



**48TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY VIRTUAL SESSION
4TH TO 5TH DECEMBER 2020**

**NOTICE OF MOTION ON A MATTER OF URGENCY AND REGIONAL
IMPORTANCE: THE DEBT CANCELLATION CAMPAIGN INITIATIVE AND
CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS AND HEADS OF AFRICAN PARLIAMENTS**

Mover: Honourable Speaker Thandi MODISE, South Africa
Seconder: Honourable Speaker Professor Peter KATJAVIVI,
Namibia

Date for which Notice is given: Friday 4th December 2020

Question Proposed: That the 48th Plenary Assembly Session of the SADC
PF:-

RECALLING: Rule 26(4) of the SADC Parliamentary Forum Rules of
Procedure regarding the tabling of motions on matters of urgency and
regional importance;

CONCERNED that the impact of COVID-19 has had a destabilising and
potentially devastating effect on our societies and our collective economies in
Africa;

DEEPLY CONCERNED that the pandemic is projected to deteriorate even
further in coming months, posing further threats to livelihoods and security
in the region;

AWARE that, well before the outbreak of COVID-19, most African countries
were heavily indebted, with statistics showing that more than half of African
countries spend more on debt servicing than they do on education or
healthcare – sectors crucial to Africa and our region's socio-economic
development;

APPRECIATING that, globally, a range of voices – including the Heads of State and Government of the African Union – continue to advocate for the cancellation of Africa’s debt in light of these extenuating circumstances;

EMPHASISING that, as lawmakers and custodians of our respective democracies, we have the responsibility to join these global efforts in canvassing for the cancellation of Africa’s debt, especially during the ongoing COVID -19 pandemic;

STRESSING that we need to have a more cohesive Pan-African Parliamentary voice to support the global campaign for Africa’s debt cancellation;

CONSIDERING the establishment of the Conference of Speakers and Heads of African Parliaments (CoSAP), officially launched in October 2020, by the Speakers of the parliaments of Nigeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal, and South Africa;

NOTING the CoSAP’s overall goal to foster collaboration between Speakers and Presiding Officers across Africa to jointly tackle challenges impacting our continent and build on opportunities for collective growth towards advancing the African developmental agenda;

FURTHER NOTING the CoSAP’s flagship African Speakers Debt Cancellation Campaign Initiative (DCCI) which seeks to advocate for the cancellation of African Debts to provide fiscal space for economic recovery and development on the continent;

EMPHASISING that our various SADC Parliaments, through their constitutionally embedded mandates, have a role to play in promoting transparency and accountability, tackling corruption, and improving oversight over loan approvals and the judicious utilization of the same in our respective countries;

FURTHER EMPHASISING that SADC Parliaments should commit to advocate for debt relief and ensure that all resources made available from such efforts are transparently used and fully accounted for;

NOW, THEREFORE:

- i) Urges SADC Member Parliaments to join and support the Conference of Speakers & Heads of African parliaments (CoSAP) and African Speakers Debt Cancellation Campaign Initiative (DCCI); and

ii) Calls on Member Parliament to support this motion and pledge to advocate for debt cancellation as a remedy to the current dilemma the region and continent is facing.

SIGNATURE OF THE MOVER:
