

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORAL REPLY TRANSFERRED TO WRITTEN

CLUSTER 1: PEACE AND SECURITY

QUESTION NO 644

DATE: 08 NOVEMBER 2023

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

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY

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644. Mr S J F Marais (DA) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:

With reference to her reply to question 2826 on 13 October 2023, what total number of pilots and flight engineers has been employed as at the latest specified date versus the total number of the actual and current number of flight hours including other requirements to maintain the crew certification?

REPLY:

The SA Air Force is the fourth programme out of eight programmes of the DOD and is responsible to provide prepared and supported air defence capabilities for the defence and protection of the RSA.

Its programmes include basic flying training, air combat helicopter and air transport capabilities.

The South African Air Force (SAAF) is obligated to train its pilots and different mustering in accordance with international aviation standards. This means that pilots and flight engineers (FE) must maintain stipulated currency levels which can only be achieved if platforms are serviceable and available.

Given the state of our air assets, a structured intervention is being initiated with additional funding to the Air Force of Rb1 as well as reimbursements obtained from the UN.

As of 02 November 2023, the total number of Pilots in the SAAF is 320 plus seven Student Pilots (Combat – 41, Helicopters – 156, Air Transport – 97 and BFT – 26 + 7) and the total number of FEs is 73 (Helicopters – 55, Air Transport – 18).

The total number of actual and current flight hours including other requirements to maintain the crew certification (currencies and competencies) for all SAAF flying Directorates is 12 519 hours.



(T.R. MODISE)

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS: MP