



PRESS RELEASE

SADC to launch the Report of the Time Release Study (TRS) along the SADC Regional North-South Trade Corridor in Harare, Republic of Zimbabwe

5th February 2025, Gaborone, Botswana: The Southern African Development Community (SADC) with support from the European Union (EU), under the Trade Facilitation Programme (TFP) will launch the Report of the Time Release Study (TRS) along the SADC Regional North-South Trade Corridor. The event will be held in Harare, Republic of Zimbabwe on 7th February 2025.

The TFP, endorsed by the SADC Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration in March 2016, aims to strengthen the Free Trade Area in accordance with the SADC Treaty, the Protocol on Trade, and other related policy documents. Among its 28 activities, the TRS is a critical component.

The TRS is an international model instrument employed to assess the time taken for goods transactions and their clearance across the supply chain. In the SADC region, the TRS along the North-South Corridor represents the first comprehensive study of this strategic route, evaluating efficiency in the clearance of goods at major sea ports and border posts.

The SADC Secretariat coordinated this study, which commenced at Durban port and extended to the Kasumbalesa border post in Zambia, passing through the Beitbridge border post and the Chirundu One Stop Border Post (OSBP).

The TRS assesses the cost of doing business at key entry points such as border ports, seaports, and road infrastructure. Conducted by customs and trade experts in collaboration with various supply chain stakeholders, the study utilised the World Customs Organisation's electronic system methodology, involving port and border agencies from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This comprehensive report was validated by experts from SADC Member States in March 2024 and it presents various recommendations. If effectively implemented, these recommendations are expected to enhance the ease of doing business within the region.

For enquiries:

Ms. Barbara Lopi, Head of Communication and Public Relations, email; blopi@sadc.int or Mr. Letso S. Mpho, email lmpho@sadc.int or email prinfo@sadc.int.

.....

SADC in Brief

SADC is an organisation of 16 Member States established in 1980 as the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference (SADCC) and later, in August,1992 transformed into the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The mission of SADC is to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient, productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration, good governance and durable peace and security; so that the region emerges as a competitive and effective player in international relations and the world economy. Member States are Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**Issued by the SADC Secretariat
Gaborone, Botswana**

5th February 2025