



**REMARKS**

**BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY MR. ANTIPAS MBUSA NYAMWISI, MINISTER OF  
REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND FRANCOPHONIE OF THE DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE SADC COUNCIL OF  
MINISTERS**

**AT THE OPENING OF THE MEETING OF SADC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

**13 AUGUST, 2023**

**LUANDA, REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**

Your Excellency, Ambassador Tété António, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola and Incoming Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers.

Honourable Nancy Gladys Tembo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malawi and Outgoing Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers

Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers

Your Excellency, Mr. Elias. M Magosi, the SADC Executive Secretary

Ambassador Nazaré José Salvador, Director of SADC Office, Ministry of External Relations, Republic of Angola and Chairperson of the Senior Officials,

High Commissioners and Ambassadors

The SADC Deputy Executive Secretaries

Members of SADC Delegations.

SADC Secretariat Staff and Staff of the Government of Angola.

Members of the media.

It is with great honour that I stand before you to deliver my Opening Remarks at the opening of this SADC Council of Ministers meeting. First and foremost, I would like to thank my dear brother and our gracious host, His Excellency Ambassador Tété António, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola and Incoming Chairperson of the Council of Ministers for the exceptionally warm welcome and hospitality extended to us and other SADC delegations since our arrival in this beautiful city of Luanda, Angola.

As these are my last official remarks in my capacity as the Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers, allow me to express my gratitude to the Honourable Ministers for the support rendered to the DRC during our tenure as chair of this noble organisation. The role of the SADC Council of Ministers is extensive and demanding, requiring utmost dedication to ensure SADC policies and programmes are properly executed so as to promote and deepen regional integration. During the year, the DRC was humbled by the overwhelming support we received from all Member States as we spearheaded the regional integration agenda.

Through your unwavering support and commitment, we can look back with pride at the great strides and incremental progress that we have made towards the realisation of our collective aspiration of a peaceful and prosperous region.

**Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Angola is of special significance, not only because of the long historical and cultural ties between Angola and DRC, but because of its role in the story of struggle and triumph against the forces of oppression in the region. When the mighty armed forces of the apartheid regime in South Africa were defeated at one of the conventional battles at Cuito Cuanavale in Southern Angola on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1988, that, in itself marked a decisive end of many years of exploitation, oppression, degradation, untold suffering, and humiliation of the southern African people. As a result of this historic defeat, our sister countries of Namibia and South Africa became the last countries on the African continent, to be liberated from colonialism and apartheid regime in 1990 and 1994, respectively. This is why we commemorate Southern Africa Liberation Day every 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

### **Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

During the year, the region undertook various interventions guided by the theme of the 42<sup>nd</sup> SADC Summit held in Kinshasa in August 2022 which was, *"Promoting industrialisation through agro-processing, mineral beneficiation and regional value-chains for inclusive and resilient economic growth"*. Through this theme, our region implemented activities to improve the deployment of SADC's industrialisation and market integration programmes, as set out in the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP, 2020-2030).

Among the major achievements was the re-prioritisation of projects and programmes derived from the RISDP 2020-2030, focusing on 90 key priority regional projects and programmes with high impact to uplift the lives of the SADC citizens, covering six strategic priority areas namely:

**The Foundation:** Peace, Security, and Good Governance.

**Pillar I:** Industrial Development and Market Integration.

**Pillar II:** Infrastructure Development in Support of Regional Integration.

**Pillar III:** Social and Human Capital Development.

**Cross-cutting issues** including Gender, Youth, Environment and Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management  
Strategic Management of the RISDP 2020-2030

I wish to thank the Secretariat for the hard work in identifying these projects. As we hand over the Chair to Angola, the task that lies ahead of us is to continue mobilising financial resources for the implementation of these prioritised projects so that we can make lasting impact on the lives of our people. In this regard, we must continue to engage our International Cooperating Partners to support the implementation of these prioritised projects.

### **Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Over the past year, we have worked hand in hand to find ways of addressing a multitude of challenges that threaten to reverse the gains we have made in our collective pursuit of an integrated and prosperous region. These challenges include increased severity of natural disasters; security challenges in the eastern part of the DRC and northern Mozambique and youth unemployment, just a mention a few. I am glad to report that, in the face these challenges, our region has shown that no challenge is insurmountable if we face it together in unity. We saw this unity when the Council of Ministers in March this year, approved US\$300, 000 humanitarian

assistance to our sister country, Malawi, following the devastating Tropical Cyclone Freddy which triggered heavy rains and flooding and led to loss of lives and extensive damage to infrastructure. In the same spirit of solidarity and unity, Council at its meeting in August 2022, approved the budget for the extension of the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) in support of Mozambique to combat acts of terrorism and violent extremism in Cabo Delgado Province.

**Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The future of our region rests on the shoulders of young people. The youth make up about 75 percent of the population of the SADC region. However, high levels of unemployment and lack of requisite skills, continue to hamper their ability to participate and contribute meaningfully to the SADC development agenda. We must continue to find ways of empowering our young people, unlocking their potential and creating pathways for their success so that they can have a share in the prosperity of our region.

One of the ways to create opportunities for the youth is to accelerate implementation of the industrialisation agenda which has the potential to boost economic growth and reduce poverty. I am therefore delighted to note that, under the leadership of Angola, our region will continue to drive forward the industrialisation agenda by developing, mobilising and harnessing human and financial capital under the theme, *"Human and Financial Capital: The Key Drivers for Sustainable Industrialisation in the SADC Region"*.

During the year, Ministers responsible for Employment and Labour Ministers adopted the Draft Protocol on Employment and Labour. This Draft Protocol aims to promote employment as a central objective for sustainable poverty eradication in the region. Inspired by the provisions of this Protocol, our region must endeavour to foster structural transformation of economies, revamp education and training systems and to improve access to finance for young people.

**Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It will be remiss of me, if I do not express the gratitude of the DRC to the SADC Executive Secretary and his Secretariat Team for the support that we received during our tenure. During our tenure, we worked hand in hand with the Secretariat to serve our beloved region. I take this opportunity to thank the SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Corporate Affairs, Ambassador Joseph Nourrice, who will be leaving the Secretariat at the end of October this year. We will forever remember you for your service to the region and please accept profound best wishes of the Council of Ministers in your future endeavours.

**Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As I draw closer to the end of my remarks and hand over the Chair to the Incoming Chairperson, allow me to reiterate three points.

**One;** As a SADC family, we must continue to stand in solidarity with each other in times of need. This is the spirit that inspired the SADC Founders to establish this

organisation. There is an African proverb that says, 'a bundle of sticks is unbreakable', which entails that there is strength in unity.

**Two;** We must continue to focus on high impact projects and programmes that will improve the lives of our people. This must always be our ultimate goal.

**Three;** We must continue to communicate the achievements and milestones, and the value and relevance of our organisation so that our citizens know the benefits of regional integration.

**Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As I pass on the baton to His Excellency Ambassador Tête António, the Incoming Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, I have no doubt that, under his capable leadership, our region will continue to take giant steps in its development trajectory to further deepen regional integration. I would like to assure you, Incoming Chairperson, of DRC's support as a member of the SADC Troika in the coming year. I urge my fellow Council members to render the same level of support that we, in the DRC, received during our tenure. With these remarks, it is now my honour to hand over the Chair of SADC Council of Ministers to His Excellency Ambassador Tête António, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola.

**Thank you very much**

**Merci beaucoup**

**Muito Obrigada**

**Asanteni Sana**