would be co-commissioners alongside Justice Madlanga.

The Commission's terms of reference required it, amongst others, to investigate whether criminal syndicates, including drug cartels, have infiltrated or exerted undue influence over a range of law enforcement agencies, including the South African Police Service (SAPS), Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Police Department (EMPD), Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD), Tshwane Metropolitan Police Department (TMPD), the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), the State Security Agency (SSA), the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), and the Judiciary.

The one-year mark is a significant milestone, particularly considering that real consequences have flowed from the work of the Commission whilst the inquiry is still underway. Numerous individuals who have appeared before the Commission have been arrested, are facing

criminal charges, have appeared in court, have been suspended or have resigned from their jobs.

The Commission calls on all South Africans to take a moment to remember Marius van der Merwe, who was brutally assassinated in full view of his family on 5 December 2025 after testifying before the Commission as Witness D. We also remember the sacrifices made by countless brave individuals who have come forward to assist the Commission in its work, by offering information and testifying, sometimes at great risk to personal safety.

Since the first hearing on 17 September last year, the Commission has heard the testimony of 110 witnesses over 174 days of hearings (up to and inclusive of 16 September 2026). The witnesses fell under the following categories:

- thirty-six SAPS officers;
- twenty-five Directorate of Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI / Hawks) officers;
- four JMPD officers;
- eight EMPD officers and City of Ekurhuleni staff;
- six TMPD officers and City of Tshwane staff;
- two Gauteng Traffic Department officers;
- seven Investigating Directorate Against Corruption (IDAC) and NPA officials;
- five Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) officials;
- two Members of Parliament;
- one Cabinet Minister;
- eleven private individuals; and
- three experts who have been called thus far to assist the Commission in formulating recommendations relating to possible institutional reforms across the criminal justice system.

HIGHLIGHTS

- *DOCUMENTS*: The hearings have produced 26,352 pages of oral testimony transcripts. There is other documentary evidentiary material, comprising 105,282 pages contained in 750 document bundles or files with necessary redactions.
- *HOTLINE*: The Commission's hotline received 1,894 telephone calls, of which 1,472 (78%) concerned issues that did not relate to the Commission's terms of reference. In addition, 4,548 emails were received from members of the public, of which 3,295 (72%) were out of scope.
- *IN-CAMERA*: Approximately twenty two in-camera applications were considered, of which nineteen were granted. One of these was revoked, with the result that the witness concerned testified openly. Eight hearings were conducted fully in camera, one of which was subsequently made available to the public through the publication of a redacted transcript. Eleven hearings were conducted partially in camera.
- *LITIGATION*: The Commission has been party to three applications in the High Court. An application brought by Mr Suliman Carrim was dismissed. Two separate applications brought by Major General Feroz Khan and Sergeant Fannie Nkosi were withdrawn.
- *RECUSAL*: One recusal application was brought against an Evidence Leader and was dismissed.

- *RECORD*: On 2 June 2026 (Day 111), the Commission heard evidence from the highest number of witnesses in a single day, namely five witnesses.

The Commission would like to thank all those who have made its work possible over the last year, including its staff, security personnel, relevant State institutions, and the media. The Commission is truly appreciative of the support it is getting from the South African public.

In the period ahead, the Commission will continue to diligently conduct its inquiry without fear, favour or prejudice.

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