



30 July 2025

**H.E. Mr. Caspar Veldkamp**

Minister

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Rijnstraat 8

2515 XD The Hague

The Netherlands

*By email*

**Ref: Potential Sale of the Royal Netherlands Embassy, 206 Wireless Road, Bangkok, Thailand**

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Dutch Association in Thailand—and many others who support this cause, including expatriates and Thai citizens—I write to express our strong concern regarding the proposed sale of the Royal Netherlands Embassy and its grounds on Wireless Road in Bangkok.

A petition urging the Ministry to reconsider this decision has now been signed by approximately 1,000 concerned individuals and more to come. While many signatories are motivated by emotional and historical ties to the Embassy, our appeal is grounded in two key substantive arguments: long-term strategic value and cultural heritage.

### **1. Strategic Long-Term Value**

The property is located in one of Bangkok's most prestigious and high-demand areas. Based on consultations with reputable real estate developers and analysts, land in this district appreciates at an annual rate of 5% to 8%. Even using a conservative 5% estimate, the property's value would double over the next 20 years. This makes it one of the most strategically valuable assets in the Ministry's global property portfolio.

We are surprised that the Ministry appears to be proceeding without a transparent, long-term economic assessment. If the sale is being driven by financial pressures, we believe alternative financing mechanisms—such as leveraging the land as collateral—should be seriously explored. In our view, the proposed sale would be a short-term solution with long-term costs, forfeiting both financial gains and diplomatic standing.

## **2. Cultural and Historical Heritage**

The former Ambassador's residence is a unique architectural landmark and a protected heritage site under Thai law. The villa, built in traditional Thai style and surrounded by a beautifully landscaped park, was recognized in 1987 by the Association of Siamese Architects (ASA), under the Royal Patronage of the Kingdom of Thailand. The compound also holds a long-standing historical association with the Thai Royal Family.

Beyond this recognition in Thailand, several leading Dutch heritage organizations have publicly opposed the sale—including by writing to both yourself and to His Majesty King Willem-Alexander. Preserving the Bangkok Embassy compound is not only a matter of cultural responsibility; it reflects the values and international image of the Netherlands.

We sincerely hope the Ministry will not repeat the mistake made by the UK Foreign Office, which sold its own historic compound on Wireless Road several years ago—a decision that was widely criticized and later regretted.

### **In Conclusion**

We respectfully urge the Ministry to reconsider the proposed sale and to undertake a transparent, forward-looking review of all available options. This iconic property is not just a diplomatic post—it is a long-term strategic asset and a visible symbol of the deep and enduring ties between the Netherlands and Thailand.

Yours faithfully,

**Willem T. P. Pentermann**

Chairman

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Mr. Christiaan Rebergen, Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague

H.E. Mr. Remco van Wijngaarden, Ambassador, Royal Netherlands Embassy, Bangkok

Mr. Pieter Duisenberg, President, Netherlands Treasury Department

### **Attachment:**

**List of signatories to the petition to preserve the Embassy compound on Wireless Road**