

# Former DGs may give testimony

## Loyiso Sidimba

THE commission of inquiry into state capture wants to call several former directors-general to appear before it following Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo's announcement yesterday.

Former Government Communication and Information Systems (GCIS) boss Themba Maseko testified that he and several former directors-general – including Barry Gilder, Xoliswa Sibeko and Thoziz Gwanya, – were concerned about state capture and wanted to take a stand against it.

Maseko said the former directors-general were concerned about the capture of the state

by the Guptas. Zondo told his legal and investigations teams that serious efforts must be made to contact the former directors-general who publicly expressed their concerns about state capture.

“The country needs them,” said Zondo

Maseko told the commission there were many senior public servants and middle managers who had information on the Guptas' capture of the state and their political principals' irregular instructions.

“Very few people are willing to come forward,” said Maseko, adding that Zondo was also having trouble getting witnesses to testify before the commission.

The former public works

director-general told Zondo about Ajay Gupta's approach when the controversial family wanted GCIS to support the establishment of The New Age newspaper and TV channel ANN7.

According to Maseko, Ajay Gupta demanded a share of the GCIS's R600 million media buying budget between September and October 2010.

Maseko said a number of directors had complained about the undermining of procurement processes but feared losing their jobs and reprisals.

Earlier, former ANC MP Vytjie Mentor concluded her three-day testimony with Mahlape Sello, another mem-



**THEMBA MASEKO**

ber of the commission's legal team, questioning her on inconsistencies in her sworn statements.

Mentor's evidence that she reported the Guptas' offer of giving her a cabinet position were rejected by ANC national chairperson and Mineral Resources Minister Gwede Mantashe.

Maseko will continue with his testimony today.