



REMARKS

BY

**HER EXCELLENCY DR STERGOMENA LAWRENCE TAX,
SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 36TH ORDINARY SUMMIT OF
SADC HEADS OF STATES AND GOVERNMENT**

ON

30 AUGUST 2016

MBABANE, SWAZILAND

Your Majesty, King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Swaziland, and Host of the 36th Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of States and Government;

Your Excellency, Lieutenant General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana, and Chairperson of SADC;

Your Excellency, Filipe Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique and Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation;

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government;

Your Excellency, The Right Honourable Dr. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Swaziland;

Your Excellency, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission;

Your Excellency, Dr Carlos Lopez, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA);

His Royal Highness Prince Hlangusemphi, Chairperson of SADC Council of Ministers and Minister of Economic Planning and Development of the Kingdom of Swaziland;

Honourable Ministers from SADC Member States;

Your Excellencies, Heads of Regional and International Organisations;

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Representatives of International Cooperating Partners;

Officials from SADC Member States and the SADC Secretariat;

Representatives of the Media;

Invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I feel greatly honoured and humbled to deliver some introductory remarks at this Official Opening Ceremony of the 36th Ordinary Summit of the SADC Heads of State and Government. May I take this opportunity to

welcome you, Your Excellencies and Invited Dignitaries to this Summit being held here in Lozitha in the Great Kingdom of Swaziland.

Allow me at the outset, to express our gratitude to His Majesty, King Mswati III, the Government of His Majesty and the people of the Kingdom of Swaziland, for the unparalleled hospitality that has been extended to us since our arrival in the Kingdom of Swaziland. We are truly grateful to His Majesty's Government for the excellent preparations and, support and cooperation extended to the Secretariat during the preparations for this Summit. It is indeed a colourful and well prepared Summit which will without any doubt deliver outstanding results.

Your Majesty and Excellencies,

Over the years, the successive generations of our leaders have continued to redefine our development course, with the objective of taking our region to greater heights in terms of enhanced cooperation, development and transformation of the quality of the lives of our people. At every stage, our leaders have placed the best interests of our people at the centre of the SADC Programmes and interventions. We have made great strides over the years, first in terms of deepening our democracies, sustainable peace and security, and scaling up our quest for sustainable socio-economic development and poverty eradication.

The 36th SADC Ordinary Summit is being held under the theme: ***“Resource Mobilisation for Investment in Sustainable Energy Infrastructure for an Inclusive SADC Industrialisation and for the Prosperity of the Region”***. This, no doubt, sends a clear message of the Kingdom of Swaziland's resolve to push forward our narrative of

industrialisation, underpinned by the development of enabling infrastructure, including reliable, sufficient and affordable energy as a major enabler of industrialisation, and contributor to economic growth and transformation. The theme for the Summit already provides pointers in terms of what the region will focus on for the next year.

Your Majesty and Excellencies,

During the year, significant progress was made in various areas as will be reported in the course of this Summit.

The process of industrialisation continued to gain momentum, as the region is on the verge of adopting the costed Industrialisation Strategy and Action Plan. Among others things, studies have been undertaken to profile the priority mineral and pharmaceutical sectors to identify potential for value chain development, value addition and beneficiation. These studies indicated greater potential for domestic, regional and global value chains and a high potential for manufacturing. Moving forward, the Secretariat and Member States will use these strategies to develop strategic, and viable interventions and investments for the Region.

A 5-year Investment Plan for implementation of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP) 2014 was finalised during the year. The Investment Plan seeks to ensure long term food security, and the reduction of social and economic vulnerability of the region's population by enhancing sustainable agricultural production in the changing socio-economic and climatic conditions. The Investment plan is also expected to support and incentivise agriculture production with a view to catarise

the transformation of the sector and its contribution to SADC industrialisation.

In the area of infrastructure, the roll out of regional projects as elaborated by the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP) is on course. The need to scale up access to infrastructure was re-emphasized following the High-Level Workshop on Water and Energy Crisis, convened by the Chair of SADC in Gaborone, Botswana. During the last year, the region commissioned about 1700 Mega-Watts in new generation. In the coming year, it is envisaged that new power generation amounting to about 4000 Megawatts will be commissioned. This phenomenal increase in power generation, the highest ever in the region to date, will contribute immensely towards alleviating the current power deficit in the Region.

The critical need for resources to drive the RISDP and accelerate industrialisation cannot be overemphasized. The Secretariat continues to work hand-in-hand with the Member States to finalise the SADC Resource Mobilisation Framework and to unlock the potential for resource mobilisation at national, regional and international levels from both the private and public sectors. Significant progress was made in the operationalization of the SADC Regional Development Fund (RDF), a matter that has been discussed over the years. An agreement to operationalize the fund was finalised. The Fund will support regional integration projects and programmes under infrastructure development, industrial development, integration and economic adjustment and social development windows.

In the area of Gender, the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development was reviewed in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 as well as the Beijing + 20 Review Report. The review of the Protocol also necessitated the review of its monitoring tool. The Monitoring tool will enable monitoring of the implementation of the Protocol, which is key to the achievements of the regional women empowerment and gender equality targets.

On your behalf, Your Majesty and Excellencies, allow me to thank the Outgoing Chair of SADC H.E. Lt. Gen. Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana who, in his wisdom, championed the convening of three Ministerial workshops on Poverty and Food Security, Water and Energy Crisis, and illegal trade in wildlife. These workshops came at a time when the region is facing critical challenges relating to food insecurity and water and energy shortages, as a result of the El Nino induced drought and the escalating problem of illegal wildlife poaching. The workshops created awareness and came up with a number of resolutions and recommendations on how the region can effectively deal with these challenges.

I also wish to thank His Excellency, for his prompt intervention in facilitating the development of a Statement of Humanitarian Appeal for Assistance and for finding time within his busy schedule to declare the drought disaster and launch this Humanitarian Appeal on 26th July 2016, in line with the decision of Council of August 2015. As part of this process, a logistics team has been established at the SADC Secretariat to coordinate a regional response in collaboration with Member States, and partners.

In the area of peace and Security, the Region has remained peaceful and stable as Member States continued to adhere to democratic values and practices. Since the last summit held in August 2015, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Seychelles held their Elections in October and December 2015 respectively. The Republic of Zambia held their elections on 11th August 2016. All these elections were successful and declared peaceful and credible, by the SADC Election Observation Mission (SEOM). May I take this opportunity on behalf of SADC Member States to express our gratitude to H.E Fillipe Nyusi, the President of the Republic of Mozambique and Chairperson of Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation for his leadership, and for constituting and deploying the SADC Election Observation Missions to these Member States. May I also thank Member States who deployed observers to these missions.

Your Majesty and Excellencies,

As part of the Summit, five publications were launched. These publications are: the SADC Statistical Yearbook 2014 ; “the SADC Energy Monitor”; “the Sixth edition of the SADC Gender Monitor”; “the Trafficking in Persons in the SADC Region; A baseline report”; and “Adding Value: A policy tool Box for SADC Member States to Manage Economic Transformation and Value Chain Development”. The publications highlight progress made towards harmonisation and implementation of relevant programmes both at the regional and SADC Member States levels. They are also expected to provide pointers and tools to help regional stakeholders on what needs to be done to ensure deeper regional integration for the benefit of SADC citizens, as well as enabling SADC citizens, and regional and international partners to get correct and up-to-

date statistics and information for informed decision making. Please make use of them and publicise them.

Overall, during the chairpersonship of His Excellency President Khama, remarkable progress was made in a number of areas. May I therefore on behalf of SADC citizens thank H.E. Lieutenant General Dr. Seretse Khama, Ian Khama, supported by the Chairperson of Council of Ministers, Honourable Kenneth Matambo and the Chairperson of the SADC Standing Committee of Senior Officials, Dr. Taufila Nyamadzabo, for the guidance and excellent work undertaken in championing a number of SADC's initiatives, and for guiding and supporting the Secretariat. In the same vein, I wish to express my appreciation to HE, Mr Fillipe Nyusi, Chairperson of the Organ on Politics Defense and Security Cooperation, for his efforts and leadership in addressing peace, security and democracy in the region. Going forward, I am confident that under the leadership of His Majesty and his team, we are set for yet another successful year.

I am also grateful for the support accorded to me by a team of professionals and experts at the Secretariat. In particular, I would like to thank Directors, whose tenure of office will come to an end before the next Summit, after several years of services, for their commendable contribution to SADC integration agenda. I also wish to thank them sincerely for supporting me since I joined the Secretariat in September 2013. It is through their unwavering support and immense contribution to the SADC integration and development agenda, that we have been able to make enormous strides. Your Majesty and Excellencies, please allow me to recognise Dr. Angelo Mondlane, Director Policy Planning and Resource Mobilisation, Mr. Remigious Makumbe, director Infrastructure

and Services, Mr. Steven Sianga, Director Social and Human Development & Special Programmes, Mrs. Margaret Nyirenda, Director Food Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mrs. Boitumelo Gofhamodimo, director Trade Investment and Finance and Investment, Mr. Clement Kanyama, Director Budget and Finance, and Mr. Russel Mufaya, Director Human Resources an Administration. I wish to use this opportunity to thank you sincerely for your contibution to the SADC Region. The Secretariat will always remember your immense contribution. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors, and may God bless you richly. I thank you so much for your support and for having served SADC so deligently and professionally.

I thank you for your attention.

Ngiyabonga.