



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

**NOTICE OF MOTION ON THE IMPACT OF THE AFRICAN
MIGRATORY LOCUST ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA**

Mover: Honourable Tshitereke Baldwin MATIBE, MP, South Africa

Seconder: Honourable Tambudzani MOHADI, MP, Zimbabwe

Date for which Notice is given: Saturday 5th December 2020

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

AWARE that since May 2020, the African Migratory Locust (AML) has been recorded in eight SADC Member States, namely, Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia;

DEEPLY CONCERNED that the AML poses a threat to agriculture and food security in Southern Africa and if not controlled, it is likely to exacerbate the food crisis, pose a danger to crop production and livestock grazing during the 2020/2021 farming season and beyond;

AWARE that prior to the emergence of the AML, about 44.8 million people in the Southern Africa region were already experiencing food insecurity;

COMMENDING the prompt and coordinated interventions by SADC to control the spread of the AML, working with partners such as Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations and the International

Red Locust Control Organisation for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA);

APPRECIATING the collaborative support to SADC by FAO and IRLCO-CSA which has culminated into the launch of the Regional Locust Response Plan with a budgetary support amounting to US\$4.3 million meant for surveillance, control operations and to safeguard livelihoods from the impact of the AML;

NOTING that Climate change is believed to be the major driver of new wave of pests and plant diseases due to changes in weather patterns that create conducive environment for introduction, establishment and spread of new pests and diseases;

FURTHER NOTING that as a result of climate change, there is an influx of other equally destructive plant pests and diseases with potential to threaten the SADC regional food security, such as fruit flies, fall armyworm, tomato leaf miner tuta absoluta, banana fusarium wilt, banana buncy top virus, cassava brown streak virus and wheat blast disease;

DEEPLY CONCERNED that the AML exacerbates the economic challenges Member States are already facing, including resource constraints posed by COVID-19 response mechanisms;

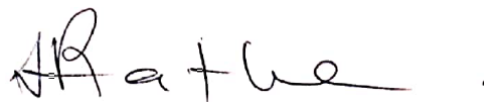
CONCERNED that the pesticides used to control the spread of the AML have potential to cause adverse environmental effects on human health and ecosystems;

NOTING that the COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated the food crisis in Southern Africa and food security is projected to deteriorate even further.

NOW THEREFORE:

- i) *Urges* SADC Member States to work closely with SADC and partners such as FAO, IRLCO-CSA and other institutions to strengthen the existing linkages to ensure effective and timely collective action in managing the AML and other pests that threaten the food security of the region;
- ii) *Encourages* Member Parliaments to advocate and lobby their respective Governments to adequately fund and capacitate institutions mandated with the responsibility to manage the spread of the AML;

- iii) *Calls* upon Member States to adopt integrated pest management systems in managing the locusts in order to effectively control the further spread of the pests;
- iv) *Urges* all SADC Member States to collaborate with the International Red Locust Control Organisation for Central and Southern Africa in order to benefit from the interventions that are being explored to control the AML;
- v) *Encourages* Member States to periodically carry out environmental impact assessments in order to ascertain the environmental damage that may occur as a result of the use of the chemical pesticides in pest control.
- vi) *Further encourages* Member States to adhere to the guidelines of the Rotterdam Convention to protect human health and the environment when disposing chemical pesticides used to control pests;
- vii) *Urges* Member States to prioritise and support national industry for the production and registration of biopesticides;
- viii) *Calls* upon all Member States to work together to strengthen the capacity of affected countries and regional institutions to respond to the AML threat;
- ix) *Urges* National Parliaments to use their mandate to encourage their respective governments to take prompt action to control the further spread of the AML;
- x) *Calls* upon Members States to enhance surveillance, information sharing and early warning systems for transboundary plant pests and diseases; and
- xi) *Appeals* to Member States to reinforce efforts towards addressing the issue of climate change, as it is evident that it has far reaching effects on both human beings and the environment.



SIGNATURE OF THE MOVER:
