



PRESS RELEASE

SADC hosts the Annual Conference of Heads of Corrections/ Prisons/ Penitentiary Services in Salima, Republic of Malawi from 19 - 22 May 2026

17 May 2026, Gaborone, Botswana – The Southern African Development Community (SADC), with the support of the Republic of Malawi, will convene the Annual Conference of SADC Heads of Corrections/ Prisons /Penitentiary Services from 19 to 22 May 2026 in Salima, Republic of Malawi, at the Sunbird Livingstonia Hotel.

Under the theme *“Pathways to Change: Facilitating Effective Offender Rehabilitation and Reintegration in Corrections/Prisons,”* the conference reflects a growing regional and global shift from purely punitive approaches towards rehabilitation and reintegration. This shift comes in response to persistent challenges such as overcrowding in correctional facilities as well as high recidivism rates.

The conference will be officially opened by the **Honourable Peter Mukhito, Minister of Homeland Security of the Republic of Malawi**, who will set the tone for the deliberations.

The conference aims to strengthen regional cooperation and networking among SADC Correctional Services by promoting the exchange of best practices, addressing shared challenges and fostering innovation in rehabilitation and reintegration. The deliberations will also explore programmes, tools and approaches that support behavioural change and promote the successful reintegration of offenders into society.

It will explore innovative approaches in rehabilitation including restorative justice, diversion programmes, psychosocial support and community-based reintegration initiatives. It will also reinforce compliance with international frameworks such as the Nelson Mandela Rules, thereby ensuring the humane treatment of inmates and the respect for their inherent dignity and rights.

The Conference will benefit from global insights in Prison Reform from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as well as stakeholders insights on Collaboration beyond the walls.

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SADC in Brief

SADC is an organisation of 16 Member States established in 1980 as the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference (SADCC) and later, in August, 1992 transformed into the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The mission of SADC is to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient, productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration, good governance and durable peace and security; so that the region emerges as a competitive and effective player in international relations and the world economy. Member States are Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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