



**REMARKS BY**

**HER EXCELLENCY DR. STERGOMENA LAWRENCE TAX  
SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE  
MEETING OF THE SADC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

**DAR ES SALAAM, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**13 AUGUST 2019**

Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia, and Chairperson of SADC Council of Ministers;

Honourable Prof. Palamagamba John Aidan Mwaluko Kabudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania, and Incoming Chairperson of SADC Council of Ministers and our host;

Honourable Ministers;

SADC Deputy Executive Secretaries;

Senior Officials from the SADC Member States;

Your Excellences, Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Invited guests;

SADC Secretariat staff;

Our partners from the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great honour to stand before you and deliver some remarks. Allow me to begin by thanking the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania for the warm welcome extended to us all since our arrival in this great city of Dar es Salaam, the Harbour of Peace. Indeed, we feel at peace. May I also thank you, Honourable Ministers, for finding time in your busy schedules to attend this meeting.

From the onset, allow me to express our deepest condolences to the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania, and the families affected by the unfortunate fuel tanker accident on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2019, in Morogoro, which claimed the lives of over 60 people, and injured more than 70 others. We stand in solidarity with the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania. May the souls of the departed rest in eternal peace.

During this meeting, we will witness the Republic of Namibia handing over the Chairpersonship to the United Republic of Tanzania. Under the leadership of Namibia, the region recorded tangible progress in a number of areas, as will be showcased during your meeting today. Allow me to express our sincere gratitude

to the Chairperson of Council, Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia, for her guidance and dedication to push forward the SADC development and integration agenda. We thank you Madam Deputy Prime Minister, and the Government of Namibia for executing the mandate of the Chairperson of our regional organisation with passion and purpose. A number of activities were carried out during the year, some of which, needed immediate action at difficult moments, and the Republic of Namibia, and yourself were always there for the region.

### **Honourable Ministers,**

In implementing the 38th SADC Summit Theme “*Promoting Infrastructure and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development*”. the key focus was the amplification of youth voices as the central element of the SADC Youth Forum. The SADC Youth Forum, represented by the Namibia National Youth Council, participated in the meeting of Ministers responsible for Youth held in May 2019, in Windhoek, Namibia, where the youth outlined developmental issues affecting them, including high youth unemployment and low representation in key decision-making structures. The Youth called upon SADC policy makers to prioritise interventions targeting quality education and skills development, in line with the current labour market and entrepreneurship needs, taking into account the rapid technological transformations. The Youth also underscored their call to be included in decision-making processes, at both national and regional levels, so that their energies and talents are channelled towards supporting development within the established processes. It is gratifying to report that, under the chairmanship of Namibia, SADC Ministers of Youth considered a draft conceptual framework on promoting youth innovation, entrepreneurship, leadership and participation in SADC, during their meeting in May 2019. The conceptual framework establishes the basis for mainstreaming Youth Development and Empowerment in the SADC Agenda. The Framework will be tabled for your consideration during this meeting, and it is expected that the framework will streamline youth development and empowerment into our regional efforts through a comprehensive SADC Youth Development Programme. This is a commendable achievement that was attained during the year.

## Honourable Ministers,

The SADC region remains seized with the implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap. Notable achievements during the 2018/2019 year include:

1. The development of the **Draft Protocol on Industry**, which aims to promote the development of diversified, innovative and globally competitive regional and national industrial bases, as the missing link since the adoption of the Industrialisation Strategy in Harare in 2015. The draft will be presented for your consideration during this meeting;
2. The finalisation of a long awaited profiling of the regional agro-processing value chains, whereby 14 product-specific value chains were selected for their high potential to upgrade and develop the region for increased intra-regional trade and integration into global value chains. This is the third value chain profile study to be completed since the adoption of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy Action Plan in 2015. The other two are mineral, and pharmaceutical value chain profiling studies. While these studies seek to establish priority value chains that have the potential for increased intra-regional trade and integration into global value chains, their success is reliant on a conducive business environment, which include facilitative hard and soft infrastructures, affordable energy, conducive policy and legal frameworks, investments from the private sector. To this effect, joint efforts are needed between the public sector and private sector. This requires that all interventions under the three pillars of industrialisation, namely; Industrialisation, Competitiveness and regional integration are implemented, and in a coherent manner. As presented in your report, a number of milestones, which were to be achieved during phase 1 on the Industrialisation Strategy (2015-2020) are yet to be completed. Out of the 58 outputs that are aligned to the first phase of the Strategy, only five (5) have been completed, 46 are ongoing and 7 are yet to be undertaken. Efforts are, therefore required at both national and regional levels, as these outputs are to be carried out at both levels;
3. The establishment of the **SADC Business Council**, which was officially launched on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019, during the SADC Industrialisation Week that was held here in Dar es Salaam, is expected to enhance cooperation among private sector in the region, and establish a closer public-private sector cooperation in the technological and economic transformation of SADC economies, and thus push forward the SADC Industrialisation

agenda. The establishment of the SADC Business Council is commendable. May I call upon the Private Sector to utilize this platform not only for the benefit of their business interests, but also for the benefit of SADC citizens, and in doing so be a contributing partner to the SADC integration agenda;

4. The development of a **Regional Mining Vision**, which aims to optimise the sustainable development of mineral resource extraction across the region. The Vision is anchored on the tenets of the continental African Mining Vision of 2009.

While noting and celebrating the progress made, we need to redouble our efforts, so as to realise the desired results of the SADC industrialisation agenda. The Secretariat remains seized with the implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and to ensure that industrialisation remains at the centre of the SADC integration agenda.

### **Honourable Ministers,**

With regards to **infrastructure development**, as one of the pillars of the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2015-2020, and a catalyst for industrialisation, notable achievements were made in various sectors covering Energy, Transport, Water and ICT. In relation to energy, the Region was able to commission additional 4,175 Megawatts (MW) from Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The target is to commission 4883MW in 2019/20. The Tanzania-Zambia interconnector is at construction phase, while eight (8) regional transmission projects are at feasibility stage, including:

- i. ZIZABONA including Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia;
- ii. Malawi-Mozambique;
- iii. MOZISA (Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa);
- iv. BOSA (Botswana and South Africa);
- v. ANNA (Angola and Namibia);
- vi. MOTA (Mozambique and Tanzania);
- vii. Mozambique STE; and
- viii. Second Alaska-Sherwood.

Altogether, these projects will provide the necessary impetus for the realisation of our industrialisation agenda.

In the water sector, progress was also recorded, whereby the Kunene Transboundary Water Supply Project Phase I involving Angola and Namibia was completed, while construction of the Lomahasha/Namaacha Cross-Border Water Supply Project covering Eswatini and Mozambique is ongoing. Furthermore, a feasibility study for the Chirundu Cross-Border Water Supply Project involving Zambia and Zimbabwe is expected to be completed in August 2019.

### **Honourable Ministers,**

Intra-SADC trade slowed over the period of 2016/17 and 2017/18 owing mainly to difficult macroeconomic conditions experienced in the region. Intra-SADC imports as a percentage of total imports declined by 0.9 percentage points from 21.5 to 20.6 percent, whereas Intra-SADC exports as a percentage of the total intra-SADC exports declined by 2.3 percentage points from 24.7 to 22.4 per cent.

In March and April this year, several of our Member States, namely Comoros, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe, were heavily affected by Tropical Cyclones Idai and Kenneth resulting in unprecedented loss of lives and livelihoods, and damage to socio-economic infrastructure. We were caught unprepared for disasters of such magnitude. The drought situation experienced during the 2018/2019 agricultural season, will exacerbate the food security situation in the region. The Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) will soon meet to forecast the weather and climate for the coming agricultural season. May I, therefore, call upon all Member States to use the information disseminated through the Forum, and the SADC Climate Service Centre, to prepare adequately for any outcome of the rainy season as will be projected.

While our response to the disaster caused by the Tropical Cyclones was generally found wanting, allow me to express our profound appreciation to the Chairpersons of Summit and Council for the guidance that led to the launch of the Regional Humanitarian Appeal in Response to Cyclone Idai, and to the SADC Member States that were prompt in responding to the disaster by sending aircrafts, rescue teams and other supplies to the affected countries. This indeed is a demonstration of our solidarity and unity.

May I also inform you that SADC has taken the lessons learnt from the disaster very seriously, and in this regard, the Secretariat is in the process of operationalising the SADC Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy, and the SADC Disaster Fund. The Ministerial Committee of the Organ on Politics Defence and Security Cooperation has also recommended that the Council

reactivates the Committee of the Ministers of Disaster Management and Response to provide an avenue for dealing with disaster management in the region more effectively. The proposal will be tabled for your consideration.

**Honourable Ministers,**

The region has remained peaceful and stable during the year. Six (6) Member States, namely, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Republic of Madagascar, the Union of Comoros, and the Republics of Malawi and South Africa held elections. Allow me to congratulate the respective Member States and Governments for the credible and peaceful elections, and for upholding SADC democratic principles.

As I conclude my remarks, I wish to thank my Deputy Executive Secretaries, and the entire Secretariat Team, for their continued support and dedication towards achieving the objectives of SADC. I also extend my gratitude to SADC Member States for the support throughout the year in the implementation of SADC activities. In addition, let me appreciate the support we continue to receive from our Cooperating Partners.

May I also express our gratitude to the Senior Officials under the leadership of the Chairperson of the Senior Officials, Dr. Faraji Kasidi Mnyepe, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, the SADC Secretariat, and the Organizing Team, supported by the Ministry of External Affairs and East African Cooperation for the hard work and dedication that enabled successful preparations for this Council of Ministers meeting.

May I at this juncture welcome the incoming Chairperson of SADC Council of Ministers, Prof. Palamagamba John Aidan Mwaluko Kabudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania. Honourable Minister, be assured of the Secretariat's commitment and support in facilitating your work, as you assume the Chairmanship of Council, and throughout your tenure as chairperson.

May I wish the meeting of the Council of Ministers fruitful deliberations.

**Thank you very much!**  
**Merci beaucoup!**  
**Muito obrigada!**  
**Asanteni sana!**