



## **MEDIA ADVISORY ON THE PUBLIC LECTURE ON SADC REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION**

- WHAT** : All News/Syndication Editors invited
- WHO** : Dr. Leonardo Santos Simão, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique, presenting the Public Lecture on SADC Regional Economic Development and Integration
- WHERE** : University of Botswana Library Auditorium  
*(From UB South Gate, parking is reserved in the Health Sciences parking lot)*
- WHEN** : Thursday, August 06, 2015 at **18:00hrs**
- WHY** : To engender public discourse on economic development and integration in the SADC Region

### **BACKGROUND**

Economic development and integration has been on the SADC agenda since April 01, 1980 when the ***Declaration Southern Africa: Toward Economic Liberation*** was signed in Lusaka, Zambia. Setting out accelerated economic development and regional self-reliance as its twin objectives, the Declaration committed the countries of Southern Africa to work harmoniously to integrate their economies and gradually reduce their dependence, particularly, but not only, on the then apartheid Republic of South Africa.

The Declaration appealed for external cooperation and international support for development to be “achieved more rapidly” and “effective within the context of global cooperation.” However, Collective efforts of the people and the governments of the region were identified as the only guarantee for the success of this initiative.

Implementation of the SADC Programme of Action has been on-going for the past 35 years. As SADC commemorates its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it is deemed fit for a Public Lecture to take place as part of the 35<sup>th</sup> SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government activities, aimed at facilitating discourse on the economic development and integration of the region and in so doing, serve to take stock of how economic development and integration has been faring over the past three and a half decades.

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