



**REMARKS**

**BY**

**MR CALICIOUS TUTALIFE**

**ACTING DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE AT THE  
SADC SECRETARIAT**

**ON THE OCCASION OF**

**THE LAUNCH OF THE LESOTHO *SADC SUCCESS STORIES***

**AVANI LESOTHO, MASERU, KINGDOM OF LESOTHO**

**05 JULY, 202**

- **Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Honourable Dr. Retselisitsoe Matlanyane;**
- **Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations, Honourable, Lejone Mpotjoane,**
- **Minister of Information, Communication, Science, Technology and Innovation, Honourable Nthati Moorosi;**
- **Lesotho SADC National Contact Point and Principal Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Ms. Nthoateng Lebona;**
- **Senior Officials from the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho**
- **Senior Officials and delegates from SADC Member States present,**
- **Dr. Axel Bayer, Representative of the German Embassy to South Africa, Eswatini and Lesotho;**
- **Daniel Bagwitz, Country Director for GIZ Botswana and SADC;**
- **Representatives of Regional and National Non-State Actor Organisations;**
- **Distinguished delegates**
- **Members of the media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

On behalf of the SADC Executive Secretary, H.E Elias M. Magosi, it is a great pleasure for me to deliver this speech as we launch the SADC Success Stories for Lesotho . This occasion represents a significant milestone in our collective pursuit of regional integration, development and cooperation. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Minister of Finance, Hon. Dr. Matlanyane for presiding over this important event.

As we reflect on the progress made, SADC continues to deepen the integration aspirations of the region in various priority areas. Strengthening communications in the region remains the Secretariat's main priority, as reflected in the Regional Indicative Strategic Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030. Therefore, SADC success stories remains a critical vehicle to raise visibility and awareness aimed at triggering and maintaining the interests, awareness, and participation of the citizenry and public officials responsible for driving the regional agenda.

Today marks another milestone in our quest to strengthen the regional and national linkages and achieve our goal of Taking SADC to The People. As we all are aware, SADC belongs to the people and it is through initiatives such as SADC Success Stories that we will be able to create awareness among the citizens of this region about the positive impacts of the SADC Regional Integration Agenda

The economic benefits expected from Regional Integration, as shown elsewhere around the world, include increased market size, improved intra-regional trade and investment flows, and increased transfer of technology and experience. However, over the years, it has become apparent that the citizens of the Member States are not fully

aware of the existence of the various initiatives, protocols, programmes and projects which are aimed at facilitating better life for them. The SADC Success Stories are, thus, meant to communicate with the masses and enhance awareness about the positive impacts of these initiatives, protocols and agreements.

The SADC Secretariat takes pride in the fact that the Kingdom of Lesotho has undertaken concerted efforts to ensure that SADC becomes visible at the national level. It comes at a very relevant time when the Kingdom has so much to showcase in terms of how they have continued to benefit from the initiatives, protocols, and agreements at regional level.

Lesotho continues to make remarkable progress in the implementation of the regional agenda. Towards trade and infrastructure that supports trade, Lesotho knowing that effective trade translates into economic growth, the Lesotho Revenue Authority implemented the Coordinated Border Management project in 2019. This initiative has resulted in improved efficiency due to fast-track declaration of goods and travel, and better traffic control among many others. This is in line with the SADC Protocol on Trade, which encourages developments that enhance trade between Member States.

Through the Protocol on Finance and Investment, SADC has encouraged cross border financial inclusion for people. Lesotho was one of the first countries in the region to implement a Cross Border Money Transfer Project between itself and South Africa. Hailed as one of the cheapest cross-border products in the world, the Project has become a significant game-changer and a well-established formal channel of sending money from South Africa to Lesotho. The values have grown so big that policy makers would like to see this service digitized and replicated to other Member States.

And finally, through the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses, which aims to foster closer cooperation among SADC Member States for protection, management, and use of shared watercourses in the region. Since 2000, the Lesotho Government has embarked on the development of the Lesotho Lowlands Water Supply Scheme to ensure adherence and compliance to the human right of reliable access to clean water and sanitation.

These brilliant stories and more, form part of this publication and most importantly it is indeed a reflection of how important it is to tell these stories of hope and impact, that will ultimately cultivate a better understanding of the work our governments are doing, through the support of SADC and its partners, such as, GIZ. These incredible stories are not for us to keep, just as the projects featured, they are for the people of SADC, and I hope this publication will be a fitting information dissemination tool to the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Furthermore, these stories bear witness to the unwavering commitment of the Government of Lesotho in harnessing the potential of regional integration and leveraging it to uplift the lives of its citizens.

These success stories will provide a platform for knowledge exchange and peer learning within the SADC region. By sharing these experiences, we strengthen our collective capacity to deal with challenges and accelerate progress towards our shared goals.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to all stakeholders involved in the production of these success stories. I would also like to reiterate our appreciation to the Minister of Finance for presiding over this launch event. Your presence signifies the importance that Lesotho attaches to regional cooperation and development. I also wish to thank you distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen, for your commitment and dedication towards strengthening implementation of the SADC regional integration agenda. I wish to also thank our partners representing the Government of Germany, European Union and GIZ for our transformative partnership and the technical and financial support for the development and publication of the Success Stories being launched here today.

Let us use this launch as a springboard for renewed commitment and action. Together, let us build on these success stories, leverage the collective strength of SADC, and continue working towards our shared vision of a better future for all SADC Member States.

Thank you all for your kind attention.

I thank you!

Merci Beaucoup!

Muito Obrigado!

Asante Sana!