

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**DATE:** 2 December 2014

**EMBARGO:** Immediate

### **SUBJECT: PRESIDENT JACOB ZUMA TO AWARD THE FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE MANDELA COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS**

The President of the Republic of South Africa and Commander in Chief of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), his Excellency, President Jacob Zuma, will on 07 December 2014, at Air Force Base Waterkloof award the first South African National Defence Force Mandela Commemorative Medals to deserving members of the SANDF.

The medals are specifically designed and dedicated to:

- ❖ pay homage to the first Commander in Chief of the South African National Defence Force and
- ❖ to honour members of the South African National Defence Force who played significant role in taking care of the late Mr Nelson Mandela during his last days and/or in planning and execution of the State Funeral, respectively.

The medals are categorised in gold, silver and bronze and will be awarded to all members or former members of the SANDF who contributed to the successful execution of the State Funeral Category 1 of the former president of the RSA and Commander in Chief of the SANDF Mr Nelson Mandela or Tata Mandela as he was affectionately known.

The Chief of the South African National Defence Force's intention is that these medals should be awarded to the deserving members of the SANDF over the period December 2014 – June 2015. The President as the Commander in Chief will award the first medals and subsequently the medals will be awarded by the Chief of the South African National Defence Force, Services and Divisional Chiefs as may be delegated over the period mentioned above.

This will be the beginning of a series of medal parades scheduled to take place from the weekend when South Africa and the world at large are commemorating the first anniversary of the passing on of the World Icon, Tata Mandela.

**Ends.**

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