

**MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS**



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**INTERNAL QUESTIONS PAPER NO 18**

**QUESTION NO: 1811**

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

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

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**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER No.18**

**QUESTION NO 1811**

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

- (1) With reference to the controversial visit by the sanctioned vessel, the Lady-R, in early December 2022 when she was allowed to berth in the Simons town Naval Base, what is the (a) nature, (b) description and (c) purpose of the goods loaded onto the vessel at the time;
- (2) whether she will furnish Mr S J F Marais with copies of the valid export permits that were issued for and accompanied the goods loaded onto the vessel; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether all legislative requirements were met regarding the importation of munitions and/or any other cargo offloaded from and reloaded onto the vessel, including import and export permits, transport permits of munitions and hazardous goods, customs clearance and Reserve Bank compliance; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

**REPLY:**

- (1) (a – c) & (3) As stated in many previous public statements and I reiterate that nothing was loaded onto Lady R, but rather, Lady R was delivering equipment that was ordered by SANDF pre –Covid in 2018/19. When the pandemic struck it affected every aspect of our lives and things came to a standstill. Thus the delay delivery of the equipment. We want to reiterate that the order for such a delivery stands and that there was no export of anything from our entities through Lady R.

Due to the serious nature of these allegations, the extent of public interest and the negative implications for South Africa's international standing, the President of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa announced the establishment of an independent inquiry into the circumstance of the docking of Lady R in Simon's Town.

It is therefore prudent that the panel be granted space and time to finalize its investigation and to bring this matter to its ultimate conclusion within its mandate.

- (2) No goods were loaded onto Lady R, therefore no export permits were issued. However the honourable member should correctly direct the question to The NCACC which is the controlling Authority for Conventional Arms Control in South Africa, under the Chairpersonship of Minister Gungubele.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T.R. Modise', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(T.R. MODISE)

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS: MP