



the sandf

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: Sunday, 12 April 2015

EMBARGO: None

SUBJECT: AN ORYX HELICOPTER CREW MEMBER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE PASSES AWAY IN A FREAK ACCIDENT IN LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) has learnt with sadness that an Oryx helicopter aircrew member passed on in a freak accident on Sunday, 12 April 2015. A motor vehicle drove into two members of the South African Air Force who were on a sidewalk in Livingstone town, in Zambia.

The Oryx aircrew was on the scheduled change-over from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) en-route to South Africa. The crew consisted of was Major C.J. Tarentaal (commander from 19 Squadron), Major R. Pillay (co-pilot from 17 Squadron) and Sergeant M.J. Modiba (Flight Engineer from 19 Squadron).

Major Tarentaal who suffered a leg injury and the deceased member, Flight Engineer Sergeant Modiba were taken to the Livingstone General Hospital.

The SANDF is working very closely with the Zambian authorities.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Honourable Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, the Chief of the SANDF, General Solly Shoke and the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lieutenant General Zimpande Msimang, convey their heartfelt condolences to the family, relatives, colleagues and friends of Sergeant Modiba.

Ends

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