

Do you know which air force is the second oldest in the world?

If you're thinking America - you'd be wrong. France or Germany? Wrong again. The first air force in the world was that of Great Britain. And the second was South Africa.

The South African Air Force quietly turned 100 yesterday. The explanation I was given for why no fuss was made over this impressive achievement is because the current dispensation does not wish to give recognition to colonial achievements.

The SAAF was established to a large extent thanks to the visionary minds of a Boer War veteran - General Jan Smuts, who acted on the reports of another Boer War veteran - General Beyers.

Since then the SAAF has served in combat in World War 1, World War 2, the Korean War, the Rhodesian war, and throughout the 23 year long Angolan bush war against communism. Since that time it has also been involved in a jumble of international rescue and peacekeeping operations.

The SAAF has always over-performed, even when its equipment has in many cases been inferior to what the enemy used.

There were times when the SAAF had to use extreme ingenuity in order to remain relevant. During the arms embargo years, the creativity that was displayed in developing our own missile systems went to a level that is worthy of a book in its own right.

We had to source aircraft from countries that were willing to sell to us. And when they were pressured not to sell, we had to rebuild and upgrade the aircraft that we had in order to try and extend their technological effectiveness far beyond their good for date.

And where this was not possible, we had to design and build our own at tremendous



cost. If it hadn't been for the fact that we always had some friends in foreign countries, none of this would have been possible.

I have never heard public thanks expressed to the many friends who helped us during those difficult days. Friends in France, England, Israel and America who

often helped us despite the prejudices and political policies of their own governments.

It was a gigantic team effort that has kept SAAF flying for a hundred years.

Even in our current time of military dilapidation the South African Air Force is still maintaining an element of dignity and a fair degree of operational effectiveness.

Getting to where they are now has taken thousands of man hours from thousands of men. Incredibly brave men, dedicated men, creative men, passionate people on all fronts.

They deserve the recognition that they are not getting. Let's not allow their honour to be taken away from those who deserve it fully.

Woensdag, 19 Februarie 2020
10:00
Langs Hervormde Kerk Heilbron

HEILBRON HUIS- & TUINBOUKLUB

Hout demonstrasie - Hannes Steyn

Petro Meintjes se lapa - kort praatjie oor Kalahari Kosmetiese Produkte

Bring uitrui plante & tydskrifte saam

*Bring 'n vriendin saam
en kom geniet 'n heerlike oggend !*

*Bevestig teenwoordigheid voor/op
17 Februarie 2020 by
Rosemary Broodryk - 082 745 5193*

Petrus Steyners desperaat gelaat

Die inwoners van Petrus Steyn sukkel steeds met 'n onvolhoubare watervoorsiening weens swak bestuur van die Nketoana-grootmaatwaterskema. Dit blyk uit 'n inspeksie deur die plaaslike raadslid Mike Botha en die Demokratiese Alliansie (DA) by die pompstasie, waterbehandelingsaanleg en die onvoltooide waterpypleiding. In antwoorde op vrae van die DA-lid van die Nasionale Raad van Provinsies George Michalakakis aan die Minister van Menslike Nedersettings, Water en Sanitasie, is dit aan die lig gebring dat die belangrike 42 km-pypleiding tussen Reitz en Petrus Steyn vertrap is weens swak beplanning, ontwerp en kontrak administrasie. Dit het gelei tot regstappe tussen Khato Consulting Engineers en die Nketoana Munisipaliteit. 'n Nuwe onderneming, Pro-Plan Consulting Engineers, is sedertdien aangestel om die ontwerp en finalisering van die waterverbruiklisensie te voltooi. As gevolg van die swak bestuur deur die Nketoana-munisipaliteit van die Nketoana-watervoorsieningskema, is die verantwoordelikheid van die implementeringsagent van hulle wegge neem en aan die Sedibeng Waterraad gegee om te voltooi. 'n Begroting van R125 082 318 is aan hierdie projek toegewys terwyl R65 919 534 teen Oktober 2019 reeds spandeer is. Die Minister het egter 'n nuwe datum van November 2020 gegee vir die voltooiing van die laaste fase van hierdie projek. Die DA bly teleurgesteld dat die swak bestuur deur sowel die kontrakteur as die munisipaliteit die inwoners van Petrus Steyn en

Mamafubedu se reg op 'n gesonde en volhoubare watervoorsiening vertrap het. Die plaaslike infrastruktuur vir watervoorsiening is ook in 'n toestand van verval en is gevangenis. Verlede jaar het die gefrustreerde waterlose inwoners in Mamafubedu betoog en die burgemeester, Maditswako Mokoena, se woning aan die brand gestek. Die DA sal voortgaan om die vordering van hierdie pypleiding te monitor om te verseker dat inwoners toegang tot hul grondwetlike reg op water het, waarsonder hulle nie kan leef nie.

