



## **DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES (DIAP) CIRCULAR NO 8 OF 2025**

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa presents its compliments to Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations accredited to the Republic of South Africa and has the honour to refer to the accreditation of consular staff at Consular posts.

Missions are advised that an Attaché is a diplomatic designation at an Embassy / High Commission not at a consular mission.

In terms of *Article 9* of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963 *Classes of heads of consular posts* are Consul General, Consul, Vice-Consul and Consular Agent.

The Department intends to rectify the incorrect designation of “Consular Attaché” at consular missions. It is not the Department’s intention to recall current diplomatic ID cards issued as Consular Attaché but rather issue new incumbents with the correct diplomatic designation i.e. *Consul, Vice-consul*.

In accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Services of 1963, Article 19, “the full name, category and class of all consular officers, other than the head of a consular post, shall be notified by the sending State to the receiving State in sufficient time for the receiving State...”. When a new diplomat is announced, it is expected that he/she be announced with the correct designation, succeeding the current incumbent who was a Consular Attaché. Renewal of diplomatic ID cards will also be allocated with the correct designation.

Missions are reminded to also use the correct diplomatic designations for Diplomatic Missions, or for International Organisations as per the Host Country Agreement. This also refers to the appointment of members of the Administrative and Technical Staff. For example, Deputy Head of Mission is not a diplomatic designation.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations the assurances of its highest consideration.



**Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations  
accredited to the Republic of South Africa  
PRETORIA**

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**11 April 2025**