



REMARKS

BY

HER EXCELLENCY

**DR. STERGOMENA LAWRENCE TAX,
SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

AT

**THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE SECOND VOLUME OF
SADC SUCCESS STORIES
PRETORIA, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

14TH AUGUST 2017

**Your Excellency Ambassador Ralf Andreas Breth, the Germany
Ambassador to Botswana and Observer to SADC;
GIZ Program Manager;
Senior Government Officials;
Officials from the SADC Secretariat;
Distinguished Guests;
Representatives of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you at the launch of the Second Volume of SADC Success Stories. This follows the first edition of the SADC success stories that was launched in 2015. The SADC Success Stories Edition is one of our communication tools to reach out to SADC citizens in order to enhance awareness about achievements and impacts of SADC programmes on communities and lives of the peoples of our region. Other communication tools include; the Inside SADC Newsletter, which is distributed electronically on a monthly basis, and also available on our website; the SADC Summit Brochure, which will be distributed during the official opening of the 37th Summit of Heads of State and Government, and the Southern Africa Today Newsletter, which is produced and distributed by our partners on knowledge for development, the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC).

In certain circles, our region has been painted by stories of diseases, conflict, hunger and poverty. But as a region, we have moved many steps in the positive direction. Today we are gathered here to unveil more success stories through the success story publication and send a clear message that we have positive stories to tell. As you read these stories, you will realise that our citizens are on the path to prosperity. Thanks to the dreams of our founding fathers, through regional integration, SADC is surely realising regional economic transformation and sustainable socio-economic development.

Each success story, as presented in Volume II of SADC success stories covering SADC achievements in agriculture and agricultural research, climate change, financial services, industrialisation and regional value chains, infrastructure, peace, security and conflict mediation, tourism and conservation, trade, and water, highlights the links between regional policy making, national implementation, and the tangible benefits for SADC citizens.

Your excellency, ladies and gentlemen

The first edition of the SADC Success Stories was launched in 2015, as a publication and a social media campaign. Through that publication and media campaign, we managed to reach out to over one million people in Southern Africa. We hope to surpass this number with this second volume. As was the case with the first volume, this second edition is an impressive collection of stories from SADC Member States, signifying the scope, coverage and impact of SADC programmes on communities and ordinary citizens, who are the ultimate beneficiaries of SADC programmes and projects across the region.

The promotional video on the SADC Success Stories that you just watched, provides visible evidence of some of the success stories highlighted in the publication being launched today, which include stories, on the Zambezi River, where the construction of the Kazungula Bridge will soon form a major transport link in the heart of the SADC region. In Malawi, we learn about the Bvumbwe tomato variety, which was developed to address the specific environmental conditions of this region and the needs of the SADC population, and in Namibia's Walvis Bay and Mozambique's Nacala, we come across two entry points to the growing network of development corridors alongside which, the SADC region will develop in the coming years.

Your excellency, ladies and gentlemen

The importance of these stories cannot be overemphasised. The stories help to motivate us, as SADC Member States, and the Secretariat to scale up the most impactful and life changing interventions and where necessary, replicate best practices in order to benefit the greatest possible number of our citizens. These stories are also meant to motivate the Private Sector to participate effectively in SADC regional integration agenda, the International Cooperating Partners to continue supporting SADC regional integration and for the media practitioners in the region to do more research and generate stories and ideas that will contribute to the benefits of SADC Cooperation and Integration.

It is worth noting that these success stories are only a selection of many stories of tangible progress and change in the SADC region. I therefore,

encourage the media in the region to take pride and continue to disseminate these achievements.

Your excellency, ladies and gentlemen

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to thank the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and specifically the Federal Government of Germany for the technical and financial support, from the six Technical Cooperation Programmes between SADC and Germany, implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, that contributed to the production of the Second Volume of SADC Success Stories that we are launching today. May I also thank the SADC Member States and all Stakeholders both Public and Private Sector, who have contributed in the production of this publication, the 2nd volume of the SADC Success Stories and who continue to implement SADC programmes. Without their support, it would not have been possible to gather the information that has enable the publication of this 2nd volume.

On behalf of the SADC Secretariat, I am grateful for the long standing support and cooperation that exist between SADC and the Federal Government of Germany.

I also thank the Secretariat staff for coordinating the production of these success stories.

Your excellency, ladies and gentlemen

I hope you will find the stories both valuable, useful and interesting to read.

Thank you.