

Magistrate in even more trouble

More shocking claims about a top magistrate accused of ordering her subordinates to take her gambling during court hours and to do her hair emerged this week.

On Tuesday, (20 August) the Magistrates' Commission reported to Parliament's justice portfolio committee that Kempton Park chief magistrate Judith van Schalkwyk continued to harass her subordinates - some of whom claim to be "very afraid" of her.

This was in spite of Justice Minister Jeff Radebe suspending her last month pending an inquiry into her fitness to hold office.

The commission's Johannes Meijer said: "The allegations are that she is still indirectly interfering, putting pressure on and victimising others in the office."

He said Van Schalkwyk was reported to be targeting contract magistrates in particular.

"I received an SMS this morning and they are feeling very vulnerable," Meijer said.

The initial complaint against her was laid by former Johannesburg chief magistrate and cluster head for Gauteng, Gert Jonker.

It is also claimed that she asked for a specific acting magistrate to hear a case in which she had applied for debt review. Meijer said the amount involved was R1.9m.

Source: Sowetan via I-Net Bridge