



defence

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

DATE: 15 June 2017

EMBARGO: None

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE DEPLOYS MILITARY HEALTH OFFICERS TO RESCUE THE SITUATION FOLLOWING A STRIKE BY GAUTENG FORENSIC PATHOLOGY SERVICES WORKERS

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) has yesterday deployed its South African Military Health Service medical officers to assist at Mortuaries and Forensic Pathology Service centres in Gauteng following a crippling strike by officials at the institutions.

Ten Operational Emergency Care Practitioners from the SANDF have been dispatched to Hillbrow Mortuary and Forensic Services, Forensic Pathology Services Germiston and Forensic Pathology Services Diepkloof to help process the pathology services for the benefit of families of the deceased who desperately need to prepare their loved ones for dignified burial and find closure.

The SANDF became involved as part of its role to support other government institutions and the people of South Africa in times of need.

Our involvement is meant as an interim measure to continue rendering vital forensic pathology support to bereaved families until such time that the Provincial Department of Health and its employees resolve their labour impasse.

The 10 SANDF members received orientation training yesterday afternoon, were divided into three groups and deployed to the following mortuaries and forensic pathology centres:

- Hillbrow Mortuary and Forensic Pathology Services - 5 Members.
- Diepkloof Forensic Pathology Services - 2 Members.
- Germiston Forensic Pathology Services - 3 Members.

The South African National Defence Force understands the anguish faced by loved ones when they are unable to finalised and prepare to bid their dearly departed a timely and befitting farewell and will readily send additional healthcare practitioners if requested to do so by Gauteng Provincial Health Department.

ENDS.

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