



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
Hon. Nicholas Gotsell
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Date: 25th February 2025

To: Minister of Defence and Military Veterans
Hon Minister: Angie Motshekga
Electronic message to: steve.mabua@dod.mil.za
siphiwe.dlamini@dod.mil.za

Dear Minister Motshekga,

IN RE: URGENT REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON RETURN OF INJURED SANDF SOLDIERS

Information regarding the current status of what the Government has labeled a "peace-keeping mission" is sparse and confusing, however, an undisputed fact is that our soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been disarmed and are being controlled by the M23 Rebels and other forces.

I therefore write to you, ahead of the closed meeting of the Joint Standing Committee on Defence to urgently request a full tally of:

1. The number of soldiers currently returning to South Africa;
2. What number of these soldiers are pregnant and injured;
3. The number of soldiers remaining in the DRC;
4. What number of these soldiers are pregnant and injured, what medical care are they receiving and what is the severity of their injuries?

During the President's reply to the debate on his State of the Nation Address, he said that "the decision to deploy our armed forces is not taken lightly, particularly when that deployment may put our defence force members in harm's way".

I am directing my communication to you for an urgent response before the closed meeting on Friday, to ensure that the families and loved ones of our soldiers remain fully informed as to whether our members are in harm's way or not.

Yours faithfully,

Nicholas Gotsell, MP