

Office of chief justice, not Mogoeng, 'responsible for judges' security'

Protection beefed up for judge Goliath

By Ernest Mabuza

The office of the chief justice (OCJ), a national department, has moved to clarify that chief justice Mogoeng Mogoeng is not personally responsible for assigning security to members of the judiciary.

The office said this after media reports suggested Mogoeng was personally responsible for providing security to Western Cape deputy judge president Patricia Goliath after an alleged plot to assassinate her. Western Cape judge president John Hlophe's attorney, Barnabas Xulu, issued a statement at the weekend in which he alleged Mogoeng had beefed up security for Goliath.

Xulu was responding to reports that Hlophe was named in an investigation into an alleged plot to assassinate Goliath.

Xulu said Mogoeng's receipt of the report involving allegations that Hlophe had plotted to kill Goliath, followed by his alleged decision to beef up her security, required a proper investigation.

In a statement on Sunday evening, the OCJ said it deemed it prudent to clarify certain issues relating to its role regarding judges' security.

"Security provided to 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," the department said.

It said the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) secretariat, whose responsibilities are limited to rendering administrative support to the JSC, received information telephonically on June 4 from a member of the Makhanda bar about an alleged plot to assassinate Goliath.

The department said this information was immediately relayed to the OCJ head of security.

"It is necessary to mention the secretariat did not at any given time send any investigators to investigate the alleged plot. Neither the secretariat nor the JSC has the mandate to investigate such allegations."



Chief justice Mogoeng Mogoeng is not responsible for the security of the judiciary, his office has said. /FREDDY MAVUNDA

The head of security, as per OCJ standard protocol, requested Western Cape police to conduct a threat and risk assessment with a view to providing security to Goliath, if necessary. As an interim measure, while waiting for the outcome of the

assessment, a contracted security service was provided to Goliath.

The department said the outcome of the assessment was later verbally communicated to the OCJ's head of security and to Goliath.

It said it was the responsibility of OCJ officials, under the leadership of the secretary-general as the head of the OCJ as a national department, to ask police to conduct threat and risk assessments for the judiciary where necessary.



DPWI AND AGRISETA COLLABORATE ON R66 MILLION ARTISAN DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) in Partnership with Agriculture Sector Education and Training Authority (AgriSETA) will provide Artisan Development Training to 400 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) participants.

The R66 million Artisan Development Programme training project which is funded by the National Skills Fund (NSF) of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) will be implemented over a multi-year period. The training will commence in the current financial year (2020/2021) until 2023 or until completion of the Project, whichever comes first.

AgriSETA will provide technical support and manage the implementation of the Project to ensure that participants acquire qualifications in technical fields such as Bricklayer, Plumber, Carpenter, Stonemason, Chef, Glazier, Air-conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic.

AgriSETA will also be responsible for sourcing relevant workplaces for all 400 trainees as well as to certify all accreditation requirements of training and appointment of service delivery agents for the duration of the project.

This project is aligned to the National Skills Development Strategy (NSDS) III and the National Skills Development Plan 2030 which prioritises artisan development programmes to address technical skills shortage.

For more information on this project visit our website on www.epwp.gov.za - Facebook@epwp.publicworks, Instagram @expandedpublicworksprogramme, twitter @epwpza.

