



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS**  
Republic of South Africa

---

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Date: 05 June 2015**

**Embargo: None**

**SUBJECT: MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS WELCOMES THE APPROVAL OF THE DEFENCE REVIEW 2014 BY THE PARLIAMENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, the Honourable, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa- Nqakula has welcomed the approval of the Defence Review 2014 by the National Assembly. The Minister expresses her appreciation to the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans in the manner that they dealt with the Defence Review soon after the Budget Vote of the Department of Defence and Military Veterans. She would also like to thank all political parties that participated in the debate and approval of the Defence Review, which prove that the South African National Defence Force is a national asset.

The Minister stated that the adoption of the Defence Review takes the defence policy a step further and is a major milestone in ensuring the revitalisation of the country's armed forces. The adoption of Defence Review by the National Assembly will ensure the decline in the capacity and capability of the national defence force is arrested.

During her Budget Vote speech, the Minister said "it is critical for South Africa to have a viable defence force capable of protecting the sovereignty of the country and also able to contribute significantly to regional and continental requirements. We are of the view that this policy captures these aspirations".

Following this process, an oversight body, the Defence Review Implementation Project Team (DRIPT) consisting of both the Defence Secretariat and the Military Command has been established to ensure departmental integration during planning and implementation.

Two permanent planning streams, one on policy matters led by the Defence Secretariat and the other on force development planning led by the Military Command, will drive the planning and implementation process of the Defence Review.

The Defence Secretariat planning team will institutionalise the new defence direction by developing the following:

- A funding model to enable the resourced implementation of the Defence Review 2014.
- A defence accountability concept to ensure civil control of defence without compromising the command and control of the SANDF.
- A delegation regime supportive of military command and control.
- A system to expedite defence capital acquisition.
- A Defence Industry and Technology Strategy.

The Military Command planning team has begun work that seeks to incorporate the new defence policy into a Military Strategic Direction Framework. The work includes:

- The development of a new Military Strategy that will spell out how military resources will be utilised to achieve the policy objectives of the Defence Review 2014.
- The development of an appropriate force design and force structure to provide a clear account of capabilities required to achieve policy objectives.
- The development of a plan to systematically restructure the SANDF throughout the MTSF period, as may be allowed by the current resource baseline, with particular emphasis on the command and staff system and the establishment of combat formations.
- A plan to right-size the SANDF's personnel component.
- The renewal of the education, training and development system of the SANDF.

There are five key milestones of the review that South Africa must be embarked upon to rejuvenate the Department of Defence and establish commensurate capabilities:

- **Planning Milestone 1:** Arrest the decline in critical capabilities through Immediate, directed interventions.
- **Planning Milestone 2:** Rebalance and reorganise the Defence Force as the foundation for future growth.
- **Planning Milestone 3:** Create a sustainable Defence Force that can meet current ordered defence commitments.
- **Planning Milestone 4:** Enhance the Defence Force's capacity to respond to nascent challenges in the strategic environment.
- **Planning Milestone 5:** Defend the Republic against an imminent or dire threat.

It is also important to point out that in the implementation of Milestone 1 there are a number of activities that the Defence Force will embark upon within the existing resource allocation. These include the development of a new defence accountability model, the development of the military strategy aligned with the Defence Review 2014 inclusive of a force design, force structure and the development of a DoD funding model to enable engagements with the National Treasury to source funding for the implementation of the Defence Review.

**End.**

**Issued by:** Department of Defence  
(Defence Corporate Communication)

**Enquiries:** Mr Sipiwe Dlamini  
Head of Communication  
083 645 4294