



the sandf

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA RELEASE

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SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE MEMBER DIED IN ACTION IN THE EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

At about 06:30 this morning, a coalition of the Mayi Mayi and Allied Democratic Forces rebel groups operating in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) attacked the position of the South African National Defence Force near Butembu in the Beni region of the Eastern DRC. As the attack took place the SANDF members, as part of the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in the Congo (MONUSCO), engaged in a fire fight with the attackers and repelled the attack. After a lengthy stand-off the attackers fled and during consolidation of the scene it was established that four (4) Mayi Mayi rebels were killed and two (2) captured. The SANDF suffered casualties, one (1) with minor injuries, one (1) critical and one (1) fatality whilst waiting for medical evacuation. All injured SANDF members were evacuated to the level three hospital in Goma. Evacuation to a Level 4 Hospital will take place once the wounded soldiers are stable for transportation.

The particulars of the deceased SANDF member will be released once all the necessary administration has been concluded and the next-of-kin are informed accordingly.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Honourable Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, the Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube, the Chief of the SANDF, General Solly Shoke have expressed their heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, colleagues and comrades of the deceased and wish the injured a speedy recovery.

ENDS.

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