

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

INTERNAL QUESTIONS PAPER NO 23

QUESTION NO: 2302

DATE: 09 JUNE 2023

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

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**Ms A H Mthembu (ANC) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans: [□350]
[Question submitted for oral reply now placed for written reply because it is in excess of quota (Rule 137(8))]:**

Given that the latest SA National Defence Force (SANDF) morale survey found a neutral morale position of the Force, which were neither high levels of morale nor low levels, how will the SANDF improve the morale as it was identified that the procurement and quality purchases of SANDF equipment will be able to boost morale, in light of the SANDF and specifically the army facing the constraints of limited funds to make such a procurement of equipment?

REPLY:

1. The Department of Defence acknowledges the need to urgently address the procurement challenges. This is a matter that the Minister of Defence has directed the Department to address as a high priority.
2. In line with the Minister's directive on procurement, the Department has held a work-session which reflected on the following key measures:
 - a. A review of the positioning of the procurement function.
 - b. Capacitating the procurement function to address the skills gap.
 - c. Enhancing the buying power and Chiefs of Services and Divisions accountability for procurement, through a revised delegation regime. This will improve the turn-around time for purchasing and the quality standards as the technical experts will be closer to the process.
 - d. Improving the sourcing methods to leverage on best practice standards such as strategic sourcing, which will assist in cost savings to address the challenges that come with a declining.
 - e. Augmenting demand planning and management to eliminate the burden at the procurement phase, which results in loss of time and at times appointing suppliers based on the lowest offer but not yielding the best quality standards.

f. The Department is in the process of developing the “Procurement by Other Means Policy” that will deal with Defence specific requirements that are of strategic importance and where there is complexity in the market.

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