



**SADC SOLIDARITY STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SADC ORGAN ON POLITICS, DEFENCE AND SECURITY CO-OPERATION, H.E. EMMERSON DAMBUDZO MNANGAGWA ON THE FRESH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI ON 23 JUNE 2020**

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The Southern African Development Community (SADC) acknowledges the judgment of the Supreme Court of Malawi delivered on 8 May 2020 which upheld the decision of the Constitutional Court that annulled the May 2019 Presidential Election and ordered a fresh presidential election, and the subsequent decision of the Parliament of Malawi for the election to be conducted on 23 June 2020.

SADC remains engaged with stakeholders in Malawi, and re-affirms its solidarity with the people of Malawi in this period of uncertainty and risk caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. In this regard, SADC commends all stakeholders for their efforts at ensuring that the people of Malawi exercise their democratic right to vote in the face of challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. SADC encourages all stakeholders to apply innovative election campaign and voting measures that minimise chances for the spread of the virus.

SADC also urges stakeholders to remain politically tolerant and peaceful in the remaining campaign period, and to exercise calm and restraint during and after election-day.

Furthermore, SADC encourages all candidates, their supporters and other stakeholders to channel any grievances regarding the electoral process and its final outcomes through the appropriate legal channels.

Finally, SADC congratulates the new Commissioners of the Malawi Electoral Commission and wishes them the best in their onerous task of serving the interests of the people of Malawi.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa', written over a horizontal line.

**Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa**

**President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and**

**Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation**

22/06/20