



## **REMARKS**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. ELIAS M. MAGOSI  
SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF**

**THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF  
MINISTERS OF JUSTICE/ ATTORNEYS GENERAL**

**11 JULY 2025**

**Honourable Ziyambi Ziyambi, Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe,**

**Honourable Ministers of Justice/ Attorneys General from SADC Member States,**

**Chairperson of the Committee of Senior Legal Officials, Permanent Secretaries and Delegates from SADC Member States,**

**SADC Secretariat Staff,**

**Partners from the Media,**

**Good morning.**

I am honoured to welcome you all to this virtual meeting of the SADC Committee of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General (“the Committee”), to discuss and exchange ideas on how to collectively accelerate SADC regional integration, and to take stock of the regional performance on SADC legal instruments. Your meeting will also review progress in the implementation of decisions of the SADC Council of Ministers, the Action Plan of the Committee, and consider a number of draft SADC legal instruments for clearance.

Allow me at the outset, **Honourable Ministers/Attorneys General**, to extend our profound gratitude to the Chairperson of the Committee, Honourable Ziyambi Ziyambi, Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe for the leadership provided in guiding the work of the Committee during the tenure of Zimbabwe as the Chair of SADC. This also extends to all Honourable Ministers of the Committee who supported the Chairperson in executing your sectoral mandate. I am, therefore, grateful that you have taken time from your busy schedules to attend this virtual meeting and continue to address legal matters that affect our Community.

**Honourable Ministers**, as we are all aware, the goal of the region is to integrate, and programmes of regional integration are advanced through the ratification and implementation of legal instruments or protocols.

As I stated earlier, this meeting provides an opportunity for you to note and appreciate how the region is performing on SADC legal instruments. I must, however, highlight that the picture is not good. It is for this reason that I keep appealing to the Committee to continue imploring Member States to sign, ratify and accede to SADC legal instruments. Some of the legal instruments adopted as far back 2005, 2012 and 2014, have so far not entered into force yet, as presented in your documents today.

The Committee will also receive updates on, and deliberate upon several other important matters, including the Report of the Study on distinguishing Legal Instruments that may or may not be subjected to ratification; the appointment of a Judge to the SADC Administrative Tribunal; and the Council Decision regarding the expeditious conclusion of matters before the SADC Administrative Tribunal.

Further, your meeting will consider a number of draft legal instruments that have been recommended by the relevant Sectoral Ministerial Committees for consideration and clearance. These include the:

- (i) Draft Agreement Amending the Protocol on Finance and Investment (Provisions Relating to Anti-Money Laundering);
- (ii) Draft Amendments to the Protocol on Trade, including those concerning SADC rules of origin, application of safeguard measures, elimination of non-Tariff Barriers to trade, and trade facilitation measures; and
- (iii) Draft Agreement amending the Charter establishing the Southern African Development Community Aviation Safety Organisation (SASO).

These amendments are intended to improve the SADC legal framework that is key to facilitate SADC regional integration.

**Honourable Ministers/ Attorneys General**, let me commend you for the tremendous work you have done in implementing your Committee's Action Plan, which was approved in 2016. Notable progress has been made in the implementation of the areas of cooperation identified in the Action Plan.

These include the implementation of the Protocol on Extradition and the Protocol on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, the recognition and enforcement of foreign civil judgements and foreign arbitral awards, and the harmonisation of authentication procedures and the enforcement of maintenance orders, among others. Reports on these areas of cooperation and their recommendations have facilitated regional integration and cooperation. It is a remarkable achievement that planned interventions in eleven of the thirteen areas of cooperation in the Action Plan, that are within the control of your Committee, have been successfully implemented. This translates into eighty-five percent implementation rate. The two remaining areas will be considered today, alongside the proposed new areas of cooperation for inclusion into your Committee's Action Plan.

As I conclude, may I applaud SADC Member States for their continued support of the legal sector which has enabled the Committee to discharge its mandate as provided for in the Protocol on Legal Affairs.

Allow me to thank once again Honourable Chairperson of the Committee, Honourable Ziyambi Ziyambi, for his leadership in steering the work of the Committee of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General.

May I also thank the Senior Legal Officials under the leadership of Mrs. Vimbai Nyemba, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe, for the work they did in the past four days in clearing the documentation for your meeting today. The seamless collaboration between the Senior Officials and the Secretariat has made it easier to prepare documents for the Committee's meeting.

Allow me to also recognise the dedication and professionalism demonstrated by the Secretariat staff and the continued support rendered to me, which have enabled me to discharge my duties.

I wish you, **Honourable Ministers/ Attorneys General**, fruitful deliberations.

**I thank you for your attention!**

**Merci beaucoup! Muito obrigado! Asante sana! Tatenda! Siyabonga!**