



INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY MR. ELIAS M. MAGOSI
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF SADC**

**AT THE EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE SADC HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENT**

17TH DECEMBER 2025

VIRTUAL

Your Excellency Mr. Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, and Chairperson of SADC;

Your Excellency Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, and Outgoing Chairperson of SADC;

Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government;

Honourable Mr. Ronald Lamola, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, and Interim Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers;

Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers;

Senior Officials;

SADC Secretariat Staff;

Members of the Press;

Good afternoon!

It is a profound honour and a great privilege to welcome Your **Excellencies** to this Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government. At the outset, allow me to express our heartfelt gratitude to His Excellency President Ramaphosa for hosting this meeting, on the backdrop of a very successful but demanding G20 Summit he hosted a few weeks ago.

I wish to also extend gratitude to Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government for creating time from your demanding schedules to join this meeting and discuss issues of critical importance in the advancement of our regional integration agenda, including maintenance of peace, security and political stability in the region.

Your Excellencies, the Extraordinary Summit will this afternoon consider a report from the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation regarding the October 2025 Technical Fact-Finding Mission to the Republic of Madagascar. The Summit will also consider and possibly elect the interim Incoming Chairperson of SADC in accordance with our established principles.

These matters are urgent and therefore require the Extraordinary SADC Summit to decide upon and enable a smooth functioning and execution of the region's affairs, guided by the very principles of solidarity and unity of purpose, upon which SADC was founded.

Your Excellencies, you are called yet again to decide on one of our Member State that has faced disturbances and instability, all which occurred right after a successful ordinary SADC Summit held in Madagascar. We have the full confidence that, with your collective wisdom and leadership, a lasting solution will be found to help the Member State to get back to normalcy, as well as address all issues that caused these unfortunate developments.

We trust that the region will partner with Madagascar as she goes into a transitional period but also hold the country accountable for all its commitments to achieve a speedy restoration of peace and stability, rule of law, and expedited reforms. This stance will ensure that the country starts a new chapter towards a progressive, sustainable, enduring democracy.

Your Excellencies will also recall that the Extraordinary Summit of 7th November 2025, appointed the Republic of South Africa as Interim Chair of SADC, following the decision of the Republic of Madagascar to relinquish her role as the Chair of SADC. The withdrawal of Madagascar created a gap in the SADC Troika which ought to be closed to ensure a smooth functioning of SADC. It is in this regard, and as part of the agenda today, the Extraordinary Summit will consider and possibly elect the interim Incoming Chairperson of SADC.

We are, therefore, confident that the outcomes of this Extraordinary Summit will deepen our unity and strengthen our shared commitment to building a region where peace flourishes, solidarity thrives, and integration drives prosperity.

With these few remarks, it is now my singular honour and privilege to invite His Excellency Mr. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, and Chairperson of SADC, to deliver his address and officially open this Extraordinary Summit.

I thank you most sincerely for your kind attention.

Merci beaucoup! Muito obrigado! Asante Sana! Zikomo!
Ke a leboga!