



Message of Condolence by the SADC Executive Secretary, H.E. Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, on the Passing away of President Michael Sata

The Management and Staff of the SADC Secretariat, and indeed the people of SADC region received with sorrow and heartfelt grief, the sad news of the passing on of one of the late President of the Republic of Zambia, Michael Chilufya Sata. It is with a profound sense of grief that I take this opportunity to convey, on behalf of the Secretariat and on my own behalf, our sincere condolences, to the Sata family, the Government of the Republic of Zambia and the entire Zambian people.

We will remember the late President Sata as a courageous Pan-Africanist who never feared to speak his mind in whatever circumstances; a devout Catholic, who earned a reputation as the hardest working governor while in charge of Lusaka Province; a populist man of action from humble beginnings; a police officer, a railway porter and a trade unionist during colonial rule; and above all, a loving father, husband and family man. His death comes at a time when his vision for development and his programmes to fight poverty are beginning to bear fruits. It also comes at a time when Zambia is celebrating its Golden Jubilee as an independent state.

I wish to assure the people of Zambia that we are standing in solidarity with them during this difficult moment in the history of their country when they are mourning the loss of their democratically elected President. I also wish to appeal to the people of Zambia to remain calm, united and peaceful during the transition period

At this time of bereavement, we wish the Sata family steadfastness, strength, good health, peace and comfort.