

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 3973

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

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Mr. M G P Lekota (Cope) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:

Whether she had succeeded in ensuring that the 85% of the fleet of the SA Air Force which had remained grounded for a lengthy period, leaving only two out of the 26 Gripen fighter aircrafts and a mere three out of the 24 Hawk aircrafts still available for active service, have now been restored to active service; if not, why not; if so, what success has her department achieved in this regard?

REPLY:

The Chief of the South African Air Force recently approved a 7 year plan (MTSF plus Plan 2030), with an end-state of an organisation which is affordable, sustainable and responsive. This Plan seeks to ensure that Prime Mission Equipment (PME) will be held at the minimum Level of Capability Maturity required with provision to optimise as and when the threat scenario changes.

Plan 2030 Focus of Main Effort in so far as PME is concerned is the rejuvenation of core capabilities by means of essential life extensions, mid-life upgrades, and disposal management in order to reduce baseline costs.

Furthermore, the Strategic Capital Acquisition Master Plan (SCAMP) has been virtually depleted, thereby not allowing rejuvenation of fleets through the acquisition of replacement prime mission equipment.

In FY2023/24 the National Treasury allocated an additional Rb1 for the upgrade and/or acquisition of the Medium Air Transport Capability. This funding will be utilised to conduct aircraft servicing, address the urgent regulatory and obsolescence issues faced by the current Medium Air Transport Capability and procure additional spares and engines. This funding only partially addresses the Medium Air Transport Capability Fleet Requirement and is not sufficient to acquire replacement aircraft.



MS T.R. MODISE

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS: MP