



# **STATEMENT**

**BY**

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
ZIMBABWE AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT  
COMMUNITY,  
HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. E. D. MNANGAGWA,**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA  
LIBERATION DAY**

**HARARE**

**23 MARCH 2025**

Today, 23 March 2025, we commemorate the Southern Africa Liberation Day, a day that we have set aside to honour the brave, courageous heroes and heroines of our region, who sacrificed their lives to bring about our independence, freedom, democracy and sovereignty.

As we commemorate this annual event, we deeply reflect on where we stand in the context of our historical struggles whose aim was to give us full ownership of the means of production in our economies and, consequently, to be masters of our own destiny as well as to restore our dignity.

I urge us all, as independent peoples of SADC, to remain vigilant and be alert to the emerging challenges that threaten our hard-won independence and the general stability of our region. We must, continue to stand in solidarity against the imposition of illegal sanctions, use of coercive measures and or any other actions that undermine our sovereignty and territorial integrity.



On this historic day, we also remember our brothers and sisters in the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, who are still being denied the right to determine their own destiny. Africa will not be free, until the Western Sahara, is liberated, free and independent.

SADC remains a relatively calm and peaceful region. For this, we are proud. However, I reiterate our call for lasting peace in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The situation in Eastern DRC, undermines the aspirations bequeathed to us by our Founding Fathers and outlined in the SADC Constitutive Act and Vision 2050. The time to 'silence the guns', de-escalate tensions and hostilities as well as to engage in dialogue to secure mediated outcomes for long-lasting peace in DRC is now.

**Fellow SADC Citizens;**

Over the years, our region, has been greatly affected by recurring climate change induced disasters, leading to far



reaching consequences for our people, economies, and environment. The extreme weather patterns have resulted in frequent and severe droughts, threatening food security and livelihoods across our region. It is our collective responsibility to take decisive action to mitigate and manage the effects of these natural disasters. To this end, the need to enhance our early warning capabilities, build resilience and adaptation capacities, leveraging on the deployment of science, technology and innovation cannot be over-emphasised.

I wish to take this opportunity to galvanise all SADC citizens to unite for the collective good of the present and future generations. I appeal to every one of us, no matter where we are, to remain vigilant in safeguarding our rich liberation heritage, collective sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The modern, industrialised and integrated SADC 'we all want' shall be realised through hard-honest work, focus,

commitment, unity of purpose and collective determination. None, but us the SADC citizens will build and transform our region.

In conclusion, I wish the SADC family a blessed, peaceful and commemorative liberation day.

**Long live our Solidarity.**

**Long live our Independence, Freedom and Sovereignty.**

**I thank you.**



**DR. E. D. MNANGAGWA**

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE  
AND CHAIRPERSON OF SADC**