

**MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS**



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO 2213**

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

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

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

(1) Following her announcement that the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) is planning to downsize the number of its members and/or personnel, what (a) are the full details of the reasoning behind the downsizing, (b) number of SANDF personnel will be affected and (c) has she found what will be the impact of the downsizing on the ability of SANDF to defend the territorial integrity of the Republic?

**REPLY:**

(1)(a) In light of the reduced Defence Budget Allocation and the conclusion that the Compensation of Employee (COE) Allocation will be further reduced for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and also that relief to secure sufficient funding will not be forthcoming, the Department of Defence (DOD) was forced to implement HR cost-savings measures/interventions to reduce HR cost pressures.

(b) With the implementation of the interventions to reduce cost pressures, the DOD aims not to exceed the average planned HR strength of 73,000 over the MTEF. The intent of the planned HR interventions is to reach equilibrium between the COE Allocation received and required personnel to maintain an effective defence capability. The National Treasury has allocated R1bn to fund the MEM during FY2022/23 and R800m for FY2023/24 in order to assist the DOD to fit in the COE Allocation. This will translate in the planned exit of approximately 3048 uniformed members through MEM over the indicated financial years.

(c) Even though the SANDF remains resolute in assuring the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic, supporting the people and executing missions in support of the national interest, the continual decrease in the COE allocation negatively impacts on the capability of the SANDF to deliver on its domestic, regional and continental responsibilities.



**MS. T. R. MODISE**

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

**DATE:** 23.04.2022