

**MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS**



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**ORAL REPLY TRANSFERRED TO WRITTEN**

**CLUSTER 1: PEACE AND SECURITY**

**QUESTION NO 613**

**DATE: 08 NOVEMBER 2023**

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

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY****QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY****QUESTION NO: 613****613. Mr T N Mmutle (ANC) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:**

(1) In light of the continued involvement of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) in ensuring safety and security at Eskom power plants and other domestic security matters, what are the further relevant details on the resources and capabilities allocated to the SANDF to effectively fulfil such roles;

(2) Whether there are any plans to extend the deployment period; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

**REPLY:**

(1) The SANDF has been deployed in support of the Police and ESKOM to secure critical infrastructure since 16 December 2022 on the instruction of the Head of State.

This deployment was necessitated by the acts of theft and vandalism which contributed to the energy shortages, which has adversely affected livelihoods, the economy and the standing of the country.

The deployment of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) has enabled ESKOM to repair, maintain and secure power stations and furthermore has positively contributed towards reducing load shedding and enabled the government to continue to work towards stabilising and increasing the Energy Action Plan.

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and the Department of Defence (DOD) as a whole, continue to deploy and conduct operations with the resources and capabilities that are currently available, including the extensive use of our Reserve Force members. This has increased our reserve force mandays and resulting in a further increase of the cost of employment budget.

This matter has been discussed and hopefully the Department of Defence (DOD) will get reimbursed or refunded by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) through the assistance of National Treasury (NT).

(2) The President announced in the National Assembly on 2 November 2023 that the deployment of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) to assist in the protection of ESKOM power stations and other installations has been extended for a further 6 months and will therefore expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024).



(T.R. MODISE)

**MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS: MP**