

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS



PARLIAMENTARY INTERNAL

QUESTION PAPER 17 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1890

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 13 May 2022

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

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

- (1) Given that the Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA) highlighted two material irregularities on property payments and asset management contracts and her reporting on expenses on unplanned and new leases, what were the processes followed for the lease on the St Georges Hotel in Tshwane at R5 million per month;
- (2) (a) on what sections of the Public Finance Management Act, Act 1 of 1999, and other relevant legislative and regulated processes did her department rely before considering and entering into the lease and (b) who (i) signed off on the lease and (ii) will take responsibility for the irregular lease;
- (3) Whether she will confirm that her department and the Government have no other properties and/or facilities which can be used for the same purpose: if not, what is the position in this regard; is so, what are the further, relevant details?

REPLY:

- (1) Internal Command and Control system and processes were embarked upon by the SANDF outside the normal procurement systems. The decision was taken by the Military Command Council of the SANDF prior to the expiring of the lease agreement that the South African National War College must relocate to a suitable facility conducive for training. As a result the Logistics Division commenced with a search for a suitable facility that will accommodate the War College. Various facilities such as the Telkom Learning Centre and Leriba Lodge were investigated but were found unsuitable to provide training. It was only the St George Hotel that was most suitable after the facility was put on market. The Logistics Division then appointed the South African Army Foundation in February 2021 to facilitate the acquisition of the St George's Hotel since the foundation has a trading and expertise that are not available within the SANDF.
- (2) (a) No PFMA processes were followed.
 - (b) (i) The lease agreement was signed off by Chief of Logistics as the functional authority for facilities in the DOD.
 - (b) (ii) The Secretary for Defence and CSANDF have been directed to rectify the process and take the necessary action against members who flouted the processes.
- (2) The DOD does not have any facility that can be utilised for the War College.



(T.R. MODISE)

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS:MP

DATE: 12. 08 2022