



the sandf

Department:  
Defence  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

DATE: 26 September 2017

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**SUBJECT: THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PASSING ON OF THE FORMER INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE, MAJOR GENERAL (RET) MXOLISI EDWARD PETANE**

The SANDF regrets to announce the passing on of Maj Gen (Ret) Mxolisi Edward Petane from natural causes at 1 Military Hospital, Thaba-Tshwane, and Pretoria on Thursday 21 September 2017. Maj Gen (Ret) Petane was on retirement when he met his untimely death following his distinguished service to the people of South Africa as a loyal officer in the SANDF – the People’s National Defence Force.

Maj Gen (Ret) Petane was born in Retreat, Cape Town on 2 August 1958. His family later moved to Guguletu due to the forced removals policy of the Apartheid regime. He completed his primary school education at Sokhanyo Primary and later progressed to ID Mkhize High School where he became involved in schools politics. His political activism at a tender age saw him joining the ranks of the African National Congress’ military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) in 1976 where he rose through the liberation armed wing’s hierarchy as a vital component and cadre that helped shape Umkhonto we Sizwe to being the people’s liberator.

His decorated military career spans both the dark old days of apartheid as a soldier for valiant fighting against an unjust oppressive regime of the time as part of MK and also as a post-democracy unifier who chose to serve the people of South Africa by becoming part of the SANDF - a constitutionally mandated national project that sought to bring together South Africans of various persuasions into a national defence force that equally represented the interests of all citizens of our country regardless of race, creed or origin.

At the height of his career, Maj Gen (Ret) Petane occupied the highest echelons of command within the SANDF and was instrumental in inculcating a culture of clean corporate governance and adherence to strict audit processes within the organisation as Inspector General Department of Defence. A position he held and acquitted himself with distinction in from January 2005 until his honourable retirement on 31 March 2017.

Maj Gen (Ret) Petane’s passion to liberate his fellow countrymen and women from the yoke of oppression saw him play various luminary roles in the ranks of the ANC as Political Commissar in Botswana from 1983 to 1984. He went on to prosecute the role of Regional Commander in the Western Cape where he worked with the late Lt Col Lizo Ngqungwana. In 1987 Maj Gen (Ret) Petane was incarcerated and sentenced to 17 years imprisonment at Robben Island. After the release of political prisoners during the dawn of democracy in South Africa, Maj Gen (Ret) Petane resumed his political activism and was active in ANC activities from 1991 to 1993.

Maj Gen (Ret) Petane was integrated into the SANDF in 1994 with the rank of colonel and was appointed as the Assistant Senior Staff Officer Operations at Western Province Command.

Between 1994 and 1999 he successfully completed all prescribed military promotion courses up to the level of Senior Command and Staff Duties. He also completed the Military Law as well as the Defence Attaché courses.

On 19 March 1999 he was appointed as Commandant of the SA Army College and promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and held this position until 2002. In 2002 Maj Gen (Ret) Petane was appointed as the Director Planning at the Joint Support Division. In 2003 he was appointed as the RSA Defence Advisor to the United Kingdom in London.

Maj Gen (Ret) Petane was a dedicated scholar and earned a Masters in Management, Bachelor in Social Sciences, a Defence Management Programme qualification, a Diploma in Community and Nation Building and a Certificate in Credit Control.

He is survived by his wife, 2 children and 2 grandchildren.

His Memorial Service will take place on Thursday, 28 September 2017 in Thaba Tshwane City Hall at 10.00.

Maj Gen (Ret) Petane will be accorded a full military funeral in Cape Town on 7 October 2017.

Further details will be provided as and when the SANDF and the family have finalised the funeral arrangements.

**Ends**

**Issued by:** Defence Corporate Communication  
Pretoria

**Enquiries:** Brig Gen Mafi Mgobozi  
082 380 0724 or 083 410 1126

