

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO: 779

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 11 MARCH 2022

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

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

Whether (a) she and/or (b) Armscor considered discussions with (i) Lockheed Martin, (ii) the Royal Air Force and (iii) the United States Air Force for support to acquire new and/or very well-maintained aircraft so that the Republic can have a serviceable fleet of at least six to seven aircraft; if not, why not; if so, what can be expected from such discussions?

REPLY:

i. Correspondence was received from Office of Defence Cooperation (ODC) US Embassy to make DAT&MS aware of the offer of C-130H models available through Excess Defence Article (EDA) program. This letter was sent to the CSANDF and routed to CAF.

ii.) The South African Air Force (SAAF) considered three (3) options:

1) To decline the offer and not upgrade the present C130BZ fleet at no additional costs with estimated lifespan up to 2024.

2) To decline the offer and upgrade C130BZ and return to service the rest of fleet. Upgrade is estimated at Rb1.6 for the upgrade of five aircraft currently in operation and the return to service and upgrade of the one aircraft in long term storage. The upgrade will increase the estimated lifespan to 2040.

3) To accept the offer to expand current fleet which is estimated at Rm228.5 per aircraft (if EDA offers aircraft for Rm0) and simultaneously upgrade C130BZ, this will be estimated at Rb1.6 for the upgrade of five aircraft with an estimated lifespan in 2028 in current configuration for C130H-models and estimated lifespan 2040 for C130BZ-models.

iii.) The SAAF considered option two, which is to decline the offer and upgrade C130B2 and return to service the rest of fleet. Upgrade is estimated at Rb1.6 for the upgrade of five aircraft currently in operation and the return to service and upgrade of the one aircraft in long term storage.

iv.) There have not been any talks or offers from any other parties.

B.) Armscor has however indicated to Lockheed Martin that currently we are still awaiting the DOD to restart the acquisition process as any new requirement will be satisfied through an open bid process depending on the requirements stipulated in the User Requirement Statement (URS). Armscor has also been approached by the UK Embassy in Pretoria about the potential used C130s that are available in the market. Armscor has facilitate the transfer of such information to the SAAF as well. However due to no budget for the acquisition of the assets, this process has also ended.

T.R. Modise

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

Date: 23.07.2022