



**Pre-Summit Media Briefing**

by

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**International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia**

and

**Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers**

**Windhoek, Namibia**

**Tuesday, 14 August 2018,**

1. The Executive Secretary of SADC, Your Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen from the various Media Houses, I thank you for coming to this afternoon's Media briefing where I would like to share with you the Outcomes from the meeting of the SADC Council of Ministers held on 13-14 August 2018. The Council of Ministers meeting was held in preparation for the Summit of Heads of State and Government to be held on 17-18 August, 2018 here at Safari Conference Centre.
2. The SADC Council of Ministers oversees the functioning and development of our Community, SADC, and ensures that policies are properly implemented. The Council consists of Ministers from each of the SADC Member States, usually from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economic Planning, or Finance, and it meets twice a year in February or March and immediately prior to the Summit in August or September.
3. The Council of Ministers meeting was preceded by a series of meetings, which included the SADC Human Resources and Administration Committee; the Audit Committee; and the Finance Committee whose deliberations informed the discussions of the Council of Ministers and the SADC Standing Committee of Senior Officials.
4. On the 11th and 12<sup>th</sup> August, the SADC Directorates of Organ on Politics, Defense and Security; Infrastructure; Industrial Development and Trade; Food Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR); Social and Human Development (SHD) had an opportunity to brief the media on the implementation of SADC's priority areas of industrial development and market integration; infrastructure in support of regional integration; peace and security cooperation; special programme and regional integration. The objective of the briefings was to hence awareness and visibility on SADC programmes.
5. During the meeting of the SADC Council of Ministers a number of issues were discussed. These issues relate principally to our priority programmes contained in the revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2015-2020 (RISDP); the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO II); and the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063.
6. The SADC Council of Ministers endorsed the 38th SADC theme proposed by the Government of the Republic of Namibia, in its capacity as the Incoming Chair of SADC of "*Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development*," for recommendation to Summit.

7. Council noted progress on the implementation of the Resolutions of the Ministerial Retreat – “THE SADC WE WANT”; and directed the SADC Secretariat to expedite the process of completing the assignments of reviewing existing institutional arrangements within SADC and developing an effective mechanism to monitor and ensure compliance to SADC Protocols and other legal instruments and regional commitments at Member State level; and finalise and operationalize the Private Sector Engagement Mechanism (PSEM) in collaboration with regional and national private sector associations.
8. Council directed the Secretariat to submit the comprehensive review report on the implementation of the Revised RISDP 2015-2020 during its meeting to be held in August 2019; and urged Member States to focus on implementing activities that are within the approved Implementation Frameworks of the revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2015-2020 (RISDP) and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO).
9. Noting the SADC Groundwater Management Institute Financial Sustainability Plan, Council approved the Subsidiary Status Application of the Institute
10. Council directed the Secretariat to operationalise the SADC Regional Gas Committee; to develop the SADC Regional Gas Master Plan and urged Member States to nominate members of the SADC Regional Gas Committee.
11. Council noted progress on the implementation of VISA exemptions and commended Member States that have taken initiatives to operationalize bilateral visa exemptions; and those that have not done so to expedite the negotiations and report on progress at the next meeting in August 2019.
12. Council urged Member States to continuously intensify their advocacy and lobbying campaigns on gender parity as per the provision in the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and to create a conducive environment and supporting structures for women to join and stay in politics and positions of decision making.
13. Council urged Member States to commit to the Regional Priority Power Projects aimed at enhancing security of energy supply and take necessary measures to enhance packaging of projects and create enabling environment for energy sector reforms in order to attract investors.
14. Council urged Member States to collaborate with private sector to identify, package, attract investment and implement regional value chain projects.
15. As you may know, the 17th August is an important day on the SADC calendar as this is the day when SADC was transformed from a Development Coordinating Conference to Development Community 1992 right here in Windhoek, Namibia.

To commemorate this day, the current Chairperson of SADC, His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa of the Republic of South Africa, will deliver the SADC Day Message for 2018.

16. The climax of the meetings will be on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> when the 38<sup>th</sup> SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government will take place. There will be the official opening ceremony on 17<sup>th</sup> and closing ceremony on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2018
17. At their 38<sup>th</sup> Summit, Heads of State and Government are expected to conduct the following business
  - a. Elect Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of Summit
  - b. Elect Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation
  - c. Receive a report of the Outgoing Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation
  - d. Discuss the Socio-Economic Situation in the Region and the Global Economic Situation as well as the performance of the SADC Economy
  - e. Discuss issues of Gender and Development, Food Security and HIV and AIDS in the Region
  - f. Receive a Report on the Operationalisation of the 37<sup>th</sup> Summit Theme: *Partnering with the Private Sector to Develop Industry and Value Chains* and approve the Theme of the 38<sup>th</sup> SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government; *Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development*
  - g. Approve the operationalisation of the SADC Regional Development Fund and the SADC University of Transformation
  - h. Consider the status on the Implementation of the Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap
  - i. Summit will discuss issues of Continental Integration. These issues include; the Tripartite and Continental Free Trade Area; Implementation of Free Movement of Persons in Africa; the AU Institutional Reforms and Post-Cotonou Agreement
18. Distinguish media personnel, allow me to take this opportunity to thank you and appreciate the contribution that you play in informing and educating people on SADC programmes. Looking at the issues under discussion at this Summit, you can agree with me that the SADC region has great story to tell.
19. I encourage you to continue with the good work and I thank you for your attention, and we are here, with the Executive Secretary of SADC, Her Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax to take questions on the issues that I have highlighted.
20. I thank you.

**Done in Windhoek, Namibia**

**14<sup>th</sup> August 2018**