

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER

NOTE:

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

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

TUESDAY, 28 MAY 2026

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

Integration from manual to digital

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

- (1) Whether, in light of the persistent administrative challenges within the Department of Military Veterans, she has developed any comprehensive turnaround strategies to transition from a manual, paper-based database system to a fully integrated digital filing and communication system; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether she has any specific logistical plans to address budget shortfalls that prevent military veterans from accessing their statutory benefits such as the military veterans' pension and healthcare; if not, why not; if so, what plans;
- (3) whether she will take any steps to ensure that her department's top structure is reinforced with qualified experts and permanent senior management to stabilise governance and improve service delivery; if not, why not; if so, (a) what is the detailed turnaround strategy and specific timeline that is attached to each phase of such institutional renewal to make her department more accessible and veteran-friendly? CO641E

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

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

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

Funding from Criminal Asset Recovery Account

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

Whether her department has requested the allocated R1 billion from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development's Criminal Asset Recovery Account for efforts to combat organised crime that was announced by the Minister of Finance in his 2026 Budget Speech; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what will the funds be utilised for and (b) how will the expenditure of the said allocation be accounted for and reported to Parliament?

CO645E

*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

*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

*Safeguarding against irregularities***★166. Mr N Gotsell (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:**

In light of the presentations by the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation and the Special Investigating Unit on 11 March 2026 which indicated that approximately 34% of investigations within the security cluster relate to her department (details furnished), (a) what assessment has she made of the reasons for such disproportionate level of investigations within her department and (b) what measures are in place to ensure that planning, procurement and expenditure that is associated with (i) her department in general and (ii) Operation Prosper are safeguarded against similar irregularities? CO648E

*Operational funding of Operation Corona***★167. Mr S A Zulu (Mpumalanga: MKP) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:**

- (a) What has been the direct impact of the 12% cut to the operational funding of the deployment of the SA National Defence Force under Operation Corona in the 2024/25 financial year on (i) troop deployment levels, (ii) equipment readiness and (iii) patrol

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frequency along the Lesotho and Zimbabwe borders as of 30 April 2026 and (b) what urgent and funded interventions her department has implemented to prevent further weakening of border security capacity? CO649E

Illegal activities/gang-related shootings

★168. Mr S A Zulu (Mpumalanga: MKP) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:

(a) What measurable reduction in murders, gang-related shootings, illegal firearms and other violent crimes have been recorded in the designated deployment areas of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) under Operation Prosper to support the SA Police Service (SAPS) in combating gangsterism and violent crime in Cape Town crime hotspots since 1 March 2026 (details furnished), (b) what command, oversight and joint operational protocols are in place to prevent operational compromise and/or collusion during the SANDF and SAPS operations, (c) how many allegations that are involving SANDF members been reported and/or investigated during the past 12 months and (d) what steps has her department taken to ensure the deployment restores public trust and strengthens long-term crime prevention capacity? CO650E

2015 Defence Review

★169. Mr F J Badenhorst (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:

- (1) What is the status of the approved 2015 Defence Review and its limited implementation to date as official government policy;
- (2) whether the recently approved Long-Term Force Evolution Strategy and its associated policy documents are intended to supplement, amend or replace the existing Defence Review framework? CO651E

Long-Term Force Evolution Strategy

★170. Mr F J Badenhorst (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:

Which current capabilities are envisaged to be reduced, retired or reconfigured over the next three years to free up resources to fund the implementation of the approved Long-Term Force Evolution Strategy which acknowledges sustained fiscal constraints, aging platforms and under-resourced capability development within the SA National Defence Force? CO652E