



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS

Republic of South Africa

MEDIA ADVISORY

DATE: 14 July 2017

EMBARGO: None

SUBJECT: **MINISTER MAPISA-NQAKULA HANDS OVER MOBILE LABS**

On Tuesday, July 18, 2017, Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms. Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula in partnership with Armscor and the University of Fort Hare (UFH) will officiate at the handover ceremony of mobile science experiments laboratories.

Since the advent of democracy, the Department of Education has put a lot of effort into addressing challenges faced by students and teachers, particularly from low socioeconomic status and previously disadvantaged schools. Nevertheless, teaching and learning subjects such as maths and science remain a solemn challenge in South Africa.

It is against this backdrop that Armscor embarked on a nationwide partnership with schools and institutions of higher learning to explore sustainable ways of assisting teachers and learners, mainly in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects.

In July 2016, Armscor collaborated with UFH to educate and create awareness about maintenance and development of defence capability. To further stimulate and maintain interest in learning STEM subjects, students were offered extra lessons every Saturday, as part of the Learner Intervention Programme (LIP). Resultantly, a total of 280 learners from 30 schools around Bisho and Alice have thus far benefitted from the programme.

Throughout his life, former President Nelson Mandela held education close to his heart. As a contribution to keeping his legacy alive, Minister Mapisa-Nqakula will officially hand over mobile labs to rural Eastern Cape schools associated with LIP. "Our hope is for every learner to have a solid education and we believe that such intervention programmes go a long way in empowering learners to reach their full potential", said Minister Mapisa-Nqakula.

The Eastern Cape provincial government leadership will be present to lend support to the Minister.

Members of the media are invited to attend the official hand-over ceremony as follows:

Date: Tuesday, 18 July, 2017

Time: 08h30 for 09h00

Venue: University of Fort Hare, Alice Campus

Issued by: Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans

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