



the sandf

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

DATE: 26 January 2017

EMBARGO: None

SUBJECT: THE SANDF REGRETS TO ANOUNCE THE DEATH OF SERGEANT MAJOR (RETIRED) ISRAEL MABOTSE

Sergeant Major (Retired) Israel Mabotse has died after a long illness. Sergeant Major Mabotse illustrious military career spans more than four decades which started in the early sixties with the establishment of the military wing of the ANC Mkhonto we Sizwe.

He was amongst the first to leave the country for military training. He trained in countries such as the then Soviet Union/Odessa, Somalia, Tanzania and Angola amongst others. Upon his return to South Africa, he integrated into the newly formed South African National Defence Force in 1994. On his death, Sergeant Major Mabotse had moved to the rank of sergeant Major in the South African Army based in Potchefstroom.

Israel Mabotse, Alias Jackson Phefo was born on the 2 July 1944 in Rietpan near Zeerust. As a young man he was curious with a dominating personality. He liked hunting and trained his dog to dominate the hunting dogs of his peers. Like many of young man of his age he was a naughty herd boy who influenced his peers against domination by other racial groups.

His quest for freedom led him go into exile with other four of his peers including his older brother, where he joined the liberation movement until his return. The funeral service of Sergeant Major will be held in Rietpan near Zeerust on Saturday, 28 January 2017.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, the Chief of the SANDF and Chief of the SA Army would like send their deepest condolences to the family and friends on the passing away of a hero.

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