

**HANDBOVER STATEMENT BY, HON. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH, THE OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF THE SADC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, NAMIBIA DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION, AT THE 39<sup>TH</sup>SADC SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT, 13 AUGUST 2019, DAR ES SALAAM, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA.**

**Hon. Palamagamba Kabudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania, and Incoming Chair of SADC Council of Ministers,**

**Honourable Ministers,**

**Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Executive Secretary of SADC,**

**Deputy Executive Secretaries,**

**Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, and Members of the Diplomatic Corps**

**Representatives of Regional and  
International Organisations,  
SADC Senior Officials,  
Delegates from the SADC Member States,  
SADC Secretariat Officials,  
Members of the Media,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The SADC family has learnt with sadness of the tragic fuel tanker accident in Morogoro, the United Republic of Tanzania, on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2019, that claimed over 70 lives and injured many more. On behalf of the SADC Council of Ministers and indeed in my own behalf we wish to express our deepest condolences to the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania, and particularly the bereaved families. We sympathize and remain in solidarity with the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania during difficult moment. (Moment of silence).

**Honorable Ministers,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

I feel honored to welcome you all to the Council of Ministers meeting-taking place in this historic city of Dar Es Salaam. (A place of peace) I hope, like me, you all feel home away from home. For me, having served in the United Republic of Tanzania as the SWAPO Representative in the 80s, Dar Es Salaam is indeed Home, and it brings back the memory of Mwalimu Nyerere a true Pan Africanist. For me Mwalimu only knew me as MAMA wa SWAPO. Let me therefore take this opportunity, on behalf of the Council of Ministers to extend our thanks and appreciation to the Government and People of Tanzania for the warm welcome and hospitality extend to us since our arrival and the favourable facilities put at our disposal.

## **Honorable Ministers,**

As we all know, SADC is in the process of realigning its strategic plans and renewing its priorities to ensure that they are relevant to the challenges faced in our region and to align our programs to our continental aspirations. That is to say, as we prepare for the next phase of renewal for our Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and SIPO (2020-2030) we also reorient the SADC regional vision 2050 to speak to the continental developmental Agenda 2063.

Industrialization remains at the core of the integration agenda of SADC and central to the diversification of regional economic growth. We therefore need to prioritize trade facilitation with regard to roads infrastructures such roads, rail, harbors, among others. We have also to find ways of reducing transport costs and transit delays. All that is necessary to prepare the region to benefit from the African Continental Free Trade Area. (ACFTA).

In this regard, I would like to inform that on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2019, Namibia inaugurated the new

container terminal of the Walvis Bay port with a capacity to handle 750 000 of twenty feet containers. The inauguration of the Walvis Bay port is based on Namibia's aim for the port to become the preferred western coast port for southern and central African logistics operation, which would facilitate access to international markets, by granting landlocked countries access to the Atlantic Ocean by creating easier and faster transit between Africa, Europe, Asia and Americas.

In the course of this year, our region faced serious several climatic challenges, namely, Tropical Cyclone Desmond, Enawo, Idai and Kenneth that caused extensive flooding in Comoros Mozambique, Tanzania and Madagascar, Malawi and Zimbabwe, coursing many deaths, injuries and destruction of infrastructure and cropland. I wish to express sincere appreciation to SADC Member States for their prompt, effective and generous response in providing humanitarian assistance to the affected countries.

As climate change it real and our region is vulnerable to it, we have to put in place strong early warning mechanism and mitigation and

adaptation measures. As that will help us to cope with the impact of climate change.

The 38th SADC Summit was held under the theme on “Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development” as adopted. Youth is the most valuable asset we have if we are to industrialise the region. In operationalisation the theme, programs and activities across all sectors were organized, with emphasis on youth empowerment. The programs also emphasised the need to make the implementation of SADC Regional Programme on Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship a priority aimed at ensuring sustainability and the full implementation of the 38th Summit theme.

## **Honorable Ministers,**

In our collective efforts to consolidate peace, stability and democratic governance in our SADC Region, six (6) of our Member States, namely, the Kingdom of ESwatini, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Republic of

Madagascar, the Union of Comoros, the Republic of Malawi and the Republic of South Africa held peaceful and transparent elections, since our last Council, held in Windhoek.

In that regard, allow me to congratulate Governments and the people of those six SADC Member States for holding credible and peaceful elections, and for upholding SADC democratic principles.

We are also pleased to have witnessed on 6 August 2019, the signing of the peace accord and peace pledge between the Government of the Republic of Mozambique and Renamo, in Maputo, Mozambique. The aim is to cease hostility in Mozambique and further consolidating peace and stability in our region. We congratulate the people of Mozambique for this important achievement.

## **Honorable Ministers,**

Our organization was born out of solidarity and this has informed the holding and the outcome of the SADC solidarity Conference with the people of Western Sahara. To that end it is our responsibility to ensure the full implementation

of that conference Declaration, as our commitment to walk with the people of Western Sahara to Self-Determination.

## **Honorable Ministers,**

SADC has kept to its decision to have Gender Equality and Women Empowerment as a permanent item in our agenda. The year 2020 will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Declaration adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 held in Beijing, China, and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325. As a region, SADC has made great strides in this area. We have a story to tell and a contribution to make. We have to record that if there is a UN document where SADC has played a central role is the Beijing Platform of Action and Declaration, where personally I served as Africa Chief Negotiator.

Together with the International Community, we have to take part in the activities for the year and we must bring out significant contribution of our region has made in the advancement of gender equality and women empowerment,



particularly in decision-making and economic empowerment and peacekeeping.

This will ensure that our achievements are reflected in the simultaneous national, regional and global review processes.

Furthermore, 2020 will mark the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security that was initiated by Namibia in 2000. To this end, Namibia has undertaken to establish an International Women's Peace Centre, aimed at among others strengthening women's participation on Peace building and peace keeping. We count on the SADC countries support in this endeavor.

## **Honorable Ministers,**

No doubt our region has made some progress in the economic integration of the region. However, and in line with SADC objective to promote sustainable and equitable socio-economic growth and development, more need to be done on SADC industrial development initiative.

As I conclude, I would like to express my appreciation on behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Namibia for the support and cooperation received from Honourable Ministers and the SADC Secretariat, led by Dr. Stergomena Lawerence Tax during my tenure a Chair of the Council of Ministers in our promotion of the regional integration agenda of our Regional Organization SADC, in its effort to improve the living standards of our people in all sphere. Indeed the SADC Secretariat continues to play an instrumental role in our work to deliver on our regional agenda.

As I hand over the Chairmanship to my brother, Hon. Palamagamba Kabudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania, and Incoming Chair of SADC Council of Ministers, I am confident that he will continue to successfully advance SADC's agenda, regional integration principles and values. Honorable in coming Chair be assured of Namibia's readiness to work with you as you steer further our organisation to high heights.

I thank you all for your attention, and wish you fruitful deliberations on the Annotated Agenda of our meeting.

Thank you  
Merci bocu  
Obrigada  
Assante Sana