



**MINISTRY
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION**

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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PQ 1724. Mr R Smith (DA) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

- (1) Whether he has been informed that Mr Aleksandr Nikolaevich Belskiy, Chairman of the Legislative Assembly of St Peterburg, with whom the Speaker of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature, Ms Winifred Morakane Mosupyoe, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in January 2026 is sanctioned in some jurisdictions of the world; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so;
- (2) whether he has found that signing an MoU with such a person could potentially expose the Republic to (a) financial and/or monetary penalties from global regulatory bodies, (b) legal and/or criminal consequences and (c) reputational damage; if not, what is the position in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case? NW1933E

REPLY

- (1) No. I have not been informed of such a matter. However, South Africa continues to advocate the respect for international law and the strengthening of multilateral institutions.
- (2) The signing of international agreements or Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) follows established legal processes to ensure full compliance with both domestic and international law as well as the highest standards of governance and accountability. Such agreements or MoUs are therefore concluded and

signed by duly authorised representatives of the respective governments i.e. the Republic of South Africa and Russian Federation.

- (3) Unilateral Sanctions are not lawful and while governments like South Africa among many others are forced to comply at times, should not act in ways which legitimise unlawful coercive measures.