



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

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Date:** 21 November 2013

**Embargo:** None

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS ROLLS OUT FREE HEALTHCARE FOR FORMER SOLDIERS**

The much awaited distribution of medical access identity cards for military veterans is in full swing and drawing to an end following a successful nationwide road show. The Department of Military Veterans (DMV) has distributed more than 2000 medical cards in Kwa Zulu-Natal, Limpopo, North West, Mpumalanga, Free State, Northern Cape and the Western Cape. All eligible military veterans can now access any military health hospitals and sick bays free of charge. The DMV has set aside more than R2million for this service.

The campaign will be in Gauteng at the Thaba Tshwane City Hall in Pretoria on 22 November 2013. More than 1500 military veterans from across the length and breadth of Gauteng are expected to converge and receive their healthcare access cards.

According to the 2011 Military Veterans Act, a veteran is any South African who rendered military service to any of the former statutory and liberation armies from 1910 till 1994 and has not been dishonourably discharged. This include former members of the then SADF, TVBC (homelands) states, APLA, AZANLA and MK.

Tomorrows' campaign will include free on site health diagnosis services for eyes, hearing, HIV and chronic ailments. This is intended to record health profiles for each veteran who volunteers to be tested.

Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, and the National President of the South African National Military Veterans Association (SANMVA), Mr Kebby Maphatsoe, will address the gathering at 10h30. Makwetla is expected to outline government plans to roll out other services and benefits to former soldiers as stipulated by the act. viz. Bursaries, job placement, burial support (R25 000 grant each), skills training, free housing, business support and memorialisation. This follows a R300 million allocation to the Department of Military Veterans for the financial year 2013/14 by National Treasury.

**ENDS**

**Issued by:** Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans

**Venue:** Thaba Tshwane Military Hall  
Pretoria

**Time:** 10am - 13h00

**Enquiries:** Ntime Skhosana  
Spokesperson to the Deputy Minister of Defence and  
Military Veterans (0824966875)