

**MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS**



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**INTERNAL QUESTIONS PAPER NO 23**

**QUESTION NO: 2301**

**DATE: 09 JUNE 2023**

**REPLY RECOMMENDED BY:  
MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

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**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 09 JUNE 2023**

**Ms A J Beukes (ANC) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans: [□349] [Question submitted for oral reply now placed for written reply because it is in excess of quota (Rule 137(8))]:**

In view of joint operations along the land borders of the Republic requiring a well-trained and well-equipped SA National Defence Force with the National Treasury agreeing to supply R85 million for the purpose of acquiring borderline technology in the 2022-23 financial year, what (a) were the procurement challenges that prevented the acquisition of the specified technology in March 2023 and (b) steps will she take to prevent the challenges in future?

**REPLY:**

(a)(i) One batch of equipment/items procurement process was conducted through ARMSCOR in accordance with the type of equipment/items as well as the financial delegation threshold. The set requirement to ARMSCOR was for the industry (suppliers/service providers) to effect delivery of the equipment or items not later than the end of February 2023. ARMSCOR indicated to us that due consultation was undertaken and the relevant suppliers/service providers confirmed to honour the requirement of the set delivery date. However, this did not materialize as the service providers later indicated that they are unable to deliver before end of February 2023 as agreed.

(a)(ii) The other batch of equipment and items procurement process was conducted through the DOD Central Procurement Service Centre (CPSC) in accordance with the type of equipment/items as well as the financial delegation threshold. The officer in charge at the CPSC (Officer Commanding) informed the client (Joint Operations HQ) that the procurement process is progressing well and accordingly. This feedback was provided on a regular basis to Joint Ops as they conducted regular follow up on a weekly basis. However, later in January 2023 it was incidentally discovered that there were no records at the CPSC for such procurement. It was discovered that the CPSC Officer Commanding had all along deceived the client, Joint Ops, for this entire period. The Officer Commanding has since been removed from his post in January 2023 to allow investigation on various issues.

- (b) The DOD is in the process of undertaking wide ranging programs and activities to address the various challenges of the prevailing challenges in the procurement process and or system. This has also been presented to the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans, as well as the Joint Standing Committee on Defence and Military Veterans.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T.R. Modise', is positioned above the printed name.

**(T.R. MODISE)**

**MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS: MP**