

Thank very much the Programme Director

General Officer Commanding of SA Army Training Formation - General A Fredericks

Outgoing Officer Commanding, General L K Mbatha

Incoming Officer Commanding, Colonel M B Mtshiselwa

Ladies and Gentlemen, I greet you all.

The housing of the SA Army Gymnasium in this town, I believe that by now, it should be viewed to hold more than one reason to existence.

It is at this point in time, other than stating the obvious reason to exist as an institution, that you carry the responsibility to promoting good and responsible citizenship to all your membership on a daily basis.

This you do through education and teaching you provide. I further want to confirm here and now that, according to the sentiment shared amongst the leadership of this municipality, this institution is an irreplaceable part of our being.

Not only do you guarantee the safety of our communities through the numbers and the barrels of your guns. As it seems to be obvious reasons assumed by many in the society. This is a totally narrow view that I totally disagree with and it should be rejected and discouraged in our society. There is a human element, touch and feel you bring to our communities and society in general. This I know as a matter of fact.

During the month of March 2012, this facility gave us refuge under the leadership of Brigadier-General Mbatha.

This was during the time when our township was up in arms against itself and smoke was the order of the day.

Those shameful events led to the burning down of a number of the municipal community facilities and houses of a select few councillors as well.

To this day, as a society we can never be proud and sleep peacefully every night when justice has not been served to those evil-doers when they are part of us.

General Mbatha, it was during your term of office in this town where relations between this facility and the municipality took a new turn for greater things to come. That was the sense of hope and belief you managed to give rise to.

In this regard, the SA Army Gymnasium is flesh of our flesh and blood of our blood. This is an uncontested fact because to our communities and society, you act as a moral compass for diligence, honesty and adherence to the rule of law.

In the same vein, I don't imagine this facility having members who don't have regard for wrong doing and the law, and members who are dishonest and not diligent in their conduct and contact with fellow human beings.

If all what I have just said now is true, then Is it not true, that you are educators and promoters of good and responsible citizenship?

Our interrelation is indeed exemplary and cemented the basis to the constitutional imperatives to cooperative governance and intergovernmental relations expected of us in ensuring the survival of our democratic system of governance.

General Mbatha your contribution to this section of our community will go a long way. It will serve as a reminder of the calibre of the person in you.

You leave behind a good working interrelation between this facility and the municipality with nothing broken.

Again on behalf of the municipality, I wish you success in your new deployment and in the same vein open my arms wide to welcome your replacement and wish him every success in his new role.

May your contributions to the institution not go unnoticed.

I thank you!!!