



**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**MEDIA STATEMENT**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**DATE: 18 JUNE 2020**

**Altecia Kortje: Protection order matter referred to Public Protector**

The Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services has noted reports in the media that Altecia Kortje - who was murdered with her seven-year old daughter, Raynechia, in Belhar in the Western Cape on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June - had approached the Bellville Magistrates Court to obtain a protection order against her accused a week prior to her murder, but was allegedly turned away at the Court.

We view these claims in a very serious light – all the more so, given the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) in our country – and have therefore referred the matter to the Office of the Public Protector for an investigation.

We are of the view that an investigation by the Office of the Public Protector is necessary to establish whether Ms Kortje approached the Court for assistance and, if so, why she was not assisted and whether there has been any act or omission by a person in the employ of government or performing a public function, which had resulted in any unlawful or improper prejudice to Ms Kortje and her daughter.

*“If Altecia was indeed turned away, there will be grave consequences, as Altecia should have been assisted. No one who seeks help should ever be turned away. We therefore need the Public Protector to investigate as to what happened at Court on that morning,”* said Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr John Jeffery.

The Ministry has informed the Kortje family of the referral of the matter.

**Enquiries:**

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