





# **Table of Contents**

- 3 Editorial
- 4 Deputy Minister's speech
- 5 Minister's Speech
- 6 Wreath laying for the Battle of Square Hill in 1918
- Two-day workshop to prepare for the estab-7 lishment of the umbrella body for Military Veterans
- 8,9 History in the Making Military Veterans
  Unite
- The North Gauteng High Court-Pretoria has struck off the roll the application to set aside the DMV conference.
- 11,12 Providing Military Veterans with skills to manufacture Hatchery Sheds
  - DG briefs media about the Roadshows on Healthcare
  - The Department of Military Veterans cares about the health and wellness of the military veterans
  - The Department of Military Veterans visited
    Polokwane and Vhembe to issue Military
    Veterans with Healthcare cards

#### **PUBLISHING EDITOR**

Mr Mbulelo Musi

# WRITER & PHOTOGRAPHY

Mr Mpho Nkosi

Ms Pascalinah Skosana

Ms Nompilo Dimba

**DESIGN AND LAYOUT** 

Mr Mpho Nkosi

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

DMV COMMUNICATIONS Tel: 012 671 2623 Fax; 012 671 1108

#### **ADDRESS**

Department of Military Veterans, Private Bag X943, Pretoria, 0122



**Honour Volume 3** 



Mr Mbulelo Musi

The end of September as Heritage Month and October 2013, will go in the annals of the country's history as a new chapter in relation to Military Veterans (MV's). In line with Section 7 of the Military Veterans Act 18 of 2011, the Director General (DG) of the DMV Mr. Tsepe Motumi, working in concert with organisations representing military veterans established a reconstituted umbrella body that will represent military veterans nationally.

About 600 Military Veterans from across the organisational, political and ideological divide gathered from the 29<sup>th</sup> September to 2nd October .2013 at the Conference held at Birchwood Conference Centre to establish a reconstituted umbrella body. The delegates democratically and unanimously resolved to name the umbrella Association the South African National Military Veterans Association (SANMVA). Despite attempts on the DMV part to include all, even those not yet recognised by

the Minister, some chose not to take part and even went to court to have the Conference set aside.

We publish, that Court Order in full in this issue of Honour on this matter. Its also found on our new website <a href="www.dmv.gov.za">www.dmv.gov.za</a>. Notwithstanding all that, the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans Messrs Nosiviwe Mapisa -Nqakula and Thabang Makwetla as well as the DG of DMV have made it clear that the doors remain open for engagements.

Of significance was that SANMVA was reconstituted in line with Section 7 of the Military Veterans Act 18 of 2011. SANMVA elected its 6 National Office Bearers and 20 members of the National Executive Committee (NEC). In its declaration amongst others, SANMVA committed to conduct its business in a fair, transparent, accountable and inclusive manner; to unite military veterans and to work closely with the DMV and all other stakeholders.

Within two weeks yet another milestone was to follow. The campaign in the form of provincial, roadshows to issue medical healthcare cards to 4800 military veterans commenced . Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa -Nqakula launched the campaign in front of over 500 military veterans at the Durban Airforce Base in KwaZulu Natal on 15th October 2013. A resounding successful launch indeed! In this issue we publish the launch. Songs of old reminiscent of their lives in struggle were sung to welcome this significant programme that will see military veterans access free medical services in military healthcare centres across the country.

Suffice to say that these two events conspired to make all to say that indeed the issues of military veterans and the DMV in particular are coming of age. Slowly but surely MV's are taking their righful place in the socio-political and economic landscape of the country. The legendary visionary Indian leader Mahatma Ghandi once counseled that "The measure of a country's greatness should be based on how well it cares for its most vulnerable populations"

So therefore shall it be that ours will be measured by the extent in which it takes care of its military veterans, particularly those that sacrificed their all, including paying the ultimate price so that the country should be free today. This is even more critical as the country is to celebrate 20 years of freedom in 2014. The two milestone events are a pointer in the right direction to efforts to live up to what the Constitution of the country voluntarily enjoins us to do.

<sup>&</sup>quot;RESPECT THOSE WHO HAVE WORKED TO BUILD AND DEVELOP OUR COUNTRY."

**SPEECH HONOUR** 

## **Deputy Minister Thabang Makwetla**

"I have seen you rise and fall, not once not twice, but several times in your endeavours to meet your mandate. The cause of military veterans must triumph".



Trise with a profound sense of appreciation of the achievement attained by all of us, the broad community of Military Veterans in ■ South Africa in all its formations; the leadership of SANMVA; the new Department of Military Veterans and the Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans as we come to the end of the business of launching a reconstituted umbrella body of our Military Veterans in line with the popular Military Veterans Act of 2011, (Act no 18, of 2011).

We have come a long way in the endeavour to restore honour to those who have answered the call to serve, and those who did not come back home during the difficult days of our country's history. From the days of the Ministerial Task Team established after the 2009 elections to advise the Minister on the needs of Military Veterans and how to address them, to the piloting of the new legislation and the cleaning and verification of the data base of beneficiaries, the SANMVA leadership

on duty, in particular the former President Cde Kebby Maphotsoe and his two Deputy Presidents, Gen Fihla and Col Giles performed a sterling job in doggedly fighting and advocating for Military Veterans needs in a manner worthy for our appreciation.

I trust that the fact that this umbrella body will be resourced by the state and also participate in fund raising will not lull the awareness amongst us that at the end of the day the reason, and the only reason for its existence is because it must be to Military Veterans what Trade Unions are to workers, such that if all its revenue streams were to dry up, Military Veterans will keep it running out of their own dues in order to preserve this service. Things being equal, the same principle I believe, applies the same way to the Affiliate Member Associations of our member body. 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".

To all delegates to this Conference, activists in the mission to restore and preserve the dignity of Military Veterans, as we depart from the venue of this conference to our homes, be inspired by the knowledge that you have over the past three days, enhanced fairness, transparency and accountability in the affairs of military veterans nationally.

The cause of military veterans must triumph! And remember, as an anonymous writer said, "Happiness shall always be found by those who dare and persevere; wanderer do not turn around, march on and have no fear."

WE DARE NOT FAIL MILITARY VETERANS LEST HISTORY JUDGES US HARSHLY!

**SPEECH HONOUR** 

## Hon Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula

Qualitatively new era for both the country and the military veterans is about to



am truly humbled to be given an opportunity to be part of this historic and defining moment in the history of military veterans in general and the DMV in particular. The establishment of the umbrella Association that will represent the military veterans nationally is a testament that the Military Veterans community and the DMV have now reached the crossroads. A qualitatively new era for both the country and the military veterans is about to dawn.

"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". said the Minister.

"The 20 years of freedom 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 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.

It is for that very reason that the Constitution of the RSA in its very opening statement boldly asserts "We the people of South Africa; Recognise the injustices of the past; Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land; Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country.

Over the past 19 years of our freedom and democracy, various initiatives have been undertaken to deal with the myriad of challenges facing military veterans. Initiatives such as the building of houses, provision of medical services, educational support, burial support, etc. have been undertaken. However all these were done by and large in a sporadic and uncoordinated manner. Thus their impact was not to be as visible as desired.

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" concluded 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.

### Wreath laying for the Battle of Square Hill in 1918



Private Ntingi handing over a wreath to Director-General Mr Tsepe Motumi

#### Article and photos by Mr Mpho Nkosi

The Director General (DG) of the Department of Military Veterans (DMV) Mr Tsepe Motumi paid his tribute at the wreathlaying ceremony in Cape Town on 15 September 2013, to the South African Cape (SACC) Corps Battalion, which conquered Square Hill in Palestine 95 years ago.

The Battle of Square Hill was fought during World War I when Turkey decided side with Germany.

The Battle, on 19 September 1918, saw the first Battalion of the Cape Corps capturing 181 Turkish prisoners, eight officers, about 160 soldiers of lower rank, as well as an enemy field gun. Only one Cape Corps member was killed and another wounded.

In a subsequent attack at Kh Jebeit Hill, some 700 metres north of Square Hill, the Cape Corps Battalion faced the heavily reinforced Turks, without artillery support, suffered numerous casualties during a 12 hour battle. Fifty one soldiers were killed, 101 were wounded and one was captured.

Of the 12 452 South African servicemen who died in the First World War, 3 901 were Black, Indian or Coloured.

The Cape Corps returned to Cape Town with 16 distinguished conduct medals, eight military medals, two Order of the Crown of Italy (bronze), two Decoration Militaire (Belgium) and one Medaille Militaire (France).

After the Battle of Square Hill, the Cape Corps withdrew to Alexandria and departed from Port Said in Egypt for South Africa where the Corps was demobilised. The Corps was reactivated 20 years later for World War II.

In 1948 the Cape Corps was disbanded again, and in 1949 it was reactivated as the



Wreath laying by the Director General Mr Tsepe Motumi

non-combatant Cape Corps Auxiliary.

In 1963 it was renamed the SA Coloured Corps which became the SA Cape Corps, a fulltime Infantry Battalion and Logistics Unit. The name, Cape Corps, was dropped in 1992 when the unit was renamed the 9th South African Infantry Battalion.

WE SALUTE AND HONOUR THEM FOR THEIR HEROISM!

# Unifying Military Veterans to establish the national umbrella body to represent Military Veterans

### Article by Mbulelo Musi Photos by Ms Bonbon Dimba

s 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 which was attended by over 70 delegates from SANMVA, MKMVA, APLAMVA, TBVCMVA, CMVO and the South African Coloured Corps (SACC) 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 were to be tabled at the Conference that took place from the 29 September – 02 October 2013.

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



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



Mr K.P Mokwena Head of Research and Policy of DMV addressing the Workshop on Constitutional and Policy Matters



Military Veterans listening to the addresses on Constitutional and Policy Matters.

# History in the Making – Military Veterans

**Article by Mr Mbulelo Musi** Photos by Mr Mpho Nkosi

n 29th September - 2nd October 2013, history was slowly but surely made for Military Veterans (MV's) in South Africa. About 600 delegates from across the MV's spectrum gathered at the Birchwood Conference Centre, Ekurhuleni, Gauteng Province, to work with the Director General of the Department of Military Veterans, (DMV) Mr. Tsepe Motumi to establish a new umbrella Association in line with the Military Veterans Act 18, 2011(Act).

The Conference theme was indeed befitting "Uniting Military Veterans for access to Benefits." It connoted the critical importance of Conference advancing the unity of all military veterans as well as the urgent need for it to be action- orientation than a talk-shop, so that it can ensure speedy access by MV's to their long awaited socio- economic benefits.

Those who converged at Birchwood during the four days unanimously and democratically resolved amongst others on the following;

- To retain the name of the previous Association, the South African National Military veterans association (SANMVA). However they were all at one that it will be duly constituted in line with Section 7 of the Military Veterans.
- To adopt a constitution that would reconstitute SANMVA to align with the prescripts of the Act
- To conduct their business in representing MV's in a fair, transparent inclusive and accountable manner.
- To unite military veterans
- To work closely with the DMV in ensuring the delivery of benefits stipulated in the Act to MV's.
- To hold regular elections every five years.



Hon Minister Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Ngakula addressing Military Veterans during SANMVA Conference



Deputy Minister Mr Thabang Makwetla addressing Military Veterans during SANMVA Conference



Director-General Mr Tsepe Motumi addressing Military Veterans during SANMVA Conference

• To work in close cooperation with MV's Associations in the Southern African region, Africa and the world to realise the interest of MV's.

The delegates also democratically elected 6 National Office Bearers as well as additional 20 members of the National Executive Committee to lead SANMVA over the next five years.

Songs, dance, speeches, robust discussions, engagements and final consensus reached on most policy and organisational matters discussed at Conference, symbolised the understanding by the delegates that they carried a huge and urgent responsibility on their shoulders to help ensure the building of a better life for all military veterans.

The unfortunate part was that some chose not to be part of the Conference. This was despite efforts on the part of the DMV to engage all formations including those that chose not to take part, to ensure their participation, albeit them not being recognised yet by the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans as required by law.

Addressing this matter the Minister and Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans Messrs. Nosiviwe Mapisa – Nqakula and Thabang Makwetla respectively have reassured that the door still remains open for engagement with those who were not part of the Conference.

This is notwithstanding the fact that their application to have the conference set aside was struck off the roll by the Gauteng North High Court on 15th October 2013.

Furthermore, the Act permits that an Association is not obliged to join the umbrella association and therefore no bona fide MV will be deprived of his or her right to access socio-economic benefits stipulated in the Act or engage the DMV because he or she is not a member of SANMVA.

For more details on the declaration and Resolutions of Conference visit the DMV website on www.dmv.gov.za



The newly elected President of SANMVA Mr Kebby Maphatsoe addressing Military Veterans



Military Veterans listening attentively during SANMVA Conference



Ms Tamara Moti reciting a moving poem during the SANMVA Conference

## The North Gauteng High Court-Pretoria has struck off the roll the application to set aside the DMV conference.

#### **Article by Lebohang Mothapo**

The Department of Military Veterans has welcomed the court order issued by Justice Spilg in the North Gauteng High Court-Pretoria for the application to set aside the Military Veterans conference by three organisations purporting to represent military veterans.

The Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLAMVA), uMkhonto we Sizwe Liberation War Military Veterans Union (MKLWMVU) and South African Defence Force Military Veterans Association (SADFMVA) had jointly applied to set aside the conference that was convened by the Department of Military Veterans in consultation with various military organisations which was held on the 29th September to 02<sup>nd</sup> October 2013 at Birchwood Conference Centre to establish an Umbrella Body for military veterans' organisations.

"We as the Department of Military Veterans (DMV), welcome this court order, we believe it will go a long way in helping military veterans formations to streamline their organisation processes that will enable them to work effectively and efficiently with the DMV", said the Director General, Mr Tsepe Motumi.

#### The Court Order has ruled that:

- "The Azanian People Liberation Army Military Veterans Association (APLAMVA) is joined in these proceedings as an Intervening Party.
- 2. The applicants, if they so wish, shall submit applications to the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, at the offices of the Department of Military Veterans within three (3) months after the issuing of the guidelines which are referred to in paragraph five hereof.
- 3. Once the Department of Military Veterans is satisfied that an applicant has satisfied the requirements for recognition by the Minister as set out herein below, the Department shall make a



recommendation to the Minister that the military veterans' organisation concerned be recognized by the Minister as a military veteran's organisation contemplated in Act 18 of 2011.

- 4. An organisation that wishes to be recognized as a military veterans organisation shall comply with the following minimum requirements, compliance with which shall not preclude the Minister from taking any other reasonable factor into consideration:
  - a) A constitution that was adopted at a gathering that was convened for the purpose of adopting the constitution which was attended by a substantial number of bona fide military veterans that solely belonged to the same military organisation;
  - b) Proof that the applicant concerned is a Non-Profit Organisation;
  - c) Proof that it has clearly identifiable leadership;
  - d) Its leadership was elected at a gathering that was called for the purpose of electing such leadership, whether or not electing leadership was the sole purpose of the meeting;

Continued on page 11

- e) The gathering at which such leadership was elected was attended by a substantial number of former members of the military organisation to which they previously belonged;
- f) Proof that it is not a mercenary organisation, a terrorist organisation, or an organisation which has been established for the purpose of advocating an objective which is prohibited by domestic or international law by military means;
- g) It embraces the values which are enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa;
- h) It has a substantial number of members who are bona fide military veterans who have formally and expressly denounced their membership of their previous military organisation.

- 5. The first respondent shall issue guidelines for what constitutes substantial membership after consulting with all known military veterans organisations, including the applicants within six (6) months of date hereof.
- 6. The first Applicant shall not seek recognition without first regularizing its identity and standing.
- 7. The application is removed from the roll."

Section 7 of Military Veterans Act 18 of 2011, stipulates that: A military veterans organisations is not obliged to the join the association but it may engage the Minister or other persons or structures established or referred to in this Act, provided such organisation is recognised by the Minister as a non-governmental organisation or association established in respect of military veterans that lawfully represents the interests of military veterans.

# Providing Military Veterans with skills and jobs to manufacture Hatchery Sheds

#### Article by Mr Vernon Jacobs Photos by Mpho Nkosi

he DMV has developed, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) for projects targeting Military Veterans that would particularly be set aside for participation by military veterans.

One of the DRDLR projects targeted for this purpose is the Poultry Value Chain (PVC) through which military veterans have in this case, been ear marked for employment in the manufacture of the components of infrastructure that will be erected at sites where the PVC will be implemented.

The infrastructure under manufacture includes broiler and hatchery sheds for the PVC. Thus, on the morning of 09 October 2013, the first group of Military Veterans assembled



Military Veterans cutting metal for the Hatchery Sheds

Continued on page 12

at the Agricultural Research Centre's (ARC) Engineering Unit in Silverton to begin with the manufacture of 34 sheds which are being built for dispatch to KwaZulu-Natal.

This phase constitutes the first part of provincial infrastructure roll out and in this instance sheds, will be erected at various homesteads where the project sites have been identified in the Izingolweni Region of the Ugu District Municipality.

This first group has been identified as the base group who will be based at the ARC to manufacture all of the sheds targeted for production. The project will then include different provincial teams in groups of 10 per province, coming to the ARC site on a weekly basis to be trained in the manufacturing of the sheds. This is primarily to ensure that the Military Veterans could assist with erecting the sheds when these arrive in provinces.

This project also includes the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) which is an initiative of the DRDLR to provide training, development and employment opportunities for rural youth on agricultural and land reform projects. Military Veterans, will be working with the NARYSEC, at the Silverton site as well as on other site, when the sheds are delivered to provinces.

The Chief Director: Skills Development and Empowerment Mr Vernon Jacobs has had the privilege of visiting one of the sites where two broiler sheds were being erected at the homestead of Mr Robert Gambushe in Izingolweni.

At this juncture, the training of a KwaZulu-Natal team has not yet commenced which saw the project having a team from the ARC erecting the first two structures on Mr Gambushe's farm.

The DMV has submitted the names of close to 100 military veterans households who have indicated their interest in being part of the PVC. "It will, therefore, be a great day when the first sheds are erected on the homesteads of MV's, bringing the value chain of the project to full cycle for military veterans." Said Mr Vernon **Jacobs** 



The ARC team erecting the first sheds in Izingolweni



Gladys Lebotsa, one of the ARC welding workshop site givng the team guidance on the job requirements



Military Veterans at the (ARC) Engineering Unit in Silverton

## Director General (DG) briefs media about the Roadshows on Healthcare

#### Article and Photos by Ms BonBon Dimba

"We are excited as the Department of Military Veterans (DMV) 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 Military Veterans Act 18 of 2011" said the DG of the DMV Mr Tsepe Motumi.

On 13 October 2013 the DG of the DMV, Tsepe Motumi had a briefing with the media to inform them about the DMV's up coming road shows all over the country. He said that a total of 4,800 medical health cards are to be issued to MV's so that they can have free access to health care services in different military health facilities across the country.

From the 15<sup>th</sup> October to 05 December 2013 the DMV will embark on a major campaign, to issue medical healthcare cards to military veterans throughout the nine province.

During the campaign, which will run under the theme, "Your health and Wellness is our concern", health and wellness screenings will be conducted, with veterans being given checkups for various illnesses as well as counselling.



(Left to Right) Chief Director Health and Wellness Ms Xolisa Morolo, Director - General of the DMV Mr Tsepe Motumi, and Head of Communication Mr Mbulelo Musi

The campaign was officially launched by the Defence and Military Veterans Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula at the Durban International Air Force Base on 15 October 2013.

The campaign is part of the DMV's socio-economic support programmes, which provide healthcare and support to military veterans.

Qualifying veterans are those who are registered on the department's database and earn an income of less than R300,000 a year. Letters have been written and SMSs sent to military veterans who qualify.

In this programme, the DMV is working in partnership with the South African Medical Health Services of the South African National Defence Force. They also working with Military Veterans Healthcare Practitioners Association, an NGO of medical doctors that signed a Memorandum Understanding the DMV in May this year provide professional services to military veterans.

Military Veterans need to go to various sickbays to get health services.

## Your Health and Wellness is our concern says the Minister

#### Article and photos by Ms Bonbon Dimba

The Honourable Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa -Nqakula officially launched the Wellness campaign at the Durban International Air force Base on 15 October 2013.

This programme is conducted in partnership with the South African Military Health services and the Military Veterans Health Care Practitioners partnership a non-governmental organisation that is working with the department to provide professional services to veterans.

The Health and Wellness campaign is meant to benefit Military Veterans who served in the previous conflicts. The DMV is prioritising war veterans who played a major role in securing freedom and democracy in the country.

At the launch, the Minister paid homage to the Military Veterans for the role they played in the struggle. After her key note address the Minister took a walk around the facility where health and wellness screenings were being conducted, with veterans being given check-ups for various illnesses as well as counselling.

She also personally handed over health cards to some of the veterans. The DMV also had a chance to give feed back to the veterans on the decisions and outcomes of the establishment of the umbrella body SANMVA that took place in Birchwood as well as provided information to MV's on the various programmes of the DMV.

It was a very busy three days in Durban the DMV however managed to issue 642 cards to military veterans who are now able to access health services acrosss Military health institutions and sickbays across the country.

"Your Health and Wellness is our Concern"



Hon Minister Mapisa-Nqakula interacting with **Military Veterans** 



Military veteran after receiving healthcare card to access medical treatment



Military Veteran receiving eye test

# The Department of Military Veterans visited Polokwane and Vhembe Military Sickbays to issue Military Veterans with Healthcare cards

Article and photos by Mr Mpho Nkosi

Indeed the DMV does care for Military Veterans' health and wellness. On 23 October 2013 and 24 October 2013. Military Veterans who are registered and verified were issued with healthcare cards in Polokwane Military Sickbay and Vhembe Sickbay.

The health cards will allow military veterans to access free medical services in all military hospitals throughout the country including Sickbays.

Military Veterans who were not appearing in the data base were given the opportunity to register. The event also consisted of providing health services including, counseling, HIV tests, diabetes eyes and audio tests to Military Veterans.

More than 400 health cards in Polokwane and Vhembe were issued to military veterans who were registered and verified to be legitimate military veterans.

The speaker of the Limpopo Legislature Hon K.E Nong in his brief, mentioned the establishment of the DMV and its mandate.

"Members of the Military Veterans Associations, it is very important to be healthy and most importantly to do everything possible to remain healthy at all times" said The Speaker. Hon K.E Nong



Hon K.E Nong



(Left to right)Mr N.E Khauhagali and Mr T.L Phadziri



(Centre) Samson Muteyiwane and his family

emphasised the issue of education, making an example of himself that even as the Speaker of the legislature he still studie's today to enhance his leadership skills and how to run the Legislature.

Mr Vernon Jacobs Chief Director Skills Development and Empowerment gave an overview of the DMV's mandate in taking care of military veterans. He also mentioned the job opportunities and skills development that are already in place for military veterans and their dependents.

He further mentioned the programme that is currently running at the Agricultural Research Centre's (ARC) Engineering Unit in Silverton of manufacturing hatchery sheds. "It truly brings hope to the lives of military veterans."

Samson Muteyiwane a Second



Mr Ike Maphoto being screened before receiving his health card

world War Veterans aged 94 years was also issued with the healthcare card and that brought joy to the family. His son Benjamin Muthewayane said he is very happy to see his father being able to access medical treatment free in all military hospitals.

Mr N.E Khauhagali and Mr T.L Phadziri from Vhembe also expressed their happy emotions after receiving the healthcare cards. They said they are very happy to see the initiative done by the DMV in terms of making sure that they are healthy.

They also raised concern about the fact that the healthcare cards mainly cover military veterans only and excludes their family members. They said "Our wish is to see the healthcare cards covering all our family members."



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

Province	Dates	Venue
Free State	12 – 13 November 2013	Bloemfontein Sick Bay
Western Cape	19 – 20 November 2013	Cape Town Sick Bay
Gauteng	22 November 2013 29 November 2013	Thaba Tshwane Sick Bay Dunnotar Sick Bay
Northern Cape	26 – 27 November 2013	Kimberly Sick Bay
Eastern Cape	03 – 04 December 2013 05 December 2013	Mthatha Sick Bay East London Sickbay

#### A NEW KID IS BORN

A new kid is born from black women A lady of Africa! Recognised world wide, Comrade Kebby Maphatsoe Is the only man to can carry this kid,

Comrade Nosiviwe Mapisa Ngcakula,
Comrade Thabang Makwetla,
Issued a birth certificate for this child
President Jacob Zuma gave
marching orders
To honour this newly born baby.

This Kid's name is South African National Military Veterans' Association

**Author: Ramaite Ramaifo** 

For more in information about Military Veterans contact

Call Centre 0800 201 063/012 339 5384 or Visit us on www.dmv.gov.za