



PRESS RELEASE

Grand Finale of the Support towards Industrialisation and the Productive Sectors (SIPS) Programme

Gaborone, 21 May 2024 - The grand finale of the Support towards Industrialisation and the Productive Sectors (SIPS) Programme was held on 21 May 2024 at the Avani Hotel in Gaborone, Botswana. This event marked a significant milestone in the discourse on regional economic integration and industrialisation within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

The SIPS programme, a cornerstone initiative of GIZ's Cooperation for the Enhancement of Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Economic Integration (CESARE) programme, was funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union (EU) with a budget of over 20 million euros. This programme, a joint action between SADC, the German Government and the EU, aims to promote self-sustaining economies, reduce import dependence and strengthen regional resilience, with a particular focus on the agro-processing and pharmaceutical sectors in the SADC region.

By addressing policy, regulatory and business environment constraints, the SIPS programme seeks to increase private sector engagement in the development of critical value chains, including the leather, medical and pharmaceutical sectors. These targeted value chains have enormous potential to broaden the region's industrial base and promote job creation, in line with the objectives of the SADC Regional Industrialisation Strategy 2015-2063 and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020-2030.

This holistic approach gave the SIPS programme the flexibility to respond quickly to unforeseen developments on the ground. In particular, the emergence of Covid-19 shortly after the start of the programme prompted rapid action by the SADC Secretariat, the EU, BMZ and GIZ. This led to the inclusion of a Covid-19 Medical and Pharmaceutical Products (CMPP) value chain within the scope of the programme. As a result, innovative manufacturing projects to produce Covid-19-related medical and pharmaceutical consumables and devices were designed and implemented by regional companies and institutions that received SIPS grants.

The German Ambassador to the Republic of Botswana, Margit Hellwig-Bötte, commented: "The SIPS programme's response to the COVID-19 pandemic by supporting the private sector in the production of masks, protective clothing and various medical equipment has made a tangible difference.

Ambassador Margit Hellwig-Bötte also highlighted the significant achievements of the programme, including the creation of 164 permanent jobs, the participation of over 330 people in networking meetings, and the training of 690 people from beneficiary companies in

project management, project operations and good manufacturing practices. In addition, information on appropriate and affordable financing options for manufacturing in the SADC region was disseminated to over 180 companies.

Ambassador Petra Pereyra, Head of the European Union Delegation to Botswana and SADC, emphasised the intrinsic value of regional integration and drew parallels with the European Union's experience. She hailed the SIPS programme as a testimony to the 'Team Europe' approach to achieving a more effective presence on the ground. Among its key achievements, the SIPS programme facilitated the alignment of regional and national objectives, ensuring a sustained momentum for regional integration. It also supported research and development in the region, while contributing to the formulation of key policies and frameworks.

Ambassador Petra Pereyra announced the launch of a new SADC programme focused on African Trade and Business Market Access with a total allocation of €35 million, marking not an end but a beginning in the journey of continuous improvement.

Mr. Dhunraj Kasse, Director-Directorate of Industrial Development & Trade at SADC said, "As we reflect on the results of the Support to Industrialisation and Productive Sectors Programme, it's clear that despite the unprecedented challenges of the global COVID-19 pandemic, our collective efforts not only responded to the crisis, but also innovated to ensure that the objectives of the programme were achieved. Through targeted interventions and public-private sector collaboration, we've strengthened regional value chains, paving the way for increased trade and sustainable industrialisation in the SADC region".

Mr Kasse added: "The programme has not only achieved commendable successes but has also set milestones that will guide future efforts in regional value chain development, industrialisation and regional integration. Its impact will extend beyond its closure, as evidenced by the establishment of frameworks and collaborations that will continue to benefit member states and foster regional cooperation."

The event served as a platform to showcase the extensive activities of both components of the SIPS programme and to highlight the tangible results achieved so far. It provided an opportunity for stakeholders to come together, reflect on past efforts, share experiences and chart the way forward for future efforts in the selected value chains of the region.

For further information and inquiries regarding the event, please feel free to reach out to:

Ms. Sahar Sadid
Contact Point of Organising Team
Email: sahar.sadid@giz.de

Mrs. Meron Estifanos
Communications Expert for GIZ Botswana and SADC
Email : meron.estifanos@giz.de

Ms. Anethe Mtambanengwe
Communication Officer
Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat
Email: amtambanengwe@sadc.int