



the sandf

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**SANDF EDUCATION TRUST
WALKING THE EXTRA MILE – A STORY OF HOPE AND DEDICATION**

By Col Monica Muller (Nodal Point SANDF Education Trust)

Photos Cpln M.P. Koliti (AFB Waterkloof)

When Sgt Lulamile Sobantu of 503 Air Squadron was killed in the Drakensberg Air Accident on 5 December 2012, his wife Tamkazi was left behind with five children who were dependent on their late father's income – not only to survive but also to pay for their future education.

After Mrs Sobantu had to evacuate the military house in Thaba Tshwane, she returned to the rural area of Butterworth in the Transkei with her two youngest children Zinette (12) and Mzamo (8). The three older children remained in Pretoria to complete their secondary and tertiary studies.

Chaplain Phumelele (Phumi) Koliti of the Air Force Base Waterkloof became aware of the newly established SANDF Education Trust which was established to financially assist inter alia the dependents of service men and women who have died or have been severely injured in the execution of their duties. He has been spiritually and morally supporting the Sobantu family since the sudden and tragic death of the family's bread winner.

To be considered for educational aid, application forms must be completed and the application must be supported by documents such as proof of income, invoices from schools or institutions, birth certificates, proof of academic progress etc. With Mrs Sobantu living in a remote rural area it was almost impossible to get the message to her.

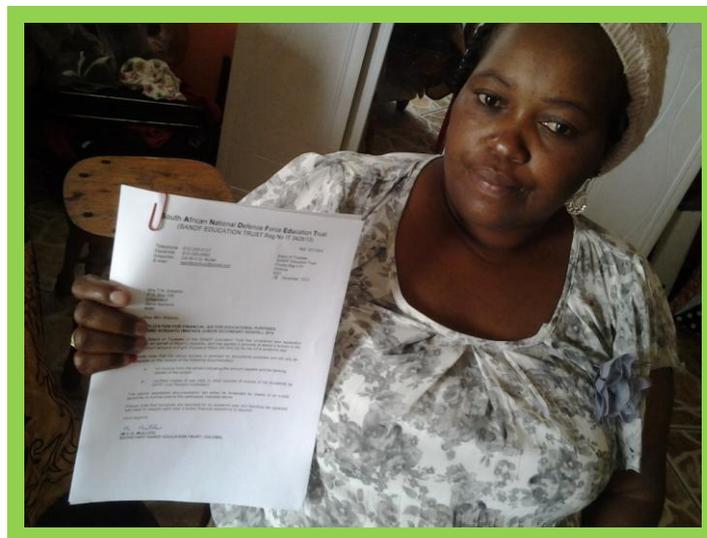
The Implementation Instruction of the Trust promulgated by Chief of the SANDF, General Solly Shoke, however, provides for a support system to assist families in receiving and completing application forms.

With the support of the Chaplain General, Brig Gen Jamangile, the Acting Officer Commanding Air Force Base Waterkloof and the Trustees, Cpln Koliti and Col Monica Muller of the Nodal Point that administers the Trust, designed a plan to reach the family, assist them with the completion of forms and obtaining of the required supporting documents.

This is the story of a Chaplain who walked the extra mile in honour of a fallen soldier and a family in need.



Cpln Koliti has almost reached his destination. In the back ground the rural settlement where Mrs Sobantu and her family live.



With this letter handed over by Cpln Koliti, Mrs Sobantu receives the good news that the Trust will financially assist the Sobantu children to be educated



Mrs Sobantu shares the good news with her children



Zinette and Mzamo Sobantu proudly showing their 2013 school reports to Cpln Koluti



Cpln Koluti assists with the completion of the application forms and other documents



Cpln Koluti with the Principal and Mrs Sobantu in the school where he collects the necessary supporting documents the school needs to provide



A happy mother with her children – now she can also believe that there will be a better future for her young ones



Congratulations Cpl Koliti on a job well done!

On Monday 20 January 2014 the Chaplain reported at Defence Head Quarters with the required documents and these beautiful pictures to tell the story which will not only bring hope to one family but to many more.

It is believed that this report will also motivate serving members to display the same dedication and passion as Cpl Koliti in the role they need to play in support of those who need the financial assistance of the SANDF Education Trust.

Enquiries on the SANDF Education Trust can be directed to Col Monica Muller at the following contact details:

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