

SAMHS COMMAND INFO BULLETIN



Issued by the Office of the Surgeon General

SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE SA MILITARY HEALTH SERVICE (SAMHS) PASSES ON IN VEHICLE ACCIDENT

The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) regrets to announce the tragic passing away on Saturday, 16 June 2012 of the Warrant Officer of the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS), Senior Chief Warrant Officer (SCWO) M.M.T. (Moses) Sebone, who died in a vehicle accident near Hammanskraal, Gauteng. SCWO Sebone was on his way back to Pretoria after attending the passing-out parade of the SAMHS Military Skills Development Service basic training students that took place earlier in the day in Lephalale. His wife, Virginia, the Formation Warrant Officer of the Military Health Support Formation, was with him in the vehicle and sustained injuries.

SCWO Sebone became involved in the activities of the liberation struggle as a youth in Thembisa on the East Rand, which led to his arrest as part of the clampdown on political organisations during 1977. Shortly afterwards, he left South Africa and joined Umkhonto we Siswe (MK). After completing his basic military training in Angola, he trained as a laboratory technician and medical orderly, and worked under the supervision of Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang and former Surgeon General, Dr Themba Masuku, amongst others. SCWO Sebone was instrumental in the establishment of a heroes' graveyard for MK cadres and did a lot of work in identifying and securing the remains of his comrades who died in the conflict in Namibia. He was subsequently transferred to Lusaka in Zambia, where he was responsible for the medical treatment of exiled patients and the administration of MK doctors, and became a member of the ANC National Health Secretariat.

Upon his return to South Africa, he first joined the National Peacekeeping Force, and then integrated into the SANDF in 1994. He was appointed as the first African Command Sergeant Major in the Department of Defence. This was followed by appointments as Formation Warrant Officer at the Tertiary Military Health Formation and the SAMHS Inspectorate respectively. In 2005, SCWO Sebone became the first African Warrant Officer of the SAMHS.

SCWO Sebone was one of the most highly decorated officers in the SANDF, and has been awarded the Merit Medals in Bronze, Silver and Gold.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms N.N. Mapisa-Nqakula, the Secretary for Defence, Dr S.M. Gulube, the Chief of the SANDF, General S.Z. Shoke, and the Surgeon General of the SANDF, Lieutenant General V.I. Ramlakan, wish to extend their deepest condolences to the family and friends of SCWO Sebone.

Funeral arrangements will be announced in due course.

ENDS