



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **SADC officially launches the SADC Preventive Mission in the Kingdom of Lesotho on December 2, 2017**

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Preventive Mission in the Kingdom of Lesotho (SAPMIL) was officially launched on 2nd December 2017, at the VODACOM Park Grounds in Maseru, Lesotho.

The mission was launched pursuant to the decision of the Double Troika Summit (DTS) of 15 September 2017 to deploy a Contingent Force to the Kingdom of Lesotho in order to facilitate a secure, stable and peaceful environment conducive for the Rule of Law necessary for the implementation of SADC decisions, including the Security Sector Reforms. The DTS decision also followed a request from the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho. SAPMIL has therefore been deployed with the consent of the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho in order to complement Lesotho Government's efforts to attain lasting peace and security in the country.

SAPMIL is a multidimensional Mission Comprising Military, Intelligence, Police and Civilian Components. It has a total number of 269 personnel as follows: Military – 217; Intelligence – 15; Police - 24; and Civilian – 13 from Member States (Angola, Malawi, Namibia, Tanzania, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe) who provided personnel in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the SADC Standby Force.

In order to ensure that it operates within the confines of the law and do not impinge upon the inalienable right of the Basothos, necessary legal instruments to guide the operations of SAPMIL, such as Status of Forces Agreement and Rules of Engagement, have been put in place and agreed upon with the Government of Lesotho. In this regards, SADC will ensure that the troops and personnel deployed will exhibit professionalism, abide by the rules of engagement and act in line with their mandate.

SAPMIL has been given a deployment mandate of six months which will be subject to extension depending to the progress that will have been achieved by the end of the six months.

SADC will continue to support the Kingdom of Lesotho and do all that is necessary to ensure that the progress made through previous initiatives will not be subverted.

SAPMIL has been deployed in order to jointly work with our Basotho brothers and sisters to restore lasting political and security stability in the Kingdom of Lesotho.

**Maseru 2 December 2017**

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