



**MINISTRY
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
Date of Publication: 07 August 2026
Reply date: 24 August 2026

PQ 4233. Mr R Smit (DA) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

- (1) What (a) is the percentage and/or nominal cap of political appointments to ambassadorial postings to the Foreign Service of the Republic and (b) are the relevant details thereof;
- (2) what are the full, relevant details of the total cost and/or estimated cost of building renovations to (a) the SA High Commission to the United Kingdom, the SA Embassy in the Netherlands and (c) any other South African Embassy building within the Foreign Service? NW4515E

REPLY

- (1) (a) There is currently no prescribed percentage or nominal cap on political appointments to ambassadorial postings in the Foreign Service of the Republic. In practice, ambassadorial appointments may be drawn from both career diplomats and suitably qualified individuals from outside the Foreign Service, subject to the applicable appointment processes and the prerogative of the President.

(b) The current statistics reflects 28 career diplomats, 48 political appointees, 1 secondment, serving as Heads of Mission, with a further 13 positions reserved for political appointments and 23 vacant posts.
- (2) (a) **SA High Commission United Kingdom -**
 - South African House: Installation of the new heating system –Current replacement costs R57 442 048 (Contractor on site)

- South African House: Chancery building: Estimated renovation costs: R67 002 569
- Cavendish – Second Official Residence – Current renovation costs R25 674 653(Contractor on site)
- London The Great Cumberland Flat – Current renovation costs: R1 360 986(Contractor on site)
- Lower Merton: Estimated renovation costs R3 941 691
- Official residence Estimated renovation costs R8 897 068
- OR Tambo House: Estimated renovation costs R4 573 295

(b) SA Embassy in the Netherlands

- Chancery Building – Estimated renovation costs are estimated at R61 125 568 based on the condition assessment report.
- Official Residence – Estimated renovation costs are estimated at R24 367 654
- Consular building: Renovation works are estimated at R24 459 705

(c) South African Embassy buildings with the foreign service: Estimated renovation costs: 830 984 298 based on condition reports over a period of 3 years.