



CLOSING REMARKS

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. E. D. MNANGAGWA

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE AND CHAIR
OF THE SADC ORGAN ON POLITICS, DEFENCE AND
SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE
VIRTUAL SUMMIT OF THE TROIKA OF THE SADC ORGAN
ON POLITICS, DEFENCE AND SECURITY CO-OPERATION
PLUS FORCE INTERVENTION BRIGADE TROOP
CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES AND THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

HARARE, ZIMBABWE

5 AUGUST 2020

Your Excellency, Dr E.C. Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia and Outgoing Chair of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation;

Your Excellency, Dr M. E. K. Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana and Incoming Chair of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation;

Your Excellency Dr J. P. Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, FIB Troop Contributing Country;

Your Excellency, C. Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, FIB Troop Contributing Country;

Your Excellency, L. M. Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi, FIB Troop Contributing Country;

Your Excellency F.A. Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo;

Honourable Ministers;

Your Excellency, S. Lawrence Tax, Executive Secretary
of SADC;

Senior Government Officials;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Members of the media fraternity!

The agenda of our meeting today focused our joint efforts towards the stabilization of the Democratic Republic Congo. The Democratic Republic of Congo is an important member of our region and the stabilization of its Eastern provinces remains a matter of great concern to the SADC region.

The spirit of cooperation and solidarity has always been at the centre of regional development strategy of SADC.

In this regard, I wish to applaud the SADC Member States for the continued support to the Government and

people of the DRC in their efforts to find lasting peace in that country.

Allow me to specifically commend the Force Intervention Brigade Troop Contributing Countries namely, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Malawi for their continued resolve to keep troops on the ground in the fight for peace in the DRC, working in close collaboration with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission (MONUSCO).

In spite of the often challenging operational environment, you have all remained steadfast. The SADC and indeed the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation is grateful to the three countries for their commitment, in this regard.

I wish to reaffirm SADC's willingness to work closely with the United Nations in order to strengthen the FIB's

capacity as a dependable offensive capability of MONUSCO. The SADC region stands ready to continue the engagement with the UN under the framework of the UN-SADC Joint Task Team towards a mutually agreed strategy for strengthening the FIB-MONUSCO efforts in the DRC.

It is imperative that we expedite the implementation of all pending recommendations of the UN-SADC Joint Task Team. Of significance is the deployment of the intelligence capabilities such as GeoLocation and the establishment of the Threat Analysis Unit and the Tactical Intelligence Unit to enhance the capabilities of the FIB battalions. This will go a long way towards enhancing crisis prevention and promoting regional stability as well as sustainable regional economic growth.

Your Excellencies,

As we conclude our meeting today I wish to commend the frank and cordial atmosphere under which these deliberations were held. Going forward, I am confident that the decisions we have taken today will be timely implemented in the interest of peace and security in the DRC and the region as a whole.

I thank you.



OPENING REMARKS

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H.E. DR. E. D. MNANGAGWA

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CHAIR OF THE SADC ORGAN ON POLITICS, DEFENCE
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Honourable Ministers;

Your Excellency, S. Lawrence Tax, Executive Secretary of SADC;

Senior Government Officials;

Good afternoon,

A dark shadow hangs over us as we convene this important meeting today. Exactly a fortnight ago, I received with deep sorrow the sad news of the passing on of former President H.E. Benjamin William Mkapa, 3rd President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The late Cde Mkapa was one of the region's great leaders and champion for SADC integration and Africa's transformation. As Chairperson of SADC from 2003 to 2004, and indeed throughout his life, he provided hope and instilled a sense of selfless sacrifice to the people of the United Republic of Tanzania, SADC and Africa. The legacy he leaves behind shall continue to inspire generations.

Our heartfelt condolences go to His Excellency, President John Magufuli and the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania on this sad loss.

May I invite the meeting to stand as we observe a minute of silence in honour of our deeply inspiring departed former President Mkapa. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Allow me to take this opportunity to once again congratulate the President of the Republic of Malawi His Excellency, Lazarus Chakwera, for winning the 23 June 2020 Presidential election re-run in his country. We commend the people of Malawi for a peaceful and successful election, in line with the Malawi Electoral Act and SADC Guidelines on the Conduct of Elections.

Your Excellencies,

The COVID-19 pandemic remains a prime concern and challenge in our region and beyond as the number of confirmed cases continues to rise.

I wish to commend the region for adopting rigorous but necessary measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I encourage our continued collaboration in the fight against this scourge to balance the need to contain the virus and normal economic activities.

Your Excellencies, Our meeting has been necessitated by the need for a continued and pragmatic engagement with the UN on the reconfiguration of the Force Intervention Brigade, as part of the region's joint efforts with the UN to achieve lasting peace in the DRC. It is noteworthy that the situation in the DRC has been stable since the 2018 elections. I, therefore, exhort all stakeholders to forge ahead with the governance, security and socio-economic reforms required to sustain long-term stabilisation and sustainable development in the DRC.

SADC however remains deeply concerned by the continuing violence in North Kivu, South Kivu and the Eastern parts of the DRC.

The elimination of the threat posed by armed groups will require a comprehensive approach at the national and regional levels. As such, Regional co-operation remains critical, not only to the long-term stabilisation of the DRC, but to peace, security and development in the entire region.

It is my firm belief that our engagement today will allow us to agree on a common position that seeks to strengthen the operational effectiveness and unity of command and control of the Force Intervention Brigade.

With that common task in mind, I wish this meeting fruitful deliberations.

I thank you!