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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

NO. 7362 **10 April 2026**

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NOTICE IN TERMS OF SECTION 19(2) OF THE DEFENCE ACT, 2002 (ACT NO 42 OF 2002)

Notice is hereby given under Section 19(2) of the Defence Act, 2002, that the President acting in terms of Section 201(2)(a) of the Constitution, authorised the employment of Two Thousand Two Hundred (2200) members of the Regular Force and the Reserve Force of the South African National Defence Force enrolled in terms of Sections 52 and 53 of the Defence Act, 2002, for service in cooperation with the South African Police Service for the prevention and combating of crime and maintenance and preservation of law and order in the Republic of South Africa for Operation PROSPER. The deployment will be over the period 01 March 2026 to 31 March 2027.

MS M A MOTSHEKGA, MP
MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS

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CODE OF CONDUCT: OPERATION PROSPER DEPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE FOR SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE FROM 01 MARCH 2026 UNTIL 31 MARCH 2027: OPERATION PROSPER – COMBATTING OF ILLEGAL MINING AND GANGSTERISM IN EASTERN CAPE, FREE STATE, GAUTENG, NORTH WEST AND WESTERN CAPE PROVINCES

1. In addition to the 'Code of Conduct for Uniformed Members of the South African National Defence Force' (SANDF), all personnel deployed under Operation PROSPER (Op PROSPER) must adhere to this mission-specific Code of Conduct for the duration of the operation.

MANDATE

2. Operation PROSPER is authorised under **Section 201(2)(a) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996**. In accordance with this provision, the SANDF is authorised for service in in cooperation with the South African Police Service (SAPS) to **prevent and combat crime**, and **maintain and preserve law and order** within the Republic of South Africa. The SANDF's mandate is strictly limited to the following tasks:

a. Area monitoring.

b. Foot and vehicle patrols.

c. Roadblocks and vehicle control points (VCPs).

d. Cordon and searches.

e. Force protection.

f. Preservation of life and property.

e. Suspect apprehension.

g. Confiscation of unlawful articles.

h. Aerial support.

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i. General law enforcement as otherwise agreed between the SANDF and SAPS Strategic Command Guidelines.

3. These guidelines have been developed to assist SANDF Units and Force Structure Elements (FSE) in fulfilling their mandate under Op PROSPER. They remain in effect throughout the operation to ensure **effective command and control, legal compliance, and operational legitimacy**.
Tactical commanders may issue specific instructions or orders for their respective areas of responsibility, provided they align with these guidelines.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

4. The **primary responsibility** for law enforcement in the Republic of South Africa remains with the **SAPS**. When deployed in cooperation with SAPS, SANDF members are granted the same powers as SAPS officials, **except for the investigation of crime**. SANDF members may **only** perform tasks and duties for which they are **adequately trained and equipped**.

5. The SANDF's role in **crime prevention and combating operations** is limited to **the protection of life and property**.

CONDUCT OF SANDF MEMBERS

6. During deployment, all SANDF members must:

a. **Treat the public with respect and dignity**, exercising patience and restraint.

b. **Refrain from making unauthorised statements** to the public or media.

c. **Provide statements for SAPS investigations** only after consultation with, and in the presence of, a **Military Law Practitioner.**

d. **Avoid using foul or inappropriate language**.

GENERAL FORCE PROTECTION

7. SANDF members have an inherent right to self-defence. This right applies in circumstances **where life is threatened or where there is an imminent threat of serious injury or destruction of property** in respect the following categories:

a. Defending oneself.

b. Fellow SANDF personnel.

c. SAPS, other law enforcement and/or state officials.

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d. Civilians.

e. Property.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

8. All firearm discharges must be reported and recorded as soon as possible, detailing the circustances, location, number of rounds fired, and outcome of the action.

9. Warning shots are strictly prohibited.

10. Minimum force must always be applied, taking into account the calibre of the weapon issued to deployed forces.

11. All incidents must be reported promptly through the established chain of command.

12. The use of force must be guided by the facts of each case and requires reasonable judgment in application.

13. This Code of Conduct may be amended as the situation evolves.

(S.L. SANGWENI)
CHIEF OF JOINT OPERATIONS: LIEUTENANT GENERAL

DATE: 24/02/2026

(R. MAPHWANYA)
CHIEF OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE: GENERAL

DATE: 01.03.2026

(M.A MOTSHEKGA)
MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS: MP

DATE: 05 March 2026

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