



REMARKS BY

**PROFESOR KULA ISHMAEL THELETSANE,
THE DIRECTOR OF THE ORGAN ON POLITICS,
DEFENCE AND SECURITY AFFAIRS
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

OF

**THE SADC CHIEFS OF POLICE SUB-
COMMITTEE/SARPCCO MEETING**

13 JUNE 2024

The Guest of Honour, Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Jack Jacob Mwiimbu, State Counsel, MP

Inspector General of the Zambia Police Service and Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO) Chairperson, Mr Graphel Musamba

Inspector General of Police, United Republic of Tanzania Mr Camillus Mongoso Wambura, the Incoming SARPCCO Chairperson

Inspector General of the Namibian Police Force, Lt Gen Joseph Shimweelao Shikongo, Outgoing Chairperson of SARPCCO

The Head of Interpol Regional Bureau Harare, Mr Sello Moerane who is also representing the Interpol Secretary General Dr Jurgen Stock

Chiefs of Police from SADC Member States and their representatives

Major General Anne-Marie Nainda, Deputy Inspector General of Namibia Police Force and Interpol Executive Member, Delegate for Africa

The Permanent Secretary Home Affairs and Internal Security of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Rikki Josephs Akafumba

The Deputy Inspector General of the Zambia Police Service, Administration, Ms Alitah Mbahwe

The Deputy Inspector General of the Zambia Police Service, Operations, Mr Milner Muyambango

The Chairperson of the SARPCCO Permanent Coordinating Sub Committee and also Commissioner of the Zambia Police Service, C.I.D, Mr Mwala Yuyi

Distinguished Delegates from SADC Member States

Distinguished Members of the Technical Organs Sub Committees

SADC Secretariat Staff

Interpol Staff

All Superior Police Officers

Subordinate and other Ranks

Members of the Press

Distinguished Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to deliver these remarks on behalf of the SADC Executive Secretary and my behalf at the official opening of the 29th Annual General Meeting of the SADC Chiefs of Police Sub-Committee/SARPCCO, a structure of the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC). As a region, we aspire to further socio-economic, political, and security cooperation among Member States and foster regional integration to achieve peace, stability, and wealth.

The SADC Chiefs of Police Sub-Committee/SARPCCO, plays a critical role in creating the realisation of the SADC Regional Agenda on Peace, Security, Development and Integration. Consequently, the importance of this Annual General Meeting in providing strategic guidance regarding how, as a region, we can

effectively combat the scourge of Transnational Organised Crime (TOC) cannot be overemphasized.

Allow me distinguished delegates, to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Republic of Zambia here represented by our revered Guest of Honour, Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Jack Jacob Mwiimbu, State Counsel, MP, for its able and forward-thinking leadership since assuming the Chairpersonship of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Corporation. Guest of Honour, your presence here bears testimony to the Republic of Zambia's commitment to amplifying regional efforts to enhance peace, security, development and integration. Indeed, we cannot thank you enough.

Similarly, let me also commend the Chairperson of SARPCCO and the Inspector General of Zambia Police Service, Mr Graphel MUSAMBA. Thank you for your steadfast commitment and exemplary leadership in regional initiatives to prevent and combat transnational organized crime in our region. Your dedication is deeply appreciated, Sir.

In the same vein, allow me to applaud INTERPOL Secretary General Mr Jürgen STOCK, represented by Mr Sello Moerane for supporting SARPCCO operational programmes and activities through INTERPOL Regional Bureau in Harare, under the leadership of Mr Sello Moerane. As his tenure ends, we would like to congratulate him on his remarkable achievements as the Secretary General of INTERPOL. He has ensured our continued strategic partnership in combating transnational organized crime and other forms of crime, contributing to the safety of the SADC region and the world. As a region, we sincerely appreciate and value his leadership and wisdom, which have significantly enhanced our efforts towards peace and security. We thank him and wish him all the best as he embark on new endeavours.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt recognition to all the Chiefs of Police/SARPCCO present here today. Your dedication and relentless efforts are instrumental in safeguarding the SADC region and ensuring peace and security prevail in our region. Your commitment to our collective safety is deeply appreciated.

Let me also take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate the Commissioner General of the Zimbabwe Republic Police, Comrade Tandabantu Godwin MATANGA for being the longest-serving Chief of Police in the region, thereby earning the title of Dean of SARPCCO. We do not doubt that you will excel in this critical role, as you have already led by example in the different ways you support SARPCCO programmes.

Allow me to also recognize and welcome the new Chiefs of Police/SARPCCO in our midst. In particular, the National Commissioner of Botswana Police Service, Ms. Dinah MARATHE and the National Commissioner of the Kingdom of Lesotho Mounted Police, Adv. Borotheo James MATSOSO. Commissioners, welcome onboard and congratulations on your appointments.

Guest of Honour, Chairperson, Esteemed Chiefs of Police and delegates,

It is with a heavy heart that I express our deepest condolences and solidarity with the families, citizens, and governments of our region who have lost police and law enforcement officers in the line of duty. In particular, I extend our heartfelt sympathies to the Republic of Namibia for the loss of the President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency, Dr Hage Geingob, the Kingdom of Eswatini, for the loss of the National Commissioner of Police, Mr Tsitsibala William Wayne DLAMINI and the loss of Director of CID and Head of NCB Lilongwe, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr George MNJALE.

Guest of Honour, Chairperson, Esteemed Chiefs of Police and delegates,

The SADC region remains relatively peaceful, and stable, though we remain seized with fighting acts of terrorism in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Mozambique. In the spirit of solidarity, the region deployed the SADC Mission in DRC (SAMIDRC) last year to address the unstable and deteriorating security situation in the Eastern DRC. I am however, gratified to note that the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) has made great strides in restoring peace and stability in the Cabo Delgado Province. This demonstrates that nothing conquers unity and togetherness, hence the nascent need for the region to once again coalesce, converge and fight terrorism in the Eastern DRC from a united front. I am confident that SADC Member States are going to stand in solidarity with the Democratic Republic of Congo by pledging operational capabilities that are going to be projected in the Mission.

As the region continues to implement the Regional Strategic Development Plan 2020/2030, founded on the principles of peace and security, the Chiefs of Police/ SARPCCO play a pivotal role in the success of these objectives. Your efforts are crucial in

enhancing the frameworks to prevent and combat transnational organized crime. In this regard, your Sub-Committee is making significant strides, and I am pleased to highlight that the Agreement Amending the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials which entered into force last year 2023 after having secured signatures of three-quarters of State Parties to the Protocol.

Guest of Honour, Chairperson, Esteemed delegates,

Our region is grappling with the menace of traffic in persons and smuggling of migrants. The SADC Multistakeholder Conference on Combating transnational Organised Crime, which was conducted in May 2023 in Swakopmund, the Republic of Namibia noted with grave concern the rampant prevalence of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants in the region with reported cases of some women being trafficked from the region to the Middle East for labour and sexual exploitation. This calls for us to come up with robust strategies to heighten efforts to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

In this regard, it is pleasing to note that efforts are underway to recruit a consultant to develop the SADC Integrated Border Management Strategy in tandem with the Decision of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) at its meeting in 2023 in Windhoek, the Republic of Namibia. It is also noteworthy that the MCO approved the SADC Protocol Against Trafficking in Persons in 2022 though it is not yet in force. Let me take this opportunity, therefore, to urge Member States to sign and ratify the SADC Protocol Against Trafficking in Persons to set the stage for its implementation.

It is also sad to note that the region is being increasingly used as a conduit for drugs destined for international markets and that illicit drug-trafficking generates large financial gains and wealth thus encouraging cross-border criminals and organisations to penetrate, contaminate and corrupt society at all levels. To make matters worse illicit drug trafficking and substance abuse largely

affects the youths who are the future leaders of the region. In this regard let me underline the need for Member States to effectively implement the SADC Protocol on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking to reduce and eventually eliminate drug trafficking, money laundering and abuse of drugs.

At the strategic level we are currently exploring the feasibility of establishing a regional Centre of Excellence in Forensic Sciences as per your Decision of the 2022 SARPCCO Annual General Meeting held in Pretoria, the Republic of South Africa It is not in dispute that long-established forensic techniques and advancements in forensic technologies are making a difference every day in the ambit of drug analysis, investigation, evidence gathering, prosecution and judicial proceedings. I am happy to note that your meeting will receive progress regarding this Decision on the establishment of the regional Centre of Excellence in Forensic Sciences.

Guest of Honour, Chairperson, Esteemed delegates,

Our efforts to come up with holistic strategies and programs to fight transnational organised crime are, to some extent, hampered by lack of data. We need to greatly improve on Data Collection and Management, as well as strengthening Intelligence and Information Exchange. Data enables us to be proactive in fighting transnational organised crime. I thus, note with a heavy heart that most Member States are not compiling the Transnational Organised Crime Data Collection Tool for Southern Africa (TOCSA) as per the prescribed times. Regrettably, this sad scenario is making it difficult for us to compile the Regional Organized Crime Threat Assessment (ROCTA) reports as stipulated by the SADC Integrated Strategy and Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Transnational Organized Crime.

Furthermore, limited statistical data on transnational organized crime compromises objective reporting to the Inter State Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC), the Ministerial Committee of the Organ, and Summit on the extent and magnitude of

transnational organized crime in the region and the work being done by the Chiefs of Police Sub-Committee in this regard. Without data, we cannot indeed comprehensively demonstrate the magnitude and impact of transnational organized crime in the region. It is therefore my humble plea for Member States to expedite the compilation of the TOCSA Data Collection Tool as per the prescribed times.

Guest of Honour, Chairperson, Esteemed delegates,

Let me take this opportunity to emphasize the need for the region to adopt a people-centric, inter-disciplinary and multidimensional response to transnational organised crime. We need to take strategic, coordinated, and collective action against this scourge predicated on sound inter-agency cooperation at national and intergovernmental levels. Therefore, I urge Member States to double up efforts to effectively implement the SADC Protocols on Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters, SADC Protocol on Extradition, SADC Integrated Strategy and Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Transnational Organised Crime, as well as actively participating in SARPCCO Joint and Simultaneous Operations. There is no country, no matter how financially sound it may be, that can effectively combat transnational organized crime without involving other countries.

Distinguished guests, as I put the cap on the remarks, allow me to extend our profound gratitude to the men and women in uniform for the commitment and dedication in extending the frontiers of peace, security and stability in the region. We enjoy tranquility, we feel safe and secure due to their unparalleled determination to effectively maintain law and order. We are further indebted to the SADC Chiefs of Police/SARPCCO for their resolve and steadfastness in enhancing regional efforts to enhance peace, security, development and integration. Thank you so much for the strategic guidance and visionary leadership.

To our strategic partners, we remain grateful to your unconditional support in enhancing our concerted efforts to

entrench and sustain, peace, security, stability, integration, and development in the region. You always ensure that we do not walk alone in this beautiful but at times painful journey. We also heartily thank INTERPOL, through INTERPOL RB Harare, under the leadership of Mr Sello Moerane for consistently supporting the implementation of programs and activities of SARPCCO. Indeed, you are pillar of our strength in combating transnational organised crime.

Guest of Honour, Chairperson, Esteemed delegates,

In conclusion, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Republic of Zambia for their outstanding efforts in hosting this meeting of the Chiefs of Police. We deeply appreciate the warm welcome, exceptional hospitality, and the many courtesies extended to us throughout our stay. We are truly grateful.

With these remarks, I wish you a fruitful Annual General Meeting.

I thank you for your attention

Merci beaucoup

Muito obrigado,

Asante sana

