



ACCEPTANCE STATEMENT

BY

**THE SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
H.E. DR. STERGOMENA LAWRENCE TAX**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER OF SADC RPTC PREMISES
TO SADC SECRETARIAT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE**

**29 APRIL 2015,
HARARE
ZIMBABWE.**

**Your Excellency, Robert Gabriel Mugabe, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, and Chairperson of SADC, and our Gracious Host,
Your Excellency Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa and Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation,
Your Majesty and Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Your Excellencies First Spouses;
Your Excellency Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission,
Honourable Ministers from the SADC Region,
Your Excellency Dr. Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA),
Your Excellency Mr. Sindiso Ngwenya, Secretary General of COMESA,
Your Excellency Ambassador Dr. Richard Sezibera, Secretary General of the East African Community,
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Partners from the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am greatly honoured and humbled to take this opportunity to convey SADC's deep gratitude to His Excellency Robert Gabriel Mugabe, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, and to the Government and the people of Zimbabwe for their generosity in donating to SADC, premises with developed infrastructure for SADC's Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC).

The donation to SADC demonstrates, once again, the degree of commitment of the Government and people of Zimbabwe to SADC regional cooperation and integration. The handing over of the Title Deed of RPTC to SADC is a valuable contribution to the maintenance of peace, security and political stability in the region. The Centre will be used for Peacekeeping Training and as such, greatly contribute to the enhancement of capacity of SADC Member States in Peace Support Operations in the region.

Your Excellencies,

Following active participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations during the early 1990s, SADC Member States realized the need to have harmonized and coordinated peacekeeping training mechanism within the SADC Region. The Republic of Zimbabwe announced its intentions to establish a Peacekeeping Training Centre, and the Peacekeeping Training Centre was established in 1995.

In February 2005, the SADC Council of Ministers meeting held in Grand Baie, Republic of Mauritius, officially established the RPTC as a SADC Centre. A Host Agreement was then signed in August 2005 between the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe and SADC through which the Centre was transformed into a fully-fledged SADC institution.

The Centre specializes in training the military, police and civilian personnel mainly from the SADC region with the main objective of assisting in achieving sustainable peace, stability and development in our region.

I am proud to inform you, Your Excellencies, that the activities of the Centre are mainly funded by SADC Member States. This clearly shows the region's commitment to the Centre and to peace, security, stability and regional development.

Your Excellencies,

The premises sit on 16 acres of land, while a quarter is currently utilized, leaving a lot of scope for future development. A development plan has been prepared and resources mobilization efforts are ongoing. I wish to take this opportunity to assure you that the Secretariat is committed in ensuring that resources are mobilized and the land is utilized to the fullest.

Further developments will enable the Centre to expand its capacity and consequently contribute positively in the enhancement of the capacity of SADC to participate in peace support operations.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity to thank SADC Member States for the continued financial, material and human resources assistance to the Centre, and appeal for continued support to the Centre.

Finally, I wish to once again thank His Excellency President Robert Mugabe, the Government and people of Zimbabwe for donating this Centre to SADC.

Thank you!!!

Obrigada!!!

Merci Beucoup!!!

Ndatenda!!!!

Asenteni Sana!!!!