

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS
Republic of South Africa

MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: 5 February 2015

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SUBJECT: MINISTER MAPISA-NQAKULA CONDEMNS ABUSE OF RECRUITS

Defence and Military Veterans Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula would like to send an unequivocal message that any form of abuse around military bases would not be tolerated. The warning follows recent claims of abuse at the SA Army's Infantry School at Oudtshoorn. Minister Mapisa-Nqakula has vowed to get to the bottom of the claims as a matter of urgency.

Last year, military ombudsman General Matanzima launched a full investigation into complaints by members on instruction by Minister Mapisa-Nqakula. Subsequently, a final report was produced whose recommendations were accepted by the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans. The recommendations were then handed over to the Chief of the South African National Defence Force for implementation. Accordingly, the recommendations contained in the report have since been implemented.

It is against this backdrop that Hon. Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula – MP, is utterly disenchanted with the recent allegations of physical abuse and verbal assault at the aforementioned school.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula condemns, in the strongest terms, the physical and psychological mistreatment of recruits. Furthermore, Minister Mapisa-Nqakula has vowed to ensure that strict action is taken against perpetrators.

The most recent claims will receive priority for investigation.

ENDS

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