

Members of the units of the SANDF involved in
Operation L ichi

MENDI DECORATION FOR BRAVERY IN GOLD



**AWARDED TO
MEMBERS OF THE UNITS
OF THE SANDF INVOLVED IN
OPERATION L ICHI FOR
ACTS OF OUTSTANDING
BRAVERY AND COURAGE
DISPLAYED DURING THE
MOZAMBICAN FLOODS
RESCUE MISSION IN
FEBRUARY 2000**

Within a few hours of Cyclone Eline arriving in the Southern African coastal area in February 2000, thousands of people in southern Mozambique were cut off from dry land, trapped on the roofs of their houses and in trees. Nearly 300 000 people on both sides of the Limpopo river were endangered and in desperate need of food and shelter.

In response to an urgent request from the Mozambican Government for assistance, the Government of South Africa instructed the South African Air Force (SAAF) to immediately launch a rescue mission.

With hundreds of Mozambican villages and farm lands totally flooded by the Limpopo, SAAF rescue teams supported by other units of the SANDF flew hundreds of missions to rescue as many people as possible and to deliver emergency food parcels, medical supplies and water. Despite the extreme operational conditions and long hours, military personnel never faltered.

Operational readiness and endurance of the SANDF personnel involved were tested to its limits when, a week later, the Limpopo again burst its banks. The SAAF once again went into action, relentlessly and tirelessly flying mission after mission.

Altogether the SANDF Operation Lichi rescued more than 14 391 persons by means of air operations, delivered more than 2647,6 tons of food and medical supplies.

All of South Africa were moved by the skill, endurance, valour and fearlessness demonstrated by our defence force personnel. All of us felt a measure of pride in the SANDF's dedication to the protection of life and reassurance in its capabilities.

The heroic efforts of our countrymen and women to save lives in a neighbouring country were highly commended by Mozambique, the continent of Africa, and indeed, the international community at large.