

MEDIA INVITE

Date of Release: 28 August 2014

Embargo: None

Subject: **WOMEN IN UNIFORM CONCLUDE THE WOMEN'S MONTH WITH A COLOURFUL PARADE**

On Friday 29 August 2014, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) will close off the women's month activities with a Women's Day Parade wherein women in uniform will be in full swing by taking charge of the parade. All the proceedings are scheduled to commence at 10h00 at the Air Force Base Swartkop.

In his Women's Day speech on 09 August 2014, the President of the RSA and Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, His Excellency President Jacob Zuma hailed women who continue to make indelible marks in order to ensure that there is a better Africa and a better world as a result of South Africa's contribution to global effort for peace and stability. The president alluded that "the country has pilots and women in senior positions in the military and the police". The ascendance of women in senior leadership positions affirms this assertion as eloquently alluded to by President Zuma, evidently so, improves their military profile.

The SANDF continues to make significant strides in addressing challenges faced by women in military which see them having a parallel capacity and a role to play along with their male counterparts. Deployment of women in uniform, both internally and externally, signifies their profundity and monumental tasks that they have to carry in defence of the territorial integrity of this country. To this effect, Corporal Molatelo Nkoana and MS Suzette Gates have displayed enviable quintessential leadership traits when they were accosted by the Seleka rebels in the Central African Republic in March 2013. Corporal Nkoana and Ms Gates will be amongst other members who have also distinguished themselves in various capacities when they rendered heroic deeds in the fields that are perceived to be hetero-patriarchal environment. Progressive representation of women in specialised skills such as pilots, navigators, engineers, combat, technicians and medicine grows in heaps and bounds.

Members of the media are cordially invited to send a photographer and or/journalist to cover this eventful parade.

Ends.

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