



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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MEDIA INVITE

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The Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Thabang Makwetla, will address the Azanian People's Liberation Army Military Veterans Association (APLAMVA) national congress to be held on the 2nd of March 2013 at the Dan's Conference Centre in Mthatha, Eastern Cape. The congress is expected to start at 9am.

APLA is the erstwhile liberation army under the auspices of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) and was integrated into the SANDF during the 1994 amalgamation of statutory and non statutory forces.

According to the 2011 Military Veterans Act, a military veteran is defined as "any South African citizen who rendered military services to any military organization, statutory or liberation armies, which were involved on all sides of South Africa's liberation war from 1960 till 1994 ; served in the then Union Defence Force before 1961 ; became a member of the new SANDF after 1994....and has completed his or her military training and no longer performs military services, and has not been dishonourably discharged from that military organization"

Makwetla's speech is expected to outline how far the current administration has gone in addressing the plight of all former soldiers and indicate future government plans to mainstream issues relating to military veterans.

The Military Veterans Act enjoins the state to deliver socio economic services and selected benefits targeted to all former soldiers. These include , but not limited to..compensation, counselling, job placement, memorialization and honoring, provision of health care, provision of public transport, free housing,

burial support and business advice support. All these benefits are accessible for eligible military veterans subject to a means test.

Amongst other expected speakers will be the Hon.Letlapa Mphahlele, President of the PAC.

Members of the media are cordially invited to attend the event.

Ends.

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