

# **KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND**



## **SPEECH**

**BY**

**HIS MAJESTY KING MSWATI III DURING THE  
VISIT TO SADC HEADQUARTERS IN  
GABARONE, BOTSWANA.**

**09<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2017**

**KING'S OFFICE**

YOUR EXCELLENCY, SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,  
MINISTERS,  
YOUR EXCELLENCIES, AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS,  
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF SADC RESPONSIBLE FOR CORPORATE AFFAIRS,  
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF SADC RESPONSIBLE FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION,  
MEMBERS OF STAFF OF THE SADC SECRETARIAT,  
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

### INTRODUCTION

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE TODAY IN THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA VISITING THE SADC HEADQUARTERS TO FAMILIARIZE MYSELF WITH THE OPERATIONS OF OUR REGIONAL ORGANIZATION, IN MY CAPACITY AS CHAIRPERSON OF SADC.

LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY DEEPEST APPRECIATION TO HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT LT. GENERAL DR. SERETSE KHAMA IAN KHAMA, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA, FOR THE WARM WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY ACCORDED TO ME AND MY DELEGATION SINCE OUR ARRIVAL IN THIS WARM, BEAUTIFUL AND WONDERFUL COUNTRY. INDEED I ALWAYS FEEL AT HOME AWAY FROM HOME EACH TIME I VISIT BOTSWANA.

I AM ALSO VERY GRATEFUL TO THE SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND THE ENTIRE TEAM AT THE SECRETARIAT, FOR WORKING TIRELESSLY TO ARRANGE AND PLAN FOR THIS VISIT. BEFORE COMING HERE WE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND THE 2017 WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ON AFRICA IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA. THE THEME OF THE FORUM WAS **ACHIEVING INCLUSIVE GROWTH.**

I WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT THE THEME IS IN LINE WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SADC REVISED REGIONAL INDICATIVE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015-2020.

### OBJECTIVES OF SADC

SADC AS A REGIONAL INTEGRATION BODY, WAS ESTABLISHED WITH A SOLID FOUNDATION BECAUSE OF THE VISION THAT OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS HAD, TO LIBERATE THE PEOPLES OF THE REGION AND OFFER THEM SUSTAINABLE PEACE, STABILITY, PROSPERITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

IN THIS REGARD, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LET DOWN THE FOUNDING MEMBERS. WE HAVE A GREATER RESPONSIBILITY, MORE THAN EVER, TO ENSURE THAT THE FOUNDATION PILLARS OF THIS ORGANIZATION ARE SUSTAINED AND WE ARE ABLE TO DELIVER BEYOND WHAT WAS INITIALLY EXPECTED.

WITH THEIR VISION IN MIND, I MUST SAY THAT WE HAVE MADE STEADY PROGRESS IN CONSOLIDATING THE GAINS WE HAVE REGISTERED IN OUR REGION. HOWEVER, MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE IN THE DYNAMIC GLOBALIZED WORLD AND I COUNT ON YOU, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND YOUR TEAM, TO CONTINUE AS YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED, WORKING DILIGENTLY ON THE VARIOUS PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS THAT WE HAVE SET FOR OURSELVES.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROGRESS MADE, WE NEED TO MOVE IN A DIRECTION WHERE WE ARE ABLE TO SHOWCASE IMPACTFUL AND TANGIBLE PROGRESS IN POVERTY ERADICATION, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT, THROUGH VARIOUS REGIONAL PROGRAMMES.

THEY SHOULD BE STRATEGICALLY ALIGNED WITH NATIONAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES, CONTINENTAL AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES SUCH AS THE AFRICAN UNION AGENDA 2063 AND THE UNITED NATIONS AGENDA 2030 FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT WE FOLLOW OUR PRIORITIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE REVISED REGIONAL INDICATIVE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015-2020, IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

A DELIBERATE DECISION WAS TAKEN TO FRONTLOAD INDUSTRIALIZATION IN ORDER TO CATALYZE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRODUCTIVE SECTOR IN THE REGION, AND ENSURE THAT WE PROMOTE BENEFICIATION AND VALUE ADDITION AND CREATE REGIONAL VALUE CHAINS.

#### **IMPROVEMENT OF THE REGION TO INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE**

AS LEADERS OF THE REGION, WE HAVE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE INDUSTRIALISATION STRATEGY AND ROADMAP TO TRANSFORM THE REGION INTO SUSTAINED ECONOMIC PROSPERITY. WE HAVE THE STRONG BELIEF THAT THROUGH THIS STRATEGY, THE REGION WILL EXPERIENCE AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE, WHICH IS SIGNIFICANTLY LOW AT THE MOMENT.



HOWEVER, FOR THAT TO HAPPEN, WE NEED TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE ROLE OF DIFFERENT PLAYERS INCLUDING PUBLIC, PRIVATE, COOPERATING PARTNERS, JUST TO MENTION A FEW, IN REALISING OUR GOALS.

FURTHERMORE, OUR EFFORTS WILL BE RENDERED INEFFECTIVE IF WE DO NOT FOCUS ON THE ISSUES OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION.

IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE OFFERED TO HOST THE SADC UNIVERSITY OF TRANSFORMATION. THE UNIVERSITY IS AIMED AT ENHANCING THE HUMAN CAPITAL OF THE REGION IN THE AREAS OF TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING, INNOVATION AND DELIVERING GRADUATES EMPOWERED WITH REQUISITE SKILLS. THESE SKILLS ARE NECESSARY TO CREATE BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUTH THAT IS FACED WITH CHALLENGES OF UNEMPLOYMENT. AS LEADERS WE ARE COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT THE FUTURE OF OUR YOUTH IS MORE SECURE.

I WAS PLEASED TO RECEIVE THE BRIEF ON PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SADC UNIVERSITY OF TRANSFORMATION. I WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND THE SADC SECRETARIAT FOR HAVING TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO START THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING THE UNIVERSITY. WE WILL BE ANXIOUSLY AWAITING ANOTHER PROGRESS REPORT IN AUGUST 2017.

### ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

I AM PAYING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE ISSUES OF ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE DURING MY TENURE AS CHAIRPERSON. THIS IS BECAUSE THE REGION CONTINUES TO EXPERIENCE MULTIPLE CHALLENGES RELATED TO ENERGY RELIABILITY, AVAILABILITY, DELIVERY, ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY.

THESE HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON OUR INITIATIVE TO ACHIEVE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION. WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THERE ARE ADEQUATE MEASURES PUT IN PLACE TO ADDRESS THE SHORTAGE OF THIS CRITICAL FACTOR OF PRODUCTION. SADC HAS REACHED A JUNCTURE WHERE, AS MEMBER STATES, WE NEED TO SHOW COMMITMENT TO OUR OBJECTIVES BY MATCHING THE PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS WITH MOBILISATION OF ADEQUATE RESOURCES.

WE NEED TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESS OF OPERATIONALIZING THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND THAT WOULD SERVE AS START-UP CAPITAL FOR OUR PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS IN THE VARIOUS SECTORS.

THIS FUND CAN BE USED AS COLLATERAL AS WE SEEK TO RAISE FUNDING FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES TO IMPLEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN THE REGION, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE ENERGY SECTOR.

WE ALSO NEED TO MOVE WITH SPEED AND TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SADC SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES MOBILISATION FRAMEWORK AND EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF FUNDING. OUR UNITY, WHICH HAS WITHSTOOD THE TEST OF TIME, SHOULD TRANSCEND TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PROGRAMME EQUATION, WHICH IS FINANCING.

IN THIS RESPECT, FAILURE SHOULD NOT BE AN OPTION BECAUSE SUCCEEDING IS THE ONLY WAY TO CREATE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR REGION AND A BETTER SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR OUR PEOPLES.

### MINISTERIAL WORKSHOP

WHILE WE WORK ON THE OPTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF FUNDING, THE SUMMIT MANDATED THE SECRETARIAT TO CONVENE A HIGH-LEVEL MINISTERIAL WORKSHOP AND A REGIONAL INVESTORS CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL ENERGY PROJECTS. THIS IS TO SHOWCASE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ENERGY SECTOR, FOCUSING ON SPECIFIC FLAGSHIP PROJECTS.

THE EFFORTS OUTLINED ABOVE FALL WITHIN THE NEW WAY OF THINKING THAT WAS SET OUT FROM THE SADC STRATEGIC MINISTERIAL RETREAT ON "*THE SADC WE WANT*". THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE RETREAT WERE ENDORSED BY THE SADC SUMMIT AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE PRESENTATION OF AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND ROADMAP FOR CONSIDERATION DURING THE NEXT SUMMIT MEETING IN AUGUST 2017.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT AT THIS STAGE IS TO ENSURE THAT THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE RETREAT, ASSIST IN FURTHER DEFINING THE DIRECTION THAT SADC SHOULD TAKE AFTER THE EXPIRY OF THE REVISED RISDP IN 2020.

THE TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF SADC POST 2020 IS NOW, AND THIS PROCESS SHOULD BE AS CONSULTATIVE AS POSSIBLE FOR BOTH THE MEMBER STATES AND THE VARIOUS RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS.

AS WE HAVE SAID A NUMBER OF TIMES, SADC BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE AND WE MUST ENSURE THAT PEOPLE HAVE A SAY AND A STAKE IN THE AFFAIRS OF SADC AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL.



## PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION

IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, ALL THE ACHIEVEMENTS THAT SADC HAS REGISTERED, AND THE GOALS AND PLANS WE HAVE SET BEFORE US, WOULD BE MEANINGLESS IF WE DO NOT PAY ATTENTION TO THE ISSUES OF PEACE, SECURITY AND STABILITY AMONG THE MEMBER STATES.

THE DOUBLE TROIKA IS COMMITTED TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING THE TWO SADC MEMBER STATES; THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO AND THE DRC, IN BRINGING ABOUT POLITICAL STABILITY AND TRANQUILITY. WE HAVE EVERY HOPE THAT THE ELECTIONS IN THESE TWO COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ANGOLA, WILL BE CONDUCTED PEACEFULLY AND SHALL BE A GREAT SUCCESS.

## CONCLUSION

I AM PLEASED THAT MY VISIT HERE HAS ALSO GIVEN ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS THE SWEARING IN OF THE JUDGES OF THE SADC ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL. WE WISH TO CONGRATULATE THEM ON THEIR APPOINTMENTS TO THESE IMPORTANT POSITIONS. THEIR ROLE IS VERY CRITICAL TO THE SUCCESSFUL EXECUTION OF SADC INITIATIVES, SO THEY DESERVE OUR FULL SUPPORT AND COOPERATION.

IN CONCLUSION, WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION, ON THE RENEWAL OF YOUR CONTRACTS BY THE SUMMIT. AS LEADERS WE URGE YOU TO CONTINUE WITH THE SELFLESS AND HARDWORKING SPIRIT IN EXECUTING THE SADC PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES IN UNITY, SO THAT ALL THE DREAMS AND GOALS OF SADC ARE REALISED.

WE KNOW THAT THE SECRETARIAT IS UNDERGOING A TRANSITIONAL PHASE, FOLLOWING THE APPROVAL OF THE NEW STRUCTURE, AND IT IS MY SINCERE HOPE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO REALIZE MORE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS, AND ENHANCED TEAMWORK AS WE MOVE TOWARDS REALISING "THE SADC WE WANT". AS THE CURRENT CHAIRPERSON, AND MY TEAM, WE ARE COMMITTED TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING THE SECRETARIAT IN DELIVERING ON OUR SADC OBJECTIVES.

**I THANK YOU - MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD BLESS US ALL.**