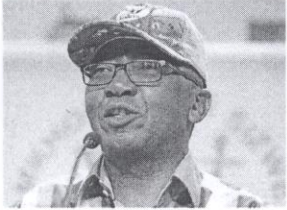


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Maphatsoe sorry for spy slur

Sep 10 2014 12:12AM



Abram Mashego and Olwethu Boso

Kebby Maphatsoe has apologised to public protector Thuli Madonsela for comments he made at the weekend alleging that she was a CIA spy.

Maphatsoe, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, said yesterday that he apologised for his actions.

He, however, stuck to his guns in his concerns over Madonsela's behaviour.

"On Saturday and Monday, I made statements in my capacity as the national chairperson on behalf of Umkhonto we Sizwe Military Veterans Association about the public protector.

After consultation with my organisation, the ANC, it would seem as though my statements have been misunderstood and misinterpreted.

I therefore withdraw those statements and apologise for any offence and hurt that would have been caused," he said.

"However, the behaviour and conduct of the public protector remains a source of concern to us," he said.

Maphatsoe's apology came after Madonsela demanded that he provided evidence within 72 hours that she was indeed a CIA spy.

She also demanded a retraction of the allegation and an apology.

Maphatsoe's allegations also escalated into a diplomatic incident between South Africa and the US with that country's ambassador Patrick Gaspard threatening to lodge a formal complaint with the government.



However, it emerged yesterday that the US embassy is yet to lodge a formal complaint with the government after the spy claim.

Spokesperson for the Department of International Relations, Clayson Monyela, said that the department had not yet received the US complaint about Maphatsoe's comments, which suggested that Madonsela was a US spy.

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