

**MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS**



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER**

**CLUSTER 1: PEACE AND SECURITY**

**QUESTION FOR ORAL / WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO 333**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2022**

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

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**Dr M Basopu (ANC) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:**

(a) Whether there are plans within her Department of Military Veterans to forge partnerships with municipalities in the implementation of the projects of the military veterans given that the projects are implemented in municipalities; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

**REPLY:**

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans is part of a Presidential Task Team that is led by the Deputy President to engage Provincial Premiers' to improve the working relations between the department and provincial governments and further forging working relations with municipalities and local governments through these engagements and to seek solutions to resolve the challenges of non-delivery and failure to be responsive to Military Veteran's needs.

Most province have committed to set up coordinating structures, consisting of various provincial departments, municipalities and the DMV, in the Offices of the Premiers to assist the DMV better coordinate issues of Military Veterans in those respective provinces.

Recent intervention that have made it smoother to forged working relations with provinces, local government and municipalities have include the following:

- a. **Provincial Driven Partnerships**: The benefits are being realized through the commitments that have been made by some Provincial Premiers on issues such as housing and business opportunities for Military Veterans. The department has been able to provide the database of Military Veterans to all Provincial offices of the Premier so that they can easily verify and plan for the Military Veterans' community in their provinces. The process of decentralizing of benefits is ongoing.
- b. **Enhancement of Provincial Capacity**: The initial effort undertaken was to decentralise resources to assist the Military Veterans to this end, the department appointed nine administration assistants in 2021 to improve the administrative capacity of the provincial offices when Military Veterans visit provincial offices for any



inquiries. The department has established Provincial Offices, in NC, EC, WC, FS, MP and KZN outstanding Provinces are KZN, Gauteng and Limpopo. Currently, the department is in the process to ensure adequate staffing in these office.

- c. The **Integrated Database Management System** is intended for decentralisation to make it easy for military veterans to access their benefits. This is a long term process and support Military Veterans coming from far-fetched Provinces.

There have been recent interventions under skills, training and empowerment programme that seek to integrate military veterans into the domestic work force. 2 442 Military Veterans and their dependants were approved for skills development programme in the 2021/22 financial year.

117 Military Veterans were provided with access to business facilitation Programmes in the 2021/22 financial. Recently the department partnered with Prasa Project, where a total of 146 Military Veterans received security training from PRASA in the Western Cape in the February 2022.

Other notable interventions in partnership with local government departments include: The Department of Transport in KwaZulu-Natal Province awarding a total of 14 contracts to Military Veterans owned entities of which 5 were women owned in the 2021/22 financial year.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Kwazulu-Natal supported 8 Military Veterans beneficiaries' projects.

350 Military Veterans were absorbed to eThekweni Municipal Council after having been shortlisted and were successful during interviews under Water and Sanitation, Parks and Recreation, Health, Human Settlement and Security Management, Electricity and Community participation Units.

The Eastern Cape government trained 10 Military Veterans on Poultry, Piggery and Boer-Goats production farming in 2020 at Fort Cox College and the province has further trained fifteen in crop production management, gas processing from cattle dung and aquaculture at the same institution.

The Eastern Cape Office of the Premier (OTP) provided an agricultural skills development training to 30 OR Tambo DM military veterans and dependents at Tsolo Agriculture and Rural Development Institution (TARDI) focusing on crop and animal production in these following region: Lusikisiki (4), Port St Johns (3), Libode (4), Mthatha (7), Mqanduli (4), Qumbu (2) and Tsolo (4).



The Department of Military Veterans also provided ICT Training – Digital Literacy Skills Development Course, where a total of 1820 Military Veterans received training to assist the Military Veterans with access the Department virtually and to submit their documents in the automated system for easier reference and tracking.

The housing benefit is implemented in conjunction with the provincial department of human settlements and local municipalities. 71 houses were handed over to Military Veterans in the 2021/22 financial year across all provinces. 15 houses have so far been built for Military Veterans in quarter 1 of the 2022/23 financial across the country.

The Department is committed on continuing to resolving and unlocking all the challenges identified to meet the needs of the military veterans and to ensure delivery of benefits to military veterans as identified in the Act. No. 18 of 2011.

*DR Modise*

**MS. T.R. MODISE**

**MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS**

DATE: 31/08/2022