



# MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS

Republic of South Africa

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

**Date: 07 March 2017**

**Embargo: None**

### **MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS OFFICIAL VISIT TO GOMA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC): 8<sup>th</sup> March-10<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Hon. Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula has executive oversight responsibility over the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). In line with this responsibility, the Minister has seen it imperative to conduct oversight visits to mission areas where our troops are deployed in support of peacekeeping missions and international obligations.

The SANDF is a component of the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) deployed by the United Nations Organisation in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Therefore, the purpose of the visit is to accord SANDF troops an opportunity to engage Minister Mapisa-Nqakula substantively on issues affecting them, provide her with first-hand insights into both the positive and negative impact of deployment in an effort to devise suitable executive level interventions, where necessary.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula will also use the visit as an opportunity to spend time with female troops in commemoration of International Women's Day.

Women in the military face a variety of challenges as opposed to their male counterparts, especially when they have to balance duty to their country and personal life in a foreign land. It is with this view also that Minister Mapisa-Nqakula would like to

set aside time during her trip to not only appreciate female troops, but afford them a platform to ventilate issues affecting women soldiers in mission areas, and hopefully together find sustainable solutions.

Minister Mapisa-Nqakula will also distribute military care packages to South Africa's gallant servicemen and servicewomen. The Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans team will be joined by the apex leadership of the SANDF Transformation Unit.

The two-day official visit will begin in Goma on Wednesday, 8 March, and end in the city of Beni which is located in North Kivu of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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