



AZAPO
AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: AZAPO SECRETARY FOR PUBLICITY & INFORMATION

DATE: February 16, 2024

SUBJECT: AZAPO DEMANDS ANSWERS ON THE DRC SANDF DEATHS

AZAPO learnt with shock, media reports that two of our own soldiers in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) lost their lives, and three others were injured in a tragic incident during their deployment in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

AZAPO notes that war, by its very nature, result in fatalities and casualties, however, military intelligence and espionage should help prevent such.

AZAPO is concerned that the capacity and preparedness of our soldiers appear to be below par.

AZAPO has also learnt that this took place on February 14, 2024, at approximately 1:30 PM, when a mortar bomb struck one of the South African Contingent military bases, resulting in casualties and injuries to the SANDF soldiers, according to media reports.

AZAPO believes that given the number of our soldiers involved and the apparently superior contending forces they face, it is not inconceivable that the number of deaths may rise.

AZAPO is aware the SANDF's presence in the DRC is part of their commitment to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) mission and that about 2,900 SANDF soldiers were deployed to assist in quelling the conflict between government forces and the so-called M23 rebels who are both said to be vying for control over the Congo's valuable mineral resources.

AZAPO calls on the government capacitate our ground forces in the DRC and provide superior military intelligence and weaponry to deal with the challenge they face, failing which to recall our soldiers back home.

AZAPO is further calling for a clear audit and disclosure of those South African individuals and entities with commercial or business interests in the DRC in order to appreciate what influence they have in our involvement in the war in that country.

-Ends-

Issued by **AZAPO** Department of Publicity and Information (DPI).

Name: Jabu Rakwena

Email: jaburakwena@gmail.com

Enquiries:

Jabu Rakwena 060 677 4257 or Nosipiwo Manona 065 899 4566

Office: **Publicity Secretary**

*Unit 04 – Ground Floor,
396 Cork Avenue, Ferndale, Johannesburg 2194
P.O. Box 4230, JOHANNESBURG 2000.*