

SA Army observes the 96th anniversary of Armistice Day

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Memories of Armistice Day of 96 years ago were relived at the SA Army Headquarters in Pretoria as the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, led the SA Army in marking International Remembrance Day.

Continuing a commemorative tradition that spans more than nine decades, a salvo from the Artillery's G1 gun opened the proceedings with a deafening bang for the sombre remembrance of the survivors and those that laid down their lives during the war that lasted four years from 1914 until the armistice in 1918.

A two-minute silence was observed, a minute for the survivors of the carnage of World War I and another for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice and perished during the war. This culminated in the last salvo fired by the G1 gun.

The Chief of the SA Army laid a wreath at the memorial on the lawns of the SA Army Headquarters complex before delivering his tribute.

Addressing the Army Council and the Generals and spectators in attendance, Lt Gen Masondo urged those in attendance never to take for granted the selfless sacrifices made by those who were involved in the war.

Lt Gen Masondo said: "As the SA Army marches into its third decade of defending our democracy, let us join the world as it pauses to reflect



ABOVE: Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, the Chief of the SA Army, laid a wreath at the memorial on the lawns of the SA Army Headquarters complex before delivering his tribute.

and remember the warriors of the Great War."

He continued: "Let us honour their sacrifice and strive for a peaceful world where no innocent blood will have to be spilled, as there are so many forms of recourse to avert war and prevent conflict from escalating." He also paid homage

to the South African soldiers who died pursuing peace and stability on the African continent following the country's post-1994 readmission to the international community.

In assessing the salient issues facing our country, the Chief of the SA Army took the opportunity to acknowledge the great contribution