



REMARKS

BY

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MINISTER OF EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY AND SKILLS
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**DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE SADC REGIONAL COUNTER
TERRORISM CENTRE IN DAR ES SALAAM, UNITED REPUBLIC OF
TANZANIA**

28 FEBRUARY 2022

Hon. Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania

Hon. Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Minister of Defence of the United Republic of Tanzania

Hon. Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, Ms Candith Mashego Dlamini, and Representative of the Chairperson of the SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ.

Hon. Jennelly Matundu, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia, and Representative of the Incoming Chairperson of the SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ;

Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers

Your Excellency Mr Elias Magosi, the Executive Secretary of SADC and the Secretariat team

Your Excellencies, SADC Ambassadors Accredited to the United Republic of Tanzania

Your Excellencies, Representatives of International Cooperating Partners

Heads of National Counter Terrorism/Coordination Centres of SADC Member States here present

Acting Coordinator of the SADC Regional Counter Terrorism Centre and the staff;

Senior Officials;

Chiefs of Defence and Security Sectors

Members of the media;

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen;

A very good morning and Compliments of the New Year!

I am greatly honoured to be here, this morning, in this beautiful city of Dar es Salaam in the United Republic of Tanzania, as we celebrate yet another milestone in the Region, with the launching of the SADC Regional Counter Terrorism Centre (RCTC).

Your Excellencies, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ, and the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, Hon. Minister Dr Naledi Pandor, Allow me at the outset to express my deep gratitude to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for its strong support to the work SADC is doing in countering the threat of terrorism and violent extremism, and to Her Excellency, Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, for her personal commitment towards SADC's efforts in counter-terrorism, demonstrated quite distinctly, by offering to host the SADC Regional Counter Terrorism Centre, and the excellent facility accorded to that effect.

The offer by the United Republic of Tanzania to host the SADC Regional Counter Terrorism Centre confirms the country's long standing commitment to regional cooperation on peace, security and development which was first championed by the father of this Nation, *Mwalimu* Julius Kambarage Nyerere, and has been carried forward by successive leaders of this country.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

The Regional Counter Terrorism Centre we are launching here today is the first of its kind under the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa.

This Centre will serve as a coordinating hub to advance the regional counter-terrorism capacity-building efforts. It will also advise SADC Member States on effective counter-terrorism policies and programmes on the prevention of violent extremism and radicalization.

We are launching the Regional Counter Terrorism Centre at a time when the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) is deployed to deal with the reality of terrorism and violent extremism threat in some districts of Cabo Delgado Province, in the northern part of Mozambique. SAMIM was deployed to create a secure environment; strengthen peace and maintain security, and restore law and order in affected areas of the Cabo Delgado Province. Its deployment remains a noble undertaking by SADC, displaying our collective regional response to combat terrorism and acts of violent extremism.

Let me take this opportunity, to once more, commend SADC Member States for their contributions in the form of financial resources, personnel and equipment towards the SAMIM deployment. Special commendation is extended to all SADC countries that have deployed troops alongside the MONUSCO fighting the negative forces and insecurity in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to achieve sustainable peace and socio-economic development.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

With the reality of the threat of terrorism we have witnessed in our region, the establishment of the SADC Regional Counter Terrorism Centre could not have come at a better time than now, to ensure that there is a dedicated structure to coordinate regional counter-terrorism efforts. Strong and sustained multilateral cooperation, understanding, and analysis are required in order to support Member States in addressing the challenges posed by terrorism, violent extremism and its associated Transnational Organized Crime activities. Therefore, close collaboration between the Regional Counter-Terrorism Centre, the National Counter-Terrorism Centres in the SADC Member States and Cooperating Partners is at the heart of a successful implementation of the Regional Counter Terrorism Strategy and its Action Plan, to minimize the risk posed by terrorist groups.

Your Excellences, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

As I conclude, let me thank most sincerely my sister, Honourable Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Minister of Defence of the United Republic of Tanzania, for her pivotal role in ensuring that this centre is officially launched today. We are glad that, in your new role as Minister of Defence, you continue to demonstrate unwavering commitment to advancing the SADC regional agenda, particularly on matters of peace and security in our region.

Let me also thank all international cooperating partners, for the continued collaboration and partnership in the fight against terrorism, by supporting activities outlined in the Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its Action Plan. The presence of the Representatives of our cooperating partners: The Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) and the European Union is a testimony of the existence of sound working relations

that we have with our Partners in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

In a special way, I wish to thank the European Union for the support provided towards operationalising the Centre in the form of equipment and tools. I would also like to thank the SADC Executive Secretary and his team for facilitating the establishment and operationalisation of the SADC Regional Counter Terrorism Centre, and preparing for this launch in collaboration with the host nation, the United Republic of Tanzania.

Finally, to the staff working at this Centre, I assure you of our commitment to support you in carrying out this important mandate and thereby enable our region to achieve the core objectives of this Centre. The threat of terrorism is real and always lurking, and your dedication in coordinating the activities of the Centre is critical as we seek to build a future free of terrorism and sustain peace, security and stability in our region. The speed with which you receive and process intel on terrorism and related aspects, and timely sharing information with, and general guidance to Member States, will make or break this region. Of all the various institutions and organisations of SADC, yours, together with the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operation Centre (SHOC), are perhaps the most time sensitive structures that can have devastating consequences, if not handled appropriately. You have your job cut out for you.

With these remarks, **Your Excellencies, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen**, it is my singular honour to declare the SADC Regional Counter Terrorism Centre officially open.

I thank you all for your kind attention.

Muito obrigado!
Merci Beaucoup!
Asante sana!