



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

VICE-ADMIRAL J. MUDIMU

**ADDRESS AT THE SANDF RESERVE FORCE STRATEGIC
WORK SESSION
16 FEBRUARY 2012:
PRETORIA**

Chief the SA Air Force, Lt Gen C. Gagiano

Chief Corporate Staff, Lt Gen V. I. Ramlakan

Chief Defence Reserves, Maj Gen R.C. Andersen

Chairperson Defence Review Committee, Mr Roelf Meyer

Our International Guests (Heads of Delegation):

The Adjutant General, New York National Guard, Maj Gen
P. A. Murphy

Head of Reserve Forces and Cadets, UK Ministry of
Defence, Commodore R. J Mansergh

Director of the Reserve Force Component, Col A. Y. Amasi

President of the CIOR, Capt J. E. Tenvik

Officials, Flag Officers, Senior Officers Officers, Warrant
Officers and Non Commissioned Officers of the Department
of Defence

Honoured Guests, Colleagues and Friends

On behalf of the Chief of the National Defence Force, it is my pleasure this morning to address you at the commencement of what promises to be a Reserve Force Work Session of strategic note.

In reflecting on the theme of “*Building a Future SANDF Reserve Component for 2030*”, one is mindful that the future landscape is so very different from that of the past.

The ancient legends speak of a landscape quite different to time as we now know it. The voices of the great Nation States of Old, be they Roman, Greek or Persian, tell of decades of great sacrifice and conquest.

Their narratives are filled with accounts of journeys of discovery; of fierce battles and of military manoeuvres so cunning, and so effective, that they are emulated to this very day.

The ancient world was one which knew little of the wonder of antibiotics, or the liberation of space travel. It had yet to grapple with the complexities of world politics and economy.

And yet, it provided so very much which is foundational to all that we are today.

As we reflect on the future, it is perhaps in the shadow cast by the voices of the Ancient epochs, as they echo through time.

After all, this is an echo which, on careful listening, speaks of more than just battle and conquest. It speaks of national fervour, of patriotism and a love for one's Nation which surpasses all. These were peoples whose love for their nation, their tribe or their clan, surpassed even the greatest heart's longing. This was their greatest strength, and this was their legacy.

Ours is a civilisation which enshrines such pursuits as research, science and technology. Libraries and places of learning and healing are found readily in even the most distant reaches of

the world, justice is held as an important societal value and the preservation of life and liberty are sought after in most regions of the world.

Yet, perhaps as a consequence of technological advance, ours too is a world which demands instant access – information is transmitted in a blink of an eye, meals are a matter of convenience, relationships are managed through cell phone and internet communication, and the drive-thru experience is all too familiar to us.

Ours is a time which has lost sight of that national fervour of old. Citizenship, loyalty and patriotism are considered the domain of old men and bitter war poets; certainly not relevant to the youth of today, as they ponder the daily technological intricacies of their lives. We live as individuals, united by limited common agenda, and by the pursuit of advancement.

Patriotism and nationhood, for so long the heart of civilisation, has been consigned to the shadows, all but gone.

Perhaps in recognition of the loss of this centrality to our society, our Government has pronounced itself on such matters as moral regeneration, job creation and youth empowerment.

The emergence of such initiatives as a National Youth Service speak of a recognition of the critical need to restore a sense of patriotism and national pride in our society; a national pride which speaks of selflessness, of communality and of devotion to duty.

It is perhaps also in recognition of this, that the Minister of Defence, the Honourable Lindiwe Sisulu, has pronounced herself on the matter of Reserve Force Revitalisation.

Her indication, during her Budget Vote in Parliament on 13 April 2011, and affirmed during her recent work session, of the enormous priority which Government accords the Reserve Force in general and its transformation and revitalisation in particular, is indeed confirmation that the Reserve Force is a force multiplier of note.

This speaks not only to its range of capabilities, its expertise or its flexibility, all of which will be addressed by our speakers in the forthcoming days, but also to its incredible ability to instil a cultural value of national fervour and patriotism.

Its structure and functions allow for partnerships between civil society and the military entity, able to forge common identity and national pride like none other.

It sees a confluence of all the technological and intellectual advance of civil society, with the cohesive discipline and professionalism so integral to military cultures.

This is a partnership which brings with it so much possibility, allowing the emergence of a synergy of all that is good and constructive.

This is a social–military contract able not only to expand and deepen the range of defence capabilities, but also to transform the structure relations of our society.

Colleagues,

Our Reserve Force Component represents one of the most critical keys to unlocking that which binds us as a society.

The men and women who voluntarily commit themselves to our Reserve component do so in demonstration of patriotism and love for our Nation which transcends their individual agendas.

With their actions, and with their dedication, they commit their lives to expressing the deepest love for our Democracy.

This is a love which has been expressed in so many ways across the decades of our history, and which gave rise to that well-quoted saying by the “father of the American Revolution, Samuel Adams, when he declared:

“The liberties of our country, the freedoms of our civil Constitution are worth defending at all hazards; it is our duty to defend them against all attacks. We have received them as a fair inheritance from our worthy ancestors. They

purchased them for us with toil and danger and expense of treasure and blood. It will bring a mark of everlasting infamy on the present generation – enlightened as it is – if we should suffer them to be wrested from us by violence without a struggle, or to be cheated out of them by the artifices of designing men." -Samuel Adams: 1722-1803"

In the act of sacrificing their time and personal reward to serve our country, whether as junior ratings or senior officers, our Reserve Force affirms the greatest of human values, that of sacrificing personal need and serving the greater community.

These men and women are worthy of our deepest respect and appreciation – they are among the few who are indeed twice a citizen. They are citizens who every day go about their tasks to make ours a better country to live in, but are in addition thereto, prepared to serve our country in its defence of its territory and constitution.

They represent a society of possibility; and we extend to them our deepest appreciation and respect.

And indeed, the possibility which they represent to our future is so well articulated in that which they have accomplished to date.

Reflect for a moment the valuable presence of our Reserve Force elements during Operation CORONA, or again in our region within a number of Peace-support operations where their efforts were so integral to our accomplishment in often complex situations. Be it the FIFA Soccer World Cup 2010, or our efforts in Post Conflict, Reconstruction or Development, their diverse and unique skills are a cornerstone of that which we are and do as a National Defence Force in Safeguarding South Africa for a better life for all”.

These men and women are integral to our military capability and preparedness, willing and able to participate within all dimensions of military activity, be it on board our ships and

submarines, or in our hospitals and places of learning. Their contributions are manifest in every corner of our defence community, and our Services and Divisions could not function without the unique involvement which they bring.

Indeed, their range of influence is extensive, and their potential enormous.

This is clearly articulated in our Reserve Objectives, which give focus to such elements as the ability of the Reserve Force to not only enhance the operational outputs of the SANDF, but also to provide the capacity of force expansion in times of turmoil.

History has proven time and again that decisive victory in battle is not usually accomplished by only a core force. The element which so often is a critical prerequisite to victory, is the ability to expand a force, and to draw upon a range of capabilities and specialist expertise hitherto unavailable.

It is in this way that so many of the great battles of the world have been won, and it is in recognition of this, that we have affirmed the priority of an integrated Reserve component.

Indeed, for some time, we have spoken of the embedded nature of our Reserve Forces, and of the One Force Concept, and certainly, reflecting on the many highlights accomplished to date, it is clear that in some senses words have indeed become action, and a possibility has been realised.

It has become readily established that the Reserve Force with its flexibility, its unique expertise and the values and advances it brings with it, serves to greatly deepen and qualitatively transform the full spectrum of our Defence Programme, providing a cost-effective, sustainable defence capacity.

However, much still remains to be done.

If we are to realise the full fruits of an integrated capable force, comprising the Regular, Reserve and Civilian components, then

first and foremost, the interfaces between the various elements require careful management.

In particular, the men and women within our Reserve Forces, as we have mentioned, are drawn from every sector of civil society. The generosity with which they commit to being twice a citizen brings with it a number of requirements.

These would include adequate funding and structuring, effective administration and supporting legislating arrangements, efficient human resourcing and effective programmes of utilisation and training, to name but just a few. Many of these complexities will be grappled with as you move ahead during the next two days, reflecting on the important matter of revitalisation and transformation.

But perhaps, first and foremost, our deliberations need to be cognisant that the unique contribution offered by our Reserve Force, demands unique and creative systemic solutions, rather than piecemeal action plans and bureaucratic complexity.

By way of illustration, consider, if you will, the matter of training.

It is a frequently-cited notion that military preparedness is a function of relevant training and preparation, and that creative mechanisms need to be structured to allow those within our civil society to access the relevant learning opportunities as efficiently and effectively as possible, and to ensure the adequate levels of intellectual and technological skill and aptitude.

The use of extended class-room based learning is not always particularly effective, nor is it often economically viable. The end-results, furthermore, often fail to deliver the type of Reserve Force capability we seek.

It has thus been recognised that we need to endeavour to create partnerships, able to produce constructive results for all parties, within the context of our National priorities, and most importantly, to enhance our defence capabilities specifically.

A good example of this, and one such constructive partnership which holds the greatest of possibility and promise, is the University Reserve Training Programme.

This establishes a structured means of providing a system for the selection, enlistment and training of men and women with a view to commissioning and appointing junior officers with exceptional leadership potential and academic or technical qualifications into the Reserve component.

Through the process, the capabilities of the SANDF are greatly enhanced, with leaders of the highest potential calibre gaining access into the organisation.

In return, learners are given the opportunity to develop their leadership and interpersonal skills, being exposed to the rich diversity of our military culture and its value system.

This simple example speaks of much of what I have addressed today, in alluding to the powerful nature of a partnership between the military and the civil sectors of our society.

It represents the dynamic convergence of technological and intellectual advance with military discipline and cultural heritage. It speaks of a new era, and of new horizons.

Colleagues, we await the outcome of your important deliberations with great anticipation.

The next two days represent not only an opportunity to constructively engage on the matter of Reserve Force Transformation and Revitalisation.

The forthcoming days represent also the opportunity to author a new landscape, a landscape which speaks of a mechanism for the restoration of national pride and fervour, of patriotism and devotion, to our community, to our Country and to the Democracy which we affirm.

We need to apply ourselves to discussion which seeks to transcend technical complexity, and to move into a realm which allows meaningful action in articulating a social-military contract of the highest order, a contract which will forever ensure that

devotion, service and patriotism are once again the heartbeat of our nation and the core of our societal relations.

This is a task of fundamental importance, it is an indescribable privilege, and we cannot be found wanting.

Colleagues, as we proceed with our deliberations, reflecting on matters of patriotism and duty to our Nation, allow me to conclude with the words of the great French philosopher, biologist and palaeontologist, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin:

“Our duty, as men and women, is to proceed as if limits to our ability did not exist. We are collaborators in creation.”

I wish you well and I thank you.