



defence

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS HON N. N. MAPISA-NQAKULA ON THE OCCASION OF THE "HOMELAND SECURITY AFRICA CONFERENCE 2017, 17 OCTOBER 2017, CSIR CONFERENCE CENTRE

" THE ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE IN SECURING OUR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, INCLUDING THE OPTIMIZATION OF EXISTING DEFENCE TECHNOLOGIES"

Secretary for Defence Dr Sam Gulube in absentia and other DGs of the JCPS Cluster;

CEO of Armscor Mr Kevin Wakeford and Senior Management;

Executive Director of the Armaments, Maritime and Defence (AMD) Mr Simphiwe Hamilton;

Chairperson of the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structures (NAT-JOINTS), Lieutenant General Elias Mawela;

CEO of SA Tourism Mr Sisa Ntshona;

Executive Manager of Transnet Security, Port Authorities, Major General (Retired) Rodney Toka;

Members and Executives of the Defence and Allied Industries;

Representatives from the other Government Departments, especially Home Affairs (BMA Project Manager Mr Elroy Africa) and Public Enterprises (Mr Kgathatso Tlhakudi) together with the agencies;

Ladies and Gentlemen...

It gives me great pleasure to officiate at this "Homeland Security Africa Conference 2017". I must confess that the title of the conference gives this a peculiar ring to it for it is not the kind of language we are used to since it con-

pires images of the USA national security architecture, wherein they actually have a Homeland Security department of state. For our purposes, in the nomenclature we use and as we have been going through the policy processes, we refer to the Border Management Authority, BMA, to which a session has been dedicated in this conference programme.

The BMA has been long in the making, and I am happy that at last it has passed through Cabinet and parliament and will be assented to by the President. It found its origins in the resolution of the ruling party, that there needs to be a border management structure which would coordinate all the efforts of the different entities of the state.

You have asked that I talk about "the role of the Department of Defence in securing our national sovereignty, including the optimization of existing technologies". In addressing this, I wish to start from the constitution of the Republic as the roots which give the responsibility of securing our national sovereignty. Chapter eleven (11) of the Constitution deals with the security services, in particular section 198-210. Before getting the specific provisions related to defence, let me start with the governing principles of national security.

"National security must reflect the resolve of South Africans, as individuals and as a nation, to live as equals, live in peace and harmony, to be free from fear and want and to seek a better life". It goes on to say that "the resolve to live in peace and harmony precludes any South African citizen from participating in armed conflict, nationally and internationally, except as provided for in terms of the Constitution and national legislation."

These principles are very important as they laid the basis for the establishment, structuring and operations of the security services. Without taking anything for granted the security services are defined as "consisting of the defence force, a single police force and any intelligence services established in terms of the constitution", Section 199.

Having raised the general principles of the constitution governing our security services, how do these find relevance for what I have been asked to talk about..."the role of the Department of Defence in securing our national sovereignty..."? Actually, it should have been referred to as the South African National Defence Force, SANDF. This is because that is the institution charged with the security of our national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Hence the formulation imposing a single responsibility on the SANDF, which is that "the defence force is the only lawful military force in the Republic". This was not a mistake on the part of the people of South Africa, but a deliberate manifestation to place this responsibility on the institution of the last resort, the last line of defence, our SANDF. It is further no mistake that section 200

(2) provides that "the primary object of the defence force is to defend and protect the Republic, its territorial integrity and its people in accordance with the Constitution and the principles of international law regulating the use of force".

The constitutional principles spelt out above must be known by all South Africans, in the same way it enjoins members of the security services in Section 199(5), "the security services must act, and must teach and require their members to act, in accordance with the Constitution and the law...". The populace also needs to similarly know where the taxes they are paying are going to, and also that they hear our cries for increased budgets to fund the mandate of defence to be able to fulfill our constitutional obligations to the letter. We have even taken these into the Defence Review, and have plans for the first phase of the implementation of the Defence Review 2015.

How do all these become relevant to the conference we are having today, "Homeland Security Africa 2017"? As indicated at the beginning, in our speak, matters of Homeland security are actually matters of the new security architecture we are creating, in the form of the Border Management Authority (BMA).

The Defence Review 2015 makes it clear that "the defence force will assume full responsibility for land, air and maritime border safeguarding. This will be pursued with the Defence Force leading all collaborative efforts concerning safeguarding on the borderline and the immediate rear areas. The control of ports of entry remains the responsibility of other air border and airspace over its 1,2million square meter land surface area."

The SANDF and Department of Defence have been quite involved in the discussions and all processes leading up to the establishment of the BMA. This is not from a theoretical point or what is now within the BMA Bill, but from actual, real boots on the ground as part of our operations on the borders, be it the eastern borders of Mpumalanga Province with Mozambique; the northern and part eastern borders of Limpopo with Zimbabwe and Botswana; the central borders of the Free State and Eastern Cape with Lesotho; the Northern Cape borders with Namibia and Botswana; the convergence of our borders of Kwa-Zulu Natal with Mozambique and Swaziland (uMhlab'uyalingana).

I need to share with you that I have had an opportunity to visit some of these areas in the recent past and gained first hand experience of our troops on the ground. We have fifteen (15) companies deployed in all these border areas that I have mentioned, instead of the required twenty two (22) to be in full strength. We are soldiering on nevertheless, and also have maritime deployments as part of Operation Corona in the Mozambique Channel in partnership with Mozambique and Tanzania. All of these operations are part of secur-

ing our national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Furthermore, our involvement with the BMA will see us as an integral part thereof, given the role we are already playing as part of borderline management in cooperation with other security services, the SAPS, SSA, Home Affairs, South African Revenue Services to mention only the core ones. Therefore our work is in effect to defend and secure our national sovereignty...that is our core business! The securing of our territorial integrity has become more of a challenge with the asymmetrical nature of warfare and conflicts afflicting the world's regions. We are thus not immune even to these, be it cyber security threats; the rise of extremism; threats and opportunities of migration; border and port security, to mention but some of the myriad of challenges facing us as we carve our national security strategy and implement the BMA, encompassing all of the role players within the security sector and beyond, state and non state actors included.

Optimization of Existing Defence Technologies and Beyond

On the optimization of defence technologies and beyond, I am happy that the industry and allied partners are also with us today, and expect that they must expand more on how they see us ensuring indigenous innovations and expertise is utilized as we set up the BMA. This is on the basis that there is a lot of intellectual property which resides within the RSA by both state owned entities and the private sector. Therefore as the process to roll out the BMA unfolds, care needs to be taken that the IP is retained and even further enhanced. This is on the basis that we have the tendency to look offshore for ready made solutions, when there exists these indigenous technologies and an opportunity to expand it even further. Admittedly, our defence Industry at the same time needs to rise to the challenge and be able to deliver world class products in time, especially for the South African market despite looking abroad.

South African technologies include a variety of systems and equipment...inter Alia sensors; seismic detectors; radars and radar systems; surveillance optonics; unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs); indigenous patrol aircraft and maritime vessels. The list goes on and on and looking at the spread of available and developing technologies, these can and should be easily enhanced to meet at least 60% of our technology localization to realize border security.

As I take leave of you, I wish to reiterate that meeting the constitutional mandate to secure our national sovereignty and territorial integrity is a task that we are up to as the defence establishment. We cannot and will not fail and stand ready for the next order when the situation arises!

I thank you....

