



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**STATEMENT BY**

**HONOURABLE DR. EMMANUEL FABIANO, M.P.,  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF MALAWI**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE CLOSING CEREMONY  
FOR THE COMMAND POST EXERCISE AT THE  
MALAWI ARMED FORCES COLLEGE IN SALIMA**

**15 OCTOBER, 2018**

- **Honourable Penda Ya Ndakolo, M.P., Minister of Defence of the Republic of Namibia;**
- **Honourable Mampho Mokhete, M.P., Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Lesotho;**
- **Honourable Halebonoe Selsabi, M.P., Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Lesotho;**
- **Your Excellency Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, SADC Executive Secretary;**
- **Your Excellency Dr. John Phiri, Zambia High Commissioner to Malawi, representing the Chairperson of the Organ;**
- **Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corp;**
- **General Griffin Supuni Phiri, Commander of the Malawi Defence Force and all Defence Chiefs from the SADC Member States here present;**
- **Mr. John Nyondo, Deputy Inspector General of the Malawi Police Service and all Police Chiefs here present;**
- **Ms Wandika Phiri, Chief Commissioner of Malawi Prison Services and all Prison/Correctional Chiefs here present;**
- **Mrs. Eunice Luambia, Exercise Head of Mission and your team;**

- **Major General Alick Mhone, Exercise Director and your Planning Team;**
- **Distinguish Participants;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is with great pleasure and honour for me to be here to officially close the SADC Command Post Exercise (CPX) code-named Exercise Umodzi. This exercise has been taking place here in Salima from 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018 under the theme '*Africa for Peace and Prosperity.*'

On behalf of the Government and People of the Republic of Malawi, and indeed on my own behalf, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the SADC Community for entrusting us with the responsibility to host this important Exercise. As a host nation, we are delighted to learn that the exercise has been successfully conducted and all the objectives have been met.

Before I proceed, allow me to welcome, in a special way, Honourable Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs from Namibia and Lesotho; Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, SADC Executive Secretary and all the invited guests present here. I believe you felt at home here in Malawi in

general, and especially in this Lakeshore District of Salima in particular.

Malawi Government has hosted this important exercise, because the promotion of international peace and security is one of the main pillars of her Foreign Policy. In line with this Policy, Malawi has over the years played a pivotal role in Peacekeeping Operations in different parts of the world under the SADC, AU and UN.

**Honourable Ministers;**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.**

The importance of this exercise cannot be overemphasized. It has ensured that SADC Standby Force takes up its active role in January, 2019 with well trained personnel. The knowledge gained during the Exercise will have a bearing towards the success of the SADC Standby Force. This is because during the Exercise participants were involved in a number of crucial activities that included: - The execution of a political mission mandate; practising and managing integrated mission planning processes; practising the planning for the execution of rule of law in Peace Support Operations; Practising Civil-Military Cooperation in Peace

Support Operations; and Planning for effective and efficient logistical support to SADC operations.

These exercises have also provided platforms where experts from the military, police and civilian components are able to interact and share experiences in a formal or informal manner. Therefore, I hope that you have known each other. As such, whenever SADC Standby Force is tasked at any given time, you will not experience difficulties in planning and executing activities because of the camaraderie developed within these two weeks.

**Honourable Ministers;**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I am delighted to learn that over 500 participants from 12 member states have taken part in the Exercise. This is a clear manifestation of the great importance attached to matters of peace and security by the SADC Community. It is also an expression of the serious commitment by the community in promoting peace and security not only in the region but also on the continent as a whole.

I am equally impressed with the multidimensional nature of the Exercise as it has not only included Officers in Uniform but Civilians as well. The involvement of more women participants in this exercise is also a commendable development worth noting. Women and children are the most affected during conflicts, hence the need to train more women Peacekeepers who can easily understand the plight of their fellow women in conflict situations. I would, therefore, wish to commend my fellow SADC Member states for involving more women in Peace Support activities.

**Honourable Ministers;**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I am told that participants have undergone a strenuous two weeks of training which has equipped them with the necessary skills and expertise in Peace Support Operations. Therefore, I wish to urge participants to use the knowledge and experience gained within these two weeks in making Africa a better and secure place. Peace and security are the bedrock of development, and as such there is need to secure and promote peace at all times.

Being a Peacekeeper is not an easy job, it is a sacrifice which one has to make for the sake of others. Your decision to take part in this Exercise and be part of officers who are ready for deployment is, therefore, highly appreciated.

**Honourable Ministers;**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Before, I conclude, let me once again on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Malawi, express our sincere gratitude to the SADC Community for entrusting us with the responsibility to host this exercise. Your continuous support in ensuring the success of the exercise is highly commended.

It is my sincere belief that this will not be the last time such an important exercise is held. As a region, we need to constantly come together and conduct joint exercises, considering that the world is changing at an alarming rate. Such exercises will be key in putting the security institutions in our countries and SADC Standby Force, in particular, at a position of advantage to deal with the challenges that may come our way. Let us continue to

join hands in making Africa a peaceful and secure continent.

**Honourable Ministers;**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Finally, let me wish you all a safe journey as you travel back to your respective countries. I hope you had a wonderful time during the period you were here in Malawi, and please be assured that you are most welcome to visit Malawi the Warm Heart of Africa.

With these remarks; it is now my singular honour and privilege to declare the SADC Command Post – Exercise Umodzi, Officially Closed.

**I thank you for your attention and may God bless you all.**