

HONOUR

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“I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.” **Nelson Mandela**

The World's Icon
Father of The Nation,
Lala Ngoxolo Qhawe
Lama Qhawe,
1918 - 2013



military veterans

Department:
Military Veterans
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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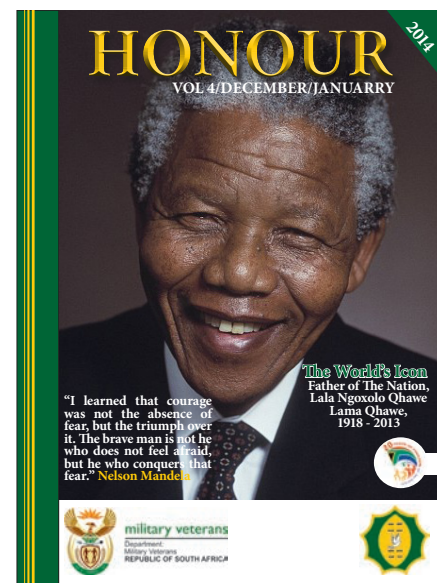
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Mr Mbulelo Musi

The devastating agony of two successive losses of colossal giants within the military veterans community viz. the first President of a free, democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa and first Patron in Chief of the Military Veterans Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela on 5th December 2013 and on December 2013 Lt General (Ret) Lehlohonolo Moloï still lingers. However military veterans still have all the reasons to look at 2014 and the future in general with optimism. In fact those painful losses should serve as a reminder that it is still A Long Walk to the ideal social and economic freedom for which they sacrificed their entire lives for.

2014 ushers a new era of hope to the country in general and military veterans in particular. Twenty years of freedom and democracy on 27th April 2014 is to be celebrated across the length and breadth of the country and not least the world. The fifth national general elections are to be held on 7th May 2014, thus confirming that the country's constitu-

tional democracy, to which military veterans contributed immensely in bringing about, continues to thrive and grow in stature.

The Department of Military Veterans has not only been established to give focused attention to all matters of MV's, but is being rapidly resourced both financially and with the requisite human resources to discharge its historic mission of helping build a better and decent life for all military veterans. Plans are underway to accelerate the expenditure of R300 million allocated for the first time for DMV to rollout the eleven benefits outlined in the Military Veterans Act 18, of 2011. Alongside, provincial offices are being established to bring services closer to the MV's.

Within a short space of less than two months (from 15 October and 7th December 2013) alone, over 5000 Military Veterans were issued with Healthcare cards and access to other free health services such as check-ups on various illnesses including eye tests, HIV/AIDS, high blood, diabetes, hearing, TB, etc. at the tune of about R2million. On 22 February 2014 one thousand of these MV's will be receiving group counseling in response to some of the health challenges that were discovered during this assessments.

The Department of Military Veterans (DMV) also offered no less than 200 military veterans and their dependants with bursaries at both basic and higher education for the year 2014/2015 at the cost of R4 million.

29th September – 2nd October 2013, the Director General of the DMV Mr. Tsepe Motumi established a newly reconstituted South African National Military Veterans Association (SANMVA) at a historic conference held at Birchwood. On Burial support exhumations and reburials of military veterans have been undertaken and a strategic partnership between the newly established Ex-Combatants Foundation (an NGO specialising on exhumations, reburials and counselling amongst others), the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the Missing Persons Task Team has been built to take such honouring and memorialisation projects to another level in 2014 and beyond.

The challenge is to keep up the momentum. However DMV will only succeed if all three spheres of government, business, labour, civil society and most importantly military veterans and their organisations including SANMVA work in close concert and partnership.

Happy and Prosperous New Year to the entire military veterans community and all stakeholders. Sisonke!!!

Hon Deputy Minister Thabang Makwetla



2014 Marks a significant milestone in the history of the country in general, for the military veterans community in particular. Under the banner of “together moving South Africa forward”, the country will celebrate 20 years of hard won democracy on 27 April 2014.

On that historic occasion the world witnessed the greatest icon that humanity has ever come to witness, the late Nelson Rolihlahla “Madiba” Mandela, whom we finally and painfully had to lay to rest on the 15th December 2013, being ushered in as the first President, Patron in Chief of Military Veterans in 1994.

2014 Will also see South Africa and its constitutional democracy to which MV’s contributed immensely in bringing about, being further consolidated with the holding of the fifth National general elections on the 7th May 2014.

This occasion offers an opportunity for MV’s to play an even more meaningful role in ensuring the significant gains made socially, politically and economically since the advent of democracy on 27 April 1994, are consolidated by amongst others coming out in their droves to vote on 7th May 2014. Perhaps even more importantly this is the time to ensure that the benefits outlined in the Military Veterans Act 18, of 2011 are rolled out rapidly.

The capacity of the DMV including the establishment of provincial offices has to be strengthened more than ever before, in order for it to discharge its mandate as stipulated in the Military Veterans Act 18, of 2011 more effectively and efficiently. The capacity of SANMVA to enhance communications with Military Veterans as well as acceleration of service delivery

Many Military Veterans are detached from mainstream activities in many ways. **We need to work hard, all of us, to reach them, service them and give them hope.** Therein lies the glory of the mission of our Military Veterans Associations in conjunction with the Department of Military Veterans.

I have seen you rise and fall, not once not twice, but several times in your endeavours to meet your mandate. To you I say, take heart from the wise words of the former President of America, President Theodore Delano Roosevelt in his speech at the Sorbonne in April 1910 when he said, and I quote,

“It is not the critic who counts, nor the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the door of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again because there is no effort without error or short coming; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotions, who spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who, at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat”.

This is the moment for the Department of Military Veterans (DMV), the Military Veterans and their various associations including SANMVA, as well as all other stakeholders, to work more closer than before in ensuring that the goal of a better life for all particularly Military Veterans is achieved sooner rather than later.

Hon Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula



I am deeply humbled to express my gratitude and to extend compliments of the new season to both the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and the Department of Military Veterans (DMV) for the hard work and dedication they've put in during 2013.

It is with true dedication, determination and integrity that the DMV will carry on with the good work of providing Military Veterans with benefits as listed in the Military Veterans Act 18, of 2011. Although they will be challenges along the path, but with perseverance we will conquer what's on the way.

Lest we forget the father of the nation who left us on 05 December 2013, Nelson Rolihlahla "Madiba" Mandela, the founder member of Umkhonto weSizwe (MK) the armed wing for the African National Congress (ANC), who distinguished himself

throughout the liberation struggle in South Africa.

I urge all of you, Military Veterans and indeed the Defence fraternity of South Africa as a whole to follow the glorious footsteps of the Legend, the first President of a free, democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa, Commander in Chief and Patron in Chief of the SANDF and Military Veterans respectively to remember his instructive words when he said during the Rivonia Trial, 1964;

"I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons will live together in harmony with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for, and to see realised. But my Lord, if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

Indeed the 20 years of freedom and democracy that we are celebrating as a nation would not have come about had it not been for the bravery, courage and sacrifices made in the struggle by Military Veterans such as Madiba in order to live as a rainbow nation at peace with itself, and enjoying equal rights and opportunities.

Today the country is enjoying reconciliation and peace and is on course in enhancing social cohesion and nation building. It stands to reason therefore that, our freedom and democracy will remain meaningless if it does not give effect to addressing the political, social and economic needs of the military veterans in a decisive, meaningful and sustained manner.

It is therefore important to make sure that the Military Veterans are informed, educated and mobilised about the role they have to play in enhancing social cohesion and nation building. We also need to inform and communicate the benefits that the Department of Military Veterans provides for Military Veterans in its quest to build a better life for them.

We must continue "Working Together to Honour, Restore Dignity and Empower Military Veterans for Nation Building."

Education Support Programme Launch

Article and Photos By Mpho Nkosi

The Department of Military Veterans achieved yet another milestone in its efforts to making a bright future for Military Veterans and their dependents, by offering bursaries, and career opportunities. On 20 December 2013 the DMV held an official launch of the Education Support Programme, which is one of the benefits stipulated on the Military Veterans Act 18, of 2011.

Speaking on behalf of the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans the Director General Mr Tsepe Motumi said,

“We must pay tribute to the former president Nelson Mandela, who was laid to rest a few days ago, as we knew he was an architect of this democracy and also emphasized the importance of education for citizens of South Africa.

Today signifies another important milestone in the path that we have been chanting as the Department of Military Veterans during this period and it is the official launch of the Education Support Programme for Military Veterans and their dependants.

We believe as a Ministry and as a Department that it will greatly contribute to government’s broader developments and objectives and more specifically directly contribute to the outcome no 1 which speaks to Improved Quality Basic Education”.

The Deputy Director General of Socio Economic Support Ms Mabel Rantla gave a presentation explaining the process of getting Education Support from the DMV, she also mentioned the challenges that the DMV faces.

During the event, dependents of Military Veterans who received bursaries from DMV namely Ms Litsoanelo Sealome and Mr Eric Masango were presented with gifts for their great achievements in graduating in various career paths.

Military Veterans were given an opportunity



The Director General Mr Tsepe Motumi addressing Military Veterans during the launch of Education Support Programme



The Director General Mr Tsepe Motumi Presenting a gift to Mr Eric Masango During the launch of the Education Support Programme



Mr Itumeleng Mekgwe raising concerns about the DMV Education Support Programme

to engage with the DMV regarding matters of education. Mr Abraham Mangoato raised some of the concerns that affect both himself and his dependents viz, the delay of processing funds for their dependents for education, which he said at time could lead MV’s to go to Mashonisa (loan Sharks). He further stated the issue of Special Pension which does not accommodate every Military Veteran.

Mr Itumeleng Mekgwe raised concerns about NEFSAS an even suggested that the DMV works

Continued on page 7

directly with the Department of Education and not through NSFAS.

The provision of Education opportunities to Military Veterans and their dependents has begun to bring hope about the bright future for Military Veterans and their dependents.

Funeral of the late MK Commander Lieutenant General (Ret) Lehlohonolo Moloji

Article and Photos by Mr Mpho Nkosi

His Excellency Hon. President Jacob Zuma, the former President of the Republic of South Africa (RSA) Mr Thabo Mbeki, Hon. Minister of Defence and Military Veterans Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, and Deputy Minister Mr Thabang Makwetla respectively, various Ministers and Deputy Ministers, Gauteng Premier, members of the Family, dignitaries, friends and Military Veterans came to bid farewell to a distinguished soldier, patriot and freedom fighter, Lieutenant General (Ret) Lehlohonolo Moloji

Speaker after speaker noted that indeed the nation had lost one of its finest son who served his country with loyalty, dedication and commitment throughout his life. Former Chief of Service Corps, Lieutenant General (Ret) Lehlohonolo Moloji born on 25th December 1932 in Quthing, Lesotho. In the last few years of his life, he bravely took up the battle against Leukemia and later died on 23 December 2013.

Lieutenant General Lehlohonolo Moloji was the Commander of the Arm wing of African National Congress (ANC) uMkhonto weSizwe (MK). He left the country for Tanzania in 1962 where his life in exile began and immediately started basic military training in Morocco. Through his Dedication, patriotism, and integrity he was one of the members at MK Military Headquarters (MHQ). He was then later appointed as the Chief of Operations at MK MHQ.

Upon his return from exile, and the advent of democracy in 1994 Lt General (Ret) Moloji was one of the first groups to be integrated into the new SANDF.

His Excellency Hon. President Jacob Zuma said of Lt Gen (Ret) Moloji “, It is not surprising that had General Moloji not fallen ill, he would have been a pall bearer, to carry Madiba on his last journey. He had walked in Madiba’s footsteps, and had followed Madiba’s instructions all his life. Tata Madiba was after all the first



The late Lieutenant General Lehlohonolo Moloji



Ms Mantoa Moloji pays Tribute to his father Lieutenant General Lehlohonolo Moloji

Commander-in-Chief of uMkhonto weSizwe.

Madiba had said once that prison was a kind of crucible that tested a man’s character, but so was service in the liberation army and life in exile. As a freedom fighter and MK soldier, General Moloji had to withstand many trials and tribulations, but he was equal to the task. He was part of a generation that chose to fight, rather than submit, as called upon by the founding MK Manifesto.”

To the family president Jacob Zuma said thank you for sharing such a wonderful life so well lived with all of us. We say Tshedisehang! Duduzekani, akwehlanga lungehli.

To the late General Moloji he said Robala ka Khotso Lekholokoe! Lala ngoxolo qhawe lama qhawe! Senatla sa Dinatla, Sekwankwetla sa Dikwankwetla!

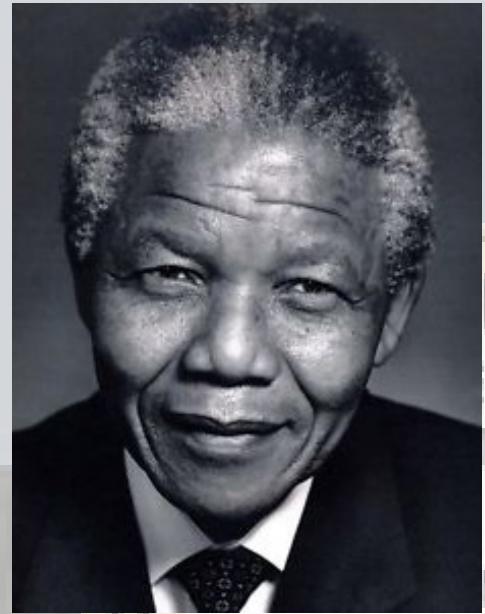
You have run your race, you have fought a good fight. You can now rest in eternal peace.

“For to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.”

The Department of Military Veterans and indeed the military veterans community as a whole is honoured to have amongst its fold a veteran who was the first commander in Chief of Umkhonto wesizwe (MK) from 16 December 1961, and the first Patron in Chief of Military Veterans in advent of the first democracy in 1994.

As a tribute to this international renowned icon and military veteran par excellency we publish the following extract from his obituary dated 15 December 2013.

The man who was to become one of the world’s greatest icons was born in Mvezo, Transkei on 18 July 1918, to Nongaphi Nosekeni and Henry Gadla Mandela. His father was the key counsellor/advisor to the Thembu royal house. After his father’s death in 1927, the young Rolihlahla became the ward of Chief Jongintaba Dalindyebo, the acting regent of the Thembu nation. It was at the Thembu royal homestead that his personality, values and political views were shaped. There can be no doubt that the young man went on to bring about some of the most significant and remarkable changes in South African history and politics.



It is through Mandela that the world cast its eyes on South Africa and took notice of the severe and organised repression of black South Africans. Yet it was also through Mandela that the world would learn the spirit of endurance, the triumph of forgiveness and the beauty of reconciliation. Indeed, the story of Nelson Mandela is so much the story of South Africa.

He became an instrumental force behind the formation of a new section of the liberation movement, Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), as an armed nucleus with a view to preparing for armed struggle. Mandela was Commander in Chief of MK.

He left the country in 1962 and traveled abroad to arrange guerilla training for members of MK. On his return to South Africa he was arrested for illegally exiting the country and incitement to strike. Mandela decided to represent himself in court. While on trial, Mandela was charged with sabotage in the Rivonia Trial. This is his famous statement from the dock made in 1964: “I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.”

In the same year Mandela and the other accused were sentenced to life imprisonment in the Rivonia Trial and sent to Robben Island, near Cape Town. He served a total of 27 years in prison for his conviction to fight apartheid and its injustices.

Released on 11 February 1990, Mandela plunged wholeheartedly into his life’s work, striving to attain the goals he and others had set out almost four decades earlier. In a life that symbolises the triumph of the human spirit, Nelson Mandela accepted the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize (along with FW de Klerk) on behalf of all South Africans who suffered and sacrificed so much to bring peace to our land.

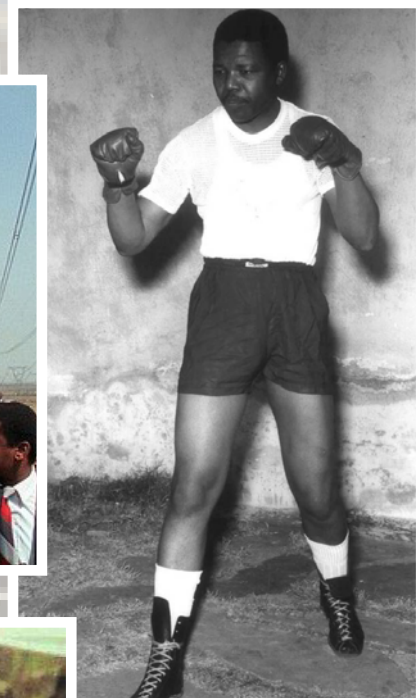
The era of apartheid formally came to an end on the April 27, 1994, when Nelson Mandela voted for the first time in his life – along with his people. However, long before that date it

had become clear, even before the start of negotiations at the World Trade Centre in Kempton Park, that the ANC was increasingly charting the future of South Africa.

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was inaugurated as President of a democratic South Africa on 10 May 1994.

This world icon worked tirelessly even after the achievement of democracy in South Africa to continue improving lives. Even as he retired from politics, his attention shifted to social issues such as HIV and AIDS and the wellbeing of the nation's children.

As a testimony to his sharp political intellect, wisdom and unrelenting commitment to make the world a better place, Mandela formed the prestigious group called The Elders an independent group of eminent global leaders who offer their collective influence and experience to support peace building, help address major causes of human suffering and promote the shared interests of humanity.





(Left to Right) Ms Makaziwe Mandela (Madiba’s daughter), Graca Machel (Madiba’s wife) during the National Memorial of the late Nelson Rolihlahla “Madiba” Mandela.

The Nation and the world mourns its finest Child, Tata Madiba Mandela

Article by Mpho Nkosi

The passing of the world’s icon Nelson Rolihlahla “Madiba” Mandela on 5th December 2013 at his home in Haughton (Johannesburg), was indeed a great loss both nationally and internationally. He was the Man who stood up unflinchingly for what he believed was right; a man who cherished an ideal of a better united South Africa free from all forms of discrimination.

Several activities in honour and memory of Tata Madiba were held across the length and breadth of South Africa and the world.

One the most significant was the national memorial for Tata Madiba held at FNB Stadium (Soccer City) on 10th December 2013. Tens of thousands of people and more than 70 heads of states and governments from all over the globe including the President of Zimbabwe Mr Robert Mugabe, the President of Cuba Mr Raul Castro, and the President of the United States of America Mr Barrack Obama gathered at FNB Stadium to pay their



Winnie Madikizela Mandela during the National Memorial of the late Nelson Rolihlahla “Madiba” Mandela.

last tribute to the world’s icon Tata Madiba.

His Excellency Hon. President Jacob Zuma in his tribute said, “ We are Madiba’s compatriots and have lived during his time, this is a cause for a great celebration and enormous pride. Never before has our country celebrated a life as we are doing with that of Madiba. We do not call Madiba the father of our rainbow nation merely for political correctness and relevance.

We do so because he laid a firm foundation for the South Africa of our dreams one that is united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous. We do so because Madiba was a courageous leader.

He then extended his deepest condolences to Mama Graca Machel, Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, the children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and the entire extended family.

In his tribute US President Barack Obama said, “It is hard to eulogise any man – to capture in words not just the facts and the dates that make a life, but the essential truth of a person – their private joys and sorrows; the quiet moments and unique qualities that illuminate someone’s soul. How much harder to do so for a giant of history, who moved a nation toward justice, and in the process moved billions around the world.

Mandela demonstrated that action and ideas are not enough; no matter how right, they must be chiseled into laws and institutions.

He was practical, testing his beliefs against the hard surface of circumstance and history. On core principles he was unyielding, which is why he could rebuff offers of conditional release, reminding the Apartheid regime that, “prisoners cannot enter into contracts.”

But as he showed in painstaking negotiations to transfer power and draft new laws, he was not afraid to compromise for the sake of a larger goal. And because he was not only a leader of a movement, but a skillful politician, the Constitution that emerged was worthy of this multiracial democracy; true to his vision of laws that protect minority as well as majority rights, and the precious freedoms of every South African.

On one hand the Nations of the World were mourning, but on the other they were rejoicing the life of a Hero, a Patriot, a Man with integrity, a Father and a consistent and principled freedom fighter, Tata Madiba Qhawe Lama Qhawe.

His Spirit Shall live on



His Excellency President Jacob Zuma addressing the Nation during the memorial of Nelson Mandela.



President Barack Obama addressing the Nation during the memorial of Nelson Mandela.



Nelson Mandela's family listens to speeches and tributes



Bishop Desmond Tutu addressing the memorial



Mourners listen attentively during the memorial



His Excellency President Jacob Zuma and Madiba's Family during the Funeral of the World's Icon, the First Commander and Patron in Chief of SANDF and Military Veterans Nelson Rolihlahla "Madiba" Mandela.

Funeral of one of the greatest world leaders of our times, Nelson Rolihlahla "Madiba" Mandela.

Article by Mpho Nkosi

The former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela was finally laid to rest at his home village of Qunu in Eastern Cape, on 15 December 2013. with his death the nation suffered a great loss but on the other it also inherited a great legacy from Tata Madiba. More than 4 000 guests came to pay their last homage to the World's icon.

His Excellency Hon. President Jacob Zuma said in his overwhelming eulogy, "Today marks the end of an extra-ordinary journey that began 95 years ago.

It is the end of 95 glorious years of a freedom fighter; a dedicated and humble servant of the people of South Africa; a fountain of wisdom; a pillar of strength and a beacon of hope to all those fighting for a just and equitable world order.

We are truly honoured to be part of the final journey of this great son of our country and the founding President of a free and democratic South Africa, Isithwalandwe Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela."

He further said of Mandela, "You did not



Kenneth Kaunda pays his tribute to Nelson Mandela during the funeral

only believe in gender equality, you practised it. Gender equality gained prominence and seriousness under your presidency, leading to an increase in the numbers of women in public office, especially in Parliament and Cabinet. We dare not reverse your achievements in this regard."

Mr Ahmed Kathrada said he took Madiba not only as colleague but as an elder brother to him. Mr Kathrada said "Mandela had finally joined the A-team of the ANC and other prominent leaders," adding that he was going to miss his

“brother” .

“We are grateful that dignity has been restored to all South Africans. We are deeply grateful that the lives of thousands of people have improved and continue to improve,” said Ahmed Kathrada.

“When Walter [Sisulu] died, I lost a father and now I have lost a brother. My life is in a void and I don't know who to turn to,” Kathrada concluded.

When former President of Zambia Mr Kenneth Kaunda took a stand, he reminded South Africans of the importance of the Unity of Africa and the need to shun all xenophobic attacks on one another.

“I had a chance to meet a number of friends of the boer company. I spent three nights with [former prime minister John] Vorster on a train [stationed on the railway bridge over Victoria Falls, which separates Zambia and Zimbabwe],” Kaunda said.

“I asked the Prime Minister to please release Nelson Mandela and his colleagues and come together in discussions. It came to nothing. Then came another boer leader - I think he was called [PW] Botha - to discuss the future of South Africa together. I didn't succeed and it also came to nothing. Then came my meeting with FW de Klerk and, after a few hours, I called a press conference where I said: ‘I think I can do business with this man’. Thank goodness he released this great man.”

On her part Granddaughter Nandi Mandela said, “Go well Madiba. Go well to the land of our ancestors, you have ran your race... We will carry lessons you taught us throughout our lives... As South Africans we must stop pointing fingers, but must rather lead by example, as you did and do something positive for South Africa.”

In his last tribute to his Grandfather, Grandson Ndaba Mandela said, “It is through Mandela that the world cast its eyes on South Africa and took notice of the severe and organised repression of the black South Africans. Yet it was also through Mandela that the world would learn the spirit of endurance, the triumph of forgiveness and the beauty of reconciliation.”

He was undeniably the greatest leader of the 21st century. DMV and the entire Military Veterans say Lala ngoxolo , Nelson Rolihlahla “Madiba” Mandela, Qhawe Lama Qhawe.



Ahmed Kathrada paying his tribute to a friend and also a brother Nelson Mandela during the funeral



SANDF Paul Bearers carrying the casket of the late President of South Africa Nelson Mandela



South African National Defence Force (SANDF) Soldiers in Salute



The Unveiling of the Statue of the World's Icon, Father of the Nation, Nelson Rolihlahla "Madiba" Mandela at the Union Building

Official unveiling of the Madiba statue

Article by Mpho Nkosi

His Excellency Hon. President Jacob Zuma unveiled the R8 Million statue of the first President of the democratic South Africa, and Patron in Chief of Military Veterans, Nelson Rolihlahla "Madiba" Mandela on 16 December 2013. The statue is 9 metres in height.

"We gather at the seat of government, a day after laying to rest one of the greatest leaders ever produced by our country and the African continent, our former President Nelson Mandela. It has been a difficult period for our country, for Africa and for our friends all over the world.

The official mourning period came to an end last night at midnight and the national flag has been raised at all posts. Let me take this opportunity to thank all South Africans for observing the mourning period with dignity and respect. I thank the Mandela family as well for sharing their moment of grief with all of us. It was indeed the moment of our greatest sorrow as the rainbow nation.

Today, as we mark a special day in the country's calendar, National Reconciliation Day, we recommit ourselves to peace, forgiveness, tolerance and reconciliation. These

values were the hallmarks of the Presidency of Madiba.

Under his leadership, the National Day of Reconciliation became a symbol of our collective victory over our divided past as a nation. We made a conscious decision to work for national unity and reconciliation.

It is therefore, of great historical significance that we are marking National Reconciliation Day 2013 by officially unveiling the 9 metre statue of Madiba, the man who encouraged us to look beyond our differences and become one nation, united in our diversity."

President Jacob Zuma further reminded the world of what Madiba said when asked how he wished to be remembered, "It would be very egotistical of me to say how I would like to be remembered. I'd leave that entirely to South Africans. I would just like a simple stone on which is written, 'Mandela.'"

In his conclusion His Excellency Hon. President Jacob Zuma said, "Let us all work together, united in our diversity as the famous rainbow nation on the Southern tip of Africa, to build a better South Africa, united, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous."

Indeed The Nation Has lost its Child, but his spirit shall live forever in our hearts, Father of the Nation Tata Madiba Qhawe lama Qhawe.

Commemoration of the Maseru Raids

Article By Ms Pascalinah Skosana

The Department of Military Veterans has been mandated to honour and memorialise military veterans as part of the benefits stipulated in Section 5 of the Military Veterans Act no 18 of 2011.

To give effect to that provision, Survivors and family representatives of the Maseru Raid went down memory lane when they visited Lesotho in December 2013 to remember and honour their beloved ones who perished heroically when 30 South African Cadres and 12 Lesotho Nationals were mercilessly killed during the two raids which took place in 1982 and 1985.

Wounds were opened when Ms Mariam Seroto set foot at the Kwena Flats where his brother was killed. The pain was revived and the healing from the grief nearly accomplished as one of the Survivors Mr Sekhoane Lebentlele narrated to her how her brother was killed and where he was found. She said the knowledge of what happened has closed a chapter in her life as her brother had already been reburied in South Africa. "Seeing where he took his last breath meant a lot to her and the family."

Mr Mlamli Ondala and his son Mr Manyano Ondala also narrated how they survived the attack in Quting, Lesotho and how appreciative they are of surviving. They however said that upto the present day their hearts still bleed when they remember that unfortunately a family of three Lesotho nationals who were their neighbours were struck by bullets during that fateful night.

Mr Zalisile Bekwa who also survived the attack, was shot and fell down, other cadres who were with him in the room we shot and fell on top of him. When the bullets were ravaging the room. He said that he lay still buried under his fallen comrades whom he used to stay with. Laying still was his only option of survival.

Mr Themba Mvula could not contain himself as tears rolled down his cheeks. He asked about the possibility of bringing his brother, the late Pule Mvula back home. This manifested a challenge facing Military Veterans, their families and dependants. The Mayoli family also went on to request the DMV to help return the remains of Nkululeko Mayoli's father back home.

The families and survivors laid wreaths on the graves of their loved ones as well as on the graves of the other cadres whose families were not present. The laying of wreaths on the 09



Lesotho Nationals narrating a story of Mr Mavimbela, Mr Marhwanqana who were ruthlessly killed by SADF in the house behind



Ms Gigi laying a wreath on her husband's grave, who died during Maseru Massacre

December 2013 marked a significant milestone for the Department of Military Veterans. It marked the first step towards the annual commemoration of the Maseru Raids after 30 long years. The DMV commends the initiative of the survivors and the sons and daughters of the fallen cadres who initiated the project. Ms Nomzamo Nkatshu and her team's efforts will never go unappreciated in the history of this country.

From 2014 going forward, the Maseru massacre Commemoration will be an annual event hosted by both the South African and Lesotho governments. Many Military Veterans have fought in this liberation struggle, yet few are known and remembered. As a department and as a country we dare not fail in our mandate to heal those wounds and ensure a better life for the families and survivors of the liberation struggles. We dare not forget that South Africa is free today due to the supreme sacrifices made by amongst others those Military Veterans of Maseru.

The Department of Military Veterans

New Home For Military Veterans



1052 FESTIVAL STREET, HATFIELD, PRETORIA, 0083.

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**WITH DIGNITY, WITH HONOUR ,FOR THE LOVE OF
COUNTRY THEY SERVED WITH PRIDE**