



**SADC MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF
H.E. MR. JOSÉ EDUARDO DOS SANTOS,
FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**

The people and governments of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have received, with deep sorrow, the sad news of the passing of His Excellency Mr José Eduardo dos Santos, former President of the Republic of Angola.

The Late former President, who passed away on 8th July, 2022, in Barcelona, Spain, served as the second Head of State of the Republic of Angola, for a period of over 30 years and contributed greatly to the liberation of Angola and the Southern African region.

Throughout his life, His Excellency former President Dos Santos believed that peace and security were key to the economic development and prosperity of the region. In this regard, he supported efforts to sustain peace and security in Africa, including supporting the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) against armed rebel groups and negative forces that threatened the DRC's peace and security. He also contributed to the fight against the apartheid system in South Africa, paving way for the independence of the Republics of Namibia and South Africa, two countries that were later integrated as members of SADC in March, 1990, and April, 1994, respectively.

As a skilful diplomat, he always believed in the peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts in the SADC region. With him goes the voice of a peacemaker who always advocated the African Union founding principle of African solutions to African problems and defended the political and economic freedom of the African continent.

The Late former President Dos Santos was among the leaders from the inception of SADC and its forerunner, the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC); He was a believer in regional cooperation and SADC's regional integration agenda. He served as the Chairperson of SADC, between 2002 and 2003, and from 2011 to 2012, where he rallied his fellow SADC Heads of State and Government to accelerate efforts towards achieving SADC regional integration and development agenda, while promoting peace and security.

As we remember this great statesman, his life of dedicated service and fighting for a noble and just cause, should serve as an example to the youth of the SADC region. Through his commitment and courage, which he demonstrated from his youthful years, he rose through the ranks in Angolan politics to become the President of his country and, ultimately, benefitted the entire SADC region.

On behalf of SADC and indeed on my own behalf, I extend our heartfelt condolences to His Excellency Mr João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, the family of His Excellency former President Dos Santos, his friends and comrades on this great loss.

The SADC region will forever remember His Excellency former President Dos Santos for his service and contribution to regional integration, development and socio-economic development. His legacy will live on for generations to come. May his Soul Rest in Eternal Peace.



Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI AND
CHAIRPERSON OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY**

11th July, 2022