



**the sandf**

Department:  
Defence  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE EDUCATION TRUST

*By Col Monica Muller (SSO Res F Projects)*

Since the announcement of the establishment of the SANDF Education Trust in October 2013 by the Chief of the SANDF, General Solly Shoke, enormous progress has been made by the Trustees in achieving the following:

- Cash donations to the amount of R3 764 100 have been received.
- Pledges for a further amount of R1 519 999 have been recorded. In this regard President Jacob Zuma, Commander in Chief of the SANDF set an example to the Nation when in his address during the Armed Forces Day on 21 February, he had announced that he will personally contribute R500 000 to the Trust
- 33 Bursaries with a total value of R376 060 have been awarded for the 2014 academic year.
- Audited financial statements have been lodged with the Department of Social Development and distributed to donors.

Bursaries were awarded in the following categories:

- Primary School – 12
- Secondary School – 16
- Tertiary – 5

Seven of the above bursaries were awarded to the dependents of Reserve Force members who died in the execution of their duties.



Photo above: A widow, Mrs T. Sobantu receives a letter from the Trustees of the Trust in which it is indicated that the Trust will contribute towards the school fees of her 2 children.

Eleven applications were received for financial aid to pre-school learners. As the Deed of the Trust, in terms of the Income Tax Act, does not provide for financial aid to pre-school applicants, the Trustees have referred these applications to the SANDF Fund. The SANDF Fund has agreed in principle to provide conditional financial support for the school fees of the applicants who are regarded as being in financial need.

The object of the South African National Defence Force Education Trust is to provide bursaries and scholarships for study purposes to the dependents of the following persons:

- SANDF members killed or severely injured subsequent to 27 April 1994 whilst on official duty;
- Civilian members of the Department of Defence killed or severely injured subsequent to 27 April 1994 whilst deployed in operations with the SANDF;
- Citizens of the Republic of South Africa killed or injured subsequent to 27 April 1994 during the course of an operation of the SANDF, provided that such citizens were not engaged in an activity in opposition to the aims of the SANDF operation.

When considering requests for financial aid, the Trustees apply the following criteria:  
The applicant must be

- a registered/certified dependent of the deceased or severely injured member of the SANDF as reflected on the official data base of the SANDF;
- school going – Primary or Secondary; or
- studying at a registered tertiary institution;
- financially needy (means test will apply); and
- in the case of tertiary studies, display academic potential/progress.

Although the establishment of the Trust was widely communicated within the Department of Defence and to the general public there are still many prospective beneficiaries who are not aware of its existence. For this reason the Trustees have not during 2014 restricted applications to a fixed closing date and applications are considered as they are received.

The closing date for applications for the 2015 academic year will, however, be 15 October 2014.

Projections indicate that the future requirement for the awarding of bursaries annually can increase to an amount between R800 000 and R1 000 000. For this reason fund raising efforts will continue until the interest earned on the capital invested, will keep the Trust sustainable.

Contributions to the SANDF Education Trust can be paid into the following bank account:

Name of Account: Nedgroup Trust

Branch Number: 145209

Account Number: 1452016976

Reference: SANDF Edu Trust and the name of the Donor

Enquiries on the Trust can be directed to Colonel Monica Muller at [sandfedustrust@gmail.com](mailto:sandfedustrust@gmail.com) or telephone number 012 355 5107.