

Should Pomfret soldiers receive state benefits?

Joaquim Rodrigues
Olifantshoek

I am Joaquim Rodrigues junior from Olifantshoek, Northern Cape, near the Lohatla Army Base where my father use to work. I don't have a lot to tell you, but I want to say the SA National Defence Force must stop lying and giving false hope to our parents when they send out forms to veterans of 32 Battalion, making them think they will receive houses and money. Please just tell our people the truth.

Andrew
North West

Former 32 Battalion members should have the same benefits as Umkhonto weSizwe, Azanian People's Liberation Army, SA Defence Force and homelands veterans. They served South Africa. The government changed, but this is still South Africa.

Tersia du Toit
Eastern Cape

The department of military veterans, in cooperation with the department of public works, should make Pomfret liveable again for the former 32 Battalion members and their families.

Zweli
Gauteng

As an ex-soldier myself, I say no. Those Angolans had a different agenda. Their agenda was to massacre. They are murderers. They deserve no mercy. They killed our brothers. Just send them back, please.

David Rampedi
via SMS

32 Battalion was cowardly collaborating with the evil apartheid forces and therefore they should not be treated as military veterans. All those who were fighting in defence of the sinister apartheid regime have committed heinous crimes against humanity and they should not be seen as military veterans and should not receive any benefits. 32 Battalion were sellouts who were fighting

against their own country. The evil that a man does, lives on after him. Let them go back to their country and ask for forgiveness.

Dr GM Scharf
via SMS

My life was saved by one of them in Angola. Bravest people ever and perhaps the best light infantry unit in the world. They should get full military pension and citizen privileges, as well as settlement in Angola if desired.

Mathuselam
North West

This is a sad story about the soldiers and their families who played a role in the formation of a liberated South Africa. The story only depicts the hardships of the older generation of this community. What about the children who were born in Pomfret and are currently living with their parents there? What opportunities do they have and what does the future hold for them?

Lourens
Gauteng

These guys were brilliant soldiers, lied to by former president FW de Klerk and his cronies. Treat them as military veterans.

Samuel Dhlamini
Mpumalanga

It's painful to read about those people from the former 32 Battalion. We must think about the wives and children who are born suffering for the sins of their parents. I think they should receive basic services appropriate for human beings.

Sam Heap
Gauteng

If the "liberation movements" and old SA Defence Force members and homelands soldiers qualify for veteran privileges, surely the members of 32 Battalion should have the right to enjoy the same privileges. They have done and suffered more for our country than any other unit that partook in the post-1975 war.