

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 767

DATE OF PUBLICATION 11 MARCH 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:

What steps have been taken by her department to rebuild the defence and military veterans' divisions, as there is currently no existing clear plan to bring in new recruits?

REPLY

The Department of Defence (DOD) has been adversely impacted by a National Treasury Budget ceiling on its Compensation of Employee (COE) Budget allocation, leading to a COE budget deficit.

In March 2021, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans (MOD&MV), issued directives to implement measures to reduce HR cost pressures for the 2021 MTEF. The Department is currently implementing these measures and interventions for the 2021 MTEF. These measures and interventions include the following:

- Strength: Maintain average strength of 73 098 for FY2022/23.
- MSDS Intake: Conduct an MSDS Intake every alternate year (planned intake FY2022/23: 1, 997, FY2024/25: 2,207 and 2025/26: 2207).
- Reserves: Reduce Reserve Force man-days from 2,601,591 million to 1,990,259 million
- Cap Allowances: Cap annual increases on Operational and Regimental Allowances.
- Exit Strategies: Process Implementation of Exit Mechanism – MEM.
- The National Treasury has allocated one billion rand (R1bn) to fund the Mobility Exit Mechanism during FY 2022/23 and eight hundred million (R800m) FY 2023/24
- De-activation of unfunded posts: De-activation of all normal vacant posts for longer than five years.

The measure to only recruit Military Skills Development System (MSDS) intakes biennially directly impacted recruitment and the rejuvenation of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF). However, collectively, these measures will enable the SANDF to reduce HR cost pressures to the COE and reach the break-even point by FY2025/2026, and thus allowing the implementation of the planned rejuvenation.



**Ms T.R. MODISE
MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS: MP**

DATE: 26 . 05 . 2022