



defence

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

DATE: 30 January 2018

EMBARGO: None

SUBJECT: THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE WARNS OF A PLANNED PROTEST MARCH BY SOME RESERVE FORCE COMPONENT MEMBERS ON TUESDAY, 30 JANUARY 2018 IN PRETORIA

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) has been reliably informed of an impending protest march by some members of the Reserve Force (RF) component of the SANDF on Tuesday, 30 January 2018 in Pretoria. The information at hand suggests that the protest march is aimed at addressing RF service conditions as well as the alleged corruption with the call-up of RF members.

The SANDF has already started a process to respond to all of the challenges facing the Reserves in the following ways:

- Board of Inquiry (BOI) instituted by Chief of the SA Army (C Army). Based on all the allegations of corruption and other challenges associated with the call-up of Reserve members, the Chief of the SA Army appointed a BOI in August 2017 in terms of Convening Order no 20/2017, with the Director Army Reserves as the President to investigate amongst others the following:
 - To identify whether processes and procedures have indeed been compromised and to what extent;
 - Whether significant favouritism, including corruption have manifested within the system of calling up of Reserves etc.

The Board must compile a comprehensive report to C Army on the current situation and include well appreciated immediate recommendations and actions to rectify and minimize any shortcomings, risks and implications as well as possible long term solutions.

Since the institution of the BOI more than 30 members (Regular Force and Reserve Force) have testified as witnesses in front of the Board regarding various issues and as late as the last week of January 2018 more members have indicated that they want to testify. The Board is currently busy formulating its findings and recommendations to be submitted to C Army at the latest by the end of February 2018.

In the meantime, the Military Police (MP) are busy with the process of laying charges against some of the alleged perpetrators. Once the findings of the BOI have been finalized the Military Police will also be involved in the process to further investigate certain issues and charge implicated members.

It must be borne in mind that the SANDF has formal internal structures in place to address all grievances, alleged corrupt practices and or any other transgression(s) reported against or by any member of the SANDF and or public. Furthermore, Section 15 (1.)(a.)(b.) and (c.) of the Regulation for Reserve Force (Government Gazette no. 40886 dated 2 June 2017) states the following;

15. (1) A person enrolled as a member must, on enrolment, enter in writing into a contract of service, which must contain at least the following terms:
 - (a). *that the person has volunteered his or her services to the Defence Force.*

- (b). *the annual maximum number of days and periods of utilisation, either continuous or non-continuous, are agreed upon.*
- (c). *that the member may, on a voluntary basis, be utilised with or without remuneration in addition to the utilisation stipulated in the contract.*

The SANDF is of the opinion that the planned march on Tuesday, 30 January 2018 in Pretoria by Reserve Force members is totally ill-informed and unnecessary.

Any SANDF member who is found to be in breach of the Military Disciplinary Code (MDC) and the Code of Conduct for uniformed and civilian members, will be subjected to the prescribed internal legal processes.

ENDS.

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