



REMARKS

BY

**PROF. KULA I. THELETSANE, DIRECTOR - ORGAN ON POLITICS,
DEFENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE LAUNCH OF THE SADC ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION
(SEOM) TO THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES' 25, 26 AND 27
SEPTEMBER 2025 PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ELECTIONS**

20 SEPTEMBER 2025

EDEN BLEU HOTEL, VICTORIA

Your Worship, Honourable Justice Andrew K. C. Nyirenda, Senior Counsel (SC), former Chief Justice of the Republic of Malawi and Head of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission to the Republic of Seychelles' 2025 Presidential and National Assembly Elections;

Distinguished Members of the SADC Organ Troika;

Distinguished Representatives of the Government of the Republic of Seychelles;

Chairperson and Representatives of the Electoral Commission of Seychelles (ECS);

Distinguished Representatives of International Electoral Observation Missions;

Your Excellencies, Heads and Representatives of Diplomatic Missions Accredited to the Republic of Seychelles;

Members of the SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC);

SADC Election Observers;

Representatives of Local Election Observers;

Religious Leaders and Members of Civil Society Organisations;

Members of the Media;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning.

I am pleased to welcome you to the official launch of the SADC Election Observation Mission (SEOM) to the Republic of Seychelles' Presidential and National Assembly Elections, on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Elias Mpedi Magosi, the Executive Secretary of SADC. This mission has been mandated by His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the

Republic of Malawi and Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

I am also honoured to present to you, His Worship Honourable Justice Andrew K. C. Nyirenda, Senior Counsel (SC), former Chief Justice of the Republic of Malawi, who has been appointed by His Excellency President Chakwera, as the Head of Mission for SEOM Seychelles.

Allow me to further acknowledge in our midst, the presence of the distinguished Members of the Organ Troika from the Republic of Malawi, the Kingdom of Eswatini and the United Republic of Tanzania, who provide the necessary support to the Head of Mission.

SEOM Seychelles is also supported by members of the SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC), namely Madam Jennifer Chiriga, SEAC Chairperson and member representing the Republic of Zimbabwe, and Justice Ticheme Dlamini, SEAC member representing the Kingdom of Eswatini, who are mandated to provide advisory guidance to the SEOM Leadership.

The SADC Secretariat is mandated to facilitate the full implementation of this SEOM, including the refresher training of observers which took place from 14 to 17 September 2025 at the Eden Bleu Hotel.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,**

As you would have experienced from your arrival at this ceremony, this mission is undertaking a paperless mission in line with SADC Council Decision. We are confident that our endeavouring into this paperless process will further strengthen the level of our delivery of the SEOM mandate as we remain environmentally conscious and responsible.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,**

Our common goals and aspiration to achieve the Africa we want and a prosperous SADC region relies heavily on the attainment and uphold of fundamental democratic and good governance principles – some of which will be assessed as part of the *SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections*. They equally rest on the continued support of each Member States which, through their fraternity, nominate and deploy observers to SEOMs across the region to conduct this assessment and implement each SEOM. As such, it is our most fervent wish that our esteemed host joins the regional collective to deploy observers to upcoming elections in SADC Member States so that we journey together rightfully, on this, our common path of Regional Integration.

Having delivered these few words, I am now honoured to invite you to join me in welcoming, on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Elias Mpedi Magosi, the Executive Secretary of SADC, His Worship, Honourable Justice Andrew K. C. Nyirenda, Senior Counsel (SC), former Chief Justice of the Republic of Malawi, and Head of Mission of SEOM Seychelles, to deliver his remarks and officially launch the mission.

I thank you, Merci Beaucoup