



SPEECH

BY

**THE SECRETARY FOR INDUSTRIALISATION,
BUSINESS, TRADE AND TOURISM**

AT THE

**COORDINATED BORDER MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL STRATEGY VALIDATION WORKSHOP**

SUNBIRD CAPITAL HOTEL, 28TH APRIL, 2026

SALUTATIONS

- The SADC Secretariat Representative
- The Director of Trade in Goods
- The representative of GIZ here present
- Representatives from Border Agencies
- Representatives from Private Sector
- Distinguished Participants
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning.

1. It is a great honour and privilege for me to join you this morning at this important validation workshop for the Malawi Coordinated Border Management (CBM) National Strategy. This initiative is closely aligned with the Malawi 2063 Malawi Implementation Plan¹ under Private Sector Dynamism enabler and our broader vision of transforming trade facilitation into a driver of economic growth and regional competitiveness.
2. I wish to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat for their continued support to Malawi in advancing trade facilitation and regional integration initiatives.

Distinguished participants,

3. Today's workshop marks a significant milestone in our efforts to strengthen the efficiency, transparency, and coordination of border management in Malawi. The development of this CBM National Strategy is a critical step towards realizing our national and regional trade facilitation objectives. It demonstrates our government's commitment to ensuring that Malawi's borders are not barriers to trade, but gateways to prosperity and regional connectivity.

4. Efficient border management is central to facilitating trade, enhancing security, and improving service delivery. Through coordinated approaches, agencies operating at the border such as customs, immigration, health and security services can work together seamlessly, sharing information, streamlining procedures, and reducing duplication of efforts. This not only reduces the cost and time of doing business but also strengthens our competitiveness as a country within the SADC region and beyond. For traders and businesses, this means faster clearance times, greater predictability, and improved transparency.

Distinguished participants,

5. The formulation of this Strategy has been a collaborative effort involving multiple stakeholders from the public and private sectors. I wish to commend all institutions which opened doors and put their invaluable input throughout the process of developing this Strategy. The inclusive approach adopted ensures that it accurately reflects national priorities and aligns with the SADC Regional CBM Framework and the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement.
6. As we validate this important strategy, I urge all stakeholders to view this process not merely as an administrative exercise, but as an opportunity to reaffirm our shared commitment to transform the way we manage our borders. Implementation will require continued collaboration, resource mobilization, and capacity building across institutions especially those remaining at the border.
7. In that regard, I wish to assure you that the Government of Malawi remains committed to providing the necessary policy guidance and coordination to ensure that the CBM Strategy is effectively operationalized. We also look forward to continued technical and financial support from SADC and

our development partners to help us implement the identified actions and sustain the momentum generated so far.

Distinguished participants,

8. Allow me once again to extend our appreciation to the EU, GIZ and the SADC Secretariat for the technical assistance and financial support towards the development of this strategy and for sponsoring this validation workshop. Your support reflects the true spirit of regional cooperation and solidarity that SADC stands for.
9. In conclusion, I wish to encourage all of you to actively participate in this workshop's deliberations. Your insights, feedback, and validation are critical to ensuring that the final CBM National Strategy is comprehensive, practical, and responsive to Malawi's needs.
10. Together, let us transform Malawi's borders into engines of growth, cooperation, and opportunity.

With these remarks, it is now my singular honour and privilege to officially open this Validation Workshop for the Malawi's Coordinated Border Management (CBM) Strategy.

Thank you.