LIEUTENANT GENERAL TEMBA MATANZIMA IS THE NEW ACTING SECRETARY FOR DEFENCE

The Honourable Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu has appointed Chief of Joint Operations of the South African National Defence, Lieutenant General Themba Templeton Matanzima as the Acting Secretary for Defence with effect from 1 March 2010. He will act in this position until the Commander-in-Chief and President Jacob Zuma makes a permanent appointment.

Lt Gen Matanzima has served the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) in various capacities which includes, General Officer Commanding Eastern Province, Chief Director Corporate Services at the Army Office, SANDF Chief of Corporate Staff, Chief of Human Resources and Chief of Joint Operations.

Lt Gen Matanzima holds a Postgraduate Certificate in Public Administration from the Ghana Institute of Management and a Public Administration Master of Development and Management degree from the North West University. In 1995 General Matanzima completed his defence studies at the Royal College of Defence Studies in the United Kingdom.

Lt General Matanzima, being a skillful negotiator, participated in the conflict resolution process between the then Transkei Traditional Leaders and the Congress of Traditional Leaders in 1991. The General was also part of the discussions of the Democratic South Africa (CODESA 1 and 2) which gave birth to a democratic South Africa.

In 1994 during the amalgamation of the seven former forces into the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), General Matanzima served as a member of the Joint Military Coordinating Committee, which oversaw the integration process.

Enquiries can be directed to Acting Director Communication Strategy and Content Development (in the Secretariat of Defence), Mr. Sam Mkhwanazi at (012) 355-6201 or 083 628 08 58.