

DS/R/521/7 PCD



# defence

Department:  
Defence  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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Secretary for Defence  
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26 June 2009

Mr. M.S. Booie, ANC MP  
Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans  
P O Box 15  
Cape Town  
8000

**RE: COMBAT READINESS BRIEFING – FORMAL RESPONSE REQUIRED**

1. The above matter and e-mail received from the PCD on 23 June 2009 (copy attached) refers.
2. The Department did not receive the correspondence for the abovementioned briefing until 23 June 2009. Notwithstanding this the issue of briefing the PCD on Combat Readiness was discussed at a meeting with the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans and with the CSANDF last week where it was decided that as both the Minister and the Deputy Minister had not been briefed on this matter it would be not be possible to brief the PCD.
3. The text message was communicated purely to give advance notice of the decision taken by the Minister at that meeting. There was every intention that the decision would be communicated to the PCD, formally. The text message should not be construed as the official manner in which communication is conducted with the PCD.
4. It was decided that both the principals i.e. the Minister and Deputy Minister will have to be briefed first and thereafter a briefing to the PCD could be arranged. It was also concluded that the MOD would communicate this position to the PCD last week however it now appears that such communication was not made timeously.
5. The Department had also sought a closed meeting on this matter because the information to be disclosed is of a sensitive nature. Such disclosure if made public could compromise national security. It is in this vein that the request for a closed meeting is made. It is hoped that the PCD will understand and appreciate the very unique role the SANDF plays in the protection of the territorial integrity of South Africa.
6. The PCD's feedback on the request for a closed meeting is now awaited and we look forward to arranging a mutually agreed upon date for the above briefing after consultation with the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans.

29/06/2009 09:45

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*T.E. Motumi*

**(T.E. MOTUMI)**

**ACTING SECRETARY FOR DEFENCE: DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

For Info:

MOD  
CSANDF  
CDPSP