



the sandf

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA RELEASE

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EMBARGO: None

SUBJECT: THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE MOURNS ITS CHIEF OF LOGISTICS: THE LATE LIEUTENANT GENERAL BONGANI ISIDORE MBATHA

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) is deeply saddened by the sudden departure of its Chief of Logistics the late Lieutenant General Bongani Isidore Mbatha, who passed on 05 May 2015 after a short illness.

Lt Gen Mbatha was born on 05 September 1957 in Johannesburg. He attended school at Morris Isaacson where he became involved with student politics and was involved in planning and execution of the 1976 student uprisings. He later matriculated at Alexander High School. Due to political situation he then left the country in 1978 to join Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), the military wing of the ANC through Swaziland, Mozambique, Tanzania and eventually Angola. It is worth mentioning that it was in Tanzania where the Late Lt Gen Mbatha met the current President of the RSA, His Excellency Mr Jacob Zuma, who was his political commissar at the time.

On his return to South Africa, Lt Gen Mbatha worked in different structures of the MK and also served as a member of the then National Peacekeeping Force. He later integrated into the SANDF on 27 April 1994 and served in various positions in the SANDF until he was promoted to a rank of Lt Gen and appointed as the Chief of Logistics of the SANDF in March 2014 and became member of the Military Command, the most senior command structure of the SANDF.

In honour of the Late Lt Gen Mbatha, the Chief of the South African National Defence Force, General Solly Zacharia Shoke has ordered that SANDF flags at all SANDF units and bases to fly at half-mast from 08 May 2015, the day of memorial service to 13 May 2015 the day of the funeral.

The memorial service is going to be held on Friday, 08 May 2015 at Thaba Tshwane City Hall at 12h00; and the funeral service will take place at Thaba Tshwane Military Sports Club at 10h00.

Ends

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Enquiries: Brigadier General Xolani Mabanga
083 410 1655
012 355 6302