NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

QUESTION PAPER

NOTE:

1. † Indicates translated version of the question.
2. ★ Indicates a question for oral reply.

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(Replies to be submitted at: ncopquestions@parliament.gov.za)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

WEDNESDAY, 26 AUGUST 2026

DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS

Long-Term Force Evolution Strategy

★160. Mr P A Phala (Limpopo: ANC) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:

(1) Whether she will table the strategic policy framework in Parliament following Cabinet's approval of the Long-Term Force Evolution Strategy and Planning Concept for the SA National Defence Force on 6 May 2026; if not, why not; if so, (a) when will it be introduced and (b) which additional stakeholders will be engaged in finalising the policy;

(2) whether there have been any engagements with the National Treasury regarding the funding of the said policy framework; if not, why not; if so, what were the outcomes of such engagements? CO642E

Operation Prosper

★165. Mr N Gotsell (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:

(a) What measurable outcomes have been recorded in the first six weeks of the deployment of members of the SA National Defence Force under Operation Prosper in support of the SA Police Service to combat illegal mining and gangsterism across various provinces, including arrests, seizures and stabilisation of identified hotspot areas and (b) how is the allocated budget of approximately R823 million been utilised to support such operation? CO647E

Compensation of employees

★161. Ms S Masumpa (Western Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:

(1) What is the projected annual over-expenditure by her department on compensation of employees over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period;

(2) whether Cabinet has considered adjusting its instruction to the National Treasury regarding the compensation of employees ceiling for her department; if not, (a) why not and (b) what interventions her department intends implementing to ensure alignment with the said ceiling; if so, what are the relevant details? CO643E

Degradation in SANDF/SA Navy

★158. Mr V Gericke (Western Cape: EFF) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:

(1) Whether she has been informed that the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) is experiencing critical operational degradation as a result of severe budgetary constraints, collapsing infrastructure and a lack of decisive political guidance which is resulting in critically low morale among soldiers; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether she has been informed that the SA Navy suffers from similar constraints, including a specific vessel which has remained at the Durban Shipyard for a major upgrade for approximately ten years, with its completion being anticipated only in another five years depending on funding availability; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether she will provide a detailed plan on how her department intends to get the SANDF back to a state of operational readiness and former glory and pride; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO640E

Failures of Military Command Council

★164. Ms T Breedt (Free State: FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:

(1) In light of the Military Command Council's repeated failures in budget management, including real-term defence budget declines, over 60% of Vote 23 has been consumed by personnel costs with training and maintenance chronically underfunded, what were the precise reasons to centralise all Joint Basic Military Training for Army, Navy, Air Force and Military Health Service recruits at a single Army Infantry base 3 SAI Battalion in Kimberley instead of utilising the existing service-specific training facilities that each arm previously operated (details furnished);

(2) (a) what cost-benefit analysis have been conducted to justify concentrating over 2500 recruits for each intake at one venue (details furnished) and (b) how this decision aligns with claims of enhanced interoperability and 'universal soldier' readiness when Navy and Air Force training pipelines have been explicitly neglected and 3 SAI has documented history of severe personnel overload and logistical failures? CO646E

Project Hoefyster/Hotel

★162. Mr P Noe (Free State: ANC) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:

Whether any decisions have been made regarding the finalisation, non-finalisation or continuation of Project Hoefyster and Project Hotel; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps (i) have been and (ii) will be taken to prevent a recurrence of the project management and acquisition failures that have been experienced regarding the said projects and (b) what are the further relevant details? CO644E

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

Developing broader national plans

★153. Ms O D Medupe (North West: ANC) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

Whether his department has developed any broader national plans to gear the country to mitigate against negative consequences of the US-Israel war on Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO635E

Anti-migrant protests

★140. Mr M Billy (KwaZulu-Natal: DA) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

In light of the reports that the Government of Nigeria has formally demanded accountability from South Africa following anti-migrant protests and considering that at least 130 Nigerian nationals have requested repatriation as a result of safety concerns amid rising xenophobic tensions, (a) what urgent diplomatic steps has the Government taken to respond to Nigeria's concerns, including demands for accountability regarding violence and alleged misconduct by security authorities and (b) how is the Government ensuring the protection of foreign nationals in South Africa in line with its international obligations? CO622E

Prevention of illegal immigration

★155. Ms J S Mananiso (Gauteng: ANC) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

Whether, in light of the nature and level of cooperation of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries that are bordering South Africa in the prevention of illegal immigration into South Africa, the management of illegal immigration is part of the security architecture of SADC; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? CO637E

Assessment of economic loss

★146. Mr V Gericke (Western Cape: EFF) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

(1) What is his latest assessment of the total economic loss to major exporters, particularly in automotive and agricultural sectors, given the imposition of steep 30% "reciprocal tariffs" on South African exports by the United States (US);

(2) whether he has been informed of the impact of concurrent US global health funding cuts on the supply of HIV/Aids products; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what concrete steps have been taken to secure alternative markets to mitigate the

loss of employment opportunities and ensure long-term viability of South African exports? CO628E

SA visa waivers

★137. Mr S A Zulu (Mpumalanga: MKP) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

(a) What concrete diplomatic outcomes his department secured since 1 January 2025 to achieve reciprocal visa waivers with key partners in Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (Brics) and the European Union, given that South African passport holders still require visas for over 100 countries while citizens of many of such countries enjoy visa-free access into South Africa (details furnished) and (b) which countries have formally agreed and/or are at an advanced stage of concluding such arrangements as of 30 May 2026? CO619E

Interactions with SADC countries

★156. Adv Inkosi M Nonkonyana (Eastern Cape: ANC) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

Whether, in light of persistent geo-political tensions, South Africa had any interactions with countries in the Southern African Development Community region and the entire continent regarding bolstering regional cooperation to address tensions and build a renewed emphasis to strategic reconfiguration and repositioning of the architecture of country-to-country and regional cooperation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CO638E

Questions for oral reply transferred for written reply in terms of Rule 228(5):

★138. Mr S A Zulu (Mpumalanga: MKP)—International Relations and Cooperation.

★139. Mr M Billy (KwaZulu-Natal: DA)—International Relations and Cooperation.

★142. Mr N Gotsell (Western Cape: DA)—International Relations and Cooperation.

★143. Mr N Gotsell (Western Cape: DA)—International Relations and Cooperation.

★148. Mr H J Van den Berg (Northern Cape: FF Plus)—International Relations and Cooperation.

★154. Mr P A Phala (Limpopo: ANC)—International Relations and Cooperation.

★159. Mr V Gericke (Western Cape: EFF)—Defence and Military Veterans.

★163. Mr P A Phala (Limpopo: ANC)—Defence and Military Veterans.

★166. Mr N Gotsell (Western Cape: DA)—Defence and Military Veterans.

★167. Mr S A Zulu (Mpumalanga: MKP)—Defence and Military Veterans.

★168. Mr S A Zulu (Mpumalanga: MKP)—Defence and Military Veterans.

★169. Mr F J Badenhorst (Western Cape: DA)—Defence and Military Veterans.

★170. Mr F J Badenhorst (Western Cape: DA)—Defence and Military Veterans.