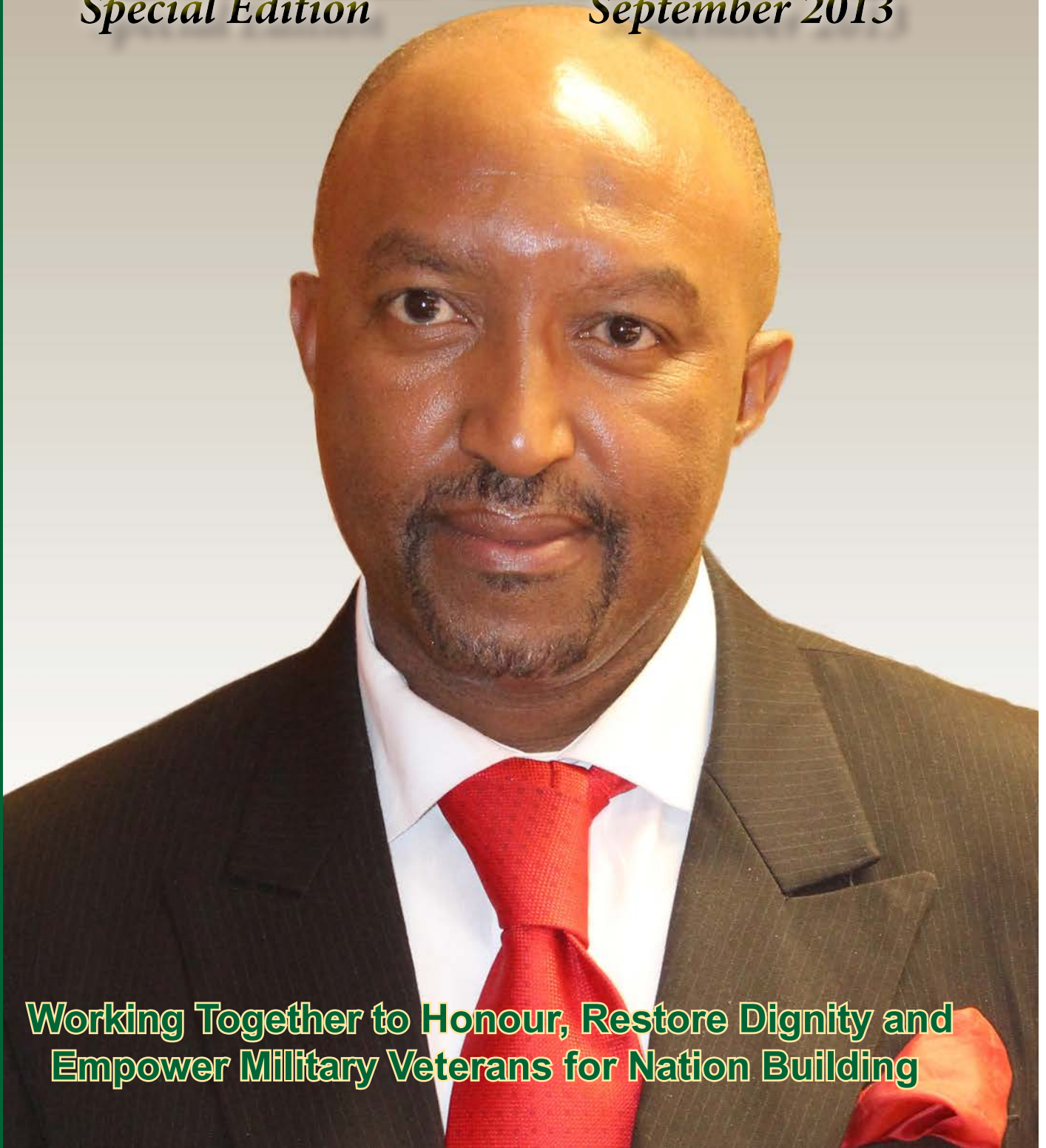


UNITING

Special Edition

September 2013



Working Together to Honour, Restore Dignity and Empower Military Veterans for Nation Building



military veterans

Department:
Military Veterans
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Department of Military Veterans



Vision

A dignified, unified, empowered and self-sufficient military veterans' community.

Mission

To facilitate delivery and coordinate all activities that recognise and entrench the restoration of dignity and appreciation of the contribution of Military Veterans to our freedom and nation building.

Hon Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula

Military Veterans to elect new leadership for the new Umbrella association



“The conference is going very well so far and we are excited as the Department of Military Veterans that a new chapter has been opened in the history of military veterans in the country which will go a long way in helping advance the course of military veterans as well as accelerate service delivery of social benefits stipulated in the Act 18 of 2011” said the Director General (DG) of the Department of Military Veterans (DMV) Mr Tsepe Motumi.

Meanwhile in her key note address delivered yesterday, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula said “The formation of this umbrella body should facilitate more coordinated, efficient and inclusive interventions by government so that government can discharge its duties more effectively and efficiently on behalf of society and its responsibilities towards military veterans.

This new umbrella association should work in a fair, transparent and accountable manner to all military veterans and government such that it can help deepen reconciliation, social cohesion and nation building”The 20 years of freedom that we are celebrating as a nation that it would not have come about had it not been for the bravery, courage and sacrifices made in the struggle by amongst others men and women gathered at this conference.

. The country would not be where it is today had it not been for the individual and collective contribution of military veterans across the spectrum to reconciliation, peace 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.

“I hope the establishment of the umbrella association will go a long way in helping to rapidly increase the pace of delivery of these benefits to all deserving military veterans. Furthermore, ensuring access to benefits as well as service delivery to military veterans will require the building of partnerships and working together between the government, business, labour, civil society and perhaps most importantly the military veterans as represented by their association as well as the new umbrella association that will be established through this conference” said the Minister

On his part the President of SANMVA Mr Kebby Maphatsoe called for unity of military veterans and urged for the programmes that will honour, memorialise and empower military veterans to be accelerated through close working relationships between the new umbrella association and the DMV.

***“Uniting Military Veterans
for access to benefits”***

Consultative meeting to Prepare for conference

Article by Mpho Nkosi

Hope and change is what the Department of Military Veterans (DMV) is bringing to the South African military veterans. On 31 August 2013 each Military Veterans Association (MVA's) held consultative conferences from in various provinces.

The idea of the conferences was to give an opportunity to all MVA's to discuss the preparations for the DMV conference which is taking place on the 28 September - 01 October 2013. The conference brings together representatives of most MVA's in South Africa.

Section 7 of Military Veterans Act 18 of 2011 mandates the Director General (DG) of DMV Mr T Motumi to establish an umbrella body in consultation with MV's formations. That umbrella will work hand in hand with the DMV and government in delivering benefits to Military Veterans.

Throughout the provinces where the conferences were held, the DMV deployed the DG and senior managers to interact with the delegates of Associations. The consultative conferences were to amongst others nominate delegates that will represent their respective MVA's at the workshop to be held at Birchwood Conference Centre on 17 - 18 September 2013.

Working Together to Honour, Restore Dignity and Empower Military Veterans for Nation Building



Military Veterans in Mafikeng North West



Azanian National Liberation Army Military Veterans Association (AZANLAMVA) members



Brig Gen (Ret) Fihla addressing the Ciskei Defence Force members



Military Veterans Voting at TDFMVA meeting



TDFMVA members discussing during election process in Umthata

Council of Military Veterans Organisations (CMVO) Consultative Conference

Article and by Lebo Mothapo

A consultative conference of the CMVO was held at Birchwood Conference Centre on 15 September 2013.

The President of SANMVA Mr Kebby Maphatsoe delivered a speech at the conference. He touched on key issues viz. The need for mechanism to assist military veterans to change to civilian life; the best possible mechanism in which the lives of MV's formations can be regulated by DMV.

He explained that different military backgrounds delayed the process between 2005 and 2008. Consequently, the different military groups could not find each other. Therefore, he urged that tolerance must be exercised.

He indicated that the SANMVA came to the CMVO consultative conference to say they represent all military veterans and not splinter groups.

"The rest of Africa is looking up to South Africa for stability and the umbrella body will serve as a good source for stability.

The process of establishing an Southern African Development Community (SADC) organisation for Military Veterans is underway and it is spearheaded by South Africa. The umbrella Association therefore is not only going to be an Association but has to deal with a number of issues



The Director General of the Department of Military Veterans (DMV) Mr Tsepe Motumi addressing the CMVO members

nationally and internationally" he said.

He cautioned the CMVO not only to unravel all past challenges but also not to downplay achievements. "All the work that was put together to make sure the military veterans are united and speak with one voice must be preserved" he further said.

Mr Maphatsoe also stated that the umbrella Association will still make sure that military veterans get houses; their health is taken care of; their Dependants are educated; business opportunities are opened and skills are developed. He reminded the conference of the motto: *United we serve with Pride, Nothing about us Without Us.*

On his part the DG of DMV Mr T Motumi reflected on the role that the CMVO should play in building peace and transformation of society. He said that the DMV has the challenge of making sure that

all organisations including CMVO work closely with the DMV, so as to ensure sound administration and delivery to the military veterans.

"The DMV is attending the CMVO consultative conference to forge the way forward; help in establishing an umbrellas association, to consolidate gains that have been made in the past 5 years".

The DG further explained that the DMV needs firm and tight units within structures that represent military veterans.

He said that the National Treasury is yet to release 300 million to the DMV in order to deliver Section 5 benefits to military veterans.

"You can only become relevant to the extent that you represent your members fairly" said Mr Motumi.

The DG further emphasised that military veterans Associations are not obliged to join

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The President of SANMVA Mr Kebby Maphotse addressing CMVO members



Members of CMVO

the umbrella body.

The core mandate is to provide socio economic benefits, internal organisational functioning and ensuring that the database of Military Veterans is credible. The DG outlined all the 11 benefits stipulated in the Act.

Mr Motumi stated that 15 000 military veterans have now been verified.

505 houses are to be built for military veterans by the end of this financial year.

Some military veterans stated that they have been waiting for bursaries for their dependents for two years now.

The DG urged the MV's to register on the database.

The DG said "there have been challenges with the funding but the DMV is currently in talks with the Treasury to source funds for funding of the umbrella body".

He further stated that "There was a challenge with the release of funds for bursaries as a result the process could not take place as planned. NSFAS and the DMV have reached

an agreement to assist with the management of bursaries".

With regard to burials, he said "the DMV has its own unit that deals with funerals of military veterans and the process of burial support will be fast tracked moving forward."

"The military veterans ought to be made aware by their Associations that the DMV will pay R10000 for the deceased family for burial. In the case where the deceased was receiving the special pension, only R7500 will be paid and the DMV will top it up with R2500 to make it R10000."

The DG stated that the DMV has hired a webmaster to redesign and work on the website. He explained that the medical facility in Nelspruit is underway and other medical benefits are being rolled out.

The CMVO concluded by saying the consultative conference was open, honest and the guideline given by the DMV were welcome.

On the matter of transformation the CMVO indicated that

it is not going to take place anytime soon as it was a very complex process.

South African Cape Corps (SACC) Consultative workshop



Mr Qondi Jali Addressing SACC members

SACC members

Article by Mr Zimasa Matyunjwa

In the consultative workshop in which the Department was presented by two Chief Directors, Mr Qondi Jali and Mr Vulani Ngobeni, a basis was laid for the SACC to take an active participatory role in the National Workshop that was working towards the establishment of an Umbrella Body for Military Veterans. *Continued on page 7*



The workshop, which was constituted by members of the SACC who come from the Western Cape and Northern Cape deliberated on a range of matters including amongst others access to benefits as well as recognition of the SACC.

The conference ended with an election of a task team of six representatives that represented SACC in the National Workshop held in Birchwood on 17 - 18 September 2013.

Two-day workshop to prepare for the establishment of the umbrella body for Military Veterans

Article by Mbulelo Musi

As part of preparations for the conference to establish an umbrella Association to represent military veterans nationally, a two-day workshop was held at the Birchwood Conference Centre on the 17-18 September 2013.

The workshop was attended by over 70 delegates from SANMVA, MKMVA, APLAMVA, TBVCMVA, CMVO and South African Coloured Core (SACC) South and was organised by the steering committee established by the Department of Military Veterans, SANMVA and other Military Veterans Associations. The conference deliberated extensively on amendments to the SANMVA Constitution to be aligned to the Military Veterans Act 18 of 2011.

Elements of the constitution discussed included the preamble of the new constitution, the principles and objectives of the constitutions, the nature of the Association, possible structure for the new association as well as the name and logo of the Association. All the proposals discussed are to be tabled at the conference taking place from the 29 September – 01 October 2013.

The 20 years of freedom reminds us as a nation that it would not have come about had it not been for the bravery, courage, and sacrifices made in the liberation struggle by amongst others most men and women gathered here today. Be they from MKMVA, APLAMVA and AZANLAMVA. The country would not be where it is today had it not been for the individual and collective contribution of military veterans across the spectrum to reconciliation, peace 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. Hon Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula

ns for access to benefits

DMV/UNITING SPECIAL EDITION 7



The Director-General Mr Tsepe Motumi addressing Military Veterans Associations during the workshop



Military Veterans from different associations





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For more in information about Military Veterans contact

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