



MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS' REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT
AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, HE CYRIL MATAMELA RAMAPHOSA ON THE
ZIMBABWE TRIP 08TH AND 09TH SEPTEMBER 2020**

Dear Mr President

1. The above mentioned trip to Zimbabwe was undertaken by myself pursuant to the request for permission to visit and engage with my counterpart on bilateral matters pertaining to my portfolio as well as our two countries' role in regional security, especially as it pertains to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see letters attached) and recent discussions within the Southern African Development Community prior to and during the summit.
2. The challenges in Zimbabwe have been matters of discussion within our government and our ruling party, the African National Congress, for quite some time and successive administrations in government and the party have had to deal with it. Against this background and for compelling national interests, the President directed that there be a delegation of members of

the National Executive Committee to visit Zimbabwe. Given the current COVID-19 pandemic and attendant prohibition of normal air flights, especially cross border, it was deemed fit that since I would be undertaking the trip to meet with my counterpart, the other members could be ferried on the aircraft I was to use as there would not have been any other means for them to travel with land and air borders closed.

3. Against the background sketched above, and the current reality of national and regional security, it was deemed as a matter that warranted immediate action in the best interests of resolution of the problem in Zimbabwe, at both the state and party levels respectively. Cognizance should also be taken that for the achievement of any solution in Zimbabwe, the defence establishment and the party are critical role players. The deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe has a direct impact on our economy and security and therefore required our collective intervention.

4. Honourable President, submitted for your cognizance and further attention.



N. N. MAPISA-NQAKULA

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS, MP

12 SEPT. 2020

**MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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MILITARY VETERANS

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Honourable Ms Oppah Chamu Zvipange Muchinguri-Kashiri
Minister of Defence and War Veterans
Ministry of Defence
P.O. Box 7713
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Republic of Zimbabwe

Honourable Minister, Colleague and Comrade

**OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE – 08TH TO 10TH
SEPTEMBER 2020**

It gives me great pleasure to present my compliments to the office of the Honourable Minister of Defence and War Veterans of the Republic of Zimbabwe and sincerely hope that this correspondence finds you in good health during this difficult period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Further to our discussion over the weekend, I wish to undertake an official visit to the Republic of Zimbabwe with a delegation of seven (07) over the period 08 to 10 September 2020.

The purpose of my visit is to conduct a bilateral meeting focusing on issues of mutual interest and matters of peace and stability in the region. This will be within the ambit of our existing defence bilateral relations as cemented in the RSA/Zimbabwe Defence Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding. Furthermore, our recent engagement within the SADC Framework on our cooperation in the Democratic Republic of Congo regarding the Force Integration Brigade (FIB) in the recent period will be an important point of discussion, especially since your country is part of the SADC Troika. Our engagement will also play an imperative role in affirming the commitment to enhance and strengthen the existing bilateral relations and cooperation between our Defence Forces and our countries at large within the ambit of our RSA/Zimbabwe Bi National Commission.

The Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans of South Africa avails this opportunity to renew its compliments to the fraternal Ministry of Defence and War Veterans of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Yours fraternally

N. N. MAPISA-NQAKULA, MP
MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS



THE PRESIDENCY: REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
Private Bag X1000, Pretoria, 0001

Our Ref: *President's Act No. 108 of 2020*

Your Ref: *MS/520/3/4/30*

10 September 2020

Private Secretary to
Minister of Defence and Military Veterans
CAPE TOWN

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REQUEST TO TRAVEL TO ZIMBABWE

With reference to your letter dated 07 September 2020, I wish to inform you that the President has approved, by means of President's Act No. 108 of 2020, Minister NN Mapisa-Nqakula's request to travel to Zimbabwe for the period 08 September to 10 September 2020.

The President has also appointed Dr NC Dlamini-Zuma in terms of section 98 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 as Acting Minister of Defence and Military Veterans for the period of Ms NN Mapisa-Nqakula's absence from the Republic of South Africa.

In terms of the directive which was issued by the Presidency dated 27 July 2012, your office is requested to provide the Presidency with a concise report on the visit, within seven days of return. The report must be submitted to Mr Robert Ngobeni at robert@presidency.gov.za and copied to PresidentRSA@presidency.gov.za.



Regards,

GEOFFREY MPHAPHULI
PRINCIPAL STATE LAW ADVISER
LEGAL AND EXECUTIVE SERVICES