



SPEECH BY HONOURABLE EVERTON CHIMULIRENJI

DURING

“EXERCISE UMODZI”

OFFICIAL LAUNCH

AT

MALAWI ARMED FORCES COLLEGE

ON

8 OCTOBER 2018



Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen

I feel greatly honoured to address this auspicious gathering which has participants from almost all countries in the Southern African Development Community. Your presence here truly demonstrates your governments' commitments to peace, security and stability for not only in the SADC Region but also the entire continent and the world at large. Let me also take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to the Malawi Government for graciously accepting to host this important Exercise that will be conducted here at Malawi Armed Force College from 1 to 15 October 2018.

2. Let me begin by welcoming you all to Malawi, the Warm Heart of Africa. I am sure you will find our country enchanting and truly a home away from home. I have been informed that you have quite a tight programme but I do hope that within the little free time



you will have, you will enjoy the fascinating Malawi setting, friendly people and our multi-cultural cuisine. Welcome to Malawi, the Warm Heart of Africa.

3. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as Malawi, we are delighted and honoured to be given this opportunity to host this SADC Standby Force (SADCSF) Command Post Exercise (CPX) code named "Ex-Umodzi". We are pleased that over 500 participants from various SADC Countries that include Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe are taking part in the exercise. I am also pleased to welcome the evaluators like staff from Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre and African Union who are present here to oversee the exercise. It is my wish that you will all work together to make SADC Standby Force stronger and more relevant to the promotion of peace and security in the region and beyond.



4. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I recognize that this training exercise whose theme is *"Africa for Peace and Prosperity"* is principally designed to practise and exercise SADC Standby Force's Multidimensional Headquarters on the Planning and Conduct of integrated Mission in Peace Support Operations in preparations to take up the African Standby Force Roster in January 2019 and beyond. It is pleasing to note that the CPX will be based on the deployment of the SADC SF as RDC of the ASF in the context of a multi-dimensional peace support operations mission.

5. Ladies and gentlemen, as we are aware, the function of the Brigade is to participate in missions as envisaged in Article 13 of the "mandate" of the Peace and Security Protocol relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, which includes among other things observation and monitoring missions; peace support missions; interventions for peace and security restoration at the



request of a Member State; and actions to prevent the spread of conflict to neighboring states, or the resurgence of violence after agreements have been reached. This CPX, therefore, comes at the right time when SADC Standby Force needs to enhance its capacity and capability as a Brigade. As we are all aware, training of the Brigade at all levels is a key priority to achieving this.

6. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is pleasing to note that the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre located in Zimbabwe and other national peace support training institutions who play a pivotal role in training military commanders, police officers and civilian officials at various levels are here with us for the CPX. Your contributions during this exercise will be crucial in realizing our goals.

7. Ladies and gentlemen, before I conclude, let me reiterate the importance of regional cooperation on



matters of defence. In this uncertain world, it is only a collective security build up that can help create the necessary guarantees for our people. Today's security challenges transcend national borders and as such, we have to work together. It is important to always remember that exercises like this provide an opportunity to establish bridges of trust, friendship and confidence among member states. As such, let us ensure that whatever will be gained here will continue to have a lasting impact on the ability of the SADC Standby Force and our militaries in particular to respond to complex challenges that we continuously face within the region.

8. In closing, I wish to express my gratitude to all delegates and observers, and the SADC Secretariat for providing the necessary funding. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Exercise Director and his team for their diligence. More importantly let me thank the Government of the Republic of Malawi for accepting to host this important exercise.



9. With these few remarks, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, let me wish the participants a very fruitful and productive exercise. I now declare 'Ex-Umodzi' here at Malawi Armed Forces College officially opened.

10. Thank you very much for your attention!