

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE & MILITARY VETERANS**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**2225. Dr P J Groenewald (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans :†**

(1) Whether, since her reply to question 249 on 18 March 2014, the Commission of Inquiry into the Dakota Air Disaster of 5 December 2012, in which the aircraft crashed into Giant’s Castle, has now been finalised; if not, why not; if so, what were the findings of the investigation;

(2) whether the aircraft concerned deviated from its flight route; if so, what was the reason for this;

(3) whether she will make a statement on the matter? NW2583E

**REPLY**

1. Yes the inquiry was finalised on 28 March 2014, and the findings are as follows:

* The Dakota Cargo crashed because it was flown at an altitude to low to provide sufficient terrain clearance and in weather that made visibility marginal.
* The route flown also contributed to the accident as it did not ensure that the aircraft remain clear of the Drakensberg Mountains.
* It was found that it was highly unlikely that a proper pre-flight crew briefing was held, which should have identified the flaws in the selected flight plan.
* The aircraft was serviceable prior to the accident with no history of significant defects, and therefore did not contribute to the accident.

1. No, the Dakota aircraft did not deviate from the flight route.
2. No