



WELCOME REMARKS

BY

**Ms. Angele Makombo Ntumba
SADC Deputy Executive Secretary –
Regional Integration**

**On the Occasion of SADC Cluster Meeting of Ministers Responsible
for Transport, ICT, Information and Meteorology**

28th February 2025

AT

**Rainbow Towers
Harare, Zimbabwe**

Thank You, Director of Ceremonies;

Honourable Dr. Tatenda Anastacia Mavetera, Minister of ICT, Postal and Courier Services for the Republic of Zimbabwe, our Gracious Host and Co-Chairperson of the SADC Ministers Responsible for Transport, ICT, Information and Meteorology;

Honourable Felix Tapiwa Mhona, Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development for the Republic of Zimbabwe and Co-Chairperson of the SADC Ministers Responsible for Transport, ICT, Information and Meteorology;

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

Honourable Ministers responsible for Transport, ICT, Information and Meteorology from SADC Member States;

Representatives from the African Union Commission and from sister Regional Economic Communities - COMESA, EAC, ECOWAS;

Representatives from International Cooperating Partners;

Engineer Joy Makumbe, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Co-Chairperson of the SADC Senior Officials Responsible for Transport, ICT, Information and Meteorology.

Dr. Beullah Chirume, the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of ICT, Postal and Courier Services of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Co-Chairperson of the SADC Senior Officials Responsible for Transport, ICT, Information and Meteorology.

Senior Officials and Delegations from the SADC Member States;

Heads and Executive Directors of SADC Implementing Agencies and Affiliates;

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 honour and privilege to be accorded this opportunity to deliver a few remarks at the SADC Cluster Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport, ICT, Information and Meteorology.

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

I wish to acknowledge the presence of our distinguished host, Honourable Dr. Tatenda Anastacia Mavetera, Minister of ICT, Postal and Courier Services for the Republic of Zimbabwe, and Co-Chairperson of the SADC Ministers Responsible for Transport, ICT, Information and

Meteorology. I wish to thank you for gracing this meeting. This is a clear display of the high level of commitment this country has, for regional integration, infrastructure development and especially for advancing our cooperation in the sectors of Transport, ICT, Information and Meteorology.

On behalf of the SADC Secretariat and all delegates attending this meeting, I wish to express my profound gratitude to the Government and People of the Republic of Zimbabwe for the warm welcome and for the facilities and hospitality that has been provided to all the delegates since their arrival here in Harare. The coordinated manner in which the Republic of Zimbabwe is executing her role as SADC Chair is commendable. It demonstrates the high standard in which such meetings should be held.

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The SADC Summit theme for this year is; “Promoting Innovation to Unlock Opportunities for Sustained Economic Growth and Development Towards an Industrialised SADC”. The theme evokes a vision where the region’s integration

programmes especially in infrastructure sectors drive the development of industries that add value to our abundant natural resources. The theme also speaks to convergence of sectors, programmes for national and regional plans.

Regional integration in Africa is strongly linked to industrialization by creating larger markets for goods and services, enabling economies of scale, facilitating access to wider input supplies, promoting infrastructure development across borders, and fostering collaborative policy environments that can collectively support industrial growth across the continent.

There is no place where this potential can be demonstrated than where we are meeting now. The Republic of Zimbabwe is a key stakeholder and beneficiary in several regional corridors; the North-South, Beira and Maputo Development Corridors. Regional infrastructure networks-energy transmission lines, ICT networks, roads, railways and pipelines crisscross the country, some passing through a few kilometers from this area.

The Ministers will have an opportunity to consider policies and programmes which address the gaps and shortfalls in

our efforts at both national and regional plans. Furthermore, the Ministers will have an opportunity to provide directives which seek to accelerate regional integration and development.

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is in this quest for effective regional planning and programme implementation, that the 44th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government held here last year in Harare, Zimbabwe approved and directed Secretariat to pilot the development of the North-South Corridor as an Economic Corridor. Yesterday, during the SADC High-Level Ministerial Round Table Dialogue on Infrastructure, a key initiative supporting the North - South Corridor, the Honourable Ministers had the opportunity to engage in formal discussions, high-level interactive engagement, and exchanged of experiences, interventions, lessons learned, and best practices among key stakeholders on critical issues.

Honourable Ministers, your High Level Dialogue yesterday was indeed an effort to advance infrastructure and related technologies, achieving tangible outcomes that contribute to the economic development of the SADC Region. The value proposition for the North - South Corridor Economic Corridor is compelling.

I wish to zero in on one set of metrics that is inspiring us to work on this programme. According to a study conducted in 2015, the implementation of the North - South Corridor initiative, has the potential to create revenues in the margins of USD16.1 billion through additional GDP by 2035 and 574,000 additional jobs. A corridor-wide approach to regional integration and infrastructure development, addresses all SADC sectoral priorities and has the greatest impacts on our citizens-50% SADC citizens reside in the North - South Corridor spatial development zone.

Honourable, Ministers you will receive reports on the implementation of our strategic plans and frameworks including the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), the Regional Infrastructure Development Plan (RIDMP), Corridors Development Plans,

which are our blueprints for the realization of the SADC vision.

The three sectors we are discussing here have made significant progress in the implementation of various projects, including The Intra-ACP Climate Services and related Applications Programme (ClimSA) programme for Meteorology; ICT and Information- the SADC Roaming Project, Frequency Spectrum and developments of frameworks for SADC Regional CIRT and Shared Satellite System for ICT and information; and the harmonization of road transport policies, regulations, standards and systems under the Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme (TTTFP); signing of legal instruments for key corridors in the region, like the Lobito Corridor, which has now established an Interim Secretariat; and other projects like the SAATM and SATSD in Aviation, which are being implemented in collaboration with affiliates of SADC i.e. AFCAC and other RECs like COMESA.

The SADC Secretariat is embarking on a study to develop a Regional Railway Masterplan and bankable investment plan, in order to rebalance the modal share of road vs rail which is unsustainably skewed to road (90:10). In addition and

another study for Maritime Shipping will address the regional and global connectivity of Oceanic Member States. This is an effort to facilitate the integration of the economies of land-locked Member States, Coastal and Oceanic Island States.

Ministers shall also receive updates from SADC subsidiary organisations and affiliates including AMCOMET updated on Meteorology, SASO, ASANRA, SARA, AFCAC, and FESARTA for Transport among many others. These organizations are critical and are implementing partners for SADC, and ease the burden of addressing the challenges we face, whilst contributing to the expected outcomes of our projects as outlined in the RISDP and RIDMP.

We also appreciate the role that our Developing Partners who continue provide us with financial and technical support to realize the results that we are able to showcase today.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the Senior Officials who deliberated on issues and formulate reports and decisions for Ministers' consideration. Their role

in supporting the development and implementation of regional programmes is greatly acknowledged.

Once again, I thank the Government of Zimbabwe for hosting and chairing the SADC Cluster Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology, ICT and Information, and Transport, and for all your hard work that will ensure its success.

I would like to reaffirm the SADC Secretariat's unconditional commitment to continue to facilitate and coordinate Infrastructure projects in Meteorology, ICT and Information, and Transport, with inputs from Member States, and to fulfil the objectives of these sectors and aspirations of SADC Citizen's for the present and future.

I thank you all for your kind attention.

I thank you!

Merci Beaucoup! Muito obrigada! Asante Sana!

28th February 2025, Harare, Zimbabwe.