



21 December 2023

Dear Speaker,

EMPLOYMENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE FOR SERVICE IN FULFILLMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA TOWARDS THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY MISSION TO SUPPORT AND ASSIST THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO OVER THE PERIOD 15 DECEMBER 2023 TO 15 DECEMBER 2024 UNDER OPERATION THIBA

This serves to inform the National Assembly that I have employed Two Thousand Nine Hundred (2900) South African National Defence Force (SANDF) members for service in fulfilment of an international obligation of the Republic of South Africa towards the Southern African Development Community under Operation THIBA in order to support and assist the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in her fight against Illegal Armed Groups (IAG) and negative forces in the Eastern DRC, and ultimately restore peace and security in the highly affected areas of North Kivu and South Kivu.

This employment was authorised in accordance with the provisions of section 201(2)(c) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996.

The employment will be over the period 15 December 2023 to 15 December 2024.

The expenditure expected to be incurred for this employment amounts to **R2 371 108 511** (Two Billion, Three-Hundred and Seventy-One Million, One-Hundred and Eight-Thousand, Five-Hundred and Eleven Rand Only).

I will communicate this report to members of the National Council of Provinces and wish to request that you bring the contents hereof to the attention of the National Assembly.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa
President of the Republic of South Africa

Ms Nosiviwe Noluthando Mapisa-Nqakula, MP
Speaker of the National Assembly
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa
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