



18 May 2023

Dear Hon Chairpersons,

**DECREASING BUDGET OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE**

Thank you for your letter dated 17 May 2023, on the above matter.

The concerns outlined and related impact and consequences on our national security, are also noted.

Following many years of decline in the Defence Budget, we have started a budgetary process of reversing the decreased trend and hope to continue to do so.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'C. Ramaphosa', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely,'.

**Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa**  
**President of the Republic of South Africa**

**Hon JJ Maake,MP**  
Chairperson: Joint Standing  
on Intelligence  
Parliament of the Republic of  
South Africa

**Hon C Xaba, MP**  
Chairperson: Portfolio Committee  
on Defence and Military Veterans  
Parliament of the Republic of  
South Africa