



WELCOME REMARKS

BY

**Ms. Angele Makombo N'tumba
SADC Deputy Executive Secretary –
Regional Integration**

**On the Occasion of the SADC High Level Ministerial Round Table
Dialogue on Infrastructure to Support the North-South Corridor
(NSC)**

**Theme: “Promoting Innovation to Unlock Opportunities for
Sustained Economic Growth and Development Towards an
Industrialised SADC”**

27th February 2025

Rainbow Towers

Harare, Zimbabwe

Thank You, Director of Ceremonies

Honourable Felix Tapiwa Mhona, Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development for the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Honourable Dr. Tatenda Anastacia Mavetera, Minister of ICT, Postal and Courier Services for the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Honourable Dr. Jenfan Muswere, Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services for the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Honourable Ministers from SADC Member States

Senior Officials and Delegations from the SADC Member States;

Heads and Executive Directors of Implementing Agencies and Affiliates of SADC;

Invited Development and Cooperating Partners

Colleagues from the SADC Secretariat;

Members of the Media;

**Distinguished Delegates, Invited Guests, ladies and
Gentlemen;**

All Protocol Observed;

A very good morning to you all.

It is indeed an honor and privilege to have this opportunity to deliver a few remarks at the opening of the SADC High Level Ministerial Round Table Dialogue on Infrastructure to Support the North-South Corridor (NSC) being held today on 27th February 2025 here at the Rainbow Towers, in the Republic of Zimbabwe.

I am very pleased to bring you greetings from the SADC Executive Secretary, H.E. Mr. Elias Magosi.

I wish to acknowledge the presence of our Ministers, Partners and Senior Officials (in person and those attending virtually) to this roundtable and to extend my sincere appreciation to you all for attending this meeting.

On behalf of the SADC Secretariat and all Delegates of this SADC High Level Ministerial Round Table Dialogue on Infrastructure to Support the North-South Corridor (NSC), I wish to express my profound gratitude to the Government and People of Zimbabwe for the warm welcome and unparalleled facilities and hospitality that have been provided to all the Delegates since their arrival here in Harare.

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The trade carrying infrastructure and development corridors remain the prime movers of the region's integration and overall socio-economic development. Infrastructure development, therefore, continues to receive the utmost political attention at national, regional and global levels. It is in this regard that the SADC High Level Ministerial Round Table Dialogue on Infrastructure to Support the North-South Corridor (NSC), has been introduced as part of what we hope will become a regular annual event to build momentum on infrastructure development as a key pillar of regional integration.

It is very challenging to convene Ministers because of their primary and busy national responsibilities, therefore when

there is an opportunity to convene them to undertake their regional mandates, we take advantage to optimise their availability. Thus preceding the annual SADC Ministerial meeting we plan to regularly create an opportunity for Ministers to dialogue with each other and with development Partners. The issues and topics for dialogue will be aligned to the SADC annual theme and will also prioritise pressing and topical matters of mutual interest when consensus and joint actions are needed.

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am therefore happy to see Ministers and Partners who have availed themselves for this year's roundtable dialogue on SADC Economic Corridors - Driving Industrialisation and Regional Integration. The Round Table Dialogue will kick start discussions on the critical role of corridors as planning frameworks for the development of infrastructure, regional integration, trade facilitation and industrialisation. This is particularly important as we need to explore pathways and models of how the Region will implement the SADC Summit decision to pilot the development of economic corridors starting with the North South Corridor.

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We meet today when infrastructure and corridors are part of frameworks, tools for foreign, and trade policy. As a region we need to formulate our own regional initiatives which are aligned to our aspirations and objective conditions. Indeed the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP) and the SADC Corridors Development Strategy speak to this.

The SADC ICT Sector aims to ensure affordable, reliable, universal and meaningful broadband connectivity and consequently yield immediate and high impact results for the betterment of the livelihood of SADC Citizens. This dialogue will identify interventions and pathways to accelerate the deployment of critical corridor infrastructure.

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I once again thank the Zimbabwe Government for hosting the SADC High Level Ministerial Round Table Dialogue on Infrastructure to Support the North-South Corridor (NSC),

I would like to reaffirm the SADC Secretariat's commitment to continue to facilitate and coordinate Infrastructure and corridors development in our region.

I thank you all for your kind attention.

27th February 2025, Harare, Zimbabwe

Thank you, merci beaucoup, muito obrigado, Asante sana