



REMARKS

BY

H.E. MR ELIAS M. MAGOSI

SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

**AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE SADC-USA REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE AGREEMENT**

3 AUGUST 2023

**SADC SECRETARIAT HEADQUARTERS
GABORONE, BOTSWANA**

Your Excellency, Mr Howard Van Vranken, United States Ambassador to the Republic of Botswana and US Representative to SADC;

Mr Troy Tillis, Acting Mission Director, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Southern Africa;

Amb Amanda Jacobson

Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, Ms Angele Makombo N'tumba;

Deputy Executive Secretary for Corporate Affairs, Amb. Joseph Nourrice

Esteemed Delegates from the US Embassy and USAID in Botswana;

SADC Secretariat Staff;

Representatives from the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to welcome you to this signing ceremony for the SADC-USA Regional Development Objective Agreement, which signifies enduring partnership between SADC and the US and a critical milestone towards the strengthening of cooperation and partnership between the United States and SADC.

This agreement expresses commitment to collaborate towards the implementation of the regional integration agenda, in the areas of

economic growth, environment and energy; youth; democracy and governance; and health. The identified areas of cooperation are fairly aligned to our regional priorities articulated in the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP 2020-2030).

As SADC, we are grateful to partner with the US Government in the context of supporting the implementation of the regional integration agenda. The global resource envelope USD 223.5 million for the period 2023-2027, with the initial annual allocation of USD 35.8 million for 2023, provides an excellent opportunity to support the financing of regional programmes and thereby contribute to the common objective of facilitating socio-economic development aimed at reducing poverty and improving the livelihood of our people.

Your Excellency, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

The US is a critical partner of SADC and has over the years supported national development strategies through initiatives such as the Millennium Challenge Account and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Previously, regional support was extended through the Development Objective Grant Agreement (DOAG) from 2013 to 2018. I do believe that implementation of this Agreement will take into consideration lessons learnt from the previous one, with a view to enhance implementation arrangements and coordination structures for effective achievement of results and the desired impact.

I am happy to note that in the negotiations building up to the finalization of this Agreement, the Secretariat Team duly apprised you on the recent reprioritization of the RISDP 2020-2030, which resulted in the

identification of Prioritised Projects that were approved by the SADC Council of Ministers in March 2023. The prioritized projects are the primary focus for the region, and we are grateful that the US Government, through this Agreement, has agreed to support implementation of these projects. I have no doubt, Your Excellencies, that together, we can make a meaningful impact on the lives of the SADC citizens and, by extension, give a good level of fulfillment to the US citizens who have been gracious enough to share their resources with the SADC region.

Your Excellency, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we commit to collaborate in the implementation of this Agreement, it is critical that we ensure continuous monitoring and enhanced communication and visibility of the results and impact to be achieved through this partnership. In this regard, it is important that our respective technical teams should engage robustly to ensure communication and visibility are a part and parcel of the delivery of this Agreement. Our citizens must see and feel that we are making a lasting impact in their lives.

I would like to commend the respective technical teams that have worked tirelessly towards the finalisation of this Agreement. It is through their hard work and dedication that today we celebrate this milestone of formalising our cooperation.

On behalf of the Secretariat, the SADC region, and on my own behalf, I wish to express our profound appreciation for the continued support and commitment from our partners to develop this region. I assure you of our

commitment and dedication to this Agreement, and that we are ready to work with the US Government and the USAID in realising its objectives and goals, as we facilitate achievement of the ultimate goal, regional integration.

I thank you for your attention!

Obrigarda!

Merci!

Asante!