

[REDACTED]
Captain M.S. Daines
Umzimvubu Regiment
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FORMAL LETTER

Dated: 26 May 2022

Honourable Chairperson: Cyril Xaba (Parliamentary Defence Committee)

1. As requested to the Chairperson of the parliamentary committee of Defence, South African Parliament I request that urgent overtures get made regarding the following disgraceful conduct of the SANDF towards its non-payment to personnel during Ops Prosper.. July to September 2021.

a. In July 2021 a national call was made by the CIC for reserves to report to nearest units due to the looting in Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal.

b. In that period 815 troops arrived in 14 SAI from all provinces going to Umzimvubu Regiment within the base as per orders to be processed and readied for Deployment.

c. As Adjutant (Captain), I arrived on 27 July 2021 and conditions were shocking, there was no logistics, bear in mind 815 troops in a 4-hectare area in Covid and no heed for the Disaster Management Act rules.

d. During this time it was a disgrace for the SANDF as we could not kit out the troops, do the Administration, food shortages, and lack of sleeping materials, even tents.

e. Numerous members got covid including myself.

f. Generals descended on the base and in August suddenly wanted them all sent home and promised cash payment on the spot before they went home.

g. Then they promised EFT payments and Col Keeton, Officer Commanding Umzimvubu Regiment, lied to the troops that they would be paid.

h. It was a logistical nightmare but by end of August 2021 all were sent home by bus, etc.

i. Till today after 815 files were fully prepared, sent to Army HQ, not a single person has been fully paid.

j. 5 members have subsequently passed away waiting for their money, no condolences from the SANDF or military funerals or memorials let alone GLIS, Group Life Insurance.

k. It is I repeat and utter disgrace that 815 members of the SANDF have not been paid even after a board of Investigation was done by General Mazibuko between 28 December and 30 December 2021.

l. This was concluded and handed in and General Mazibuko told me his conscience is clear and he handed his report in, legally it can't be discussed, which is correct.

m. This shameful incident has appeared in numerous newspapers in the last 6 months, including a cartoon, which is disgusting.

n. The DA asked a question in Parliament and the answer was given by Ms Tandi Modise on 6 April 2022 that the SANDF was busy with the Board of Enquiry. Sir it has been handed in and delivered already by General Mazibuko in February 2022.

o. As you know Tandi Modise took up her new position as Minister of Defence in August 2021 in the middle of a chaotic South Africa.

p. The generals involved Generals Moni, Dube, Nthenjane, Thyalishe, Makulu, Mbatha ,Mahapa must stand up and account for their actions.

q. I will include:

q1 My Report

q2 the calculated salary budget

q3 Newspaper articles

q4 Cartoon

q5 the SANDF answer in early 2/22 trying to say it was a misinterpretation of call up instructions? The generals visited Mthatha in August 2021 and never said that.

q6 Death of Cpl Mjwadwina

Conclusion

Honourable Chairperson I request that this be seen as a matter of urgency as 815 soldiers of all races left their homes and went back with nothing and the SANDF forgot about them.

I remind you the SANDF is there to protect the Constitution and the people of this country with the armed forces if called by the CIC with a mandate.

As was said in parliament by the shadow minister of Defence, Kobus Marais.. 'we have a broken Army,' and I have sadly to agree but as a Reserve Force Officer of the South African Army I am proud of it and want my 815 men looked after and those 5 departed men to be honoured.

I hope action will be forthcoming Sir.

Kind Regards

Captain Malcolm Daines

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