



**MEDIA ADVISORY ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE SADC SECRETARIAT INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (ICDP) TO CONDUCT CAPACITY BUILDING CONSULTANCY IN SUPPORT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY AT THE SADC SECRETARIAT FROM 29-30 APRIL 2014, GABORONE, BOTSWANA**

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The SADC Secretariat with funding from the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF) under the Institutional Capacity Development Programme (ICDP) will convene a Risk Management Orientation Course, for the Management Team and Risk Management Committee at Phakalane Golf Estate Hotel in Gaborone, Botswana from 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

The main purpose of the orientation course is to provide a platform for creating awareness and appreciation of the risk management principles and linking risk assessment to provision of assurance by the Internal Audit Unit in accordance to the risk appetite of SADC.

Effective risk management underpins the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) approach to decision making and accountability. SADC Secretariat commits to embedding risk management into its organisational culture, processes and structures that exist to achieve the SADC strategic objectives to ensure proactive management of the potential opportunities and adverse effects.

At its meeting held in March 2012 in Luanda, Angola, the SADC Council of Ministers approved the SADC Risk Management Policy. In order to facilitate implementation of the policy, guidelines were developed. However, the developed draft guidelines need to be subjected to a thorough review by independent risk management experts and further refined.

Overall, the implementation of the Risk Management Policy seeks to align risk management and governance processes at the Secretariat based on the following:

- (i) Provision of strategic guidance by SADC Secretariat Management, which is led by the Executive Secretary;
- (ii) functional committees such as: Audit and Risk Management; Budget; and others; and
- (iii) Audit Committee oversight mandate on risk management and governance.

As risk management is taking increasing prominence not only globally but regionally, due to growing turbulence and uncertainty in the external environment, the Executive Secretary established the Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC) to strengthen institutionalisation of risk management at the SADC Secretariat. The Committee will play an important oversight role in the implementation of risk management at the SADC Secretariat. As part of its work, the Committee has proposed to engage an international risk management expert to provide a two-day orientation course to SADC Secretariat Management Team and Senior Officers on:

- The concept of risk management and international best practices in its applications in the public sector.
- Role of management in successful implementation of risk management system.
- Overview of the SADC Secretariat Policy and Draft Risk Management Guidelines.

The Risk Management Orientation Course will support the ARMC in fulfilling its mandate and address the recommendations by the Institutional Assessment of the Secretariat, as well as addressing the priorities outlined in the SADC Capacity Development Framework approved by the SADC Council of Ministers in August 2008. The course is funded by the European Union and will equip SADC Secretariat Management and Senior Officers with knowledge on international best practice approaches and tools that will reinforce risk management at the SADC Secretariat.

**Course:** Risk Management Orientation for SADC Secretariat Management and Senior Officers

**Venue:** Phakalane Golf Estate Hotel, Gaborone, Botswana

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014

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