



PRESS RELEASE

The SADC Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (SAMIDRC) dismisses false and misleading statements about its operations

05th April, 2024, Gaborone, Botswana: The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (SAMIDRC) refutes the false and misleading online media articles about its operations in the Eastern DRC.

SAMIDRC strongly rejects misinformation and disinformation about its military operations in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo and would like to make it clear that the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) troops deployed to the DRC are under the mandate of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (SAMIDRC). The deployment of the SAMIDRC was approved by the Extraordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Windhoek, Republic of Namibia, on 08 May 2023 as a regional response to address the unstable and deteriorating security situation prevailing in the Eastern DRC. As part of the SAMIDRC, a SADC regional force from the Republics of Malawi, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania and elements of the DRC Armed Forces are working with the Forces armées de la république démocratique du Congo (FARDC), in fighting armed groups operating in the Eastern DRC.

Given the above, the SAMIDRC want to categorically state that the situation on ground is normal and SAMIDRC continues with their routine operational schedules. Information on any developments about the Mission and the safety of the troops will always be communicated through the official channels of SADC.

The SAMIDRC remains focused on carrying out its mandate per the principle of collective self-defence and collective action outlined in the SADC Mutual Defence Pact (2003).

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SADC in Brief

SADC is an organisation of 16 Member States established in 1980 as the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference (SADCC) and later, in August, 1992 transformed into the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The mission of SADC is to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient, productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration, good governance and durable peace and security; so that the region emerges as a competitive and effective player in international relations and the world economy. Member States are Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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