



MEDIA RELEASE

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax this morning, Thursday, October 24, 2013 paid a courtesy call on the President of the Republic of Malawi H.E. Dr. Joyce Banda at State House in Lilongwe.

Dr. Tax briefed President Banda on the political situation in the DRC, with emphasis on the talks between the rebels and the DRC government. On Madagascar, Dr. Tax briefed President Banda on the deployment of the SADC Electoral Observer Mission to the Presidential Elections in Madagascar taking place tomorrow, October 25, 2013; and on the SADC commitment to assist in funding the elections in Madagascar. She also briefed President Banda on the upcoming meeting of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, scheduled for November, 3-4, 2013 in South Africa.

President Banda briefed Dr. Tax on the key issues she wishes to accomplish during her tenure of office as Chairperson of SADC.

They emphasized that youth empowerment, women empowerment; food security and poverty reduction are key priorities that must be addressed with the urgency they deserve. In pursuit of that, the SADC Secretariat will convene a forum of key stakeholders to address these priority areas and come up with an action plan. The forum will be complemented by a meeting of the SADC Ministers of Agriculture and Health that will focus on food security and nutrition. The convening of this meeting must be fast tracked.

Inquiries: Dr. Charles Mubita

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