

QUOTE

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY TO

QUESTION NO.53 (CW96E)

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**Mr K A Sinclair (COPE-NC) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:**

Whether the diplomatic stand-off between South Africa and Rwanda will (a) spill over into the African Union and (b) affect South Africa's security standings in the organisation; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

**Reply:**

South Africa's policy is informed by its commitment to promoting the African Agenda and the advancement of the African Union.

The South African Government ensures its territorial integrity and sovereignty, in this regard it monitors the security situation on a continuous basis. It was established that there were activities at play that undermined our national security. These acts have been coordinated and facilitated by individuals who abused their diplomatic status.

It is for these reasons that South Africa expelled four Rwandan diplomats for abusing their status. The action taken was against those who violated the Vienna Convention and the Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act.

The issue will neither impact on the security standing of the African Union nor affect South Africa's standing in the African Union.

It is a bilateral matter that is being addressed by the two Governments. President Zuma and Kagame also met in Angola on 26 March 2014 to discuss issues of mutual concern including this matter. The meeting was cordial and it resolved to address the differences between the two countries. South Africa and Rwanda maintain diplomatic relations.

UNQUOTE