



**REMARKS**

**BY**

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SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**DURING**

**THE OFFICIAL CLOSING CEREMONY OF  
THE SADC STANDBY FORCE CPX  
“EXERCISE UMODZI”**

**SALIMA, MALAWI**

**15 OCTOBER 2018**

**Director of Ceremonies;**

**The Guest of Honour, Hon Emmanuel Fabiano, MP, Minister of  
Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malawi;**

**Honourable Ministers or their Representatives from Ministries of  
Foreign Affairs and Ministries of Defence;**

**Representative of the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence  
and Security Cooperation;**

**The Commander of the Malawi Defence Forces;**

**Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission;**

**Distinguished Chiefs of Defence;**

**Distinguished Commissioners of Police;**

**Heads of Mission, and the entire Leadership of Exercise Umodzi;**

**Distinguished International Cooperating Partners;**

**Exercise Umodzi Officers, Personnel, Malawi Defence Forces and  
SADC Secretariat Staff;**

**Members from the Media;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Good afternoon to you all!

It gives me great pleasure to stand before you during this important occasion,  
as we witness the closure of Exercise UMODZI, which began on 1<sup>st</sup> October

2018, and due to end today, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018. On behalf of SADC, let me begin by thanking the Host Nation, the Republic of Malawi, for successfully hosting the Exercise, and for the warm welcome and support rendered to all of us since our arrival. May I also applaud the good cooperation the SADC Secretariat received from the Host and SADC Member States from the time we commenced the preparations and planning for the Exercise in December 2017 to date.

**Distinguished Guests,**

Since its establishment in 2007, in Lusaka, Zambia, the SADC Standby Force has embarked on various activities to operationalize and actualize its capability. The Secretariat together with Member States have been working tirelessly and have committed various resources in order to ensure that the Force is fully operationalized, and effectively capacitated to serve the region and the continent at large, in the provision of peace support capabilities. Allow me to express gratitude to SADC Member States for the continued commitment to durable peace and security.

It is pleasing to note that the SADC Standby Force attained its Full Operational Capability (FOC) after the successful conduct of Amani Africa II Field Training Exercise, held at Lohatla in the Republic of South Africa in November 2015, within the framework of the African Standby Force, as an integral component of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). Subsequently, significant milestones have been attained towards the enhancement of peace and security capabilities of the SADC and the African Union to effectively respond to challenges related to conflicts.

## **Distinguished Guests,**

The conduct of Exercise Umodzi, intended to deal with, and operationalize lessons from previous Exercises, within and outside our region, including from other Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms, and close the identified gaps. I am confident that Exercise Umodzi has not only further enhanced the Operational Capability of the SADC Standby Force, but has also helped to assess the state of operational readiness, and adequately prepared the SADC Standby Force to fulfill its obligations under the African Standby Force.

During the briefing we received this morning, and tour around the compound, we observed that during the Exercise, participants were able to test and harmonize the existing SADC Standby Force doctrine and Standard Operating Procedures for Peace Support Operations, and practiced the Multidimensional Headquarters in conduct of the Integrated Mission Planning Process (IMPP) as the recommended planning tool for the execution of Peace Support Operations. We also observed that Exercise UMODZI gave participants the opportunity to practice the execution of the Political Mission Mandate in Peace Support Operations; practice the SADC Standby Force communications and information systems capabilities; practice Civil Military Cooperation in Peace Support Operations; and to consider the effectiveness and efficiency of logistical support to SADC operations. All these operational undertakings are very important, considering that the SADC region will as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 to June 2019, assume the African Standby Force standby duties designed to provide Rapid

Deployment Standby Peace Support Operations capabilities to the African continent.

**Distinguished Guests,**

May I take this opportunity to thank the Exercise Director, and the entire Leadership, Officers and other personnel of the Exercise UMODZI for your professionalism, and executing your responsibilities with diligence and commitment. Without any doubt, the success of the Exercise has been largely due to the exemplary leadership, as well as, high level of professionalism and commitment by participants in all components, namely; military, police and civilian. I thank and congratulate everyone who participated in the exercise for successfully completing the Exercise, and conducting yourselves in a professional manner during the Exercise. The experience gained during the last two weeks, has given us further insights on what is expected of us, when we deploy into Peace Support Operations. May I appeal to all that the knowledge gained be cascaded to other members of our respective institutions so that we may build a broad Peace Support Operation knowledge base for the SADC region. I therefore, call upon SADC Member States to maintain a high-level readiness of the contingents during the period of the African Standby Force roster.

As I conclude allow me once again thank the Republic of Malawi for accepting to host the Mission and hosting it successfully. Allow me to also applaud SADC Member States for the commitment, guidance and support, which enabled a successful conduct of Exercise Umodzi. Let us keep up the spirit and commitment to sustain a stable and peaceful region. Allow me also to thank the African Union other Partners for the support rendered towards the preparation and conduct of the Exercise. May I also thank the mentors,

evaluators and observers for their dedication, in the execution of the Exercise. We look forward to receiving the Evaluation report. The Secretariat will hold a post-Exercise review as a mechanism for addressing the identified gaps. Let me assure you that, the Secretariat remains of service to you, and will embrace your constructive recommendations in order to chart a meaningful and effective way forward for the SADC Standby Force.

### **Distinguished Guests,**

Finally, let me also assure you that SADC, like all other Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms, takes its responsibility and commitment to “Silence the Guns by 2020” seriously. As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of peacekeeping, most of our countries have committed to a recent Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Operations” through the UN Secretary-General’s initiative “Action for Peacekeeping (A4P)”, which calls on all of us to fulfill our role in strengthening peacekeeping. This Declaration sets a new agenda to renew political commitment to peacekeeping, and outlines a commitment that all contributors to peacekeeping should fulfill in order to make UN peacekeeping more effective. The conduct of Exercise UMODZI is therefore another testimony of the unwavering commitment by the SADC region to ensure that it adequately prepares the SADC Standby Force and other conflict resolution mechanisms for the promotion of peace, security and stability in the SADC region and beyond. May I call upon Member States to continue in the spirit of solidarity and commitment towards silencing the Guns by 2020.

With these few remarks, I wish you a safe journey back to your respective countries.

**I thank you for your attention!**