



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1542

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 29 APRIL 2022

REPLY RECOMMENDED BY
MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS: MP

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

- (1) (a) What is the reason that inappropriate and substandard uniforms are procured for the Special Forces, whereas the Armaments Corporation of South Africa produces quality uniforms which are combat-reliant?

REPLY:

- (1) (a) The SANDF does not procure and provide inappropriate and substandard uniforms for the Special Forces or entire SANDF. The SA Army's Product System's Management Directorate is the sole procurement agency of all camouflage uniforms in the SANDF and does not procure inappropriate nor substandard uniforms, as it conducts the process through Armscor, which has a highly regulated and controlled system in place.

The procurement request is accompanied by the SA Army's specifications for the applicable garment and suppliers are bound by the agreement to adhere to the specifications to the letter.

- (b) The cut, make and trim process of uniforms is then strictly controlled, and suppliers provide Armscor Quality Controllers with pre-production samples which are assessed for quality and signed off by the SA Army prior to mass production; if found in compliance to the specifications required. During the production of the uniforms, spot checks are executed, and garments are picked randomly for testing to confirm adherence to the specifications. Upon the completion of an order, Armscor Quality Assurance signs off the consignment after another rigorous quality assurance testing prior to these garments being delivered to the SANDF's warehouses. Uniforms are then issued on a first in, first out principle to ensure that the shelf life thereof is properly controlled.
- (c) The SA Army also has a defect and failure process through which defective uniform pieces that might have slipped through the quality-check process are reported, it's a computer aided logistic management and information system. This computer aided logistic management and information system (CALMIS) is utilised to inform the SA Army on whether there are trends of sub-quality workmanship from a specific supplier or whether the input materials provided by the SA Army (textiles) are substandard.
- (d) A corrective action plan that focusses on preventative measures is then compiled to ensure such ineffective and substandard garments do not become the norm.

T.R. Modise

(T.R. MODISE)
MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS: MP

DATE: 10. 05. 2022