

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS



***NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

***QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

QUESTION NO: 936

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

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DATE OF PUBLICATION: 18 MARCH 2022

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

- (1) Whether, with reference to the published official opening of the A-Mess in ThabaTshwane, now known as the Albertina Sisulu Mess (details furnished), a certain person (name furnished) received all the relevant approvals and acted fully in compliance of the austerity measures and prescribed financial processes and procedures; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether the total costs for the renovations, upgrades and refurbishing amounted to R500 million; if not, what was the total cost of the work; if so, how does she justify the amount spent on the facility while the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) does not have enough funds to maintain existing and/or procure new essential prime mission equipment;
- (3) whether (a) the Defence Works Formation and (b) the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure approved and conducted the work on the specified project; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, who was the contractor(s) appointed to complete the project;
- (4) whether all the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act, Act 1 of 1999, were fully complied with and that no irregular, wasteful and/or unauthorised expenditure as a result of the project will be declared by the Auditor-General of South Africa; if not, what disciplinary actions will she institute to hold the members of the SANDF accountable, including the specified person; if so, what are the relevant details?

REPLY:

1. Regarding the relevant approvals and compliance to prescribed financial processes and procedures for Albertina Sisulu Mess, Minister has directed the Chief of the SANDF to appoint the Inspector General of the Defence Force and Chief of Logistics to verify that relevant approvals and compliance with prescribed processes and procedures had been followed. Once the report is finalised, it will then be accordingly presented. It is envisaged that this report will be available by end of July 2022.

2. Albertina Sisulu Mess was never upgraded or involved in the projects of DPW and Works Formation (under the Log Division), but was upgraded/renovated with Non-Public Funds. All the renovations at Albertina Sisulu Mess were OHS related e.g. window breakages, painting, tiling, etc, to make the building more habitable for the living in members, which there were previous complaints from the SA Army members.
3. Neither Public Works nor Defence Works Formation conducted the works. This is due to the fact that Non-Public funds were utilised. Therefore the contractor was appointed by the unit. There was no need for Department of Public Works authority as there were no structural changes.
4. Work done on Albertina Sisulu was executed using Non-Public Funds. Therefore there was no irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure. All work done are direct benefits of members of Non-Public Funds. There was no expenditure of R500m from state funds to renovate Albertina Sisulu Mess.

T.R. Modise

(T.R. MODISE)

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS: MP

DATE: 19.05.2022