

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

INTERNAL QUESTIONS PAPER NO 21

QUESTION NO: 2160

DATE: 02 JUNE 2023

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

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER No.21
QUESTION NO 2160

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 02 JUNE 2023

Inkosi R N Cebekhulu (IFP) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:

Whether, the President, Mr M C Ramaphosa's, appointment of a three-member independent panel to lead the inquiry into the allegations of arms loaded onto the Russian vessel *Lady R* which were raised by the United States ambassador to the Republic, follows after her department failed to conduct a clear and concise investigation into the specified incident; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

REPLY:

No, the appointment of the panel had nothing to do with the failure of the SANDF/DOD to conduct a clear and concise investigation into the specified incident, however, the Commander-in-Chief convened an independent panel in order to ascertain that the executive has been properly briefed on the matter, and can bring the nation into confidence regarding the allegations.

In the Department's previous public statements, it was indicated that what was delivered by the vessel *Lady R* was equipment that was ordered pre-COVID in 2018/19, however, when the pandemic struck, it affected every aspect of our lives and all movements came to a standstill, thus, the delay in the delivery of the equipment. The SANDF, hereby, reiterates that the order for such a delivery stands and that there was no export of anything from our entities through *Lady R*.



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