



188, 14th Road, Noordwyk, Midrand, 1685
Private Bag X10, Marshalltown, 2107
Tel: +27 10 493 2500 (Switchboard)
E-mail: enquiries@judiciary.org.za
www.judiciary.org.za

13 September 2020

Media Statement

STATEMENT TO CLARIFY THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT: OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE IN THE HANDLING OF THE ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE DEPUTY JUDGE PRESIDENT GOLIATH.

The Office of the Chief Justice notes the media reports and the subsequent release of statements relating to a report by the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services (JICS) on an alleged plot to assassinate Deputy Judge President Goliath. The OCJ deems it prudent to clarify certain issues relating to its role in supporting the Judiciary with regard to their security.

The JSC Secretariat whose responsibilities are limited to rendering administrative support to the JSC received information telephonically on 4 June 2020 from a member of the Grahamstown Bar about an alleged plot to assassinate Deputy Judge President Goliath. This information was immediately relayed to the OCJ Head of Security. It is necessary to mention that the Secretariat did not at any given time send any investigators to investigate the alleged plot. This is so because neither the Secretariat nor the JSC has the mandate to investigate such allegations.

On the same date the OCJ Head of Security received information telephonically from DJP Goliath and the JSC Secretariat about these allegations. Pursuant to this information the Head of Security, as per OCJ standard protocol, requested Western Cape SAPS to conduct a threat and risk assessment with a view to providing security to the DJP, if necessary. As an interim measure whilst waiting for the outcome of the threat and risk assessment, a contracted security service was provided to the DJP. The outcome of the assessment was later verbally communicated to the OCJ Head of Security and DJP Goliath. To date OCJ has not received any written report from Western Cape SAPS.

Security provided to the members of the Judiciary facing a threat is an OCJ administrative function which does not require any involvement by the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice does not commission any investigation into threats to members of the Judiciary and this



matter was no exception. It is the responsibility of OCJ officials, under the leadership of the Secretary General, as the Head of the OCJ as a National Department to request SAPS to conduct threat and risk assessments for the Judiciary where necessary.

Ends.

Issued by the Office of the Chief Justice

Media enquiries:

Mr. Nathi Mncube

Spokesperson of the RSA Judiciary

C: 0848148364 **E:** NMncube@judiciary.org

