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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

Date: 14 July 2024

City of Johannesburg sets the record straight regarding inaccurate Article Published by City Press

The City of Johannesburg strongly objects to the misleading and speculative article titled "**Assassination: JMPD Guns for Hire**" published by City Press on Sunday, 14 July 2024. The article, written by Timothy Molobi and Abram Mashego, contains factual inaccuracies that have the potential to mislead and misdirect investigations into the case.

The City wishes to correct the assumption that the late Mr. Sithole was on the verge of cracking a case of "guns for hire" within the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD). This claim is entirely unfounded and inaccurate.

Mr. Sithole joined the City of Johannesburg in 2018 and was not involved in the Armoury investigation, which was taken over by the Hawks in 2018/2019.

Furthermore, the City confirms that he was not involved in the ENS investigation conducted in 2021/2022 against the City Manager, which was ultimately set aside by Council for failure to follow correct processes. The subsequent investigation by MJS attorneys found no evidence against the City Manager.

At no point was Mr. Sithole involved in investigating high-profile or crucial cases as suggested by the article. He did, however, follow up on certain matters in liaison with the South African Police Service (SAPS) as part of his former role at the Hawks.

The City urges the media to exercise sensitivity and respect when reporting on this matter, taking into consideration the feelings of the family and colleagues of the deceased. We appeal to the media to avoid spreading misinformation that could potentially put lives at risk.

We trust that City Press will take the necessary steps to correct their mistakes and provide a more accurate representation of the facts.

ENDS

Issued by the City of Joburg

For all media queries, send an email to mediaqueries@joburg.org.za