



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DIVISION

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**Report of the Meeting between the Chairperson of the Portfolio  
Committee on International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Supra O  
Mahumapelo, MP and the Ambassador of France in the RSA, Mr David  
Martinon held on Monday, 19 February 2024 in Parliament.**

## **1. Purpose of the Report**

To report on the meeting between the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Supra O Mahumapelo, MP and the Ambassador of France in the RSA, HE Mr David Martinon held on Monday, 19 February 2024 in Parliament.

## **2. Background**

The French Embassy in the RSA initiated the meeting.

## **3. Purpose of the meeting**

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss among others, the South Africa – France bilateral relations, in particular the pending bilateral agreements that may need Parliamentary approval in the future, South Africa – France / European foreign policy priorities and the perspectives for reciprocal official visits between South Africa and France.

**South African Parliament side:** Mr Supra Mahumapelo, MP – Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation. Ms N Sonjica – the Section Manager: Bilaterals and Multilaterals, IRPD; Mr D Madlala – Researcher and Mr Z Cawe supported the meeting.

**French Embassy side:** HE Mr David Martinon – the Ambassador of France in the RSA and Ms Sophie Bel – the Consul General of France in Cape Town.

## **4. Meeting discussion**

HE Mr David Martinon – the Ambassador of France in the RSA expressed appreciation to the Chairperson for accepting his request for the meeting and pointed out the importance of the interaction with the Portfolio Committee. He also conveyed his condolences to the RSA and families of SANDF soldiers who died in the DRC and further shared with the Chairperson the Draft Resolution of the upcoming Women’ Speakers Summit to be held in France, Paris from 6 – 7 March 2024.

He commended the speech delivered by the President of the Republic, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa during SONA and his subsequent address to the Cape Town Press Club especially the consistency in fighting gender violence and commitment in reinforcing basic education.

In his response, Mr Mahumapelo, MP – the Chairperson of the PC on International Relations and Cooperation stressed the importance of dialogue and reaffirmed that the RSA believe dialogue is a solution not war. He reiterated the priorities of of government including the challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality. He thanked the French government for its investments in RSA, however, he highlighted that the blacks do not have much access to these investments.

He also touched on oversight role of the Committee and what DIRCO do in executing the programmes of government on matters of foreign policy.

He assured the Ambassador that the Speaker would attend the upcoming Women' Speakers Summit to be held in France, Paris from 6 – 7 March 2024 and would be made aware of the Summit Draft resolution.

## **5. General outcome of the meeting**

The meeting further deliberated and highlighted the following:

- 1) French Companies inclined to invest in black communities.
- 2) French Consulate in Cape Town is in partnership with a rugby team based in Langa – Busy Bees Rugby Football Club.
- 3) A gift was presented to the French Ambassador.
- 4) The Ambassador was given an opportunity to sign the distinguished guest book.
- 5) The meeting was a success.

## **6. Recommendations and/or Action by Parliament**

None