

February 2023

The Heritage, Memorialisation, Burial & Honouring unit of the Department of Military Veterans

South Africa comes from a painful past where liberation wars and struggles were fought. The Heritage, Memorialisation, Burial & Honouring unit of the Department of Military Veterans aims to preserve the military veterans' heritage for future generation.

Heritage is what is preserved from the past as the living collective memory of a people not only to inform the present about the past but also to equip successive generations to fashion their future. It is what creates a sense of identity and assures rootedness and continuity, so that what is brought out by dynamism of culture is not changed for its own sake, but it is a result of people's conscious choice to create a better life.



military veterans

Department:
Military Veterans
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





Memorialising Military Veterans

These are services organised to honour the role and/or contributions of military veterans through memorial symbols such as a statue, cenotaph, monument, colossus, epitaph, war memorial wall etc. These are the memorials or ceremonies to honour the contribution of veterans in achieving democracy and freedom in ending colonialism and apartheid and finding a solution from transition to a democratic elected government of South Africa.





Military Veterans' Heritage

This refers to the full range of military veterans' documented traditions, monuments, objects, graves and culture. It is the range of contemporary activities, meanings, and behaviours that the nation draws from the living and departed military veterans. Heritage includes preserving, excavating, displaying, or restoring a collection of historical items and maintenance thereof about military veterans. This includes memorial sites, walls of remembrance, statues, cenotaph etc. constructed to honour and memorialize military veterans.

The Heritage, Memorials and Honour as a sub-programme of the DMV's Empowerment and Stakeholder Management Branch has to ensure the delivery of programmes related to the strategic imperatives of the DMV as;

'Recognising and honouring military veterans in life and memorialising them in death for their sacrifices on behalf of the nation'.

In particular attention will be paid to honouring and memorialisation of Military Veterans, playing a meaningful role in the Resistance and Liberation Heritage Route more so as several Military Veterans left the country since the 1960s to pick up arms and fight the apartheid system from the neighbouring countries (where they sought asylum). The DMV is mandated to establish;

- **Facilitating of comprehensive heritage, memorial and honour commemoration and awards for military veterans, subject to the availability of resources.**

Honouring and memorialising military veterans in a variety of ways in accordance with international best practice.

- **Promotion of the heritage, memorialisation and honour of military veterans through the following interventions:**

establishment of the 'tomb of the unknown soldier'; establishment of a military veterans heroes' acre for national heroes in collaboration with local municipalities for each province for all military veterans' heroes acres through the South Africa Local Government Association (SALGA) and Department of Sports, Arts and Culture.

- Memorialisation of all deserving military veterans in consultation with the relevant Military Veterans Organisations through SANMVA;
- **Promotion of the military veterans' heritage and memorialisation through; facilitating the implementation of the Resistance, Liberation, Heritage Route (RLHR) especially the South African part of the liberation struggle;**
 - Developing programmes that will profile the heritage vested in military veterans, from both the statutory and liberation struggle forces;
 - Exploring opportunities to interface the military veterans' with the sub-regional (through the SADC Liberation Heritage Project;
 - Regional (OAU Liberation Committee documentation) and international community (ICOMOS);
 - Facilitating the building and/or setting up of a liberation armed struggle memorial and/or museum; and
 - Exchanging and sharing of information about military veterans with other departments, institutions - academic and non-academic, and social partners (NHC; TRC; SAHRA; Robben Island Museum (RIM); Missing Persons Task Team; Freedom Park) including other stakeholders of military veterans heritage, domestically.

Department of Military Veterans Burial Support

- **For military veterans who are on the database:**

1. An amount of R40 000 will be paid (less GPAA burial support if a Military Veteran qualifies)
2. Claim valid for 12 months from time of death of a Military Veteran
3. R22 700 for a tombstone will be paid directly to a service provider who is CSD registered and tax compliant
4. No cut-off time to request and claim for a tombstone of a deceased military veteran. There is no reimbursement for an existing tombstone.
5. A military veteran should be earning less than R125 000 per annum.

The Department of Military Veterans is committed to honouring military veterans in life and in death.

Contact details:

Burial Support – Nontombi Ntjana – 063 431 3777 / 012 765 9467 /
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