



**Statement by His Excellency Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of
the Republic of Malawi and Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics,
Defence and Security Cooperation**

I am honoured to address fellow citizens of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as the Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

In accordance with their Constitution, the people of the Republic of Zambia are set to hold their General Election on August 13, 2026. This is the sole scheduled general election for the year within the SADC region, and most SADC Member States demonstrated their unity by deploying a large number of election observers to participate in the SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM).

The SEOM is a key part of our community, aimed at strengthening democracy through regular, credible, free, fair, and transparent elections. These elections support stable political and economic transitions. Therefore, the SEOM follows the SADC Principles and Guidelines for Democratic Elections, which also emphasize the importance of full and inclusive citizen participation in electoral and democratic processes across all Member States.

My message today is to emphasize the importance of utmost respect for peace and tolerance, both during and after election day. I encourage all eligible voters in Zambia to seize this opportunity to directly influence their country's leadership by voting peacefully on August 13th, 2026.

**H.E. PROFESSOR ARTHUR PETER MUTHARIKA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI AND CHAIRPERSON
OF THE SADC ORGAN ON POLITICS, DEFENCE AND SECURITY
COOPERATION**

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