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OF THE WEEK  
QUOTE OF THE  
WEEK

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**ARMED  
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DAY  
EDITION**

## President Ramaphosa Addresses 2018

### Armed Forces Day

President Cyril Ramaphosa has applauded the South African Defence Force for their role in actively promoting the Defence Force as a career of choice. President Ramaphosa was addressing troops in Kimberley during the 2018 Armed Forces Day celebrations. He says SANDF will this year lead the rejuvenation of the Naval Dockyard which is set to create 570 high technical jobs and 4,500 indirect job opportunities over the next five years. *Please read the rest of President Ramaphosa's speech below...*

I am honoured to be back in Kimberley for the second time in four days to join the South African National Defence Force and the people of the Northern Cape in hosting Armed Forces Day.

At the interfaith service I attended on Sunday, I saw in our armed forces a reflection of the South Africa we are constantly seeking to build.

I saw the diversity of our country enveloped in your uniforms.

I saw – just as I witness today – black and white South Africans, young and old, men and women, together.

I saw discipline, commitment and professionalism.

And I saw the warmth of our national character shining through.

The participation of all faiths in the Sunday event was a reminder of the inclusive society we are building.

It was heartening to see the wonderful, creative talent of men and women in uniform on display.

On Sunday, it was our men and women in uniform who lifted the spirit of our nation through the soaring voices of soloists, trumpeters, saxophonists and the vibrant defence choir.

So when we look at our armed forces we see a manifestation of the South Africa that belongs to all of us, black and white, which our Constitution directs us to build.

This day is a reminder that our soldiers are an integral part of us, not an external force.

You are bedrock of our communities.

You are our mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, friends, neighbours.

We dare not fail to appreciate how the peace we enjoy lives alongside the constant vigilance and readiness that enables you to keep us as safe as we are.

You are opening incredible opportunities for young people in both the public and private sectors.

South Africa's defence technology is globally sought after.

Much of our technological capability shows that we are well positioned, through our armed forces, to participate in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

This has established our defence sector as an important contributor to innovation in our economy.

It has made defence a sector where young people can exercise not just their physical capabilities, but their creativity and exercise skills across a broad range of endeavours – from catering to intelligence gathering, to engineering and project management.

Fellow Compatriots,

A decision was taken in 2012 to proclaim the 21st of February as Armed Forces Day.

It commemorated the day in 1917 when the SS Mendi was sunk in World War I.

The SS Mendi was transporting 823 members of the 5th Battalion, the South African Native Labour Corps to France, when it was struck by the SS Darro.

Over 600 black troops died in the disaster.

It is a day on which we remember the bravery of soldiers prepared to fight in a war that was not theirs.

It is recorded that as the SS Mendi sank, the soldiers chose to die with dignity and honour.

It was this tragedy that SEK Mqhayi recalled in his poem, *'Ukutshona kukaMendi'*.

In it he writes:

*Could we have sacrificed anything more precious?*

*What did it mean to sacrifice a village?*

*Was it not giving the bull calves of your homestead?*

*Sending those very ones who loved you as a nation?*

*We're talking deep now; we have added our voice,*

*Proudly we are part of those opening the road to freedom.*

*In the way Abel was the sacrifice of the earth?*

*In the way the Messiah was the sacrifice of heaven?*

*Be consoled, all you orphans!*

*Be consoled, all you young widows!*

*Somebody has to die, so that something can be built;*

*Somebody has to serve, so that others can live...*

This day has become a day that allows us to remember all men and women who have paid the ultimate price in defence of freedom, peace and justice.

It reminds us that blood was spilled by many of our people to guarantee us our freedom and dignity.

It is a reminder that honourable and courageous men and women continue to put their lives on the line to secure our peace and defend our Constitution.

Compatriots,

This year, Armed Forces Day celebrations carry a profound and special meaning for our nation. They occur at a time when our defence force has once again demonstrated the deep roots of our Constitutional dispensation. They are even more significant because they occur in a year when South Africa commemorates the centenary year of our icon and first Commander-in-Chief, President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

It is this SANDF that President Mandela envisaged as a non-partisan unifier and defender of all South Africans.

President Mandela oversaw the formation of the SANDF as a force that upholds the Constitution of the Republic in defence of all its people.

President Mandela left behind a disciplined SANDF that protects our territorial integrity and supports peace and development initiatives on the African continent.

Thank you heartily for your patriotism and for lending a hand in the renewal and development of our beloved country. We applaud the major role that the Department of Defence is playing in actively promoting our Defence Force as a career of choice.

During the past year, the South African Navy continued to lead the Department of Defence's participation in Operation Phakisa.

Through Operation Phakisa, the SANDF aims to enhance ship-building. During this year, the SANDF will lead the rejuvenation will commence with the building of patrol and survey vessels for the South African Navy to rejuvenate the national ship building industry. This project will create 570 high technical jobs and 4,500 indirect jobs over the next five years. The SANDF conducted various maritime border safeguarding operations under Operation Corona, ensuring the safety and stability of South Africa's maritime zones.

.Operation Thusano is a departmental initiative with the Cuban armed forces that involves the maintenance and repairing of the SANDF operational vehicle fleet.

From inception in 2015, over 4,000 vehicles have been repaired and several workshops in SANDF units revived.

A total of 446 South Africans are apprentices and a further 395 have qualified as technicians through transfer of practical knowledge by the Cubans.

As I mentioned in the State of the Nation Address, I will soon be visiting the leadership and management of our national departments to see how well we can work together to accelerate the imperatives of service delivery, training and job creation.

As Commander-in-Chief of the South African National Defence Force, I will be prioritising my engagement with the Department of Defence.

On this historic and auspicious day, I wish you well and thank you once more for your loyalty to our country and for your service to our people.

I thank you.

# President Cyril Ramaphosa Addresses SANDF

## Inter-faith Church Services

Staff Reporter

President Cyril Ramaphosa on Sunday paid tribute to the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), saying the defence force has again confirmed the depth of the roots of South Africa's democracy.

He was speaking during an inter-faith church service at Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre in Kimberley during Armed Forces Day build up events.

The celebrations which were held on Wednesday to commemorate 21 February 1917, marked the "heroic sacrifices of our soldiers who died that fateful morning when the SS Mendi sank in the English Channel" killing 646 people.

"It has become a day that allows us to remember all men and women who paid the ultimate price in defence of freedom, peace, and justice. It is a day that reminds us that blood was spilled by countless South Africans and freedom fighters to guarantee us our freedom and human rights. It is a reminder that brave men and women continue to put their lives on the line to secure our hard-won freedoms and defend our Constitution," Ramaphosa said.

"This year, these celebrations carry a profound and special meaning for our nation. They occur at a time where our defence force has once again confirmed the depth of the roots of our democracy and the flourishing of constitutional order.

Ramaphosa says the celebrations occur as the nation celebrates the change of leadership in the governing party without any appetite for senseless bloodshed because the defence force is led by wise women and men who abide to the ideal of the supremacy of the Constitution and the rule of law.

They were even more significant because they

occurred in a year when South Africa commemorated the centenary birthday of the first commander in chief, former president Nelson Mandela.



President Cyril Ramaphosa, Premier Sylvia Lucas

It is this SANDF – the people's national defence force – that our founding father president Nelson Mandela envisaged as a non-partisan unifier and defender of all South Africans. As its first commander in chief president Mandela moulded the SANDF into a law-abiding institution that upholds the Constitution of the Republic in defence of its people.

"President Mandela left us a coherent SANDF whose task is to diligently safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic, build peace, and support development on the African continent. He left us a national defence force that is a true microcosm of our diverse society," Ramaphosa said.

*Additional Reporting by African News Agency...*



# SANDF Rolls Out Coaching Clinics

## for the City's Youths

By: Nelly Pheleu

The South African Defence Force has rolled out a number of coaching clinics at both Galeshewe Stadium and Karin Muir swimming pool in Kimberley in the Northern Cape. The clinics included rugby, netball, softball and swimming amongst others. The sporting activities started from Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> of February until Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018. They formed part of build-up programs towards the National Armed Forces day which was held to commemorate the 1917 SS Mendi accident.

Karin Muir swimming pool in Kimberley was a hype of activity. This was when multitudes of school kids from various local Kimberley schools flocked to the facility for important swimming lessons. The lessons were rolled out by the South African National Defence Force together with officials from Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and its federations. One of the schools in attendance was Floors Primary School whose learners could not hide their excitement.

SANDF's Captain Tumelo Tlhakudi was one of the swimming instructors from the Air Force Base and says the project is aimed at decreasing the rate of children who often drown. *"Furthermore we'd like to entice the young ones to show them that there is more to the army than just guns and war".*

A local swimming instructor Faried Josephs from Northern Cape Aquatic Sports Association was also present to assist and make sure that this initiative does not end here. *"I would like to indicate to our youths interested in swimming that the Floors North Primary School swimming pool is being renovated and interested parties are welcome to join the swim team. We cannot teach a person how to swim in one day, we need to nurture and instil all the basic skills that are needed for one to be a good swimmer",* said Josephs.



Eleven year old Junior Maseko from Floors North Primary mentioned how excited he is to be taught how to swim. The young Maseko says being from a disadvantaged background and having not being exposed to swimming facilities before, it really thrills him to be given this once in a life time opportunity.

Many young stars were peddling and kicking water holding on to the swimming boards and stroking with unbridled passion. Meanwhile at Galeshewe Stadium multitudes were having the time of their lives, enjoying clinics in various sporting codes including soccer, rugby, netball, softball and football amongst others.



Swimming lessons



# ARMED FORCES DAY FAN PARK

By: Boitshepo Thati

The Northern Cape Diamond Community was thrilled with joy as they gained exposure to limitless career opportunities available at the South African National Defence Force. The community especially school children, visited SANDF's career exhibitions at the AR Abass Stadium in Kimberley from Thursday, 15 February until Tuesday, 20 February as part of the 2018 Armed Forces Day build up programmes. They were given opportunity to ask questions and learn about SANDF's four arms of service which are SA Army, SA Air Force, SA Navy and South African Military Health Service (SAMHS).

Thousands of people young and old were lining up at different exhibition tents erected inside the AR Abass Stadium to seek information about career opportunities available within the SANDF. Some sessions became interactive as learners were engaged by army members to gauge their knowledge of the Defence Force. Those who got answers right were awarded with stationery packs. Puleng Mahapa one of the learners said she was happy to see the SANDF acknowledging the province, and giving them opportunity to know more about what is happening within the Department.

The official opening ceremony was led by SANDF's Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Vusimuzi Masondo. *"We can see now the spectacular displays from the armed forces, and most important reason is the opportunities we are bringing for our young people. Remember we are not just here to bring these displays, but we are also showcasing the opportunities that are available for young people, for school leavers, for children that otherwise do not have other ways to get educated, and to teach our young people life skills. The most important part of this Armed Forces Day celebrations and the buildup events is to foster closer interactions between the military and South African civilians."* said Lieutenant-General Masondo.



Lieutenant-General Vusimuzi Masondo

Masondo says activities are aimed at encouraging communities to understand the business of the defence force given the background which the country comes from.

He says Armed Forces Day has since been hosted in five provinces including Free State, Kwazulu Natal, Western Cape and Eastern Cape provinces.

The Pretoria based Gugulethu Masimela says she joined the South African Navy back in 2015. Masimela who was only 22 years old when joining the force expresses her appreciation towards the service. *"I feel blessed to be in this faculty because before joining I knew nothing about swimming due to lack of facilities in my area. I was very scared of water until I went on training where I could jump in the ocean in the middle of the night. I must say that by being a soldier I have learnt a lot of responsibility, independency, perseverance and to never give up"*.





Ms. Gugulethu Masimela



PARA Troopers

Meanwhile activities that were performed for the official opening are parachute landing by the South African Para troopers from SANDFs' special force. It was followed by the South African Specialized Infantry Capabilities which performed obstacle crossing with motor bikes and sniffer dogs. The day continued with integrated attacks towards the enemy with dogs, horses and bikes. The daily activities were concluded by the Navy Squad with a demonstration of how to strip and assemble firearms.



Demonstrations by Dog Unit



# SANDF TOOK OVER THE CITY





# Up Close And Personal With Ms. Elizabeth Manong

## **Tell us about yourself: Who is Elizabeth Manong?**

*God fearing woman. Married . Mother of six. Confident, hardworking, loyal, loving , caring, respectful, committed to work and ensures implementation. In her value for money is guaranteed. She is a qualified pedagogue, qualified archivist.*

## **Brief Educational background?**

*Matriculated at Thabane Senior Secondary School. Possess Honours degree in teaching. Post Graduate in governance and political transformation. Teacher for 6 years. Records Manager and Provincial Archivist for 9 years.*

*Currently registered with the University of Free State, for a Masters Degree in Governance and Political Transformation*

## **Career before joining DSAC**

*I was an educator for six years. Provincial Manager of the South African Heritage Resource Agency for 2 years. Records Manager at Safety and Liaison, Environment and Nature Conservation and COGHSTA*

## **Why the move to Sport and Recreation from Archives, do you think you have reached your goals at Archives?**

*I was a Provincial Archivist for 9 years. In life one can't remain stagnant. I needed some change, new challenges and growth.*

*I partially reached my goals at Archives based on the fact that I left a legacy for the people of Northern Cape, we now have a repository however I will continue to add value to archives by advising management on archives and records management related issues in fact I am now at a strategic position and will ensure that archives and records management related issues get the recognition that it deserves.*

## **How are you going to make use of sport to advance a call for cohesive society and nation building?**

*Sport has great potential in terms of social cohesion and nation building. South Africans experienced this in 2010. It is up to us to maintain the standard.*

*I will ensure that platforms are being created through sport and recreation whereby opportunities are being created for both black and white to come together and enjoy themselves through sport.*

*My mandate is also to ensure an active society, a winning nation and create enabling environment for sport and recreation. As a leader I will ensure that sport facilities are up to standard, maintained and they are user friendly and accessible.*

*I will also further ensure that the directorate creates an opportunity and enabling environment whereby people from different cultures are afforded an opportunity to showcase their heritage/ unique sport i.e. Tug War, Morabaraba, Kgati etc. This will attract people from different cultures, race etc thus ensuring social cohesion and nation building.*

*I will be focusing on the policy development for the province which will clearly outline how sport and recreation will ensure social cohesion and nation building in the province.*

*I will strengthen partnerships that will ensure the implementation of Sport.*

## **A child in Sport is a child out of Court., what strategy can you apply to realize this motto.**

*My strategy is to ensure that the objectives highlighted in the National Development Plan in terms of Outcomes 14 social cohesion and nation building, 2 Healthy lifestyles, Outcome 3 Safe Environment, are being realized.*

*I will ensure the establishment of the Northern Cape Sport Authority as it will further ensure functional Sport Councils thus ensuring that all districts benefit fully and are actively involved in sport and recreation programmes that clearly affords an opportunity for children to be actively involved in sport.*

*I will strengthen the partnership with department of education so as to ensure that learners are being afforded opportunity to actively participate in sport activities at a school level and create enabling environment for communities through our sport facilities thus ensuring access to sport facilities and active participation of the community at large.*

*Benchmarking with other countries and other provinces will be the order of the day as this will also further assist us to come up with programs that are of interest and attracting the child to participate in sport and recreation activities.*

**What plans do you have to change the face of school sport in the province?**

*The biggest challenge currently experienced in this regard is partnership with department of education.*

*I will strengthen the partnership with department of education thus encouraging the development of sport in the schools.*

*Clarify roles and responsibilities and ensure that we put the interest of learners first and continue to ensure that learners are being afforded the opportunity to participate and be active in sport.*

*I will further ensure that we position sport as an economic drive/ benefit for the province by ensuring that we attract tourists to the province through our sport and recreation programs.*



Senior Manager for Sports: Ms E. Manong

**Charity begins at home. What sport plans have you got to boost the morale of Dsac family/ officials?**

*Through partnership with our EAP Unit in the department we will create opportunities for officials through healthy walks, participation in sport activities. We will introduce a fitness program for officials at Mayibuye mornings and afternoons and will continue to encourage our officials to live a healthy life style by becoming active participants in sport. We will introduce activities that will encourage and promote a healthy life style.*

**What do you normally do for fun to distress during your spare time?**

*I read a lot.*

*I go to the gym.*

*I pray.*

**There are lot of challenges especially towards female officials, what keeps you going?**



*I believe in myself. I am confident. I am a strong woman most importantly I clearly understand that with God by my side I am more than a conqueror. I derive my strength from the following bible verses:*

*1st Corinthians 10 verse 13*

*Psalms 23 and 91*

*Jeremiah 29 verse 11*

### **How do you handle pressure in a male dominated environment?**

*For me emotional maturity and emotional intelligence is very important. I deal with issues at a matured level.*

*Male counterparts must know that if you have a problem of respecting a person you must respect the position into which the person is appointed. Respect for authority is Godly.*

## **Armed Forces Day Golf Day**

The 2018 Armed Forces Day activities included a Golf Day where those inclined to the sport gathered at the Flamingo Casino on Friday, 16 February for the event. Amongst them there was former MEC for Corporate Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, COGHSTA Mr. Alvin Botes, DSAC's very own Media Liaison Officer (MLO) Mr. Conrad Fortune as well as Education Department's MLO Mr. Geoffrey Van Der Merwe. The day was meant for great entertainment and it off course afforded those actively involved in growing the country's economy to rub shoulders and mingle with fellow counterparts from afar.



MLO for Dept Edu Mr. G Van der Merwe on the right hand



Former MEC for COGHSTA Mr. Alvin Botes



DSAC MLO Mr. C Fortune alongside other stakeholders

# Up Close And Personal With Mr. Eugene Mokgoasi

**Can you please tell us about yourselves, who is Eugene Mokgoasi?**

*Am the second born son of a family of seven (7) originally from old Green Point next to the Airport. My family was forcibly removed and relocated to now Galeshewe in 1969 in terms of the Group Areas Act.*

**Give us your Brief Educational Background?**

*I went to St Peters Catholic School, then Sol Plaatje lower and back to another Catholic Institution called St. Boniface. I survived there until just before my final Matric exams. I instead completed my matric in 1983 on Robben Island after my arrest and conviction for terrorism in 1980-81. I studied further with Unisa for a B-Admin in Industrial Psych and Development Admin.*

**We understand that Rre Mokgoasi is a political activist who fought against the evil apartheid system, can you please share that important background with us?**

*The reason for my imprisonment was basically our fight against the evil system of Bantu Education. In keeping with the grant scheme of the Apartheid ideology, the education system was designed to deliberately instil a ghostly sense of inferiority in the black population while promoting geurocentric superiority on the other end. Challenging the Education bastion was regarded as treason by the apartheid state. This is consistent with the ideological architecture because "Bantu Education" was a pivotal pillar in keeping the system intact. The basic understanding was to target the "collective minds" of the black population at infancy and progressively subject it to psychological oppression and mental or spiritual subjugation.*

*Anyone who challenged any aspect of the ideology was the ENEMY and was either killed, silenced, jailed or all of them.*

**SOCIAL COHESION AND NATION BUILDING**

*We need to develop and individual understanding of our past and how the Apartheid machinations were designed to divide us and rip us apart, this understanding can be gained from a study of the historically collective oppression of us as a nation. In the comprehension of how colonial and apartheid distinction targeted our culture and therefore our identity can enlighten us in beginning to construct a framework of a cohesive society. We need to have a clear view and understand first of What happened?*

*How to redefine ourselves?*

*How to define ourselves ultimately.*

**What plans do you have to ensure the recognition of previously marginalized languages such as those of the Khoisan communities so that they don't perish?**

*First language, like all socio cultural entities will always undergo change, the change in language is underpinned by the constant and inevitable change of the material conditions that prevail at anytime in the history of the people. Today the digital age is materially, compelling the whole thing into the common language, a global language of some sort. Notwithstanding it is imperative that each language from each community must be preserved as part of the global linguistic tapestry, this is because language is the defining characteristic of a person. It also embodies the deepest spiritual, emotional and psychologically intrinsic values of a person.*

*Language says "I am" ..... 'WE ARE'!!*

*Colonialism and Racism have systematically ravaged the Cultures, and therefore the language of those this evil system became subject to. A stark example is that of "African-American" "in the Diaspora like in America (USA) their indigenous languages and Cultural identities have be completely erased.*



Manager for Languages: Mr. E Mokgoasi

*The present day danger to language destruction lies not so much in the perishing of the Khoi languages but in the collective disappearance of black languages due to a subtle AN-GLO-ZATION of our Youth.*

*With regards to Khoi, the preservation of their language can be attained by economically empowering these communities. Self-substance of the people leads to Self-preservation of culture and language, the Afrikaners and the Jews are adequate proof.*

**What do you think should be done by Dsac Executive and Senior Management to re-vive and boost the morale of its officials?**

*-Free people's talent/potential by creating a person/human enhancing empowerment  
-DSAC Head Office resembles a (dirty) apartheid jail or a Nazi (modernised) camp.*

**What does Mr. Eugene Mokgoasi normally do for fun to distress during spare time?**

*Intellectualise  
Cook  
Clean  
Gardening and  
Husbanding.*

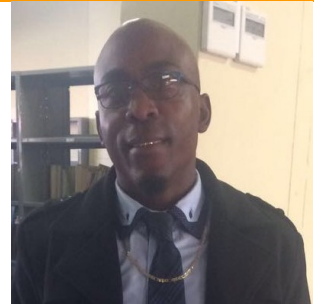


## Joke of the Week

A child asked his father, "How were people born?" So his father said, "Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on." The child then went to his mother, asked her the same question and she told him, "We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now."

"The child ran back to his father and said, "You lied to me!" His father replied, "No, your mom was talking about her side of the family."

## Inspirational Quote of the Week



Ben Opperman

There are times that each of us is, has or will experience rock bottom. I think it is safe to say that every human in this world will experience this in their lifetime. I believe it is not a place where you give up your dreams and call it quits. Rock-bottom is the place where you find what you are made of and discover who you truly are. This is a place where you get an opportunity to re-assess, re-prioritize, re-focus, re-group, re-charge and ultimately re-emerge with renewed vision, strength and ability to endure. This is an opportunity where we need to allow God to smooth out the rough edges and re-mould and re-shape our lives according to His will. Stay strong and know that God is always near you when you go through difficulties.

Have a blessed week-end.

**TELLS US WHAT YOU THINK OF OUR SERVICES.**

**CLIENT SERVICE PORTAL**



**DSAC**  
Department of Sport, Arts and Culture

*A Child in Sport is a Child out of Court*



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