



# SA ARMY

## UMZIMVUBU REGIMENT

Maintain the Momentum as a Critical Success Factor in Restoring the Dignity of the SA Army to its Rightful Glory

# INTRODUCTION (1/2)

- Following the July 2021 unrest, the SA Army had to be deployed in the Provinces of KZN and Gauteng in order to stabilise the situation.
- Presidential Minutes and Operational Directives were issued for the SA Army to deploy in the affected areas
- The PCDMV held on the 14 September 2022 has dealt with a number of issues around the Umzimvubu Regiment which included the following:
  - Authorisation Papers for the Deployment
  - SA Army Media Statements that was dated 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and 21 July 2021
  - Provisions of the Defence Act, Act 42 of 2002 (as amended) on the employment of different categories of members of the Defence Force
  - The General Regulations for the Reserves dated 02 June 2017 with regards to the enlistment of the Reserves
  - The Call-Up as it happened in Umzimvubu Regiment which included instructions and voice notes in the social media



# INTRODUCTION (2/2)

- Administrative challenges as identified led to senior officers being assigned to visit the Regiment to correct the administrative challenges that were taking place
- The alleged Non-Payment which led to the convening of a Board of Inquiry (BOI)
- Due to additional information/evidence, a follow up BOI was convened
- New Findings and Recommendations are part of this presentation



# SCOPE

- Introduction
- Aim
- Consolidated Statistics
- Progress Regarding Boards of Inquiry
- Findings
- Recommendations
- Discussions/Questions



# AIM

- To brief members of the PCDMV on the progress of the investigation regarding Umzimvubu Regiment and work done on the namelist that was provided to the DoD by the PCDMV



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# CONSOLIDATED STATS (1/2)

UMZIMVUBU CONSOLIDATION STATS AS ON 02 FEBRUARY 2023

S/NO	STATUS		PAYMENT OF MEMBERS	
	ENLISTED	NON ENLISTED	MEMBERS PAID	MEMBERS NOT PAID
1	197	618	114/197	701
	815		815	

FAULTY ID NUMBER	76
DIFFERENT ID NO VS PERSOL	299
DISCHARGED	100
ILLICIT ACTIVITY (SAPS 69i)	218
OTHER SERVICES & DIVISIONS	42
FILE COMPLETE FOR ENLISTMENT	31
UNACCOUNTED FILES	3
INCORRECT F/NO	25
INCOMPLETE ENLISTMENT FORM	113
NOT RECOMMENDED BY FMN BOARD	3
AGE	5
CIVILIAN	9

Rm 1 986 223,83



2/14/2023

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# CONSOLIDATED STATS (2/2)

UMZIMVUBU CONSOLIDATION STATS 02 FEBRUARY 2023

S/NO	STATUS		PAYMENT OF MEMBERS	
	ENLISTED	NON ENLISTED	MEMBERS PAID	MEMBERS NOT PAID
1	196	619	113/196	702
	815		815	

FAULTY ID NUMBER	76
DIFFERENT ID NO VS PERSOL	299
DISCHARGED	100
ILLCIT ACTIVITY (SAPS 69i)	220
OTHER SERVICES & DIVISIONS	42
FILE COMPLETE FOR ENLISTMENT	30
UNACCOUNTED FILES	3
INCORRECT F/NO	25
INCOMPLETE ENLISTMENT FORM	113
NOT RECOMMENDED BY FMN BOARD	3
AGE	5
DID NOT FORM PART OF HEAD COUNT	7

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# PROGRESS REGARDING THE BOI

- Deriving from the list provided to the DOD by the Committee on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2022, additional information had to be sourced and progress was made (as per BOI#2)
- Therefore, this presentation will cover the latter observations (Findings and Recommendations)

**NOTE. 9 members of the 815 have since passed on**



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# FINDINGS (1/6)

- The media statements from Chief SA Army Corporate Communication dated 14 July 2021 indicated that all Reserve Force members must report for duty at first light on 15 July 2021 at their respective units as there were uncontrolled events which included looting in KZN and Gauteng provinces
- SA Army Infantry Formation (Inf Fmn) generated instruction no 306/2021 dated 19 July 2021 for Op PROSPER, with the mission “Officers Commanding of SA Army Infantry Formation Reserve Force units are to call up all Reserve Force members under their command and recruit interested former soldiers into their units from 13 July to 12 October 2021 in order to form part of Op PROSPER and thereafter, withdraw back to their unit lines and continue with their normal routine.” Execution: Par 4.a “Phase one (Preparations). This phase will take place from 13 and 14 July 2021. It will involve calling up of units members, administration thereof and recruiting of former SANDF members into reserve force.”
- SA Army Inf Fmn released an instruction no 323/2021 dated 5 August 2021 for the activation of Reserve Force Call-up to be utilised in Op PROSPER



# FINDINGS (2/6)

- SA Army Headquarters (SA Army HQ) generated an instruction no 53/2021 dated 26 July 2021 for guidelines in terms of Reserve Force Call-up for utilisation during Op PROSPER
- Members started reporting at Umzimvubu Regiment from the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2021 and the last group left on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2021
- Enlistment and Call-up processes were not followed by SA Army Inf Fmn, together with Umzimvubu Regiment
- SA Army Inf Fmn and Umzimvubu Regiment further deviated from Instr 306/2021 dated 19 July 2021 that stated in the execution part, that only SANDF members should be recruited for enlistment, but also enlisting members that were not part of the SANDF
- As a result, this deviation resulted in disadvantaging members from TBVC and Non Statutory Forces, because their force numbers did not conform to be captured in the DOD system



# FINDINGS (3/6)

- On the first round of the BOI at Umzimvubu Regiment, the OC, Lt Col R.A. Keeton, invited the leader group which was composed of the enlistees, that was appointed by him as the command group, to be interviewed by the members of the Board
- On the second visit by the Board members to Umzimvubu Regiment, the Board had an opportunity to interview the exact leader group of Umzimvubu Regiment, it became clear that they were side lined during the first interviews
- Voice notes and WhatsApp messages were used to recruit reserves, as well as members for enlistment
- Members that were not yet enlisted were given authority by means of specimen signatures to sign for purchasing of bus tickets from home to Mthatha and from Mthatha to home. Authority was given to senior unit members to do transactions
- Members that were not enlisted, were utilised in key positions within the structure of the unit, such as acting OC, 2IC, Log Officer, TPT Officer, HR Officer, Adjutant, RSM and Chief HR Clerk



# FINDINGS (4/6)

- The OC Umzimvubu Regiment, was withdrawn from the deployment in Durban (Op PROSPER) by the acting GOC SA Army Inf Fmn to attend to the situation at Umzimvubu Regiment
- A team was sent from SA Army HQ, consisting of the GOC Army Support Formation (GOC ASF), Inf Fmn Director Force Preparation and two senior officers to attend to the situation of Umzimvubu Regiment
- GOC ASF, Director Force Preparation, OC Army Support Base Port Elizabeth (OC ASB PE), OC Umzimvubu Regiment and a senior officer held a meeting at 14 SAI Bn unit lines and thereafter, GOC ASF went to address all enlistees that were in 14 SAI Bn at the parade ground, where he indicated that all enlistees will be paid in cash before leaving the unit
- SA Army camouflage uniform was issued to some members who were not yet enlisted



# FINDINGS (5/6)

- 400 mattresses were bought from Commercialized Mess funds at ASB PE, without following the correct procedures, to the amount of R 199 870.00
- UECC meetings were not taking place and procurement was being conducted without following processes, by the OC. OC personally draw CAS and sometimes deposit it into the personal account of a procurement member to do purchases
- Reserve Call-up meetings are taking place, but the OC also called members outside the agreement of the meeting



# FINDINGS (6/6)

- **The State incurred the following costs during the whole process:**
  - Enlistees bus tickets movement to and from Mthatha (**R 233 000.00**)
  - Military transport costs taking members home (**R 81 342.00**)
  - Rations costing from commercialised mess (**Rm 4 275 490.00**)
  - Administration and logistical needs/requirements (**R 54 498.00**)
  - Enlistees salary projected by Umzimvubu Regiment (**Rm 23 920 148.82**)
  - The envisaged total costs (**Rm 28 564 478.82**)
- **Utilisation of a Regular Force member in the Reserve Force unit, while still on strength at his unit**



# RECOMMENDATIONS (1/4)

- The Board hereby recommends that Formations under SA Army command should not deviated from the instructions issued by their Higher HQ
- Due to the instruction issued by SA Army Inf Fmn no 306/2021 which was signed by the acting GOC, the following irregularities took place during the execution of the instruction:
  - Appointment of the enlistees in key positions in the leader group by OC, Umzimvubu Regiment without authority, i.e. acting OC, 2IC, Log Officer, Tpt Off, HR Off, Adjutant, RSM and Chief HR Clerk, therefore, the Board recommends that disciplinary action be take against the OC Mzimvubu Regiment
  - Issuing of specimen signatures by OC Mzimvubu Regiment to enlistees for purchasing of bus tickets for enlistees from home to the unit and back home. The member deviated from the SANDF policies and therefore, the Board recommends that consequent management should be applied



# RECOMMENDATIONS (2/4)

- SA Army camouflage uniform was issued to some members who were not yet enlisted. The member issuing uniform acted against the policy and the Board hereby recommends that disciplinary action be taken against the member
- Feeding of people in the commercialised mess that were not on unit strength, the Board recommends that consequent management be taken against the acting GOC Inf Fmn as a result of instruction no 306/2021 dated 19 July 2021 for Op PROSPER
- The logistical equipment that was provided for the enlistment process of the members. Giving access to the IT equipment of the DOD to the enlistees, which is a breach of information security, therefore the Board recommends that disciplinary actions be taken against the OC Mzimvubu Regiment, for misuse and unofficial driving of military transport by enlistees
- 400 mattresses were bought from commercialised mess at ASB PE without following the correct procedures, to the amount of R 199 870.00. The Board recommends that consequent management be taken against the OC ASB PE for contravening NPF processes





# RECOMMENDATIONS (3/4)

- Utilisation of a Regular Force member who was not on strength at Umzimbuvu Regiment, the Board recommends that disciplinary actions be taken against the OC Mzimvubu Regiment, as well as the affected member for contravening policies and procedures of the SANDF
- The Board recommends that the below costs incurred by the SA Army be recovered from SA Army Inf Fmn:
  - Enlistees bus tickets movements to and from Mthatha (**R 233 000.00**)
  - Military transport costs taking members home (**R 81 342.00**)
  - Ration costing from commercialised mess (**R 4 275 490.00**)
  - Administration and logistical needs/requirements (**R 54 498.00**)
- It is recommended that all members that were at Umzimvubu Regiment for the duration should be paid and those that meet the criteria be enlisted into the Reserve Force as per SA Army Inf Fmn Instr 306/2021 dated 19 July 2021



# RECOMMENDATIONS (4/4)

- It is recommended that, the enlistment per the instruction of SA Army Inf Fmn Instr 306/2021 dated 19 July 2021 was meant only for former SANDF members, therefore, any member that was enlisted who did not form part of former SANDF, that enlistment should be declared null and void
- Over and above, the following came up when interviewing the witnesses:
  - UECC meetings were not taking place and procurement was being conducted not according to processes by the OC Mzimvubu Regiment. The OC Mzimvubu Regiment personally draw CAS and sometimes deposit it into the personal account of a procurement member to do purchases. The Board recommends that, corrective measures be taken against the OC Mzimvubu Regiment
  - Reserve Force Call-up meetings are taking place in the unit however, the OC Mzimvubu Regiment also called up members outside the agreement of the meeting which contravenes the Call-up processes of Reserve Force members. Therefore, the Board recommends that, corrective measures be taken against the OC Mzimvubu Regiment





# Questions ?



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