

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 4808

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 28 AUGUST 2026

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

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 4808

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 28 AUGUST 2026

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

With reference to her reply to question 2894 on 17 June 2026, what were the grounds for each supply chain management deviation related to (a) access to remote areas, (b) medical evacuation, (c) peacekeeping or regional mission support, (d) disaster relief, (e) VIP transport, (f) training and any other grounds, with particular reference to the (i) number of chartered flights and (ii) total value applicable to each category indicating the number of the deviations that exceeded a value of (aa) R1 million, (bb) R5 million and (cc) R10 million?

RESPONSE

The Department of Defence confirms that, as indicated in the reply to Parliamentary Question 2894 dated 17 June 2026, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) procured chartered flights through a combination of ordinary travel-management processes, Supply Chain Management (SCM) deviations and emergency or operational procurement mechanisms, depending on the operational requirement.

The total expenditure on chartered flights for the five financial years referred to in Question 2894 was **R2 395 521 275**, distributed as follows:

Financial Year Expenditure on Chartered Flights

2021/22	R15 492 850,00
2022/23	R753 797 591,40
2023/24	R 622 790 063,60
2024/25	R629 043 694,00
2025/26	R374 937 076,00
Total	R2 395 521 275,00

The expenditure above includes flights procured through different procurement mechanisms and should therefore not be interpreted as expenditure arising exclusively from SCM deviations.

The grounds for SCM deviations and emergency or operational procurement, as previously reported to Parliament, included:

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 4808

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 28 AUGUST 2026

(a) Access to remote areas:

Chartered air transport was utilised where operational destinations or areas could not be adequately serviced by scheduled commercial aviation, particularly where geographical, infrastructural or operational constraints made ordinary commercial travel impractical.

(b) Medical evacuation (MEDVAC):

Emergency or operational procurement was utilised where the medical condition of SANDF personnel required urgent evacuation and the timing, destination or medical requirements could not be accommodated through scheduled commercial services.

(c) Peacekeeping or regional mission support:

Chartered flights were utilised to facilitate the deployment, rotation, reinforcement and/or repatriation of personnel in support of peacekeeping and regional missions, including missions undertaken in support of the United Nations, African Union and Southern African Development Community.

(d) Disaster relief:

Emergency air transport was utilised where the SANDF was required to respond to disasters or humanitarian emergencies and the operational timeframe did not permit the use of normal scheduled aviation arrangements.

(e) VIP transport:

Where chartered aircraft were used for VIP or dignitary transport, such utilisation was subject to the applicable operational, security and government travel requirements. Such flights are not automatically classified as SCM deviations and must be distinguished from flights procured through ordinary travel-management arrangements.

(f) Training:

Chartered aircraft may be utilised where military training activities, exercises, deployments or the movement of personnel and equipment require transport capacity, timing or routing that cannot reasonably be met through scheduled commercial services.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION 4808
DATE OF PUBLICATION: 28 AUGUST 2026

(g) Other operational grounds:

Other grounds included urgent operational deployments, non-availability of suitable commercial flights, security-sensitive movements and other time – critical military requirements. These grounds were identified in the Department's response to Question 2894.

With regard to the requested **number of flights, value per category and the number of deviations exceeding R1 million, R5 million and R10 million**, the Department's response to Question 2894 did not provide such a category-based statistical breakdown. The Department indicated that the exact per-flight information is contained in its internal records, procurement approvals, flight records and expenditure records for the five financial years concerned to ensure that the information is accurately categorised and the same transaction is not counted more than once where a flight may have served more than one operational purpose.

The final categorisation will distinguish between:

1. flights procured through ordinary travel-management processes;
2. flights procured through approved SCM deviations;
3. flights procured through emergency or operational procurement;
4. the operational ground supporting each deviation;
5. the number and value of flights in each category; and
6. the number of individual deviations exceeding **R1 million, R5 million and R10 million**.

This approach is necessary to ensure that the information provided to Parliament is fully reconciled, auditable and supported by the underlying procurement and financial records. It is further emphasised that the total amount of **R2 395 521 275** reported in Question 2894 represents the total expenditure on chartered flights during the five financial years and **does not represent the value of SCM deviations alone**. The Department remains committed to ensuring that all procurement for chartered air transport is undertaken in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, applicable Treasury Regulations, National Treasury cost-containment requirements and the Departments' approved SCM policies and delegations.

✓
Approved / Not Approved

M. Motshekga
MA. MOTSHEKGA

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS: MP

DATE: *30.09.2026*