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| **MEDIA STATEMENT****COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE APPLAUDS OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE FOR STANDING FIRM AGAINST FINANCIAL IMPROPRIETY** **Parliament, Thursday, 21 April 2022** - The Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans commended the actions of Maj-General LC Ford who blew the whistle on the illegal importation of Heberon® Alpha R 2B (Human Recombinant Alpha 2B Interferon) by the South African National Defence Force (SANDAF).The committee was briefed yesterday by the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans Ms Thandi Modise on her response on the findings of the Ministerial Task Team (MTT) that was tasked with conducting the investigations into allegations of fraud, corruption and misuse of state funds in the department.The committee further commended the actions of Mr Siphiwe Sokhela who is the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) who queried the violation of the procurement laws and saved the department from massive irregular and wasteful expenditure.The Chairperson of the Committee, Mr Cyril Xaba, said: “We applaud the CFO and the Maj-General for standing firm against the use of taxpayer’s money unlawfully.” The committee heard that the Minister has instructed the Chief of the SANDF and the Secretary for Defence to implement the findings of the MTT and to ensure that those found to have been involved in the illegal acquisition of the drugs are brought to book. It expressed its satisfaction on the work of the MTT and said it will wait for the report on the implementation of the findings.**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS, MR CYRIL XABA** For media enquiries or interviews with the Chairperson, please contact the committee’s Media Officer:Name: Jabulani Majozi (Mr)Parliamentary Communication Services |

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