LEGISLATION TABLED IN PARLIAMENT WHICH AFFECTS THE CALL-UP OF RESERVES

Bill 11 of 2010 has been tabled in The House of Assembly to amend the Defence Act to require members of the Reserve Force to enter into a contract of service with the SANDF and to comply with call-ups for duty.

Currently members of the Reserve Force are only obliged to serve during time of war, a state of national defence or a state of emergency.

Not all members of the Reserve Force have entered into contracts with the SANDF.

The Volunteers in the Reserve Force will, when the Bill is passed, be required to enter into a contract and thereafter to present themselves for service when required to do so - ie they must comply with a call-up instruction. The Bill also authorises the Minister to extend the period of service of a Reserve Force member with his/her agreement.

Why is there a need for this legislation?

Once a person has volunteered for service in the Reserves there must be a guarantee that he/she will answer a call-up in both times of war and times of need (eg training or humanitarian assistance).

The need to call-up Reserves has been confirmed recently for peace support operations and for support to the people. Reserves are also being deployed on the borders. The Reserves are essential to meeting the Constitutional Mandate of the SANDF.

If the call up of Reserves is not guaranteed, it is difficult to plan. In addition, extensive investment in training the Reserves can only be justified if they provide a "guaranteed force".

Has consultation taken place?

Yes.

The legislation is supported by the Defence Reserve Board and the Reserve Force Council. The Interim Service Commission has been briefed.

What is the advantage to the individual member of the Reserves?

The proposed legislation provides:

- Clarity on the member’s obligations.
- Certainty.
- A basis to explain the need to serve to employers.
- Greater training and deployment opportunities.

What is the advantage to the SANDF?

The promulgation of the Bill will ensure:

- Certainty for planning purposes.
- A “guaranteed force”.
- A firm legal basis and relationship with the volunteer.
- A basis for resource allocation.

Further information in this regard will be communicated in due course.

For further enquiries contact Director Defence Reserves, Brig Gen S.D. Molefe, at tel (012) 355-6300.