



**Statement**

**By**

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**SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**AT THE**

**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE**

**AFRICAN UNION**

**ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN MADAGASCAR**

**Addis Ababa, 27 January 2014**

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Excellency the Chairperson of the AU Peace and Security Council

Distinguished Members of the Council

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to begin my statement by congratulating Your Excellency chairperson of the AU Peace and Security Council and the entire membership of the PSC for the excellent manner you have been steering the affairs of the Council. We are confident that under your stewardship the Council will reach the desired outcomes.

**Excellency,**

This Council and SADC have been seized with the political crisis in the Republic of Madagascar since 2009. The AU and SADC together with the international community considered the unconstitutional change of government as a flagrant violation of the AU principles on Governance and Democracy. It was on the basis of this that SADC and the AU took a swift action by denouncing and imposing the suspension on the undemocratically imposed authorities.

The SADC, the AU and other key international players under the umbrella of the International Contact Group (ICG) launched concerted efforts towards the restoration of the constitutional normalcy in Madagascar. It was in this context that SADC with the full support of this AU Peace and Security Council appointed H.E Joaquim Chissano, former President of the Republic of Mozambique to lead the Mediation Team.

The Mediation efforts resulted in a Roadmap signed in September 2011 and approved by SADC, the AU PSC and the ICG, the implementation of which was not without challenges. However, the unwavering commitment and determination of the SADC, the immeasurable support of the AU and the ICG members, played a critical role in the performance of the

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transitional institutions in charge of managing the key milestones in the implementation of the roadmap.

**Your Excellency the Chairperson**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

The critical milestone for returning Madagascar to constitutional normalcy was the conduct of credible, transparent, all inclusive and legitimate elections. On behalf of SADC I have the pleasure and honour to report to the Peace and Security Council of the African Union that the Republic of Madagascar, under the watchful eyes of the international community which sent highly respectable personalities in the observer teams, held its elections as mandated by the roadmap. The observer teams considered the elections to have been transparent, legitimate and reflecting the will of the Malagasy people.

As a culmination of this process, the newly democratically elected President of the Republic of Madagascar, Mr. Henry Rajaonarimampianina, was sworn-in last Saturday, 25 January 2014.

May I inform this Council that SADC is satisfied with the process and that the chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, has recommended to the SADC Summit to lift the sanctions on Madagascar following the restoration of the constitutional order which was a required condition for lifting the suspension imposed on the Republic of Madagascar. We call upon the international community and urge the Malagasy people and its political leadership to sustain the gains achieved thus far.

SADC appeals to the African Union, the United Nations and other similar bodies to welcome the positive steps that Madagascar has made through the recent peaceful transparent and fair elections and to spare no effort at ensuring that democracy and the rule of law are enhanced in the Southern Africa.

Let me end my statement by thanking you for according me an opportunity to address this august Council, and as always SADC will be part of the decisions that will be reached.

I thank you for your attention!