



DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES (DIAP) CIRCULAR NO 6 OF 2022

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 inform Foreign Missions of the contact numbers for the Diplomatic Policing Unit (DPU), South African Police Service (SAPS), as well as the requirements for requesting security at diplomatic events.

The following contact numbers should be used by Foreign Missions whenever police assistance is needed in the event of an emergency or for the reporting of crimes related to the Mission or accredited diplomats and dependents:

24-hour Control room number: (012) 421-8063

24-hour mobile number: 082 778 9656

All complaints by Foreign Missions must be reported directly to the Diplomatic Policing Operational Room for immediate dispatching of patrol vehicles. This will ensure that incidents / complaints are registered and attended to immediately. Foreign Missions may not contact operational members directly as it delays reaction time due to it not being procedurally correct. All incidents / complaints must be reported to the DPU and not local police stations. Complaints from the diplomatic community are only attended to / dealt with by the DPU.

Criminal and security incidents should not be reported to the Tshwane Metro Diplomatic Police as they are only responsible for by-laws enforcement, road traffic policing and crime prevention.

Foreign Missions are reminded to submit requests for the policing of all diplomatic events hosted by the Mission at least 14 days in advance of the event taking place. Proper planning and allocation of logistical and human resources needs to be co-ordinated and requests received on short notice may unfortunately not receive the necessary attention it deserves.

All requests to be sent under cover of a Note Verbale to DIRCO, the Directorate Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges (DIAP) for attention, and the DPU may be copied using the following email addresses:

DIRCO:

oosthuizenk@dirco.gov.za

demetroudesj@dirco.gov.za

DPU

mbowenij@saps.gov.za

mashilefb@saps.gov.za

The Department further wishes to remind Foreign Missions that no requests may be sent directly to the DPU, nor to the Tshwane Metro Police Department (TMPD).

Requests for the policing of all high-profile visits or events, e.g. for visiting delegations, VIP's etc., to be sent to the relevant Political Desk at DIRCO for the necessary attention. These requests must also be sent well in advance as it needs to be forwarded by DIRCO to the office of the SAPS Component Head: VIP Operations for evaluation.

Foreign Missions are encouraged to put in place their own security measures at chanceries, official residences and other diplomatic properties and to utilise said security companies for the movement of cash and other high-risk movements.

The Department wishes to further remind Foreign Missions that escort services / outriders with blue lights are only provided to specific visiting delegations, e.g. Head of State / Government, and where a threat assessment requires it. The DPU and TMPD have no authority to provide any police escorts.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation 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
21 November 2022

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