



MEDIA CONFERENCE

ON THE

**OUTCOME OF THE SADC COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING**

**BY
HONOURABLE APHRAIM CHIUME,
CHAIRPERSON OF SADC COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS**

**OCTOBER 24, 2013
LILONGWE, MALAWI**

Distinguished members of the Media,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this Media conference on the outcome of the just ended Extra Ordinary meeting of the SADC Council of Ministers.

The Extra Ordinary meeting of the SADC Council of Ministers was held in Lilongwe, Republic of Malawi on October 22-24, 2013. The meeting was attended by Ministers and/or their representatives from Angola, Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The meeting was also attended by the SADC Executive Secretary. The meeting was chaired by Honourable Ephraim Chiume, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malawi and Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers.

Council met to finalise the recruitment of the Deputy Executive Secretary: Regional Integration as directed by the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government. The Ministerial Selection and Recruitment Panel interviewed potential candidates on Tuesday, October 22, 2013. The Panel submitted a report to Council on Wednesday, October 23, 2013.

The significance of the position of Deputy Executive Secretary: Regional Integration to the SADC regional integration agenda cannot be over emphasized. Suffice it say that the position is crucial to the implementation of the SADC regional integration agenda.

The position champions the Secretariat's role as a think tank by effectively leading and managing the implementation of SADC regional integration processes. It enhances the achievement of SADC regional economic integration towards poverty eradication.

I am delighted to inform you that Council, as mandated by the Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government, appointed Dr. Thembinkosi Mhlongo, a citizen of the Republic of South Africa to the position of Deputy Executive Secretary: Regional Integration with effect from November 1, 2013.

Council wished the people of Madagascar peaceful elections as they go to the polls tomorrow and reaffirmed its solidarity with the people of Madagascar. In this regard, Council urged Member States to expeditiously remit their voluntary contributions to the Madagascar elections. Council further commended Namibia for its voluntary contribution of US\$ 600, 639 in support of the Madagascar elections.

Council thanked the people and government of Malawi for the warm hospitality extended to all delegates.

I thank you

Zikomo kwa mbili

Merci beaucoup

Muito obrigado