

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 4807

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 28 AUGUST 2026

**REPLY RECOMMENDED BY:
CHIEF OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE: GENERAL**

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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Mr C. Hattingh (DA) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:

(1) With reference to her reply to Question 2894 on 17 June 2026, what is the total (a) number and (b) value of chartered flights procured through (i) ordinary travel management processes, (ii) supply chain management deviations in terms of Treasury Regulation 16A6.4 and (iii) emergency and/or operational procurement mechanisms for each of the past five financial years;

(2) what were the grounds for each supply chain management deviation indicating in each case whether it related to (a) urgent operational deployment, (b) external deployment, (c) internal operations, (d) non-availability of commercial flights and (e) security-sensitive movement?

RESPONSE

(1) The Department of Defence confirms that the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) procured chartered flights through all three procurement mechanisms referred to in the question, namely:

(i) Ordinary travel-management processes:

These included the use of Travel Management Company arrangements under applicable Government frameworks, National Treasury cost-containment measures and approved suppliers. This mechanism was primarily used for planned travel and routine personnel movements where the operational requirement permitted the use of normal travel-management arrangements.

(ii) Supply Chain Management deviations in terms of Treasury Regulation 16A6.4:

Chartered flights were procured through SCM deviations in circumstances where it was impractical to invite competitive bids. The grounds recorded in the Department's reply to Question 2894 included urgent operational deployments, non-availability of commercial flights, security-sensitive movements, access to remote areas, time-critical operations and support for peacekeeping or regional rotations.

(iii) Emergency and/or operational procurement mechanisms:

These mechanisms were utilised where immediate operational action was required. The grounds identified in the Department's previous reply included immediate military deployments, medical evacuations (MEDEVAC), urgent peacekeeping/African Union/Southern African Development Community mission rotations, disaster relief and circumstances where scheduled commercial flights could not meet the operational requirement. The Department's previously reported total expenditure on chartered flights for the five financial years concerned was **R2 395 521 275**. This amount represents the aggregate expenditure on chartered flights and should **not be construed as the value of SCM deviations or emergency procurement alone**.

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The detailed number and value of chartered flights attributable to each procurement mechanism for each financial year are maintained in the Department's procurement, financial and SCM records. The Department is accordingly reconciling the relevant flight records, purchase orders, SCM deviation approvals and payment records to ensure that the information is accurately attributed to the applicable procurement mechanism and that there is no double counting.

(2) The grounds for SCM deviations were assessed against the operational requirement prevailing at the time of procurement. The grounds reflected in the Department's records and previously communicated to Parliament include:

(a) Urgent operational deployment:

Where the SANDF was required to deploy personnel at short notice and the normal competitive procurement process could not reasonably be completed within the operational timeframe.

(b) External deployment:

Where chartered air transport was required for the deployment, rotation, reinforcement or repatriation of SANDF personnel in support of international, regional, peace-support or other authorised external military commitments.

(c) Internal operations:

Where chartered air transport was required to support domestic military operations or other authorised activities and the operational requirement could not reasonably be accommodated through normal commercial air services.

(d) Non-availability of commercial flights:

Where suitable scheduled commercial flights were unavailable, either because the required route was not served, the required capacity was unavailable, the timing was incompatible with the operational requirement, or the available commercial service could not meet the military requirement.

(e) Security-sensitive movement:

Where the nature of the movement required enhanced security considerations or where the use of normal commercial aviation could compromise operational security, force protection or the confidentiality of the movement.

The Department's reply to Question 2894 further records **access to remote areas** and **time-critical operations** as additional grounds for SCM deviations, while emergency or operational procurement included **MEDEVAC, disaster relief and urgent peacekeeping/AU/SADC rotations**.

It must be emphasised that Treasury Regulation 16A6.4 does not create an unrestricted exemption from competitive procurement. It provides that where it is impractical to invite

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competitive bids, the accounting officer or accounting authority may procure by other means, provided that the reasons for the deviation are recorded and approved.

The Department's accounting officer is responsible for approving such deviations in accordance with the applicable delegations and ensuring that the required reasons and supporting documentation are maintained. The Department's previous parliamentary reply further indicated that deviations are captured in the SCM deviation register and reported through the prescribed SCM reporting processes.

The Department is committed to ensuring that all chartered-flight procurement is undertaken in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, Treasury Regulations, applicable National Treasury instructions and the Department's SCM policies and delegations.

✓
Approved / Not Approved

M. Motshekga
MA. MOTSHEKGA

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS: MP**Date:** *30.09.2026*