



the sandf

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THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE (SANDF) GOODWILL PARCEL PROJECT RECEIVES OVER 2,4 MILLION RANDS WORTH OF PLEDGES AND CASH BOOST

Over R2.4 million worth of pledges were made to the South African National Defence Force Goodwill Parcel Project during a Goodwill Project Gala Dinner held at Sierra Hotel (Burgers Park) in Pretoria on Friday 1 September 2017.

The South African Corporate Sector's generosity towards the SANDF's Goodwill Project comes even despite the tremendous challenges the local economy is facing and is a welcome acknowledgement and appreciation by the business community of the thankless work that our soldiers - men and women in uniform tirelessly throw in away from their beloved families even over the festive season here within our borders and externally in pursuit of peace across the African continent.

The continuing support from the South African business and other generous sponsors show that they understand the country's national agenda and the constitutionally enshrined mandate the SANDF was established to fulfil. Speaking at the Gala Dinner, the Chief of the South African National Defence Force, General Solly Shoke, commended the good deeds of the business community who continue supporting the noble Goodwill Project.

"Your contribution helps us to reach out and say thank you to our soldiers who continue making a supreme sacrifice for the country, and to their families who play a pivotal support role in our soldiers' quest to safeguard our borders and promote peace and stability across the African continent in all the SANDF's missions. Without you the SANDF Goodwill Project would be difficult to sustain," Gen Shoke said.

The Chief of the SANDF extended a heartfelt message and humble appreciation to the business sector for their generous and dearly needed support.

The support to our men and women doing selfless service away from their beloved families over the festive season is a gesture that has come a long way. The underlying reason for the SANDF Goodwill Parcel Project is to honour our soldiers for their service to the nation and continent. This is the service they render by protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of South Africa and contributing towards continental peace and security as part of the United Nations and the African Union.

The SANDF Goodwill Project was started 16-years-ago by then Sergeant Major of the SANDF, Master Chief Warrant Officer Jacobs, who asked all the SANDF Sergeants Major to contribute R1 towards a project that would go into reaching out to deployed soldiers and their loved ones left behind to run families. The Sergeants Major surpassed their target on the first year and their generosity raised a whopping amount of R25 000 which went into buying food parcels for each soldier deployed in Burundi at the time.

This small investment was a personal show of goodwill by the Sergeants Major to the troops on the ground - an investment that no one at the time thought would grow to touch so many lives as it does today and generate, not just the amassed funds over the years but also the interest of so many large corporates in the country.

Since its inception, the SANDF Goodwill Parcel Project has grown from strength to strength currently with over 14 corporate sponsors alongside four Service Fund sponsors and has since raised R65.4 million channelled to a good cause.

This year – the 16th anniversary of the Goodwill Parcel Project - the sponsors not only pledged a generous R2.4 million towards the project but also extended an amount of R150 000 towards the SANDF Spouses Forum.

ENDS.

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