

**MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS**



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY**

**QUESTION NO 620**

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

## QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY

## QUESTION NO 620

**Mr V C Xaba (ANC) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:**

Given that the Auditor-General found during her audit of the Department of Defence (DoD) in the 2021-22 financial year, a lack of progress in the implementation of the action plans to address audit findings in the DoD and a slow application of consequence management in areas identified, what short-term steps will she put in place to address the specified findings with regard to (a) a lack of progress in the implementation of the action plans and (b) The slow application of consequence management?

**REPLY:**

Honourable Members, I have given Ministerial Directive MODD/0001/2022 titled Strategic Direction for the Department of Defence Across Multi-Medium-Terms Strategic Framework Planning Periods. The directive clearly provides strategic intent of the Executive Authority. The Directive deliverables are now being integrated into the 2023 Medium Term Expenditure Framework and we expect to see the impact in the medium term.

I have since directed that the Secretary for Defence, assisted by Armscor, to institute a wide-range of reforms. In the procurement and acquisition arena, the impact will become visible to the honourable members in our APP2023.

Amongst the priorities given to the Secretary for Defence are: To develop a defence accountability ~~regime~~ *model*.

Streamline the delegation to all subordinates and with a focus on repeated offenders.

The bulk of findings the Department receives relates to Supply Chain Management and Asset Management. These are within our military environment, which have footprints all over the country:

- i. Actions plans are developed and monitored by the Chiefs of Services and Divisions at monthly accountability meetings, chaired by the SecDef as Accounting Officer.
- ii. The SecDef is in the process of approaching the SETAs to assist with interns who will add capacity to these functions, especially within the asset verification environment.

- iii. I have instructed the Chiefs of Services and Divisions to take full accountability for their environments and ensure that repeat findings are curbed.
  - iv. As the executive authority I have also instructed the Internal Audit Division to ensure they finalise their follow up on the status of implementation of action plans.
- (a) We do admit, the wheels are turning slower than anticipated as a result of the backlog of our procurement related irregularities. With regard to the high profile investigations by the SIU, HAWKS and Public Protector's investigations, there has been progress. Some of those mentioned in the recommendations and remedial actions have been placed on precautionary leave whilst further investigations are going on.
- i. The military personnel who have been implicated as a result of investigations instituted by law enforcement agencies have since appeared before the military justice system.
  - ii. As the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, I have further instructed the Chief of the SANDF to fast track the Boards of Inquiry after investigations have been finalised by external sources and also hold those who have been found to have erred accountable.



**(T.R. MODISE)**

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

**DATE:**