

**VOTE OF THANKS BY Ms. OLIVIA RAKOTONIRINA, DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATION AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR, SADC MEDIA COORDINATOR, INCOMING
CHAIRPERSON OF THE REGIONAL ADJUDICATION COMMITTEE (RAC) OF
SADC MEDIA AWARDS**

30th Regional Adjudication Committee Meeting of the SADC Media Awards

26 June 2025

Ms. Oleen Ndori, Chairperson of the 30th Regional Adjudication Committee of the SADC Media Awards,

Mr Innocent Mbvundula and SADC Secretariat Team,

Distinguished members of the Committee and SADC Media Coordinators,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I address you today, on behalf of the Republic of Madagascar, which has been designated to assume the next chairship of the Regional Adjudication Committee of the SADC Media Awards.

Allow me to begin by expressing my deepest gratitude to all of you for your good wishes on the occasion of Madagascar Independence Day which we celebrate today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the SADC Secretariat for the effective coordination of this 30th session, and to the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe for its support and warm hospitality throughout this meeting. I also commend the commitment and professionalism of all jury members, who have once again demonstrated fairness, diligence, and integrity in evaluating this year's submissions.

Allow me to pay special tribute to the outgoing Chairperson for the commendable work accomplished and the momentum instilled in this Committee. We are fully aware of the importance of the task ahead, and it is with deep respect for what has been achieved that we prepare to take up the baton in two months' time.

From now on, we are committed to upholding the values of integrity, transparency, and journalistic excellence that underpin this competition. We also aspire to

strengthen inclusiveness by encouraging greater participation of young people and women in journalism—who represent the future of our media and of our societies.

Once again, thank you for the trust placed in Madagascar and I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the 31th RAC meeting to be held in Madagascar in June 2026.

We look forward to working closely with all of you to ensure that the voices of the peoples of the SADC region continue to shine through bold, responsible, and impactful journalism.

Thank you for your attention.