

THE ARMS PROCUREMENT COMMISSION

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GENERAL SZ SHOKE

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**THE ARMS PROCUREMENT COMMISSION**

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**STATEMENT OF GENERAL SOLLY ZACHARIA SHOKE**

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I,

**SOLLY ZACHARIA SHOKE**

state that:

1. I am the Chief of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).
2. A copy of my abbreviated CV is attached marked "SS-1". As appears from my CV I was appointed Chief of the SANDF with effect from 1 June 2011.
3. The SANDF was established in terms of section 199(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996, which states that the security services of the Republic of South Africa should consist of a single Defence Force.

SZ1

4. The SANDF derives its mandate from Section 200(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996. The primary object of the Defence Force is to defend and protect the Republic, its territorial integrity and its people in accordance with the Constitution and the principles of International Law regulating the use of force.
5. I am appointed as Chief of the SANDF in terms of section 202(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996, read together with section 13(1) of the Defence Act and section 4A of the Defence Amendment Act 22 of 2010.
6. As Chief of the SANDF I derive my functions from section 14 of the Defence Act, 42 of 2002. As such my functions entail following:
  - 6.1 I am the principal adviser to the Minister on any military, operational and administrative matters within the competence of the Chief of the Defence Force;
  - 6.2 I must comply with any direction issued by the Minister under the authority of the President as contemplated in Section 202(2) of the Constitution;
  - 6.3 I am responsible for formulating and issuing military policy and doctrines;
  - 6.4 I must execute my command by issuing orders, directives, and instructions, and by giving commands.
  - 6.5 I am responsible for the direct management and administration of the Defence Force in an efficient way, including the effective utilisation and the education, training and development of all members of the Defence Force and employees of the department where so required by the Secretary for Defence;
  - 6.6 I am responsible for the execution of approved programmes of the budget for the Defence Force;
  - 6.7 I must supply the Secretary for Defence with such information with regard to the Defence Force as may be requested;
  - 6.8 I am responsible for the employment of the Defence Force in accordance with authorisation in terms of section 201(2) of the Constitution and section 18(1) of the Defence Act of 2002;
  - 6.9 I am responsible for the training of members of the Defence Force to act in accordance with the Constitution and the law, including customary

international law and international agreements binding on the Republic;

- 6.10 I am responsible for the maintenance of such military response capability as may be authorised by the Minister;
  - 6.11 I am responsible for planning for contingencies which may require the use of the Defence Force;
  - 6.12 I must manage the Defence Force as a disciplined military force;
  - 6.13 I am responsible for the development of a non-racial, non-sexist and non-discriminatory institutional culture within the Defence Force in accordance with the Constitution and the departmental policy on equal opportunity and affirmative action.
7. To ensure that the SANDF fulfils its primary mandate as provided in section 200(2) of the Constitution, in terms of section 14 of the Defence Act the Chief of the SANDF (CSANDF) has important functions to perform, notably the maintenance of military response capability as may be authorised by the Minister and the planning for contingencies which may require the use of the Defence Force.

#### The need for the Armaments acquired through the SDPPs

8. Whilst I accept that the Arms Procurement Commission is necessary to clear the air relating to the alleged controversies surrounding the SDPPs, I believe that it is critical for South Africans to make a distinction in their minds between, on the one hand, the SANDF acquiring the capability to carry out our constitutional mandate, and, on the other hand, any allegation of wrongdoing in regard to the SDPPs, whether on the part of government, institutions, individuals, or any other party.
9. At the time that the frigates, submarines and the aircraft were acquired under the SDPPs, the country needed these capabilities, and indeed others to supplement the Army's capabilities, to replace its ageing resources which were approaching redundancy. What I can say is that the armaments purchased under the SDPPs were, and remain, essential to the SANDF to enable it to carry out its constitutional mandate. I am advised that detailed evidence in this regard has been given by other witnesses for both the Navy and the Air Force.
10. In my view, if the SANDF lost any of the capabilities provided by the SDPPs it would be unable to fulfil its constitutional mandate to protect and defend the country. Whilst it is said by many that the nation faces no threat, I deny this. There are, for example, threats to its marine economy which cannot be protected

adequately without a Navy that is adequately equipped for this purpose. Were it not for the frigates and submarines, the SA Navy would not at this time have the capability to protect its marine economy. Similarly, military and criminal threats, a current example of which is the piracy on both the West and East coasts of Africa, could not be countered without these vessels.

11. South Africans must not underestimate the geo-strategic importance of the country. We are surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean in the West and the Indian Ocean in the East. That makes sea lines of communication vital to our economy and that of the world. South Africa must have a well equipped SANDF to protect our sea lines of communication and cannot outsource this responsibility to any other country. Piracy has increased the use and importance of the Cape sea route.
12. Had we not acquired these assets, and if a military threat arose, we would not be able to acquire adequate capabilities within a sufficiently short period of time to deter or ward off the threat. At all times South Africa must maintain such capabilities so that, whenever required to execute its mandate, the SANDF is in a position to do so.
13. Therefore, within the concept of a balanced force, South Africa must maintain appropriate capabilities within all four arms of service, the Navy, Army, Air Force and Medical Services. It is an ongoing process to maintain and strengthen the capabilities we have as the Republic of South Africa for both force preparation and force employment.
14. I attach, marked "SS-2", a map which shows the territorial responsibilities of the SANDF.
  - 14.1 Land Border

The SANDF is deployed to protect South Africa's borders as part of its constitutional mandate to defend and protect the territorial integrity of the Republic and these borders span a distance of about 4 400 kilometres.
  - 14.2 Air Domain

The SANDF is also responsible to protect both South African high and low air space. The acquisition of air platforms / air assets certainly add a lot of value to the Defence Force allowing it to guard and protect the South African air space/air border.

South Africa has a vested interest to protect its sea lines of communications, since 90% of trade takes place via the sea. Sea lines of communications cannot be interrupted as the economy depends on this trade. South Africa's maritime borders covers a distance of about 2 900 km.

#### International Relations

15. South Africa has entered into Defence Co-operation Agreements with other countries. The SANDF plays an important role in honouring these Agreements. Without the equipment acquired under the SDPPs the SANDF would not be able to enhance its international relations and fulfil its international and peace support obligations.
16. The SANDF is one of the most important instruments of national power (others being diplomacy, intelligence and economy). These tools of national power are interlinked and there is an important inter-relationship between them. For instance, a credible military may be used to support all other instruments of national power and South Africa has, for example, played a meaningful diplomatic role in Burundi.

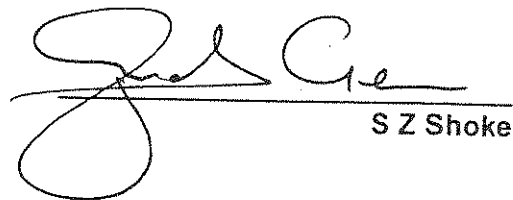
#### The 1998 Defence Review

17. As has been stated by other witnesses in more detail, the Defence Review of 1998 was borne out of a consultative process which was approved by Parliament.
18. It must be borne in mind that at the time the 1998 Defence Review was conducted it did not envisage the extent of the added responsibilities of border protection and Peace Support Operations (PSO) that the Republic would face, and also the implication of these added responsibilities on equipment and personnel.
19. As I understand other members of the SANDF have already stated, since the Defence Review there have been significant changes in our region that were unforeseen at the time of the Defence Review and these include the Republic's obligations to assist in regional peace keeping operations, such as those presently under way in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic, where members of the SANDF have lost their lives, and in regards to the increasing threats of piracy off both the East and West coasts of Africa.

## Conclusion

20. Without the equipment obtained under the SDPPs South Africa would not be in a position to protect its sovereignty. Failure to do so will be a violation of section 200(2) of the Constitution and section 14 of the Defence Act. South Africans cannot afford to outsource that responsibility to any other country.
21. South Africa did not acquire the SDPP equipment in vain. That equipment is essential to the SANDF to enable it to carry out its national and international obligations. Indeed that equipment alone may not be sufficient to enable the SANDF to fulfil its constitutional mandate and to honour its international agreements. In my view, to do so, South Africa needs to incrementally add to its current capabilities and personnel and I see it as my obligation as Chief of the SANDF to strive for additional capabilities for the SANDF.
22. Members of a defence force must have confidence in their equipment in order for their morale to be high. If there is only old and redundant equipment the morale would be low.
23. The current Defence Review discusses the foreseen goals and tasks for Defence. To rise to these tasks the SANDF will require additional equipment as the SDPPs covered only a portion of the full requirement.
24. In simple terms, in my view South Africa needs to add to its capabilities to ensure that the SANDF can fulfil its constitutional mandate and South Africa's international obligations.

Signed at Pretoria on 19 September 2013



S Z Shoke



**CURRICULUM VITAE  
GENERAL SOLLY ZACHARIA SHOKE,  
OMBG, OMS, MMS, SBS  
CHIEF OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE**

General Solly Zacharia Shoke was born on 15 August 1956 in Alexander Township.

He joined the liberation movement after the Soweto uprising.

General Shoke received general training in Angola and the USSR and completed intermediate Staff Course Zimbabwe.

He has attended the Senior Command and Staff Duties Course and Joint Command and Staff Course at the South African Army College.

He has served in the South African Army as the Director Personnel Planning, Director Integration, Director Personnel Acquisition, Chief Director Human Resources Support, and then Chief of the South African Army.

On 1 June 2011 he was promoted to the rank of General as the Chief of the South African National Defence Force.



# Borders

Total Land Borders: 4471 Km

Land Area = 1 219 901 Km<sup>2</sup>

Coastline = 2 968 km

RSA/Zim: 214 Km

RSA/Bot: 1516 Km

RSA/Moz: 417 Km

Mpu/Swa: 290 Km

KZN/Moz: 76 Km

FS/Lesotho: 445 Km

KZN/Swa: 137 Km

KZN/Lesotho: 232 Km

EC/Lesotho: 247 Km

RSA/Nam: 897 Km

Prince Edward Island Group Coastline: 1024 Km

