

**MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS**



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY**

**QUESTION NO 645**

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

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY

#### QUESTION NO 645

**Mr W T I Mafanya (EFF) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:**

What (a) is the backlog on maintenance of key SA National Defence Force equipment and (b) are the full, relevant details of such backlogs?

#### **REPLY:**

The maintenance of key SANDF equipment is executed in accordance with the available maintenance budget for each capability area within the SANDF. The number of equipment's per capability area that needs to be maintained is determined by the SANDF and prioritized in accordance with the latest force design and with planned utilization of the respective equipment's.

Maintenance contracts for SANDF equipment's primarily provide for "on demand" maintenance as and when the need arises. The maintenance of most capabilities within the SANDF is occurring as and when required.

Within the SA Army environment, there is currently a backlog with the maintenance of some equipment of which Denel is the OEM and which needs to be maintained by Denel. Examples of these is the maintenance of the GV5 and GV6 field artillery guns as well as maintenance of the Samil fleet of logistic vehicles for which Denel was contracted to supply required spares. The delay caused by the inability of Denel has been mitigated by appointing an alternative supplier who is cooperating with Denel to provide the requisite spares. The artillery capability within Denel has furthermore been ring-fenced and is progressing with the maintenance of the guns at Denel.

In lieu of Denel not being in a position to procure spares from suppliers for maintenance activities, Armscor is now paying selected suppliers directly for the provisioning of spares to Denel.

Within the SA Air Force environment, backlogs exist on maintenance of the Gripen and Hawk fighter aircraft, as well as on the Oryx and Falcon fleets. Due to the time that has

expired to establish maintenance contracts for some aircraft in the SAAF fleet, a maintenance backlog arose with regards to the Gripen, Hawk and Oryx aircraft. Maintenance Contracts have now been established for all aircraft in the SAAF fleet, and the aircraft are being maintained and returned to service in accordance with the respective agreed and contracted schedules and within the available budgets. The delays in the maintenance of the Falcon fleet of aircraft is due to non-performance by the appointed contractor, but these delays are being addressed and mitigated.

Within the SA Navy environment, the Frigates and submarines of the SA Navy are being maintained in accordance with available budget. Maintenance contracts to enhance maintenance on these vessels are extended as and when funding becomes available. There is currently a delay in availability of the Logistic Supply Vessel of the SA Navy as a result of unavailability of spares and non-performance by the appointed maintenance contractor. These delays have been addressed and mitigating steps have been implemented.



**(T.R. MODISE)**

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

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