



**the sandf**

Department:  
Defence  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE MEMBERS INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT NEAR CLARENS IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE**

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) announces with deep sadness the untimely passing on of eleven (11) members following a bus accident near Clarens in the Free State Province. A total of nine (09) members were declared dead at the scene of the accident. One (01) member passed away enroute to the hospital and another one (01) passed away upon arrival at the hospital. There are thirty-one (31) members who have suffered various injuries with three (03) in a critical condition. All members are from the Department of Defence's Mobilisation Centre in De Brug, Bloemfontein.

A total of forty-two (42) members of the SANDF were being transported in the bus at the time of the accident. The Provincial Emergency Medical Services (EMS), jointly with the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) responded and rushed to the accident scene to render medical assistance. The injured were evacuated to nearby hospitals for emergency medical treatment.

The cause of the bus accident is at this moment not known and will form part of the investigations. Names of the deceased will be communicated once their next-of-kin have been informed.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, the Secretary for Defence, Dr Sam Gulube, the Chief of the SANDF, General Solly Shoke and the Chief of the South African Army, Lieutenant General Lindile Yam express their heartfelt condolences to the families, loved ones and friends of those that lost their lives and wish the injured members a speedy and full recovery from their injuries.

**ENDS.**

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