



## **DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES (DIAP) CIRCULAR NO 04 OF 2026**

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) 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 remind Diplomatic Missions, Consular Posts, International Organisations and Persons conferred with diplomatic immunities to adhere and respect the laws and regulations of the Republic of South Africa as receiving State provided for in the Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act (DIPA), No 37 of 2001 including regularisation of their stay in the Republic of South Africa in respect of **Section 30(1)(h) read with 50(1) of the Immigration Act, No 13 of 2002 as amended (No. 13 of 2011)**.

The Department wishes to remind all Foreign Missions and Diplomats to adhere to the conditions set out in their Temporary Residence Visas (TRVs) regularising their stay in the Republic of South Africa.

The Department is concerned about an increased number of cases referred to DIRCO by Foreign Missions requesting for the waiver of undesirability due to overstay. Foreign Missions are informed that the process of uplifting the status of undesirability is lengthy and is processed by the Department of Home Affairs through DIRCO. It is incumbent upon the passport holders to ensure that they always have a valid TRV.

Foreign Missions are further reminded of the procedure for the application of a Temporary Resident Visa (TRV):

- The request must be done under cover of a Note Verbale requesting for the issuance of the TRV and stating the duration of stay in the Republic of South Africa.
- Original Passport and a copy
- Copy of Diplomatic Identity Card. In case of dependents, a copy of the diplomats Diplomatic ID

The turn-around time for the issuance of a TRV by DIRCO is 05 Working Days. Short notice requests should only be by appointment with motivation. No TRV will be issued without

registering or updating the relevant status with the Accreditation Section. The TRV expiry date is dependent on the passport validity and / or term of duty.

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



**PRETORIA**  
**26 January 2026**

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