



**JOINT MEDIA RELEASE ON THE
HANDING OVER OF ACCOMMODATION TO SADC REGIONAL PEACEKEEPING TRAINING
CENTRE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY**



German Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe, H.E. Mr. Ulrich Wilhelm Klöckner handing over the keys to renovated guest rooms to (RPTC) Commandant Brigadier General Christopher Chellah.

On 28th February 2014, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany through its Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe, His Excellency Mr. Ulrich Wilhelm Klöckner, officially handed over renovated guest rooms and equipment to the Commandant of the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC), Brigadier General Christopher Chellah.

Also present for the handover ceremony was Lt. Col. Tanki Mothae (Rtd), SADC Director of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation representing the SADC Executive Secretary. The event followed the closure of a training course for Civilian personnel in peace support operations that had been supported by the German Government.

The SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre is part of the Directorate for the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Its vision is to be a reputable and responsive Centre of Excellence in training, research and development of capacities and expertise in peace support operations (PSO). The Centre aims at promoting regional cooperation in peace and security among SADC Member States, building capacity in conflict prevention and conflict management including peace support operations activities, as well as training peacekeeping practitioners, enabling all SADC Member states to take part in peace

support operations. It furthermore seeks to assist planning for SADC peacekeeping formations and for SADC PSO exercises.

The SADC RPTC is located at St. Lucia Park in Harare, Zimbabwe. The training centre comprises of sixteen acres of land, with premises that include thirty newly renovated guest rooms, four conference rooms which can accommodate between thirty to thirty-five participants each, a kitchen equipped with newly purchased equipment, dining facilities with a capacity for up to eighty people, an administration block with thirteen offices, a large parking area and enough land for further infrastructure development.

The Government of Germany has been in cooperation with SADC in the area of Peace, Security and Good Governance for over ten years and with the SADC RPTC specifically since 2008. Over the last five years, the German Government has provided assistance to the Centre amounting to Euro 2.2 Million. For the period August 2011 to January 2014, an implementation agreement of Euro 1.6 Million has been signed between SADC and the German Government via its international cooperation agency, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), specifically for the development of training curricula and implementation of multidimensional training courses for military, police, correctional and civilian personnel, as well as for institutional and personal capacity development for the Centre's staff.

The support by the German Government enabled the Centre to run a total of 18 events during that period, from curriculum development workshops and coordination seminars with national training centres to the implementation of two week training courses. It supported the development of a strategic plan for the RPTC and facilitated visits to the United Nations Mission to Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI), the United Nations Department for Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO), the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) as well as the Centre for International Peace Operations (ZIF).

The German Government via GIZ furthermore supported the SADC RPTC in the acquisition of two vehicles, a generator, as well as furniture and equipment for offices, cafeteria and the entertainment area. The support included a financial agreement of Euro 150,000 for the renovation of guest rooms at the Centre, as training course participants previously had to stay in hotels. Major refurbishment works at the Centre's accommodation facilities had been ongoing at SADC RPTC since 2011, which now have been completed. The newly refurbished guest rooms are ready for use as from the 2014/15 academic year.

At the official handover of the guest rooms and equipment, the Commandant of the SADC RPTC, Brigadier General Christopher Chellah, reiterated how important it is to bring representatives from all SADC Member States together in joint training, in order to exercise for real-life situations when persons from different backgrounds and cultures are deployed in peace support operations.

His Excellency, Ambassador Ulrich Wilhelm Klöckner, emphasized that the SADC RPTC not only serves missions led by Africa, but delivers training for personnel to be deployed in international peace support operations worldwide. He therefore hailed the Centre for its role in the African Peace and Security Architecture: ***"The SADC Regional Peacekeeping***

Training Centre as SADC's "Centre of Excellence" for peacekeeping training plays an important role in creating and maintaining African capacities to enable and sustain peace in the region and beyond."

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