

**MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS**



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO: 1889**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 13 MAY 2022**

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

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

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**QUESTION NUMBER: 1889**

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

In light of the fact that it was reported that her department is retaining 44 Defence Attaché missions abroad, (a) in which (i) countries and (ii) missions are they based, (b) what are the total costs for each mission, (c) what are the strategic and other benefits of the Defence Attaché missions in the specified countries and (d) given the reduced defence budget and increased strategic and military demand for financial resources, (i) what are the reasons she values the Defence Attaché presence and costs as a higher priority than Goal 1 and Goal 2 of her department's Annual Performance Plan and (ii) how does she justify the costs?

**REPLY:**

The Department of Defence has 44 Defence Attaché/Advisor Offices (DAOs):

- a.
  - (i) List of Defence Attaché/Advisor Offices attached as per Appendix A, attached.
  - (ii) The Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations in New York and the South African Permanent Mission to the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa.
- b. The total cost for each mission differs, as it is dependent on the cost of living allowance of the respective host country as well as the exchange rate between the South African Rand (ZAR) and the United States Dollar (USD).
- c. The Strategic benefit of Defence Attaché Offices is that it assists in building alliances or partnerships with allied and strategic bilateral and multilateral partners/organisations, which serve a specific purpose in promoting peace and stability through defence diplomacy in the region, continent and rest of the world.
- d.
  - (i) The value of Defence Attaché deployment lies in its contribution to the Department of Defence's outcomes which is to enhance and contribute to peace, security and stability in the Republic of South Africa, the region, Africa and the world through appropriately resourced and sustained defence capabilities and should not be viewed in isolation as receiving a higher priority from the Department of Defence Goals and Tasks.
  - (ii) The current strategic positioning of the DAO deployments serves South Africa's interest on both defence bilateral and multilateral levels as it centres on fostering long-standing relationships with key African states and other strategic partners through effective defence diplomacy.

  
(T.R. MODISE)

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

**DATE:** 19.05.2022

# APPENDIX A

## LIST OF DEFENCE ATTACHÉ OFFICES

Ser No	Region	Countries
1.	Africa	Algeria, Angola, African Union Commission, Botswana, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, eSwatini, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe
2.	Middle East	Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates
3.	Americas	Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, United Nations and United States of America
4.	Europe	Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and United Kingdom
5.	Asia	India, Malaysia, Pakistan, PRC and Vietnam
6.	<b>Deployment on Non-residential basis in the following 19 countries.</b> Bahrain, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Netherlands, Oman, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Tunisia, and Uruguay	