

Military Veterans Bill (B1B-2011) (S75)

UCDP : Hon MN Matladi

Tuesday, 16 August 2011

Chairperson;

The inclusivity of the definition of a military veteran is applaud-able and am sure will be welcomed by many that have served in military in any side; the truth is; when we talk of military veterans that are in dire straits we don't only talk of one side of the fence. The approach on this Bill indeed is very fresh and truly represents a break-away from old thought patterns where others think their involvement was more noble because they fought on a certain side considered in some circles to have been noble.

There are few areas of concern that I would like to highlight. Such as, an Alexander Forbes consultancy estimates the cost to be R65.2 billion and the Department has its estimate at R34.6 billion, which is almost half of the former. Is the Department aware of such extreme differences? Could it be that the consultancy has exaggerated the cost or the Department is under-budgeting?

There are wide spread rumours that there are people who've set their wheels on defrauding the veterans themselves, and there is a risk of misrepresentation of people claiming to be veterans. How prepared is the department in dealing with such possible occurrence's?