



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS
Republic of South Africa**

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Mr M.V. Sisulu, MP
Speaker of the National Assembly
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa
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Honourable Speaker,

**TABLING IN PARLIAMENT OF A CONCLUDED BILATERAL INTERNATIONAL
AGREEMENT: EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

In order to comply with the provisions of Section 231(3) of the Constitution of the RSA, 1996, I hereby submit to you the attached concluded bilateral international agreement for tabling in Parliament during the 2013 Parliamentary Session.

There are still 24 other international agreements, concluded between 2008 and 2013 outstanding, and I undertake to table these before the end of April 2013.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M.S. N.N. Mapisa-Nqakula".

**MS N.N. MAPISA-NQAKULA, MP
MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS**

19 APR 2013

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

1. Background. The Governments of the RSA and the Central African Republic entered into a bilateral agreement by means of a Memorandum of Understanding concerning Defence Cooperation on 11 February 2007.
2. The aim of this Agreement was to enhance the bilateral defence cooperation by means of the exchange of experience and knowledge in the field of defence.
3. This MOU regulated and facilitated bilateral defence cooperation as follows:
 - a. The development and formulation of procedures for military cooperation between the Armed Forces.
 - b. The promotion of training of military personnel through the exchange of trainees, instructors and observers.
 - c. The exchange of military information on matters agreed to, subject to any restrictions on national security.
 - d. The encouragement and facilitation of industrial cooperation between the respective industries in the field of defence related research and development and procurement of defence equipment.
 - e. Exchange of knowledge and training in the field of United Nations and African Union peacekeeping operations.
 - f. Cooperation in the field of military health services.
 - g. The encouragement of the exchange of military personnel at all levels to enhance sporting and cultural links between the Armed Forces.
 - h. the consideration and undertaking of any other activity which in the opinion of the Armed Forces would promote cooperation between them.
4. This MOU also regulated and facilitated the protection of classified defence-related information as well as financial arrangements applicable with respect to the implementation of the provisions of this MOU.
5. The MOU also provided for the establishment of a Joint Defence Committee to oversee the implementation of the provisions of this MOU. (This Joint Defence Committee was never established).

6. This MOU, which was signed on 7 February 2007, had a duration of five years unless extended for another period of five years by means of an Exchange of Notes between the Parties through the diplomatic channel. After extensive negotiations between representatives from both Governments, it was mutually agreed by the Parties to extend the duration of the MOU on Defence Cooperation, signed on 11 February 2007, for a further period of five years. The Diplomatic Note from the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans was dated 31 December 2012.

8. This Diplomatic Note aims to promote bilateral (defence) cooperation between the RSA and the CAR to promote peace and stability as well as the promotion of training of military personnel by means of the exchange of trainees, instructors and observers.

9. The Diplomatic Note furthermore regulates and facilitates the following aspects of the presence of a South African Military Contingent in the territory of the CAR, namely:

- a. Self defence, protection of property and to save human lives.
- b. The positioning of SANDF reinforcements in the territory of the CAR for purposes of self defence, protection of property and to save human lives.
- c. Assistance by the RSA to the CAR for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR).
- d. Storage of and access to SANDF ammunition in the CAR.
- e. Command and Control arrangements.
- f. Jurisdictional matters.
- g. The handling and settlement of claims.