

**MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS**



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO 2826**

**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:**

(1) What (a) is the current status of the maintenance contracts of each SA Air Force (SAAF) fleet of fixed and rotor wing aircraft, (b) are the long outstanding maintenance contracts that will be handled by Armscor, but have not yet been concluded and (c) is the total number of each platform type that is unserviceable due to the maintenance contracts that has not been concluded;

(2) what are the negative consequences on (a) the defence readiness of the SAAF, (b) each platform type and (c) the pilots and flight engineers, navigators and/or co-pilots as a result of the required flying hours that are not achieved due to the maintenance contracts that have not been concluded;

(3) what remedial actions have been instituted to (a) rectify the situation and to prevent it from recurring and (b) hold the persons responsible within the SAAF and Armscor accountable?

**REPLY:**

1) a.)  
**VIP Fleet**

Aircraft	Contract Status/ Dates	Fleet Size	Fleet Status
Boeing Business Jet BBJ	01 July 2023 to 30 June 2026	One	Serviceable//On Deployment
Falcon 50	01 March 2023 to 28 Feb 2026	2 x Aircraft	1 x Serviceable 1 x Undergoing Repair at 22 SQN Due back in service early October 2023.
Falcon 900	01 March 2023 to 28 Feb 2026	1 x Aircraft	Undergoing C-Check (Major Service) at Contractor  Due back in service at end Oct 2023

**TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT**

Aircraft	Contract Status/Dates	Fleet Size	Fleet Status
C130 BZ Product System Support (PSS)	Product System Support Contract with DENEL Aeronautics. Jan 2023–Dec 2026	Five Aircraft. One to be rebuilt.	1 x Aircraft Serviceable.  3 x Awaiting repairs due to spares availability.  1 Aircraft at Marshall Air for C-Check and upgrade.

	Major Service and upgrade contract with Marshall Air in the UK		Due date back in service is November 2023
CASA 212	AIRBUS 01 Aug 2022 - 31 July 2025	Three Aircraft	1 x Aircraft Serviceable.  2 x Undergoing repairs at 35 Squadron.
King Air	No Contract in place. Planned for 01 Oct 2023	Four Aircraft	None Serviceable.  No PSS contract in place. Preferred Bid selected. Planned contract date is early October 2023.
CESSNA 208	No Contract (Awaiting updated URS)	Eight Aircraft	No Serviceable Aircraft. Awaiting revised requirement for PPS from SAAF and upgrade of Avionics.
Pilatus PC-12	Pilatus SA Aug 2023 - July 2026	One Aircraft	Undergoing C-Check and Engine Replacement. Due back in service by Dec 2023
Pilatus PC7 Mk II	Pilatus AG (Switzerland) Only repairs of LRUs and Documentation 01 Feb 2019 - 31 Mar 2024	35 x Aircraft	6 x Aircraft Serviceable. Lack of funds for Spares & Repairs.  Specification for a new contract was not acceptable to PILATUS and negotiations are ongoing with PILATUS AG to resolve the impasse.
DAKOTA	No Contract	No Contract	No Contract. This is a very old aircraft (82 years). There is no OEM for this platform in industry. Discussions with Air Force on a possible retirement of this Aircraft.

#### ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT

Aircraft	Contract Status/Dates	Fleet Size	Fleet Status
Rooivalk Attack Helicopter	DENEL AERO April 2019 to Sep 2023.  New Contract Due Oct 2023	Eleven Aircraft	3 x Serviceable with restrictions (Limited).  8 x Major Repairs/Rebuilds.  Lack of funding. ROM figure for spares required to have 6 serviceable aircraft = R1billion. (Avionics system Obsolete)

ORYX	DENEL AERO April 2019 to Sep 2023 New Contract Due Oct 2023	39 x Aircraft 2 x Aircraft Beyond Economic Repair.	5 x Serviceable Aircraft. 10 x Major Rebuilds. 2 x Major rebuilds for Accident Damage. 22 x Grounded at Squadrons awaiting critical parts. Estimate of funds needed is R2.5 billion.
LUH 109 (Air frame)	LEONARDO//SAFRAN 06 Dec 2022 to 31 Mar 2025	24 x Aircraft	6 x Serviceable Aircraft.
Super Lynx 300 Air frame	Bid Received 30 May 2023. Planned contract 20 October 2023	4 x Aircraft	1 x Serviceable Aircraft. 3 x Awaiting various spare parts by June.2024.
BK 117 Helicopter	Contract Expired 15 Dec 2022 New Contract planned 30 Sep 2023	8 x Aircraft	Negotiations have been concluded for new Support Contract to be placed by end September 2023.

1) b.)

**TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT**

Aircraft	Contract Status/Dates	Fleet Size	Fleet Status
King Air	No Contract in place. Planned for 01 Oct 2023	Four Aircraft	None Serviceable. No PSS contract and envisaged that a new contract will be in place in early October 2023.
CESSNA 208	No Contract (Awaiting updated URS)	Eight Aircraft	No Serviceable Aircraft. Awaiting revised URS from SAAF.
Pilatus PC7 Mk II	Pilatus AG (Switzerland) Only repairs of LRUs and Documentation 01 Feb 2019 - 31 Mar 2024	35 x Aircraft	6 x Aircraft Serviceable.  Lack of funds for Spares & Repairs.  Specification for a new contract was not acceptable to PILATUS and negotiations are ongoing with PILATUS AG to resolve the impasse.
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Super Lynx 300 Air frame	Bid Received 30 May 2023. Planned contract 20 October 2023	4 x Aircraft	1 x Serviceable Aircraft. 3 x Awaiting various spare parts by June 2024
BK 117 Helicopter	New Contract planned 30 Sep 2023	8 x Aircraft	Negotiations have been concluded for new Support Contract to be placed by end September 2023.

1) c.)

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Super Lynx 300 Air frame	Bid Received 30 May 2023. Planned contract 20 October 2023	4 x Aircraft	1 x Serviceable Aircraft. 3 x Awaiting various spare parts by June 2024

- 2) **a. & b.)** The unavailability of aircraft implies that the defence readiness of the SAAF is compromised.
- c.) The negative consequences to abovementioned personnel is that, they need to regain currency and the lack of aircraft availability poses a challenge.
- 3.) **a. & b.)** The challenge is the severe unavailability of funds to place contracts and it's not as a result of non-performance by Armscor and or SAAF. Armscor had to engage with contractors within limited available funds and in numerous instances has not yielded positive results.

*MS T.R. Modise*

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