



Ramaphosa to face Zondo today

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With President Cyril Ramaphosa today taking the stand at the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture, the spotlight is expected to fall on the position he held within the governing ANC – a period dominated by state capture.

While welcoming Ramaphosa's decision to subject himself to what is expected to be marked by intense questioning by Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo – a stance differing to that adopted by his predecessor, Jacob Zuma, who has defied the Constitutional Court order – University of Pretoria political lecturer Roland Henwood yesterday said it would bring under scrutiny Ramaphosa's leadership and the ANC.

"The ANC was 'accused no 1'. As deputy president, how much did he know about what was happening under the Zuma presidency?"

"What was his role in stamping out the scourge and his role in cadre deployment?"

"What was his role as leader of government business in parliament?" asked Henwood.

Journalists and politicians are expected to descend on Braamfontein's City of Joburg Old Council Chamber for Ramaphosa's hearing, scheduled for 10am.

Zondo postponed the initial hearing due to Ramaphosa's busy schedule.

"The president made a request in connection with the dates of 22 and 23 April because of some commitments that have arisen.

"I acceded to the request to change those dates," said Zondo.

"The present position is that he will appear on 28 and 28 April as president of the ANC.

"As president of the country, he will now appear on 13 and 14 May," said Zondo.

Zondo has been under pressure to wrap up oral hearings by the first week of May.

The commission has been granted an extension to conclude all of its work and the compilation of its report by end of June.

Zondo has expressed appreciation at the ANC for its cooperation, demonstrated by the seniority of leaders it has sent to the commission.

"I was concerned last year when we invited all the parties represented in parliament and there was no response from a number of months, including from the majority party.

"But ultimately there was communication," he said.

ANC chair Gwede Mantashe has been the most senior leader to be grilled on his relationship with Bosasa and his previous role as secretary-general.

Specialising in offering correctional services to government, the controversial company, led by the late Gavin Watson, beefed up security at Mantashe's homes in the Eastern Cape and in Gauteng, with Ramaphosa's son having gained from questionable deals.

