



STATE CAPTURE COMMISSION

CONFERENCE

Understanding the findings
and recommendations of the Zondo Commission

14-15 September 2022



CONFERENCE CONCEPT NOTE: Unpacking the Zondo Commission's findings and recommendations

In June 2022 the Commission of Inquiry into allegations of State Capture presided over by Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo ('Zondo Commission') delivered its final report to the President of South Africa.

For three and a half years the Zondo Commission became an almost daily feature in the lives of many South Africans. While it will take some time before we are able to fully digest what the Commission meant and what it accomplished, the Commission has provided us with a set of recommendations which should be actively debated by concerned civil society, government, and business. The work of the Commission provides strong evidence of state capture, and detailed insight into how state capture was organised and facilitated. It is important to engage substantially with the Commission's findings and recommendations in relation to a number of key issues affecting institutions of governance, the public administration, and state-owned enterprises.

The Council for the Advancement of the Constitution (CASAC) and the Public Affairs Research Institute (PARI) are therefore organising a conference to examine the Commission's reports in-depth.

An holistic analysis of the Commission's report can serve to inform future actions that different role-players, key amongst them civil society formations, can undertake to ensure that appropriate action is taken to reduce the space for 'state capture', fraud and corruption, especially in the public sector. Importantly, a critical analysis of thematic areas of the report can help to highlight whether the recommendations made go far enough and are implementable, or whether they require supplementing or revision.

It will also highlight some of the areas that the report (and also the work of the commission) did not cover in-depth, but which might be significant to ensuring a process of state reform that minimises practices of state capture – gaps exist for example on the coverage of law enforcement, and local government is not a focus of the Commission's work, yet it has been profoundly affected by dynamics linked to state capture.

The conference will provide a platform for participants to analyse and debate key areas of potential intervention to enhance accountability in the public sector. These areas include:

- Strengthening institutions of governance, including Parliament
- Review of anti-corruption capacity
- The role of the private sector as enablers of state capture;
- Appointments and dismissals in independent institutions, and the public sector generally
- Public procurement reform
- Whistle-blower protection reform
- And the role of civil society and the private sector in closing the space for 'state capture'.

The conference will be held on from the 14th to the 15th of September at the University of Johannesburg and online. More information can be found on the PARI and CASAC websites: <https://pari.org.za/state-capture-conference/>