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MOTIVATION FOR DISCUSSION ON BENEFITS RELATING TO MILITARY VETERANS**BACKGROUND**

1. Military Veterans from The Non-Statutory Military Formations need to be understood in the following light:
 - 1.1. Those who went abroad soon after 1960, forsook their country of origin and surrendered their citizenship of the Republic of South Africa. Such a step is not taken lightly, and was accompanied by catastrophic disruptions of family and cultural ties.
 - 1.2. Some of the veterans who took along their families into exile also took on a heavy responsibility which was accompanied by much loss, uncertainty and anxiety.
 - 1.3. The 1976 group were mostly aged 15 to 23 years, and had not completed their secondary education, and elected to go into a risky kind of life without the support of their families, and with no certainty of where they would end up. As they were still developing into mature adults, this disruption in their early adulthood maturation adversely affected their psychological wellness and their resultant personality as adults.
 - 1.4. The physical environments which the veterans experienced in exile, as well as the protracted, incessant anxiety regarding their safety, the safety of their families back home and their future, constituted **an extremely traumatic military experience.**
 - 1.5. If the veterans above were getting a monthly salary, were able to return to their families every two to six months to re-bond, got radio and letter contact with their loved ones, were able to have a State Guarantee to get bonds on houses, were able to get State Loan Bursaries to educate their dependants whilst they continued to do soldiering in the way that Veterans from the Statutory Formations were fortunate to do, then their stressful military experiences would not have been extreme.
2. Like the illustrious departed Professor Kader Asmal, the Struggle Military Veterans are not beggars but Heroes, and ought to be revered as such. All of them gave to South Africa their sweat, tears, blood, love and lives. They all deserve Recognition, Support and Empowerment even if they are NOT sick, impaired or disabled. They sacrificed, served with honour and discipline to reclaim for us all, the human dignity they too must enjoy abundantly.

HEALTH BENEFITS RELATING TO MILITARY VETERANS

3. THIS HOUSE IS ASKED TO REPHRASE 5(1): *The benefits relating to a military veteran and his or her dependants are the following:*
 - (a) **Compensation to military veterans** who sustained disabling injuries or **SEVERE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND NEURO-PSYCHIATRIC TRAUMA** or who suffer from terminal disease resulting from THEIR (his or her) participation in military activities;
 - (b) Dedicated counselling and treatment to military veterans who suffer from **SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS**, post traumatic stress disorder or related conditions;

4. If the house accepts these changes, only Military Veterans with serious, deserving conditions will receive support, care, treatment and rehabilitation.

I trust that this will strengthen your presentation.

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