



## **BRIEFING NOTES**

**BY**

**SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
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**ON THE OCCASION OF BRIEFING THE MEDIA ON  
THE VISIT OF SADC CHAIRPERSON,  
H.E. ROBERT GABRIEL MUGABE,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE**

**SADC SECRETARIAT  
GABORONE, BOTSWANA**

**MAY 20, 2015**

## **Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media,**

I wish to welcome you to this media briefing on the visit of H.E. Robert Gabriel Mugabe, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Chairperson of SADC and the AU to the SADC Secretariat Headquarters. This visit by H.E. President Mugabe is of great significance, and it has also become a standard tour of duty by the Chairperson of SADC to visit the Secretariat and engage with Secretariat management and staff.

The visit provides the SADC Chairperson with an opportunity to interact with SADC staff, while affording staff the same opportunity to Management and staff to bring to the attention of the Chairperson issues that are critical to SADC's regional integration and development agenda, and of strategic importance to the development of our organisation. The visits by the Chairperson of SADC to the Secretariat, including this visit, always serve as a morale booster for both Management and staff. Presentations are also made during such visits on how the Secretariat is implementing the SADC agenda and on strategic initiatives being undertaken.

Among issues we discussed with H.E. the Chairperson of SADC was the progress made with the process of frontloading the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Road Map following its approval by the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government in Harare on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 which Zimbabwe as Chair of SADC had championed. The Strategy is anchored on three pillars, namely: Industrialisation as a champion of economic and technological transformation; competitiveness as an active process to move from comparative advantage to competitive edges, and regional integration and geography as the context for industrial development and economic prosperity. The Industrialisation Strategy is also embedded in the revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015-2020 which was approved by Council in April 2015.

The Secretariat briefed the Chairperson on steps being undertaken in preparing an action plan and a coordinated mechanism for the

implementation of the Industrialisation Strategy going forward, as an integral part of the implementation of the revised RISDP, SADC's blue print for development, to ensure tangible outcomes for the benefit of SADC citizens.

The Secretariat also engaged the Chairperson on challenges that it is facing with the view to address them through the various policy organs of SADC. The Chairperson mandated the Chair of the Council of Ministers to address the challenges identified, including improvement of conditions of service of staff, and align them to other regional bodies.

The visit provided Secretariat staff with a face to face encounter with the Chairperson, during which the Chairperson commended the Secretariat and its staff for its efforts in coordinating the programme related activities as espoused by the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the Strategic Indicative Plan of the Organ (SIPO).

The Chairperson paid tribute to the SADC Management and Staff, for their commitment in facilitating Member States in their quest to push forward the regional integration agenda, and urged the staff to ensure that SADC maintains pole position in the implementation of economic development programmes. The Chair also underscored the need to inculcate the principles of good governance and transparency in the management of affairs of the institution, and commended the progress made so far in this regard. He also urged the Secretariat to ensure that the region's strategic focus and the Secretariat structure are re-aligned to the new strategic framework and the region's strategic goals as approved by Summit.

The Chairperson also had the opportunity to engage with the Secretariat Management during which discussions on strategic issues of the region were shared and reviewed. The Chairperson also received a brief on issues relating to staff matters, and assured the staff that these issues will be looked into by the appropriate structures as it was Summit desire to ensure that staff issues were addressed to ensure better livelihood for them and their families. The exchange of views as well as the briefings was undertaken in a cordial and jovial atmosphere. The Management

and staff of the Secretariat appreciated the visit of the Chairperson, with whom they engaged in meetings on his tour of the Secretariat.

The Chairperson also urged Member States to cooperate in the implementation of trans-boundary projects and programmes, and ensure that all the Member States develop and empower their citizens, to minimise migration of citizens to a few countries that have developed and industrialised.

We appreciate the role of the media in creating awareness around the issues related to regional integration and development, and we rely on your positive awareness creation about SADC.

I thank you