



**Statement by His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia and Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security regarding the recent developments on the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM)**

The SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) was deployed on 15 July, 2021 in Cabo Delgado Province as a regional response to support the Republic of Mozambique to combat terrorism and acts of violent extremism. Since the deployment of SAMIM, there has been tremendous improvement in the humanitarian and security situation, resulting in the return of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to their areas of origin.

In the last few days, however, we have noted with regret a disturbing video clip circulating on social media depicting members of defence forces throwing bodies of deceased people in a pile of burning rubble. I wish to inform the general public that the SAMIM leadership has instituted investigations to establish the circumstances on the matter, a result of which will be shared once completed.

I further wish to categorically underscore that SADC does not condone acts reflected in the video and, once the investigations are completed, SADC will take appropriate measures, in line with international Law of Armed Conflict.

The SAMIM Force has always conducted itself in a professional, efficient and responsible manner in line with applicable laws and the Rules of Engagement that govern SAMIM operations.

On behalf of SADC, and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to reiterate SADC's commitment to peace and security in the Region. In this regard, SADC will continue to support the Republic of Mozambique, through SAMIM, in combatting terrorism and acts of violent extremism in Cabo Delgado Province by neutralising the terrorist threat and restoring security in order to create a secure environment and pave the way for a sustainable development of Mozambique and the SADC region.

**Hage. G. Geingob**

President of the Republic of Namibia, and Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation

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