



Non-Profit Organisation Reg Nr: 004-852  
PBO No 13000096

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**“Caring for Security Service people with disabilities”.**

### History and overview of the Curamus Association

The Curamus Association was established on 20 October 1990 to serve and support former members of the South African Defence Force who become disabled in the execution of their military duties.

After 1994 the Curamus Association was rededicated to include military veterans of the Non-Statutory Forces (uMkhonto we Sizwe-MK), (The Azanian People’s Liberation Army-APLA), (Azanian National Liberation Army-AZANLA) and (Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda, and Ciskei Defence Forces-TBVC States).

Currently also included are serving military members of the South African National Defence Force with disabilities (SANDF) and Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) with disabilities employed by the South African Department of Defence and Military Veterans

### Values

C – Care  
U – Ubuntu  
R - Respect  
A - Acknowledgement  
M - Motivation  
U – Unity  
S – Self Advocacy

### Objectives

- To assist members with suitable assistive devices.
- To act as a mouthpiece for members on a departmental and national level.
- To bargain for services and facilities for members in order to attain independence.

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#### Directors:

Mr MJP van Jaarsveld (Chairperson); Mr B Sithole (Vice-Chairperson); Ms B.S. Mhleka; Mr C Ravele; Mr D Els; Mr LPS Masela, Mr DM Chambers & CEO: Mr MJ Swart.

- To facilitate and assist with the integration of security services people with disabilities into society.
- To support members in becoming self-sufficient.
- To obtain capable personnel and sources necessary to reach the purpose of the Association.
- To motivate members to take on new challenges.
- To promote sport recreational opportunities for security services people with disabilities within the Department of Defence and in the broader mainstream.

### **Questionnaires**

The Curamus Association is a member of the South African Department of Defence's Disability Committee, which forms part of the Chief Directorate Transformation Management. The Chief Directorate Transformation Management is tasked to ensure the transformation of women, youth and people with disabilities and to prohibit any discrimination of the mentioned people under its domain.

The South African National Department of Defence is currently not involved in any armed conflict and will adhere to the obligations enumerated in Article 11 of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and thus is obligated to to the United Nations policy regarding the "protection" of persons with disabilities in the context of armed conflict, conflict prevention, humanitarian action, and peace building operations.

The South African National Defence Force forms currently part of the United Nations peace keeping force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and thus had to adhere to the policy prescripts of the United Nations, which also entails the non-deployment of military members with disabilities.

No information on any formal complaints, official investigations and related jurisprudence arising from allegations of abuses and violence against people with disabilities exists within the South African context. If any such transgressions should occur, the South African Government and the relevant state organisations will address the matter in terms of the specific humanitarian prescripts and laws!

The Transformation Management Policy of the South African Department of Defence ensures that persons with disabilities are not excluded from serving in the South African Armed Forces. The policy provides guidance to the different Arms of Services (Army, Air Force, Navy and South African Military Health Services) and Divisions on the bases of the inherent job description.

The application of an inherent job description provides a mechanism whereby military members who cannot continue in their current mustering (job), due to their disability, i.e., pilot or infantry soldier can apply to be utilised in a support mustering. The Transformation Management Policy principles makes ample provision in this regard.

The South African National Defence Force is currently the only defence force in the world that makes provision to keep on employing military members who became disabled.

The South African Military Health Services as part of the South African National Defence Force aid military service personnel experiencing psycho-social trauma due to armed conflict.

The South African Government must still ensure policy guidance to civilians who is experiencing psycho-social trauma due to armed conflict.

Currently there exists differential obligations of services granted to military veterans with disabilities, but again within the broader South African society there lacks laws and statutes to civilians with disabilities as a consequence of armed conflict.

The Military Pensions Act 84 of 1976 tends:

- to provide:
  - for the payment of pensions and gratuities to or in respect of certain persons in respect of disablement caused or aggravated by military service;
  - for the medical treatment of such persons; and
  - for the consolidation of benefits which are paid in terms of the Special War Pensions Act, 1962, the War Pensions Act, 1967, and section 15(1) of the Pension Laws Amendment Act; 1968.

The Curamus Association cannot speak on behalf of the South African National Defence Force regarding military doctrine, operational planning, and/or military training pertaining to civilians with disabilities. The South African National Defence Force does follow measures and rules as prescribed by the United Nations and International Humanitarian Law in addressing the protection of civilians with disabilities in the context.

The South African Department of Defence does engage with civil society organisations representing persons with disabilities, which includes organisations of military veterans with disabilities.

The Curamus Association is such an organisation for military veterans with disabilities, which interact with organisations of persons with disabilities on the protection or general disability rights issues. The Curamus Association mainly interact regarding this

matter with the National Council for and of Persons with Disabilities, as well as with organisations catering for specific disabilities!

Hope you find this as adequate.

Yours truly,

**M.J. SWART**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: CURAMUS ASSOCIATION**