

SWORN AFFIDAVIT IN TERMS OF SECTION 23(2) OF THE PROMOTION OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION (PAI) ACT, 2000 (ACT NO. 2 OF 2000)

I, Ambassador Gladys Kudjoe, hereby declare under oath as follows:

1

I am the Head of the Department of Defence (DOD) (Secretary for Defence) and as such, the Information Officer of the Department, as defined in Section 1 of the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000 (Act No. 2 of 2000) (PAIA). I am therefore duly empowered to depose this sworn affidavit.

2

My Office received a request from Mr S.J.F. Marais for access to the minutes of the meeting held between the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans and her Zimbabwean counterpart on 9 September 2020.

3

My Office has appointed the Government Information Technology Officer (GITO) as the Deputy Information Officer in terms of Section 17 of the PAIA, to attend to this request. After due consideration thereof by the GITO, Mr Mandla Linda, it was decided that the documents sought, lay in the domain of the Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans.

4

Letter received from the Office of the Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans dated 26 October 2020 confirmed that the requested record does not exist.

5

The letter of 26 October 2020 confirmed that the meeting of 9 September 2020 in Harare, Zimbabwe between the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms N.N. Mapisa Nqakula and her counterpart in Zimbabwe Minister of Defence and War Veterans, Ms O.C.Z. Muchinguri- Kashiri was a verbal meeting and no minutes were recorded.

6

The Ministry is not in possession of the requested record and can therefore not give access thereto.



6

It is affirmed that all reasonable steps have been taken by the Ministry to obtain copies of the requested record.

6

In view of the above mentioned, I am of the opinion that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September in Harare Zimbabwe between Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms N.N. Mapisa Nqakula and her Zimbabwean counterpart, Minister of Defence and War Veterans, Ms O.C.Z. Muchinguri do not exist.

**AMBASSADOR G. KUDJOE
SECRETARY FOR DEFENCE
(INFORMATION OFFICER)**

I CERTIFY that this affidavit has been sworn to and signed before me at

Gauteng PRETORIA on this 19 day of Nov 2020 by the above-mentioned deponent who declared that he is acquainted with the contents of this affidavit and understands same, that he has no objection against taking the prescribed oath and considers the said oath as binding on his conscience, which oath was properly taken by me, as required by law.

MILITARY POLICE

COMMISSIONER OF OATHS