



# defence

Department:  
Defence  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **MEDIA INVITE**

**DATE:** Friday 04 December 2015

**EMBARGO:** None

**SUBJECT: MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS INSPECTS THE PROGRESS OF OPERATION THUSANO**

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula will on Thursday 10 December 2015 inspect the progress of Operation THUSANO in Wallmanstall Military Base and SA Army Support Base in Potchefstroom sites.

Operation Thusano is a technical partnership signed between the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces under an existing military to military agreement between the two armed forces. The technical agreement seeks to provide a technical advisory team made out of technicians from the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces assisting the SANDF to service and maintain the South African Military Vehicles (Samil) and build internal technical capacity. The technical team has already steadily achieved commendable progress in various centres of the SANDF across the country.

This agreement is set to create an internal pool of technical skills in the SANDF which will enable the defence force to properly service and maintain its vehicles. Since the arrival of the Cuban mechanics, there has been a noticeably increased manner in the servicing of vehicles.

The Minister will inspect the progress made in Wallmanstall Military Base and Potchefstroom. She will also take this opportunity to wish the Cuban delegation a well deserved rest during the festive season.

You are cordially invited to send a journalist/reporter to cover the event. Journalists assigned to cover the event are requested to report at Air Force Base Waterkloof (Movements) on 10 December 2015 at 05:30. RSVP's should be done as depicted below, not later than 08 December 2015.

The Minister's entourage is expected to leave Air Force Base Waterkloof at 06:30 for Wallmanstall and return to the same base from Potchefstroom at 16:00.

**ENDS**

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