



Private Office of the Chief Justice
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MEDIA STATEMENT

MEDIA REPORTS RELATED TO THE VISIT BY ICC PRESIDENT SONG

10 September 2014

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS / JOURNALISTS

On or about 8 September 2014 Eyewitness News, amongst others, reported that Chief Justice Mogoeng and the President of the International Criminal Court, Sang-Hyun Song, actually discussed or intended to discuss, the perceived attacks on the Public Protector, Advocate Thuli Madonsela and the alleged divisions within the National Prosecuting Authority. These reports are, in their entirety, false.

At a press briefing following the bilateral meeting between the Chief Justice and President Song, the Chief Justice was asked whether he and President Song had discussed these issues. In response he stated that they had not. Both President Song and Fatou Bensouda, a Prosecutor at the ICC, are still in the country and are available to verify and confirm that at no stage were these issues discussed, and that there is no plan to discuss these topics in future.

The Chief Justice neither expressed any view on the perceived attacks on the Public Protector nor on the alleged divisions within the NPA. Any report to the contrary is a distortion of the Chief Justice's comments that the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court emphasizes the importance of the independence of democracy-supporting institutions including the NPA and the Public Protector.

The news outlets who published these incorrect reports are required to retract them and notify him thereof.

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