

Republic of South Africa
Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services

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STATEMENT BY THE JUDICIAL INSPECTORATE FOR CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

MR OSCAR PISTORIUS
CORRECTION AND APOLOGY BY JICS

**CNN TELEVISION INTERVIEW AND PRINT MEDIA COVERGAGE INCLUDING THE SATURDAY
STAR EDITION OF 22 AUGUST 2015 AND SUNDAY TIMES EDITION OF 23 AUGUST 2015**

The purpose of this statement is to rectify the inaccurate statement by our Gauteng regional representative during an interview with CNN in respect of the conditions pertaining to Mr Oscar Pistorius during his incarceration at Kgosi Mampuru II Correctional Centre. It appears that the print and other media picked up the story from the CNN clip.

During the interview our representative Mr Murasiet Mentoor is quoted in respect of the following conditions experienced by Mr Pistorius and the resultant actions of DCS. We address each aspect hereunder and where necessary contextualize the statements -

1. The inmate requested that DCS provide him with a bath as he was unable to use the shower. Mr Mentoor is quoted as saying that DCS built the inmate a bath in his cell.

This is incorrect – a bath was not requested by the inmate to be built in his cell nor was this done. He had access to a bath in the section he was held in. In the normal circumstances inmates with a disability must be catered for.

2. Mr Pistorius was regarded as a “high profile” inmate and as such his safe custody could be compromised if fellow inmates were allowed unfettered access to him.

This is correct in the case of Mr Pistorius as well as all other inmates who may be vulnerable in one respect or another. It is common cause that the security provided by DCS is heightened as is their obligation to maintain security and order in our correctional centres. This applies in all correctional centres around the country and to inmates who are, for example, aged, disabled and has a profile which could be subject to unwarranted attention.

3. The food served in the correctional centre is cooked in the general kitchen and then conveyed to the inmates. Whilst it, in our knowledge, has never occurred the possibility of the food being tampered with and indeed poisoned remains an aspect which DCS must be alive to. This also is the policy in all correctional centres where

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inmates place such fears to the officials or the Inspectorate. Our centres also cater to the medical, cultural and preferential diets of inmates.

4. Some sources appear to attribute to Mr Mentoor speaking about Mr Pistorius' request for gym equipment. In fact this was not mentioned by Mr Mentoor but by the interviewer.

Notwithstanding we record that Mr Pistorius had access to gym equipment which was located in the wing he was incarcerated in. Many of our correctional centres have gyms in which inmates can exercise.

5. Inmates are generally provided mattresses made of sponge or foam. In instances where the bed and or mattress is not suitable and medical staff confirm the need for a suitable orthopedic bed or mattress an inmate receives same as in the case of Mr Pistorius. The Inspectorate has dealt with numerous similar requests.

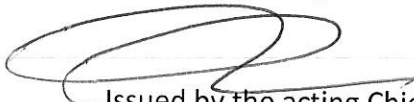
In the light of the misstatement regarding the bath the Judicial Inspectorate unreservedly tenders its apologies to Mr Pistorius, the Ministry of Correctional Services and the Department of Correctional Services. The mistake was a *bona fide* one and not intended to suggest that Mr Pistorius either demanded special treatment or was he provided such by the DCS. The Inspectorate oversaw through its Independent Correctional Centre Visitors' that he was held in appropriate conditions.

Requests and complaints by all inmates are guaranteed as of right in terms of our constitutional and statutory regime. The role of the Inspectorate is to monitor that the DCS addresses these promptly and in this case this is what transpired.

It must be said that all correctional and remand facilities comprise of both communal and single cells. The single cell Mr Pistorius was held in was no different from a typical cell in the section he was kept.

We trust that any harm caused to Mr Pistorius and /or the Ministry and Department of Correctional Services is remedied. We request the media in all its formats to provide equivalent space and time to publish our statement in the light of the incorrect facts and inferences drawn. The Department of Correctional Services acted within its statutory duties. The Inspectorate, in turn, monitored that the Department did so.

This matter is regarded as finalized and no further statements will be issued.



Issued by the acting Chief Executive Officer
Per: Umesh Raga
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Cape Town

29 October 2015

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