

# Mandela Commemoration Medal Parade

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**Tihaole**

It has been a year since the passing of the founding President of a democratic South Africa, the first Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF and Nobel Peace Prize recipient, the late Mr Nelson Mandela.

In line with our country's activities to commemorate the first anniversary of *Tata* Mandela's death, the SANDF held a Mandela Commemorative Medal Parade at Air Force Base Waterkloof in Pretoria last month.

President Jacob Zuma, the President of South Africa and Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, was the main functionary at the medal parade. He awarded gold medals to SANDF men and women for their role in taking care of our statesman during the period when he was ill, his funeral, the mourning period arrangements, the lying-in-state at the Union Buildings and leading the state funeral at Qunu.

President Zuma expressed his gratitude and admiration to the SANDF for carrying out its duties towards its first Commander-in-Chief. President Zuma said: "I can say with pride that the planning, execution and precision with which the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) performed its duties left no one in doubt about the capability of our armed forces."

He also thanked the international community for standing by South Africa as the world mourned the former statesman's death on 5 December 2013. President Zuma said: "We remain grateful for this support



**LEFT:** President Jacob Zuma, the President of South Africa and Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, addresses the parade accompanied by the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, and Lt Gen Norman Yengeni, the Chief of Human Resources.



**ABOVE:** Fltr: Mr Siphwe Dlamini, Head of Communication, Prof Edna van Harte, the Chairperson of the Defence Force Service Commission, Adv George Bizos, Veteran Human Rights Lawyer and Madiba's close friend, Justice Dikgang Moseneke, the Deputy Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, Dr Sam Gulube, Secretary for Defence, and Mr Kebby Maphatsoe, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, at the Mandela Commemoration Medal Parade.