

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE & MILITARY VETERANS**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**3045. Mr S J F Marais (DA) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:**

(1) With reference to a recent United Nations Office of Internal Oversight report (details furnished) on sexual offences committed by peacekeepers, which identified members of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) as amongst major offending military forces, (a) what action has been taken in this regard and (b) what metrics have been employed to measure the success of interventions;

(2) what is the number of reported sexual offences committed by members of the SANDF whilst on peacekeeping missions;

(3) whether any members of the SANDF have faced disciplinary action for sexual offences committed whilst on peacekeeping missions; if so, (a) how many and (b) what was the outcome of said action in each case? NW3585E

**REPLY**

Question 1(a). The Operations Support Legal Satellite Office (OSL) receives all incidents reported to the United Nations (UN) that involves allegations of sexual abuse and misconduct against members of the SANDF. Upon receipt the OSL deploys a team to investigate such allegations and where *prima facie* evidence of a commission of an offence is disclosed, the necessary disciplinary action is instituted.

Question 1(b). This OSL provides monthly feedback to the UN on all pending sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) cases. It should be noted that the recent UN report highlights the fact that South Africa is the only country to do so.

Question 2. Number of reported cases: 14. All the allegations lodged at the UN were investigated. Out of the 14 reported matters in only two cases the evidence disclosed *prima facie* evidence. These matters were finalised and the rest of the matters were reported closed due to no *prima facie* evidence.

Question 3(a). Members that faced disciplinary action: 2

Question 3(b). In both cases the members were convicted by a military court

Question 4. The submissions for assignment of Regular Force members and Reserve Force members as Senior Military Judges and Military Judges in terms of Section 14 of the Military Discipline Supplementary Measures Act, Act 16 of 1999, is with the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans for consideration.

Question 5. The number of outstanding cases within the military justice system is 1 588 cases.