



sa navy

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THE SOUTH AFRICAN NAVY WILL NOT HOST NAVY FESTIVAL IN 2018

The South African Navy wishes to announce that it will not host its annual flagship event, Navy Festival, for the year 2018. The family-friendly event which was often held over a weekend either in March or April, afforded the public a first-hand experience of what the SA Navy is about, and an exposure to its platforms and personnel. It also provided business and/or individuals with an opportunity for significant economical-boost in that they could avail their resources to the general public that flooded Simon's Town in droves over the three days.

It had become increasingly difficult over recent years for the SA Navy to host the festival or participate in events where it gets invited such as Transnet National Ports Authority Festivals, Knysna Festival just to mention a few. The organisation is beset with the dwindling of budget allocations yearly. It is presumed that budget allocations would not increase in the foreseeable future. The SA Navy is thus confronted with an intricate conundrum of operating optimally with the current budget, hence the Naval Command Council took a decision not to host this year's festival and limit participation in events of this nature. This is to allow the SA Navy to commit its already depleted budget on the core business, so as to ensure that the SA Navy discharges its primary responsibility of defending and protecting the South African maritime zone while making sure that our sea lines of communication are open and protected against any form of threat.

“Despite the budgetary challenges the organisation is faced with, we must therefore work harder and smarter – doing more with less, and now more than ever, we need to challenge traditional constructs, employing innovation to propel our Navy into the future” stated Chief of the SA Navy, Vice Admiral Mosiwa Hlongwane.

The non-hosting of the Navy Festival is not indefinite, thus, the SA Navy will continue exploring viable options to circumvent budgetary constraints, such as hosting the festival every second year or in any other port. Future decisions pertaining the festival and related matters will be communicated.

The SA Navy apologises to all its key stakeholders for the inconvenience caused.

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