



PRESS RELEASE

SADC to hold an Inter-Ministerial Task Force Meeting of SADC Ministers of Trade, Transport and Security matters on the Resolution of the Challenges at the Kasumbalesa Border Post

02nd May 2024, Gaborone, Botswana: The Southern African Development Community (SADC) will hold an Inter-Ministerial Task Force Meeting of SADC Ministers of Trade, Transport and Security matters on the Resolution of the Challenges at the Kasumbalesa Border Post from 07-09 May 2024 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The meeting is being held as a result of the 43rd SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government, held on the 17 August 2023 in Luanda, Angola, which directed the SADC Secretariat to constitute an Inter-Ministerial Task Force to find a lasting solution to the perennial problems encountered by traders, both commercial and small-scale cross border traders, transporters, drivers and border control agencies on both sides at the Kasumbalesa border post, between the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Zambia.

The Kasumbalesa Border post on both sides of DRC and Zambia border is a transit point as far as trade is concerned handling goods from the two countries as well as goods from other countries within the SADC and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) regions. Goods from beyond the region, including from East African Community, West Africa, China, India, Europe, and the United States of America also transit through this border for final consumption not only in Haut-Katanga province of the DRC but in other provinces and parts of the DRC as well.

The Kasumbalesa border post is characterised by perennial challenges that are reported in the news media from time to time. This includes congestion at the border post, trade facilitation-related challenges, infrastructure challenges and increasing insecurity, especially for truck drivers and the entire trading community. It is against this background that the Inter-Ministerial Task Force Meeting is called to find a lasting solution to the perennial problems encountered by traders-both commercial and small-scale cross border traders, transporters, drivers, and border control agencies (BCAs) on both sides of the Kasumbalesa border, among many other stakeholders. The SADC Secretariat has been directed to report back with concrete recommendations at the next SADC Council of Ministers to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The meeting will consider the draft Framework of Cooperation and the Action Plan developed, containing a comprehensive list of critical activities and initiatives that will address the problems occurring at the border of Kasumbalesa and satellite border posts of Sakania, Mokambo, and Kipushi among several others.

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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.

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