



defence

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MEDIA STATEMENT

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SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE TAKING DISCIPLINARY MEASURES AGAINST ITS MEMBERS WHO ILLEGALLY MARCHED TO THE UNION BUILDINGS

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) will start Preliminary Investigations for charges preferred against individuals who participated in an illegal march to the Union Buildings in August 2009. The SANDF commends those members who responded to the instruction of the Chief of the South African National Defence Force for reporting to their home units as per instruction. However, departmental actions will be taken against those who ignored the instruction and those who continue to undermine the authority of the SANDF.

The Chief of the SANDF and the Military Command will continue to discharge their Constitutional responsibility of ensuring that the SANDF is managed as a disciplined military force.

Preliminary investigations will be conducted according to a process as set out in the Military Disciplinary Supplementary Measures Act, 2009 Section 30 (3). These steps are:

The proceedings at a preliminary investigation shall be held in private in the presence of the accused and-

- (a) a prosecution counsel;
- (b) the accused's legal representative of choice, or, if in the opinion of the relevant senior defence counsel the complexities of the case warrant it, the assigned defence counsel; and
- (c) where necessary, an escort, an operator, an interpreter, any witness giving evidence and any other official that may be necessary for the proper conduct of the proceedings.

Co-operation of all role players is required in order to expedite finalisation of the Preliminary Investigation.

ENDS.

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Enquiries: Brigadier General Xolani Mabanga
Director Defence Corporate Communication
Mobile: 082 889 9537