Government Gazette
Staatskoerant

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
REPUBLIEK VAN SUID AFRIKA

Vol. 717 13 March Maart 2025 No. 52274

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ISSN 1682-5845

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PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NO. 5989 **13 March 2025**

MR ALAN DAVID BEESLEY, MP

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE A PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL AND INVITATION FOR COMMENT THEREON, NAMELY THE REMUNERATION OF PUBLIC OFFICE BEARERS AMENDMENT BILL, 2025

Mr. Alan David Beesley, MP, acting in accordance with section 73(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, intends to introduce the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers Amendment Bill, 2025, in Parliament. An explanatory summary of the Bill is hereby published in accordance with Rule 276(1)(c) of the Rules of the National Assembly (9th Edition).

In April 2022, President Cyril Ramaphosa amended the Guide for Members of the Executive (commonly known as the Ministerial Handbook) without informing the National Assembly or the public. The amendments included exempting Ministers and Deputy Ministers from paying for water and electricity at their official residences and significantly expanding the size of their private offices. It was revealed that the expansion of these offices alone would cost taxpayers upwards of R87 million annually.

The President's unannounced and costly changes to the Ministerial Handbook triggered significant public outcry. In response, the President was ultimately compelled in late October 2022 to rescind the changes made in April 2022. In January 2023, Dr. Leon Schreiber MP introduced the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers Bill [B8-2023] to address the issue. However, the Bill has since lapsed in terms of Rule 333 of the Rules of the National Assembly (9th Edition).

While the President reversed these specific changes due to public pressure, concerns over excessive spending persist, particularly regarding travel and protection costs for Ministers and Deputy Ministers. The fundamental issue remains: the Ministerial Handbook lacks proper controls and transparency.

Unlike other forms of remuneration for public office bearers, there is no legal requirement for the President to consider recommendations from the Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers before introducing benefits, tools of trade, or allowances in the Ministerial Handbook. Additionally, there is no obligation for the President to consider relevant economic

conditions or comparative costs of such benefits, nor is there a requirement to report changes to the National Assembly.

To address this lack of oversight and transparency, the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers Amendment Bill, 2025 ("the Bill"), seeks to introduce the following measures:

The President may only grant benefits, tools of trade, or allowances to the President, Deputy President, Ministers, and Deputy Ministers after considering:
(a) the recommendations from the Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers;
(b) the role, status, duties, functions, and responsibilities of the respective office bearers;
(c) the affordability and comparative costs of the proposed tools of trade;
(d) prevailing economic conditions and general remuneration trends in society; and
(e) inflationary increases.

The draft Bill would further require the President to:
(*a*) Report all changes to benefits, tools of trade, or allowances to the National Assembly within 30 days; and
(*b*) include details of any costing models and other relevant factors considered in making such changes.

The Bill would further provide for a comprehensive review of all allowances, tools of trade, and benefits provided to the President, Deputy President, Ministers, and Deputy Ministers, as well as regular reviews thereafter.

Invitation for public comment

Members of the public, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders are invited to submit written comments on the proposed Bill within 30 days of this notice's publication.

Submissions can be delivered to the Speaker of the National Assembly at the following addresses:

- **Physical Address:** New Assembly Building, Parliament Street, Cape Town, 8001
- **Postal Address:** P O Box 15, Cape Town, 8000
- **Email:** speaker@parliament.gov.za and copied to parliament@actionsa.org.za.

A copy of the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers Amendment Bill, 2025, may after introduction, be accessed at the following link: https://www.actionsa.org.za/cut-the-fat-dont-hike-the-vat/.

Printed by and obtainable from the Government Printer, Bosman Street, Private Bag X85, Pretoria, 0001
Contact Centre Tel: 012-748 6200. eMail: info.egazette@gpw.gov.za
Publications: Tel: (012) 748 6053, 748 6061, 748 6065

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