

21m/025/0012/01

CHEADLE THOMPSON & HAYSOM

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2017 BRAAMFONTEIN

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

STATEMENT ON THE ASSASSINATION OF BHEKI MLANGENI (CHEADLE THOMPSON & HAYSOM ATTORNEYS)

Bheki Mlangeni was killed by a high technology assassination device implanted in the earphones of a walkman at about 9.30pm last night.

Bheki Mlangeni was a candidate attorney at Cheadle Thompson & Haysom. As such he had been predominantly involved in investigating the activities of hit squads, the CCB and the clandestine operations at Vlakplaas. He was a member of the legal team representing the Independent Board of Inquiry into Informal Repression at the Harms Commission both in London and Pretoria. During the Commission he received a death threat arising out of his work.

Bheki Mlangeni had been a candidate attorney for two years, and was about to write his attorney's admission exams this month. He was highly regarded by his colleagues both as a professional lawyer and as a colleague. He had recently been invited to join our permanent professional staff. He was enormously popular amongst colleagues, clients and staff, generous with his time, courageous in his political and professional life, courteous and

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understanding to all who sought his assistance, gentle and strong," he possessed both humour and compassion.

Bheki was, notwithstanding his youth, regarded as a community leader of the highest calibre. He was the ANC Jabulani Branch Chairman. He was a former student leader at Fort Hare and Wits Universities. As an activist he had been detained for lengthy periods on these occasions. He was deeply involved in civic issues as education officer for the Soweto Civic Association. He was married to Sepati and leaves a son, Mandla, aged two. He supported his three brothers, a sister and his parents. Bheki came from a poor and honest working-class background. When asked if his father was proud of his professional achievement Bheki would reply simply and sincerely 'Yes, but not as proud as I am of my father'.

Bheki's death is a true loss to the New South Africa. He uniquely embodied the new non-racial future not only by virtue of the work he performed daily but also in his ordinary every day dealings with the people around him, old and young, black and white, rich and poor.

Bheki Mlangeni was a lawyer involved in the exposure of assassination squads. To kill lawyers is to attack the legal system. To kill lawyers who pursue justice is to destroy achievement of justice itself. Bheki's death only underlines the importance of continuing with the work in which he was involved.

PERSONAL DETAILS OF BHEKI MLANGENI

Born: 20 December 1958
 Age: 32 years
 Address: 257 Jabulani, Soweto
 Schools: Vunhanda High School (1971/76)
 Ikhetelo High School (1975/76)
 University: Fort Hare (1980/83)
 University of the Witwatersrand (1984/88)
 Qualifications: BA; LLB
 Present professional position: Candidate Attorney, Cheadle Thompson & Haysom

Political details

Executive of SASAS - 1978/79
 AZASO/SANSCO - 1980/88
 National Political Education Officer, SANSCO - 1984/88
 Regional Chairperson of SANSCO - 1985/88
 BSS, Wits Exco. 1984/85
 Soweto Civic Association - 1985 to present
 Education Officer, SCA - 1987 to present
 Branch Chair of Jabulani Branch, ANC - 1990 to present

Detentions

1982 - 6 months (Ciskei)
 1983 - 3 months (Ciskei)
 1986/87 - 1 year (State of Emergency, RSA)

Family details

Married to Sepati
 One son, Mandla, 3 years old
 Leaves his parents, 3 brothers and 1 sister.

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5 April 1990

The Secretary
Harms Commission of Inquiry
PRETORIA
ATT: MR CHRIS ERASMUS

FAX (012) 322-9652

Dear Mr Erasmus

re: HARMS COMMISSION: DIRK COETZEE

We refer to the above and advise that at approximately 14h30 Mr B Mlangeni of our office received a telephone call from an unknown person informing him that a "hit squad" had been despatched today to Lusaka to kill Captain Dirk Coetzee. Mr Mlangeni is an articled clerk in our firm and is in fact working on the Commission and has been conducting research in certain areas.

We are unaware as to whether this telephone call is a hoax or not, however it is cause for concern as it is clear that the life of Captain Dirk Coetzee may well be at risk. We realise that there is very little that the Commission can do about such things however it may be appropriate that the phone call be brought to the attention of the Minister of Law and Order if Mr Justice Harms deems it appropriate.

Yours faithfully
CHEADLE THOMPSON & HAYSOM


PETER HARRIS