

Defence Reserves Division Bids Farewell to a Long Serving Member

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Defence Reserves Division bade farewell at a Gala Dinner to Senior Staff Officer Provincial Office Limpopo, Colonel (Col) Ferdinand Rudolph van Rooyen at Bolivia Lodge in Polokwane on Thursday, 24 May 2018. This prestigious occasion was graced by the attendance of high profile guests such as the Regent of Bolabedu Queenship, Bakhoma T.M. Modjadji, the head of Community Safety Department of Limpopo Provincial Government, Ms N.N. Tsebe, Chief Defence Reserves, Major General Roy Andersen, Director Defence Reserves, Brig General Debbie Molefe, Senior Staff Officers from Defence Reserves Division Headquarters and Provincial Offices, Officer Commandings from different Bases and Units around Limpopo Province, the South African Police Service, Captains of Industry, Defence Provincial Liaison Council (DPLC) members, family and friends of Col van Rooyen.

Great attendance by high profile guests signified the huge contribution Col van Rooyen had made over forty-five years of loyal service to the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). He had many military appointments with the last two being the Officer Commanding of the then Commandos in Polokwane and Senior Staff Officer Defence Reserves Provincial Office Limpopo.

Every guest speaker praised him for the contributions he made in the SANDF and for working relationships he had established with various stakeholders in the province. His son, Mr. B. van Rooyen also commended him on behalf of the family for his loyalty, dedication and representing the family very well throughout his military career despite life challenges. He indicated that the family was proud of his military achievements and will continue to support him during his retirement.

Giving his keynote address Chief Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Andersen described Col van Rooyen as a dedicated, loyal and committed soldier who had made his selfless contribution beyond call of duty and dedicated his life to serving the SANDF for (more than) forty-five years.

He thanked his family for giving him unconditional support and his friends and colleagues for any kind of support they had rendered to him over the years. He concluded his key note address by wishing Col van Rooyen well on behalf of the Chief Defence Reserves Division and for his well-deserved retirement. However, he invited him to join DPLC in the province in order for the SANDF Reserves Force to continue to benefit from his wealth of military knowledge.

Gen Andersen also used the platform to brief the guests about the roles and functions of the SANDF Reserve Force and to update Defence Reserves Division personnel about the current status of the Division, achievements and challenges. He also thanked the members of the Division for their loyal service and encouraged them to make their contributions despite challenges and budget cuts.

By the same token, the occasion was also used to bid farewell to Capt (SAN) Takalani Justice Magonono who has been appointed as an Officer Commanding of Defence Headquarters Unit in August 2017, after having served as SO1 Defence Reserves Provincial Office Limpopo since July 2008.

Delivering his response, Col van Rooyen thanked Chief Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Andersen, Director Defence Reserves, Brig Gen Molefe, his SSO colleagues from both Division and Provincial Offices, Mrs Debra Schutte for her loyalty and unconditional support, his family for their support they had rendered him throughout his military career, friends and colleagues. He indicated that he was pleased with all the praise he had been given and acknowledgements he had received.

He concluded by expressing a word of gratitude to Capt (SAN) Magonono for the dedication and loyal service he had demonstrated during the time he was serving as SO1 Defence Reserves Provincial Office Limpopo. He also thanked him for giving him support and making his job as a Senior Staff Officer easier during his tenure.

This prestigious occasion was concluded with vote of thanks by Director Defence Reserves, Brig Gen Molefe. She thanked more sincerely the Regent of Bolabedu Queeship and all other distinguished guests for having taken time out of their busy schedule to attend the event.

She then concluded by thanking Col van Rooyen for his loyal service to Defence Reserves Division and his family for their support they had rendered throughout his military career.



Col Ferdinand Rudolph van Rooyen.



Maj Gen R.C. Andersen presenting a gift to Col F.R. van Rooyen, appreciating all the efforts and support he gave during his tenure in the office of Chief Defence Reserves Division.



Brig Gen D.S. Molefe, Director Defence Reserves presenting flowers as a token of appreciation to the wife of Col van Rooyen, Mrs Martie van Rooyen.



Director Defence Reserves, Brig Gen D.S. Molefe, delivering the vote of thanks.



Chief Defence Reserves, Maj Gen R.C. Andersen, the Regent of Bolabedu Queenship, Bakhoma T.M. Modjadji, Director Chief Defence, Brig Gen S.D. Molefe celebrating with Col van Rooyen.



Col P. Acutt, SSO Provincial Office Kwa-Zulu Natal, Col E.C. Herandien, SSO Defence Reserves Promotions and Mrs D. Schutte having a chat.



Col F.R. van Rooyen, giving a heart warming response.



Col S. Majombozi, SSO Reserve Force Provincial Office Gauteng greeting the Regent of Bolabedu Queenship, Bakhoma Modjadji.



Col van Rooyen handing over a gift to Capt (SAN) J.T. Magonono.



Group photo of some of the attendees with Chief Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Andersen.