



**REMARKS**

**BY**

**H.E MR. ELIAS MPEDI MAGOSI  
SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**AT**

**THE 25<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE OF THE  
ORGAN (MCO) ON POLITICS, DEFENCE AND SECURITY  
COOPERATION**

**20<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023**

**WINDHOEK, REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

Honourable **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Co-operation of the Republic of Namibia, and Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ;

Honourable **Stanley K Kakubo**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Zambia and Incoming Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ;

Honourable **Dr Naledi Pandor**, Minister of International Relations and Co-operation of the Republic of South Africa and Outgoing Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ;

Honourable Ministers and Members of the MCO;

Ambassador **Penda A. Naanda**, Executive Director, Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia and Chairperson of the Senior Officials for the MCO;

Distinguished Senior Officials, Chiefs of Defence and Security Institutions;

The Leadership of the SADC Electoral Advisory Council;

Delegates from SADC Member States;

SADC Secretariat Staff;

Dear friends from the media;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning.

I am greatly honoured to welcome you to this 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation. We are fully aware that Honourable Ministers do have busy schedules that equally demand your physical presence and therefore do not take your physical presence and attendance of this important meeting very lightly. This is an ordinary meeting of the MCO and is a preparatory process for the next Organ Troika Summit.

**Honourable Ministers,**

Allow me from the onset to express my sincere gratitude to the People and the Government of the Republic of Namibia for the hospitality and warm welcome accorded to all the delegates and the Secretariat upon arrival in this beautiful City of Windhoek, in the Land of the Brave. I also wish to thank you, Honourable **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Co-operation of the Republic of Namibia, and Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ for your sterling and focused leadership during your tenure as the Chair of the MCO. Under your leadership, this Committee has met multiple times this past year, considering very complex matters on peace and security, and supporting the various Organ Troika Summits to make informed decisions, all in pursuit of peace and stability in the SADC region.

**Honourable Ministers,**

As we have stated numerous times before, peace and security are the cornerstones of our regional integration agenda on which the social and economic well-being of our people is premised. It is for this reason that our SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030, has placed peace and security as the foundation for the other pillars to be realised. Our pursuit of a stable region is relentless, as evidenced by our continued efforts to devise and prioritise strategies and frameworks that should help us deliver on this noble obligation.

The SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ is responsible for coordinating the work and structures of the Organ in line with Article 5 of the SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and, in this regard, this meeting will review progress on the implementation of programmes in support of regional Peace, Security and Good Governance.

## **Honourable Ministers,**

I am pleased to inform the meeting that, through the deliberate design of infrastructure for peace, and a robust early warning system, the security situation in the SADC Region continues to be relatively stable, notwithstanding the overt threats in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Cabo Delgado Province of the Republic of Mozambique. The SADC structures have been agile in addressing these security challenges and remain seized with them.

Recently, the region convened and Extra-Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the SADC Organ Troika, Plus SADC Troika, and Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) and SAMIM Personnel Contributing Countries to the peace processes in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Mozambique where the Summit:

- approved the mandate and supporting legal and operational instruments for the deployment of the SADC Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as a regional response to address the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in the Eastern DRC; and
- extended the Mandate of SAMIM by twelve (12) months, from July 2023, to consolidate the gains achieved since the deployment of Mission, enhance stabilisation processes and facilitate the safe return of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to their places of origin.

## **Honourable Ministers,**

Your meeting will receive updates and progress reports on our programmes and efforts to consolidate peace, democracy, and good governance in the Region. These reports include, among others:

- The proposed amendments to the revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections, especially because we have elections in the region, covering four of our Member States, namely the Republics of Zimbabwe and Madagascar, Kingdom of Eswatini and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In line with the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2015), the SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC) has been busy

conducting Pre-Election Assessment Missions whose reports will be considered by this meeting.

- updates on Migration, Transnational Organised Crime, Wildlife Crime, Anti-Corruption and Corrections/Prisons, which are areas that are equally important contributors to the Peace and Security Architecture of the region.

### **Honourable Ministers,**

As I conclude, I wish to take this opportunity to introduce to you, physically, the Director of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs, **Professor Kula Ishmael Theletsane**, a national of the Republic of South Africa, who recently joined the Secretariat at the beginning of this month. The Secretariat looks forward to benefit from his wealth of experience and contribution, and believe that Member States, and the MCO, will accord Prof Theletsane all the necessary support to achieve this big and demanding Organ mandate.

I would now like to humbly invite Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Co-operation of the Republic of Namibia, and Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ, to deliver the opening remarks to this 25<sup>th</sup> ordinary meeting of the MCO.

**I Thank you!    Merci!    Obrigado!    Asante!**