

MESSAGE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE SADC FTA SUB-SITE

Fellow Citizens of the SADC Region
Distinguished Stakeholders
Esteemed Visitors and Readers of the FTA Sub-site

This Sub-site of the SADC main website is dedicated to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Free Trade Area (FTA) as a communication channel through which SADC shall disseminate relevant, appropriate and value-adding information on the SADC FTA to SADC citizens and the international community at large.

The Sub-site can only serve the purpose for which it is created if all the stakeholders and the target groups of the SADC FTA access it and provide constructive criticism to the various information and materials contained herein. Ideas and suggestions for its enrichment and possible improvement shall be highly appreciated. These would ultimately enable us all to engage in a process of constant dialogue and debate on the FTA issues, with the aim of finding consensus and better understanding and knowledge on matters that constitute the SADC FTA.

This Sub-site will also be accessible through links to the websites of SADC Member States Governments and other stakeholders (who are these other Stakeholders? You may wish to give a broader indication "such as National Chambers of Commerce or whoever they might be) in all the 14 Member States of SADC and beyond.

In addition, we will offer other avenues for information and education on the SADC FTA from now through the official launch of the SADC FTA on the 17th August 2008 and beyond. Watch the media and other channels of communication in your respective SADC Member State for details.

The FTA can only be successful if we build strong and mutually beneficial strategic partnership with all our stakeholders and co-operating partners. We are confident that our call for partnerships will be well received with open minds and hands by all stakeholders and co-operating partners.

I am sure that, like us at the SADC Secretariat and Member States, you are excited about the good prospects and reality of the Free Trade Area (FTA) in our Region in 2008. We count on your unreserved support!

I wish all the visitors to the Sub-site an informed and knowledgeable experience.


Dr. Tomaz Augusto Salomão
SADC Executive Secretary