MEDIA STATEMENT

DATE: 27 February 2020

EMBARGO: None

SUBJECT: THE SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE INVOLVED IN A JOINT SEA RESCUE MISSION IN CAPE TOWN

The South African Air Force (SAAF) received a request for sea rescue assistance from the South African Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) to rescue 13 people who were on-board a rubber duck boat that capsized between Clifton beach and Oudekraal in Cape Town. The Chief of the SAAF, Lieutenant General Zimpande Msimang has since authorised 22 Squadron, based at Air Force Base (AFB) Ysterplaat to join other sea rescue entities involved in the joint sea rescue efforts.

A SAAF Oryx helicopter crew (Major Juan-Pierrie du Preez - pilot, Major Tebogo Selepe - Co-pilot and Warrant Officer Gerard Usher - Flight engineer), managed to rescue two (2) survivors and brought them to safety. The remaining people who were on-board the ill-fated inflatable boat are still unaccounted for and a joint sea and land rescue mission is ongoing to locate them.

Ends.

Issued by: South African Air Force
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