



# Namibian Defence Force

## JOURNAL



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April - June 2021



# NDF 31 years of existence

3 decades 'Conquering Challenges, Harnessing Readiness'





## NAMIBIAN DEFENCE FORCE

### VISION

The NDF envisions developing and maintaining a small, highly mobile and professional force which excels in service through discipline, vigorous training, possession of modern armament and is ready to defend and guarantee the security of the motherland.

### MISSION

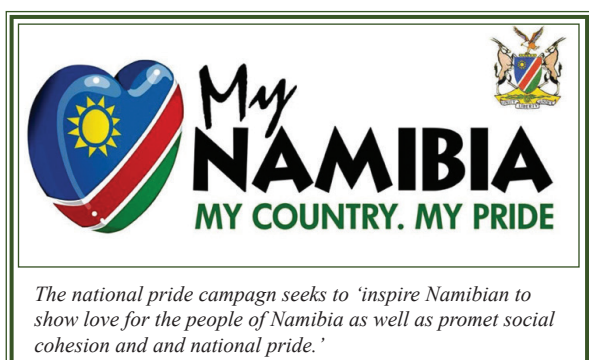
The primary mission of the NDF as enshrined in the Constitution, Chapter 15, Article 118, is to defend the territorial integrity and national interests of Namibia. Its secondary roles include assisting civil power and local authorities in domestic support operations when required, and to undertake SADC, AU and Peace Support Mission.

### CORE VALUES

- Patriotism and Dedication
- Respect for Rule of Law
- Integrity
- Transparent and Accountability
- Professionalism
- Teamwork and Cooperation

### MOTTO

*'Train Hard, Fight Easy'*



# NDF Journal

*April*  
↓ **2021**  
*June*

No. 2 of 2021

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*Vice President, His Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba inspecting NDF's 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Parade at Lt Gen Dimo Hamaambo Garrison in Grootfontein on 02 June 2021*

NDF Paratrooper displaying parachute free-fall tactics at the NDF 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary celebration in Grootfontein



# Editor's viewpoint



*At the onset, let me warmly welcome our new minister, Hon. Frans Kapofi, back to his roots and at the ministry where he began his civil service journey. I can say, it is a government institution that no one can introduce to him. As a Public Relations Officer, I am at the right position to give an account of his time in the Ministry of Defence back in the days, but let me leave it to page 10 where his distinguished political journey leading to his new appointment as our minister is put in context. The MODVA staff wishes the hon minister a hearty leadership.*

*In Addition, we congratulate Dr. Wilhelmine Shivute on her new appointment as the Executive Director of Defence and Veterans Affairs effective 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. She has already assured us of her capability as she has been indispensable to the ministry as our deputy executive director. Therefore, there is no doubt that she will serve with distinction and continue to make an invaluable contribution to the growth of our institution and the government as a whole, as our Accounting Officer.*

*Happy NDF 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary to men and women in uniform. Looking back to the heydays of our force, the NDF has graduated from being a mere military entity to a fully fledged armed force. Thanks to the pioneers of our force for laying down a strong foundation that serves as a catalyst for NDF capacity and capability. I take my hat for all the NDF members for coming a long way to establish a unified and battle-ready force.*

*The escalating Covid - 19 related deaths is a worrisome trend and really put our society on its knees. Simply means, our attitudes toward the scourge should change in order to see the end of the deadly virus. The only way to curb the scourge is to abide by the regulations put in place and more importantly to get vaccinated. The conspiracy theory surrounding the vaccine: that those who received the jabs face severe side effects and likely not to live longer, promote canarge in society and if this unfortunate connotation becomes a perspective, efforts by the government to curb the spread of the virus will be in vain. The Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) has already completed his sinopharm vaccine on 16 June. Get vaccinated to protect yourself and others from Covid-19. It is the right thing to do.*

*On a sad note though, We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of our former CDF, Lt Gen (rtd) John Mutwa who died in a Katima Mulilo Hospital in June. Gen Mutwa has been the defence force chief since 2013 until he handed over the reign to Air Marshal Martin Pinehas in 2020. His legacy of integrity, eloquence, military bearing and stewardship will live on. In his inaugural speech during the army change of command parade where he took over from Maj Gen Peter Nambundungah in 2011, the late Mutwa said, "An Army's ability to fight and win the war does not solely depend on weapons and training alone. It also rests on the attitude or climate of units, leaders and soldiers," Of course, this statement sum up his military professional persona.*

*Furthermore, Condolences go to the families of all NDF members who demised in line of duty. We also pay our tribute to all citizens who died from Covid-19 related illnesses.*

*'May their souls rest in eternal peace!'*

*Finally, let me close off with a quote I have extracted from the World Health Organization Director General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus' remarks to the Security Council on the Covid-19 Pandemic in New York, April 2020. "The pandemic poses a significant threat to the maintenance of international peace and security - potentially leading to an increase in social unrest and violence that would greatly undermine our ability to fight the disease." This sentiment speaks to defence forces. If we (soldiers) do not abide by the Covid - 19 regulations, and fail to put our weight behind the law enforcement agencies's efforts to enforce measures put in place, our effort to the maintenance of peace and security will be compromised.*

*A sick nation cannot defend itself from adversaries.*

*Is not too late to take action. Let's be vaccinated, comply with measures and most of all, be leaders on the Covid-19 front-line alongside other essential service providers.*

*Have a splendid time and enjoy reading NDF Journal*

*I salute you!*





**PROTECT YOURSELF**

**PROTECT OTHERS**

*Vaccination reduces the chance of onward virus transmission*



**GET COVID-19 VACCINE**  
**SAVE LIVES!**

*Being vaccinated contributes to the  
**FORCE's** dynamic and the  
safety of your **COLLEAGUES**, your  
**FAMILY** and your **COMMUNITY***





His Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba delivering the Head of State” keynote address

Wing Commander Emilie Simon who was the NDF 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary parade second - in - command complimenting parade commander Given Liyali Numwa

# NDF

## 31 YEARS OF EXISTANCE

*“The NDF observes in all its operations, respect of the rule of law and human rights, deeply conscious of its accountability to the three braches of the State including the Legislature and the Judiciary,” Head of State*

BY ....

The 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Namibian Defence Defence on 02 June 2021 at the Lt Gen Dimo Hamaambo Garrison in Grootfontein was not just an event

to recount the force’s trajectory, but it was also an opportunity for the pioneers to celebrate their hard-earned accomplishments in terms of the capacity and capability of the defence force.

The anniversary brought together old friends, compatriots and comrades to take stock of what transpired over the past 31 years in the anal of the NDF history and to witness the force’s capability through





drill, weapon and aerial displays as well as free fall exhibition. It was a day on which the nation celebrates the historic institution, built on the backs of the gallant men and women whose courage and patriotism delivered the promise of freedom to all Namibians. Following independence in 1990, after the war of liberation struggle had been fought and won, the democratic government was faced with a daunting task of creating a national defence force. This was made possible through the policy of national reconciliation and as a result, the NDF was born as a conventional army capable of protecting the independence of Namibia. This achievement is underscored in the 31st anniversary theme: 'Conquering Challenges, Harnessing Readiness'. This essence purports the NDF ability to overcome internal and external challenges while at the same time being able to maintain vigilance and operational preparedness to fulfill the role of safeguarding the country's independence.

As head of State and the Commander-In-Chief of the NDF, His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, it was a befitting occasion to deliver the state of defence force address, to highlight the NDF 31 years' trajectory and express his intention and desire on the force's future. However, his address did not entertain ill-behaviour nor tolerate laziness among the uniformed members.



Parade comprises of all arms of service, quarter guard, brass band and colour party march - pass during the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary ceremony

On his keynote address delivered by the Vice President, H.E. Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, H.E. Dr. Hage Geingob highlighted significant military achievements the nation has been enjoying since the establishment of the force. One aspect the president has alluded to is that the NDF has been performing its legitimate constitutional role of providing security to both the State and all citizens within the framework of democratic process, systems and institutions under the control of the democratically elected Executive. "The NDF observes in all its operations, respect of the rule of law and human rights, deeply conscious of its accountability to the three

branches of the State including the Legislature and the Judiciary," the President said.

His Excellency Dr. Geingob was aware of the new defence forces' roles emerging from an increasing regional conflict, whose nature, character and tone are different from conventional warfare, thereby posing new challenges to conventional armies. "As C-I-C, I am aware that the new roles and responsibilities create opportunities for the NDF to extend its role and enhance the competencies of its personnel. I am also aware that these new roles create new demands which require funding, training and retooling," Dr. Geingob said, adding that the evolving security



Parade forms-up in honour of NDF 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary



environment and the emergence of new roles in line with a changing world require the acquisition of appropriate defence capabilities for the modernisation of the NDF.

Based on the emerging roles and opportunities that hastened military challenges, the President said the government would continue to support the NDF in carrying out its important and crucial mandate of protecting the nation and securing its territorial integrity, adding that “we are required to do more with less and become innovative in our endeavours to fulfill our roles. I am therefore pleased to note that the NDF continues to carry out its mandate optimally without compromising the integrity of our national security, despite limited resources.”

Given the fact that the defence force is the lifeblood of the national security and an institution that guided by the rule of law and the great national trust and responsibility bestowed upon the NDF, as the custodian of the Namibia’s Independence, the president said it was equally expected that NDF members demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism and discipline at all times and ensure that issues of ill-discipline, mistreatment of civilians, and unpatriotic behavior find no room among the members of the defence force. “To our military men and women, you are the pride of the nation. You are an integral pillar of our governance architecture and thus the government will continue to support you in the execution of your duties. You are expected to act with absolute discipline, professionalism and integrity in order to maintain the respect and good standing of

Weapons display procession at the parade



the Republic of Namibia in the international community,” the President stressed, while informing the soldiers that the system would continue to enhance human capital and infrastructure development as well as improve discipline in order to achieve a modernised army, air force and navy “on par with the best our continent has to offer.”

The president’s statement also appealed to defence force management cadres and commanders alike to be smart enough and goal directed in the use of limited funds to further transform the force into a truly representative institution of the national ethos of inclusivity, unity, freedom and patriotism. He said: “It is very important that the NDF must

be seen as all-embracing national institution which reflects the values of the Namibian State, and to whom all Namibians regardless of region, tribe or political affiliation are beholden as a national sanctuary of safety and security,” clearly categorized that the conflict in Mozambique is not limited to that of SADC member state only but they are raging in some other countries in Africa such as in the Sahel region including rural Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger’s South West. Against this background, His Excellency Hage Geingob said the military preparedness of the NDF and the maintenance of the highest standards of professionalism among officers and soldiers is utmost



Dr. Nangolo Mbumba (blue suit) with CDF - Air Marshal Martin Pinehas and other dignitaries observing the parade march-pass



importance. “Consequently, the NDF must continuously train and improve its soldiers in terms of physical, and mental operational readiness. It also necessitates that the NDF must establish the required cooperation linkages with their counterparts among the friends of Namibia, through its defence attaches to ensure that the NDF Command is well-informed, and is able to identify and eliminate timely, any threat to the safety and security of the Namibian State,” he said.

His Excellency the President however commended the NDF on the assistance rendered to civil authorities in the fight against crime and other security challenges and the invaluable contribution toward the maintenance of international and regional peace



Air Force helicopters performing aerial display during in Grootfontein

and security by participating in the UN, AU and SADC sanctioned peace support operations and missions in Africa. “We are aware that peace in our country, region, continent and

Namibia and Word,” C-I-C said.

Sighting the 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the NDF were the retired generals and senior officers; Service Chiefs; members of Diplomatic Corps;



Embracing the NDF Day were: From left - Lt Gen Sebastian Ndeitunga, Inspector General of Nampol; Lt Gen (rtd) Martin Shali, former CDF; Air Vice Marshal Teofilus Shaende, Air Force Commander; Commissioner General Lukas Tuhafeni Hangula, Namibia Correctional Service Deputy Commissioner; Maj Gen Matheus Alueendo, Army Commander and Rear Admiral Alueendo Amungulu, Navy Commander

world, can only thrive when people enjoy their fundamental human rights and freedom. As a people who experienced the brutality of colonialism, we do not take peace and freedom lightly and for this reason, NDF will continue to carry out its obligation and responsibility to ensure a freer and more peaceful

Otjozondjupa and Oshikoto governors and high ranked officials; flanking the Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs, Chief of the Defence Force, generals and senior officers who enjoyed the parade performance, weapon and aerial display as well as free fall by members of the NDF.■



# WELCOME BACK HOME

## *Hon. Kapofi*

**I**t is simply a godsend to reunite with someone with an institutional memory of your institution and possess passion for your profession. This describes the appointment of Hon. Frans Kapofi as Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs (MODVA), effective from 1 May 2021. The Minister is ready to plough back into the organisation where he commenced his civil service calling.

It might be a new or senior appointment but Hon. Kapofi is no stranger in the defence structure as he served as Permanent Secretary of Defence way back from 1990 to 1995. He is one of the pioneers of the Ministry of Defence who have laid a strong foundation for the NDF to be a fully-fledged force today.

Born in 1953 at Onaame village in Ohangwena Region, Hon Kapofi's military experience did not just traverse over five years he spent in the ministry of defence as a permanent secretary. This is a vast experience he earned in the liberation struggle where he carried out various important positions as a combatant of the PLAN.

His Excellency Dr Geingob shows it was beneficial to replace Rear Admiral (rtd) Peter Vilho with Hon. Kapofi as MODVA minister, looked at his long-standing and trustworthy service to the Namibian people above 40 years, dating from the liberation struggle era. The president has no doubts about the new minister's service delivery. "I expect you to execute your duty with honesty and fundamental leadership and drive the performance culture in the ministry. As a minister, you are expected to coordinate and administer the operations of the ministry and the Namibian Defence Force, to defend the territorial integrity and national interests of Namibia and assist Veterans and dependents of deceased veterans through funding, administering and managing the welfare of veterans and dependents," said the President.

Not only that Kapofi is expected to lead the maintenance and improvement of the soldiers and veterans welfare but also, as a well-established civil servant and given his public service experience, president tasked him to overlook the implementation of the government policies "by sourcing local goods and services with particular emphasis on job creation and the empowerment of the youth and women. Engaging and listening to the voice of civil society, particularly grass root organisation with the ultimate goal to improve the living standard of all Namibians."

Minister Kapofi military voyage kicked off way back in 1970's, when he was appointed as Commander of Military Training for Libya Contingent (1977 to 1978) and later became a Chief of Staff: PLAN Forward Headquarters in Cahama, Angola where he served only a year (1978 to 1979) before he was appointed Commander for Task Force Unit at the Namibia Health and Education Centre in at Nyango in Zambia (1979 to 1980). Other positions he held while in exile were; Deputy Chief Political Commissar of PLAN - Lubango, Angola and Head of Political Commissariat - PLAN operational Headquarters, Angola.

Upon returning home from exile, he was appointed as Senior Coordinator-Voters Education: SWAPO Directorate of Elections, Windhoek (1989 to 1990) and after independence he became the first Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, the designation he served from 1990 to 1995, before he was transferred to the Ministry of Prisons and Correctional Services (1995 to 1999). From 2014 to 2015, he served as Special Advisor in the office of the President and in 1999 to 2015, he served as Secretary to the Cabinet and Head of the Public Service in the Office of the President. In 2015 until 2018 he was appointed the Minister of Presidential Affairs and later in 2018, he became the Minister of Home Affairs before the President returned him to Defence Headquarters as Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs. ■



# Defence and Veterans Affairs Budget

**H**on. Kapofi, Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs tabled the ministry's budget for 2021 - 2022 financial year, totaling Six Billion Two Hundred and Eighty Nine Million Nine Hundred and Thirty Nine Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$ 6 289 939 000). An amount of N\$ 5, 428, 595 000 was allocated to defence, while N\$ 861, 3444, 000 intended to cater for veterans' affairs.

The Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs (MODVA) budget was brought before the national assembly on 26 April 2021.

## DEFENCE BUDGET

In the budget statement, Minister Kapofi highlighted the defence roles that require the financial attention in order to strengthen the state defence machinery and advance the maintenance of peace and stability in the country and beyond. Given the constitutional mandate of defending the territorial integrity and national interests, Hon Kapofi explained that the ministry undertakes to develop the Namibian Defence Force (NDF), providing it with necessary resources to ensure deterrence and to be able to project force when required. "The NDF will continue to train, both at home and abroad, and to protect national land, air and maritime spaces. This is to ensure that the development agenda as outlined in Vision 2030, National Development Plan 5 (NDP5), the Harambee Prosperity Plan II (HPP2) and other national policy documents are implemented without external or international interruptions," minister said.

With regard to the provision of assistance to civil power and civil authorities, minister pointed out that the ministry would continue investing in capacitating the NDF participation in the defence and security cluster's joint activities aimed at maintaining law and order. "These include crime prevention and law enforcement operation, and anti-poaching operations. This also includes assisting government institutions and civil communities in times of disasters and calamities," said Hon. Kapofi while highlighting previous NDF undertakings that can be used as motivational factors to the budgetary allocation to the defence. "During the last financial year, 2500 troops, 112 trucks, two (2) boats, 30 hard skinned vehicles, four (4) helicopters, one (1) aircraft and a mobile hospital were deployed during the state of emergencies to assist in enforcing the Covid-19 regulations. The NDF also deployed 50 troops and one (1) aircraft to combat the outbreak of African Migratory Locusts in the Zambezi Region.... "It is also worth noting that since the beginning of the year 2021, 153 NDF personnel and 9 trucks were deployed with O/M/As, to provide different types of support," the minister outlined.

In reference to the above support to civil power and civil authorities, minister said all these undertakings require reasonable financial inputs while stating that contribution to international and regional peace and stability cannot be overlooked because it is the MODVA obligation to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security given the fact that Namibia is a signatory to SADC, AU and the UN. Hon. Kapofi thus highlighted that Namibia continues to actively participate in peace and security initiatives under the auspices of SADC, AU and UN.

The NDF currently has 11 officers serving in Darfur, South Sudan and in Abjei.

## VETERANS AFFAIRS BUDGET

During the previous financial year, the Department of Veterans Affairs received funding for its budgeted programs. These funds were spent on activities aimed at veteran's welfare and keeping the history of the liberation struggle alive.

"These activities include the disbursement of the monthly allowance to qualifying veterans, Individual Veterans' Projects, funerals assistance to families of deceased veterans, education and training grant, medical assistance and counselling, activities related to the Veterans and Appeal Boards, and Research and Documentation of the history of the national liberation struggle amongst others," minister stated adding that they will continue to emphasise once again that "the peace we enjoy in our country today is because of the unwavering contributions by Namibian people who most of them sacrificed their youth to liberate our country. Hence, it is of utmost importance to ensure that the wellbeing of our dear veterans is looked after and to ensure that the history of the liberation struggle is preserved for future generations to come," minister further stated.

Therefore, minister said it is in the same manners that the budget allocated for veterans affairs will be effectively and efficiently utilised to address the plight of the veterans of the liberation struggle by continue initiating, promoting and implementing projects and programmes so as to improve the socio-economic wellbeing of the veterans and preserve the history of the nations liberation struggle.■

# Air Force pays homage to aircrashes victims

A befitting ceremony to honour the Air Force Air crash victims was held on 22 April 2021 at the Air Base Grootfontein and it was a moment to reminisce about the lives of the Namibian Air Force (NAF) members who departed in line of duty. To the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) and the Namibian Air Force (NAF) in particular, it deemed significance to recognise the AF victims of air crashes, for their contribution to the AF development and to dignify their heroic deeds in military operations that ceased their tour of duty on earth.

The agony air disasters in which



A memorial shrine erected at Grootfontein Air Base - Apron in honour of victims of the helicopter crash occurring at that premises - 11 April 2004



CDF laying a wreath at memorial shrine for the helicopter aircrash victims

eleven (11) uniformed members plus two (2) minors perished, are no more occurrences that evoke desolation, conjure anxiety and infuse aerophobia but, are incidences that instill vigor and determination into the air force members, to emulate the heroic deeds of their departed colleagues and keep the NAF in readiness as was a desire for the forerunners.

The Chief of the NDF, Air Marshal Martin Kambulu Pinehas on 22 April 2021 joined the NAF members at the Grootfontein Air Base to unveil the shrine erected at the Grootfontein Apron, to pay homage to NAF members and families who perished in fatal helicopter incident of 2004 and also to pay tribute to the members who died in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) air crash in 1999.

## DRC 'Operation Atlantic' air accidents

The ceremony accounted the 'Operation Atlantic'- DRC air disasters of 15 January 1999, where two NDF helicopters collided in midair due to bad weather. Namibia was one of substantial forces of regional allies propping up the DRC Defence Force (Force armées de la république démocratique du Congo {FARDC}) against Rwandan and Ugandan backed rebels from 1998 to 2001.

The accident happened when the two helicopters H - 702 AND H - 708 transporting allied forces officers collided in midair due to bad weather, instantly killing all occupants including five (5) Namibians, four Zimbabwe Defence Forces' Officers and two Angolan Armed Forces' Officers. The H - 702 was flown by Major H Kapiya with L/Cpl NT Kapona (gunner) onboard while H - 708 was flown by Capt ED Haimbodi and Co-Pilot Flt Lt F Geber in the company of Pte MA Sheya (gunner).





Some family members of grootfontein aircrash victims laying wreaths at the newly established shrine

The mission was to fly allied forces officers to Gwena via Kitanda and subsequently to fly the D/Commander of TAC 1 HQ at Gwena across the Congo River to visit allied troops at Kabumba.

In a separate air accident during the same operation, the NAF aircraft technician, Flt Lt FR Namwiha was shot dead in crossfire with the enemy while onboard NAF Y-12 Transport Aircraft.

## Grootfontein Air Crash

The event also paid homage to the victims of the Grootfontein helicopter crash. On the morning hours of 11 April 2004, the NAF Z-9 helicopter with nine (9) occupants crashed on Grootfontein Air Base runway, killing three at the spot while other three succumbed to injuries later at the hospital.

The air accident claimed instantly the lives of the co-pilot, Flt Lt EN Nghimwenavali, WN Sheya (technician), and member of Nampol, Sgt TN Alweendo while the pilot in command, Sqn Leader ES Angala, Flt Officer JG Hailaula, and two minors (H Amalwa and Mcvine Mwiya) succumbed to third degree burns at a Windhoek Hospital. Sqn Leader V Nashilundo (NAF pilot) and WO II N Kamati (NAF technician) survived the fatal accident.



A memorial shrine honouring the DRC aircrash victims was erected in Grootfontein Air Base vicinity in ---

The Z-9 helicopter was flying from Grootfontein en route to Windhoek to pick up the then Minister of Defence Hon. Nahas Angula, who was scheduled to officiate at the 8th graduation ceremony at the Air Force Technical Center. However, the mission was not to be as the helicopter crashed a few minutes after taking off.

“NDF and the NAF in particular had been dealt with a major blow by these tragic and untimely helicopter incidents. Thus the family of the members and survivors of the incidents, I would like to indicate that we all went through tough times during that period and are still grieving the loss of lives of our colleagues, friends and compatriots.” CDF stressed this during the unveiling of the shrine in the memory of the air crash erected at the airbase, adding that as AF family,

they must remain strong and have courage to move on and have faith in the Almighty God to comfort them to overcome misfortunes of that nature and “entreat that it never happen again,” Air Marshal Pinehas added.

**A shrine in honour of the DRC air disaster victims was erected at the same base in ....** as a site recognising the lives lost in line of duty. “We will forever remember and cherish them all, for the contribution and services they rendered to the NDF and the Namibian nation as well as beyond our borders. Indeed, they were productive members of our society. We have to make sure that their legacies in the NDF are not forgotten by continuing to commemorate their contribution towards the defence force’s development,” CDF further said. ■



# TRIBUTE in honour of LT GEN (rtd) JOHN MUTWA

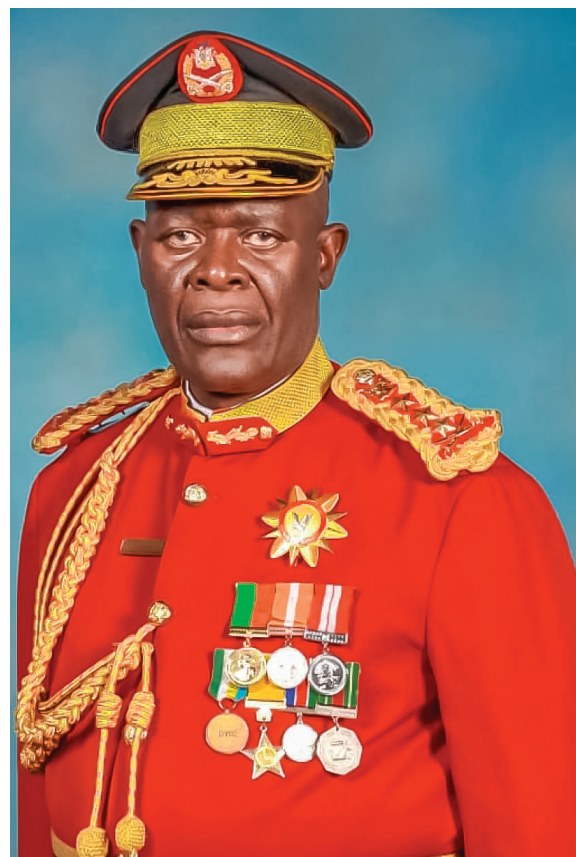
**T**he Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs bid farewell to the former Chief of the Namibian Defence Force, Lt Gen (rtd) John Sinvula Mutwa who passed on 17 June 2021 at Katima Mulilo. His name will go down in the history of Namibia as an outstanding freedom fighter who served the country from a tender age on the front lines of the liberation struggle and as one of the pioneers of the NDF.

For his contribution to the independence of Namibia and the role in the establishment and growth of the NDF, Gen Mutwa was declared a national hero and awarded a state funeral. His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, the President of Namibia and Commander-In-Chief of the NDF also declared a three-day of mourning in honour of General Mutwa. He was laid to rest with full military honour at his home village, Mahundu in Zambezi Region on 01 July 2021.



Ministry of Health and Social Services officials ready to lower the casket containing the mortal remains of Gen Mutwa at Mahundu cemetery

Mourners including a cloud military personnel gathered at his homestead in Mahundu village on 30th June to pay their last respect to a par excellence and celebrate the gallantry of an exceptional fighter and servant of the Namibian People, Lt Gen Mutwa. Throughout his illustrious military career as a combatant of the PLAN and as a soldier in the NDF, General Mutwa who was affectionately known by his comrades, as Onghoshi ya nuka omudimba (an expression of a lion metaphor's fierceness), has exhibited the will, courage, determination, ability and disposition to fight for his countrymen and women, to struggle against the forces of apartheid colonialism and following independence, resist



Late retired Lt Gen John Mutwa

any threats against sovereignty. "Embodied in Lt Gen Mutwa's character were all the qualities that are essential for a leader of fighters: visionary leadership, steadfast courage, tireless energy, unwavering loyalty and exemplary patriotism. It is therefore not surprising that at the distressing news of his passing, former freedom fighters, retired and active soldiers, as well as civilians, have paid tribute to the commitment, leadership abilities and steadfastness," President said in his message of condolences delivered by Hon. Frans Kapofi, Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs during the memorial service.

History tells that, it was for the love of the country and desire for freedom that inspired the former CDF to pursue a career as a soldier and choosing a soldiering profession has always been a honourable decision "but choosing to be a soldier in wartime is a sign of absolute bravery and patriotism President said adding that the curriculum vitae of gen Mutwa speaks for itself and the list of his accomplishments, his accolades, medals and senior appointments and positions only tell half of the story. "For his story cannot be completed without acknowledging that while he was a leader and commander, to many men and women, he was a family man," the Head of State explained.





Col Selma Mutwa (black/white) the widow of late Gen Mutwa in a company friends, relatives and dignitaries arriving at the memorial service



Family members and dignitaries observing burial proceedings



Children of late retired Gen Mutwa delivering their tribute during the memorial service

Gen Mutwa received his basic military training at Kongwa Training Centre in Tanzania in 1976, thereafter; he was enlisted as Officer Cadet and commissioned as an officer in 1978. Part of his advanced military training, involved attending the Party School in the former Soviet Union where he studied political science and leadership as well as intelligence and later counter intelligence courses in the former Yugoslavia. This education background combined with military expertise laid a foundation for Gen Mutwa, who throughout his career, always tried to advance his training both militarily and academically.

In 1990, he joined the NDF as a pioneer with a rank of lieutenant Colonel and appointed assistant director: Military Intelligence.

In 1994 he was reassigned as the Commanding officer of the Army's Logistics Support Battalion at the Army Grootfontein with the same rank. In 1996 he was promoted to Colonel and appointed Army Chief of Staff in the office of the Army Commander. In 1998 he was then redeployed as the Army Chief of Staff: Personnel and Logistics, in this position he was then deployed to Operation Atlantic, Namibia's contribution to the SADC Allied forces to the DRC during the Second Congo War. While deployed in DRC he was appointed the Chief Of Staff of the SADC Allied Forces between 1999 and 2000 and seconded as a commissioner on the Joint Military Commission on DRC in 2000. In 2004, he was appointed the Defence Attaché to Angola. In 2006 he was promoted to Brigadier General and appointed the Chief of staff Logistics at Defence HQ. Gen Mutwa was appointed Commander of the Army in April 2011. At this occasion, he was promoted from Brigadier General to Major General. He served in that position until 31

December 2013, when he took over the position as Chief of the NDF from Lieutenant General Epaphras Denga Ndaitwah. He was at the helm of the NDF until 2020 when he retired and was succeeded by Air Marshal Martin Pinehas.

Due to his dedication towards the cause of independence and contribution to the development and growth of the NDF, Lt Gen Mutwa, was honored with the following accolades: Excellent Order of the Eagle, First Class; Namibian Army Pioneer Medal; Mandume Ya Ndemufayo Operation Medal; Independence Medal; Army Ten Years' Service Medal; Army Twenty Years' Service Medal; Campaign Medal and NDF Commendation Medal.

The NDF rank and file, and the entire nation are proud to honour Lt Gen Mutwa for his contribution to the attainment of freedom and the establishment of the constitutional democracy in Namibia. "Long live his memory and legacy. May his courage, commitment, intelligence, integrity, and patriotism continue to permeate throughout the rank and file of the NDF. Namibia will forever hold him in grateful remembrance," H.E. Dr. Geingob's expressed in his message of condolences to the family, friends and comrades of the late Gen Mutwa concluded.■





Outgoing and incoming commanders of Composite Depot complimenting the officiating authority, Chief of the Defence Force Air Marshal Martin Pinehas (left) at the change of command ceremony

## COLONEL SHIKWENA *takes reign of Composite Depot*

Colonel Pinehas Natangwe Shikwena took command of the Composite Depot from the outgoing commander Group Captain Isai Lamberd Peter who hangs up his boots after 31 years in NDF uniform including two years as commander of the Composite Depot.

At the change of command ceremony, Col Shikwena pledged to discharge his duty with loyalty, honest, diligent, to look after the welfare of members under his command and be accountable and responsible to the store holding unit of the NDF. He also assured the defence leadership of his commitment towards training and grooming his subordinates in order to enhance their command responsibilities, capacity building and administrative management skill. "I am envisioned to implement proper logistic planning in terms of acquisition, accounting, supply, purchasing, technical services, fleet management and disposal," the new commander stressed, adding that he is charged with the responsibility of controlling the store and equipment of the defence force in accordance with the with accounting procedures in the 'State Finance Act, Treasury Instruction and Uniform Stock Control System.'

As commander of the NDF main store, Col Shikwena said he would exert utmost security of the unit in a transparent and professional manner. "I am very fortunate to continue building on the foundation laid by my predecessors to advance the mission and vision the defence force, hence I will focus on the principles of Logistics which are the Foresight, Economy, Flexibility, Simplicity, and Cooperation. By doing so, I must remember that logistic is a science of planning and carrying out the movement and maintenance of the force," he said.

The new Composite Depot Commander was born in 1973 at Iikokola village in Omusati Region. He joined the NDF in 1996 and occupied various positions, amongst

others, Directing Staff - Junior Division (Namibia Command and Staff College (NCSC), Directing Staff Senior Division NCSC, Head of External Complaint at the Defence Headquarters - Directorate of Inspectorate.

He holds a Diploma in Police Science (Namibia University of Science and Technology formerly Polytechnic of Namibia) Diploma in Defence and Security Studies (University of Zimbabwe); Post Graduate in Defence and Strategic Studies (University of Namibia); Diploma in Artillery Maintenance and Repair (China) and also completed a Junior Staff Course (Military School - Namibia) and Joint Command and Staff Course (Zimbabwe) among others.■



Chief of the Defence Force handing the 'sword' over to Col Shikwena as a symbol of passing authority to incoming commander



## SADC member states agree to deploy troops to Mozambique

*as the regional Standby Force push to put boots on the ground to support Mozambique 'to combat terrorism and acts of violent extremism' in Cabo Delgado province.*

The Extraordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government Southern held in Mozambique on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021, the region agreed to deploy troops to Mozambique to help it tackle escalating violence in the country's north - but offered little specific operational details.

Nearly 3,000 people have been killed and almost 800,000 – half of whom are children – have been forced from their homes in gas-rich Cabo Delgado province since the conflict began in 2017.

SADC Executive Secretary Stergomena Tax said at the end of a one-day summit in Maputo the 16-member bloc of southern African countries had “approved” the deployment of a “Standby Force in support of Mozambique to combat terrorism and acts of violent extremism in Cabo Delgado”.

The standby force is part of a regional defence pact that allows military intervention to prevent the spread of conflict.

## The Delta Variant Isn't Just Hyper-Contagious: It Also Grows More Rapidly Inside You

The delta variant is the most contagious version of the coronavirus worldwide. It spreads about 225% faster than the original version of the virus, and it's currently dominating the outbreak in the United States.

The variant grows more rapidly inside people's respiratory tracts and to much higher levels. Features identified in delta variant which make it more dangerous and concerning than the previous variants are.

- Increased transmissibility
- Stronger binding to receptors of lung cells
- Potential reduction in monoclonal antibody response researchers at the

On average, people infected with the delta variant had about 1,000 times more copies of the virus in their respiratory tracts than those infected with the original strain of the coronavirus, the study reported.

In addition, after someone catches the delta variant, the person likely becomes infectious sooner. On average, it took about four days for the delta variant to reach detectable levels inside a person, compared with six days for the original coronavirus variant.

In the study, scientists analyzed COVID-19 patients involved in the first outbreak of the delta variant in mainland China, which occurred between May 21 and June 18 in Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong province. The researchers measured the levels of virus in 62 people involved in that outbreak and compared them with the levels

The communique from the meeting of the bloc's leaders provided no further details on how many troops would be involved, when they would be deployed or what their role would be, adding only that humanitarian aid must be channeled to those most in need.

The decision brings to an end months of deliberation and disagreement among the bloc about what is needed to stem the violence. While some members, like South Africa, have pushed for military action, others were reportedly more reticent. Mozambique President Filipe Nyusi himself has historically been resistant to foreign boots on the ground.

“The countries that will be involved will most likely be those with the capability to do so, such as regional economic powerhouse South Africa or countries such as Zimbabwe, Namibia and Angola that have participated in other deployments in the past. The troops will perhaps patrolling the Indian Ocean coastline and the border areas with Tanzania – where some of the insurgents are thought to be coming from. Every country in the SADC bloc needs to contribute to the standby force but economically many countries are having a hard time because of COVID-19 pandemic,” said the SADC Executive Secretary Stergomena Tax. ■

Reference:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/6/23/southern-african-nations-agree-to-deploy-forces-to-mozambique>

in 63 patients infected in 2020 with an early version of the virus.

Their findings suggest that people who have contracted the delta variant are likely spreading the virus earlier in the course of their infection. And the scientists underscore the importance of quarantining immediately for 14 days after coming into contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends.

### Precautions to be taken

As countries do everything possible to prevent the spread of the virus, the safety of the people remains in one's own hands. It has become even more important to follow the Covid-19 rules and regulations set by government.

Social distancing, double masking and frequent washing of hands remains salient: Given that the Delta Plus variant is more transmissible and spreads faster than the previous one, maintaining social distance is considered an important factor.

- Wear 'double mask' when you're outdoor and in crowded places.

- Stay Home, Stay Safe mantra to be followed. Avoid going outside or step out, only if necessary.

- Keep your children indoors and ask them not to touch contaminated surfaces.

- Apart from that, wash your hands regularly or sanitize them.

-Or even better, getting fully vaccinated.■

Reference:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2021/07/08/1013794996/why-the-delta-variant-is-so-contagious-a-new-study-sheds-light>



# NDF 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary in picture

02 June 2021

Lt Gen Dimo Hamaambo Garrison  
Grootfontein









# Are you vaccinated for Covid-19?

Being vaccinated is a pledge to protect yourself and others from Covid-19 pandemic



Chief of the Defence Force, Air Marshal Martin Pinehas gets his last doze of Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccination on 16 June 2021 at Katutura State Hospital.

COVID-19  
Vaccine  
injection only

#Get vaccinated  
#Protect yourself  
#Protect others  
#Protect the nation  
#End Covid-19

For information related to the Covid-19 vaccination:

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