

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO: 629

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 25 APRIL 2022

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

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

Whether the SA National Defence Force has the (a) capacity and (b) military intelligence to (i) detect and (ii) prevent the exploitation of the oceans of the Republic by multinational companies who come to fish illegally in the ocean spaces of the Republic; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

REPLY:

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) is in the process of developing a modern Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) capability, with two Maritime Domain Awareness Centres (MDACs), situated at Silvermine (MDAC West) and in Durban (MDAC East). These Maritime Domain Awareness Centres comprises of the necessary technology and information sharing systems to monitor its maritime domain.

The SANDF has a restricted capacity to detect, prevent and enforce the exploitation of South Africa's waters from illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing activities, especially within waters surrounding the Prince Edward Island Group (PEIG). The naval vessels currently employed in securing South Africa's maritime zones and gathering intelligence comprise vessels procured under the Strategic Defence Procurement Package, being the four Valour class frigates and three Heroic-class submarines. These vessels' primary role is military in nature and not constabulary in nature. The SANDF also employs numerous older vessels such as the SAS DRAKENSBERG, SAS PROTEA and two River-class mine counter-measure vessels. The SANDF currently has no Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) capability

T.R. Modise

(T.R. MODISE)

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS: MS

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