



WELCOME REMARKS

BY

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ON THE

**OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE SADC ELECTORAL
OBSERVATION MISSION (SEOM) TO THE 2019 PRESIDENTIAL,
PARLIAMENTARY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS IN THE
REPUBLIC OF MALAWI**

**UMODZI PARK, BINGU INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE,
LILONGWE, MALAWI**

11 MAY 2019

Honourable Joseph Malanji, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zambia, Head of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) to the Republic of Malawi;

The Alternate Head of Mission Hon. Kalombo MWANSA, former of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zambia

Distinguished invited guests; Ladies and gentlemen allow me to simply say, all Protocol Observed.

My humble duty this morning is to introduce the Head of the SADC Election Observation Mission (SEOM) to the 2019 Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government Elections, officially known as the Tripartite Elections, of the Republic of Malawi. Before I do so, allow me to on behalf of the Executive Secretary of SADC, welcome and thank you all for honouring our invitation to attend the launch of the SEOM here at the Bingu International Convention Centre (BICC) in Lilongwe.

In line with the revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2015), SADC has been invited by the Malawi Electoral Commission to observe the 2019 Tripartite Elections in the Republic of Malawi. Based on his mandate, the Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs, His Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, constituted the SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) to Malawi directed the Executive Secretary to facilitate the deployment of the Mission.

Your Excellences, Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

The 2015 revised *SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2015)* introduced the Long Term Observation (LTO) approach and methodology, which enables the SADC to deploy, assess, and report on various inter-related segments of the electoral cycle. To this effect, the SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC) undertook a Pre-Election Goodwill Mission to the Republic of Malawi from 4 to 8 April 2019.

The SEAC is the technical wing of SADC with the important role of advising the Chairperson of the Organ and the SEOM leadership in terms of the integrity of the electoral process and conformity with the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections. This simply to say that their role is to assess if the legal, political, and security

environments are conducive to the holding of credible elections. I am therefore pleased to report that the SEAC mission noted the strides made by the Malawi Electoral Commission and relevant stakeholders in preparation for these Tripartite Elections.

With this ceremony and as we prepare to deploy our observers, we have entered the second phase of observation. Our mission to these elections consists a total of 39 personnel from eight (08) SADC Member States, namely Angola, Botswana, Kingdom of Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and will cover all the three (03) regions and 27 out of 28 districts in Malawi.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

At this juncture, it is my honour and privilege to introduce and invite the Head of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) to the 2019 Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government Elections in the Republic of Malawi, Honourable Joseph Malanji, M.P. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zambia to address you and officially launch this Mission.

Thank You

Merci beaucoup

Muito Obrigada

Zikomo Kwambiri