



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE & MILITARY VETERANS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

145. Inkosi R N Cebekhulu (IFP) to ask the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans:

(1) Whether, with regard to the current and future plans to roll out a 5G network, a term used to reference the next generation of high-speed mobile networks, she has been informed of the potential risks to humans when the specified technology is turned into use for weapons; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details; (2) whether she has any plans in place to ensure that the technology will not be used against the Republic's civilians; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details of the plans?

REPLY:

S/No	5G Network	Service Provider/s	Monetary Value	Remarks
	a.	b.	c.	d.
1	The current and future plans to roll out a 5G Network, a terms used to reference the next generation of high-speed mobile networks. She has been informed of the potential risks to humans when the specified technology is turned into use of weapons; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details.	None	None	<p>The Department of Defence (DOD) is not rolling out nor planning to roll out any cellular network technologies including 5G in the foreseeable future. Currently the DOD is only a user of the cellular systems and services through Telkom, Vodacom, MTN, and Cell C.</p> <p>The custodian of the roll out of 5G network resides in the Department of Telecommunications & Postal Services and thus that department is responsible for the total scope of the threat assessment, risk management and related counter measures across the entire scope of the network sphere in the entire country”.</p>
2	Whether she has any plans in place to ensure that the technology will not be used against the Republic's civilians; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details of the plans?	None	None	The DOD is aware of the identified dangers and risks pertaining to the 5G technology roll-out. It is the DOD policy to invest only on tested and matured technologies that are safe in accordance to international best practices.