



**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY
ON 4TH AND 5TH JUNE 2021 TO THE 49TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY
SESSION,
25TH TO 27TH JUNE 2021**

1. PREAMBLE

The Executive Committee (EXCO) of the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) met virtually via the ZOOM video conferencing platform on 4th and 5th June 2021. The EXCO now presents its report containing its recommendations and resolutions to the Plenary Assembly for consideration, adoption and/or noting as the case may be.

2. CREDENTIAL OF DELEGATES

2.1 PRESENT

2.1.1 SUBSTANTIVE MEMBERS

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| 1. Hon. Speaker Christophe Mboso N'kodia Pwanga (<i>President</i>) | DRC |
| 2. Hon. Dr. Fiarovana Lovanirina Celéstin (<i>Vice President</i>) | Madagascar |
| 3. Hon. Darren Bergman (<i>Treasurer</i>) | South Africa |
| 4. Hon. Speaker Fernando da Piedade Dias Dos Santos | Angola |
| 5. Hon. Senator Isaac Mmemo Magagula (<i>proxy for Hon Speaker Petros Mavimbela</i>) | Eswatini |
| 6. Hon. Tsēpang Tšita-Mosena | Lesotho |
| 7. Hon Deputy Speaker, Mohammud Zaid Nazurally | Mauritius |
| 8. Hon. Jeronima_Agostinho | Mozambique |
| 9. Hon. Speaker Professor Peter H. Katjavivi | Namibia |
| 10. Hon. Dought Ndiweni | Zimbabwe |
| 11. Hon. Anne-Marie Mbilambangu, (Ex-Officio) | RWPC Chairperson |

2.1.2 INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY MEMBERS

11. Hon. Speaker Adv. Jacob Francis Nzwidamilimo Mudenda, Zimbabwe

2.1.3 APOLOGIES

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| 1. Hon. Josefina Pitra Diakite | Angola |
| 2. Hon. Polson Majaga | Botswana |
| 3. Hon. Speaker Petros Mavimbela | Eswatini |
| 4. Rt. Hon. Speaker Catherine Gotani Hara | Malawi |
| 5. Hon. Samuel Dalitso Kawale | Malawi |

6. Hon. Speaker Esperanca Laurinda Francisco Nhiuane Bias Mozambique
7. Hon. Annie Rosie Bistoquet Seychelles
8. Female MP (TBA) Tanzania
9. Hon. Speaker Justice Dr. Patrick Matibini Zambia

2.1.4 IN ATTENDANCE

1. Ms. Boemo M. Sekgoma, Secretary General SADC PF
2. Ms. Barbara Dithapo, Chairperson of the Committee of Clerks, Botswana
3. Ms. Penelope Baby Tyawa, Acting Clerk of the National Assembly, South Africa
4. Mr. Calvin Andrianitarijato, Clerk of the National Assembly, Madagascar
5. Ms Liva Norohanta Harinoelina Raharison Madagascar
6. Mr Soatsara Marciella Diademe Benandrasana Madagascar
7. Mr Jaime Numaio Mozambique
8. Ms. Maria Mombola Namibia
9. Ms Cornelia N. Tjaondjo Namibia
10. Ms. Carmen Jacobs South Africa
11. Ms Zurina Jardine South Africa
12. Ms. Natalie Leibrandt-Loxton South Africa
13. Mr Cleophas Gwakwara Zimbabwe
14. Mr. David Makowa Zimbabwe
15. Ms. Martha Mushandinga Zimbabwe
16. Mr. Ndamuka Marimo Zimbabwe
17. Ms. Yapoka Mungandi SADC PF
18. Mr. Sheuneni Kurasha SADC PF
19. Mr. Modise Kabeli SADC PF
20. Ms. Agnes Lilungwe SADC PF

2.1.5 CREDENTIALS OF DELEGATES

In presenting the credentials of delegates, the Secretary General, Ms Boemo Sekgoma, noted that eleven (11) out of the seventeen (17) Members of the Executive Committee were present. The EXCO, therefore, constituted a quorum to conduct its business.

3.0 HOSTING OF THE 49TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY SESSION

- 3.1** The Executive Committee invites the 49th Plenary Assembly to express its profound gratitude to the Parliament of Botswana and the Host Speaker, Hon. Speaker Phandu Chaha Skelemani, for his able supervision of the hosting of the virtual 49th Plenary Assembly of the SADC PF. The EXCO also requests Hon. Speaker Skelemani to convey the 49th Plenary Assembly's gratitude to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Botswana, Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, for

gracing this occasion and officially opening the Plenary Assembly session.

4.0 THEME OF THE 49TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY

- 4.1** The Executive Committee commends the Office of the President and the Secretary General as well as members of the Parliamentary Business Sub-Committee for proposing a substantive theme, ***“Leveraging the AfCFTA for Post-Covid Economic Recovery in Southern Africa: The Role of the SADC Parliamentary Forum and National Parliaments.”*** The EXCO applauds the timeliness and relevance of the theme in view of the recent commencement of the AfCFTA agreement in January 2021. Additionally, the EXCO noted with satisfaction that SADC Member States are focusing on economic recovery post-COVID with the African Continental Free Trade Area opening up a gateway of novel opportunities in terms of localisation of capacities and value chains, diversification of export destinations as well as increasing intra-regional and intra-Africa trade to counter overreliance on global supply chains. The theme is thus appropriate and timely.

5.0 ALLOCATED TIME FOR MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS DURING THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

- 5.1** The EXCO invites the Plenary Assembly to note that the proposed time limitations during debates in terms of Rule 33 (3) of the SADC-PF Rules of Procedure during the 49th Plenary Assembly session are as follows:

5.1.1 Each Member to speak for 4 minutes;

5.1.2 Movers of Motions to be allocated a maximum of 10 minutes to table Motions and 5 minutes to conclude after debate;

5.1.3 Exception will be granted to the EXCO Report, including the Treasurer’s Report, which will be allocated 20 to 25 minutes for presentation and 10 to 15 minutes for responses after debate;

5.1.4 Observers who are invited to address the Plenary Assembly pursuant to Rule of Procedure 43 (5) will be allocated a maximum of 5 minutes; and,

5.1.5 Speakers or Leaders of Delegations who are given the opportunity to make a statement in line with Rule 45, will be granted 5 minutes.

5.2 MEDIA COVERAGE FOR THE 49TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY SESSION

The Executive Committee invites the 49th Plenary Assembly to commend media personnel of the Parliament of Botswana, the SADC PF and national Parliaments for leveraging on the Media and Communication Plan developed by the SADC PF and the Parliament of Botswana to heighten publicity and the visibility of the Forum before,

during and after the 49th Plenary Assembly session. This commendable initiative will assist in projecting a positive image of the Forum especially as we pursue the Transformation Agenda ahead of the SADC Summit set for August 2021.

6.0 UPDATE ON THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE SADC PF INTO A SADC REGIONAL PARLIAMENT

- 6.1** The EXCO wishes to advise the Plenary Assembly that the Strategic Lobby Team of Hon. Speakers, led by the Chairperson and Speaker of the Parliament of Zimbabwe, Hon. Advocate Jacob Francis Nzwidamilimo Mudenda, convened highly interactive meetings with Hon. Speakers of SADC Parliaments of the following countries, namely, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Botswana, Seychelles, Zambia, DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar and South Africa in March 2021. These deliberations were aimed at consolidating the views among Hon. Speakers of SADC Parliaments on the Transformation Agenda.
- 6.2** As an outcome of these strategic meetings and through the facilitation of Hon. Speaker Catherine Gotani Hara, the Strategic Lobby Team of Hon. Speakers also convened a fruitful meeting with His Excellency, Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi, on 24th May 2021. The EXCO is pleased to advise the Plenary Assembly that, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Malawi, has fully committed to support the Transformation Agenda during the forthcoming August 2021 SADC Summit. The EXCO invites the Plenary Assembly to commend Hon. Speaker Hara for facilitating this hugely successful meeting with His Excellency, President Dr. Chakwera.
- 6.3** Pursuant to this, those Member Parliaments that are yet to do so, were encouraged to arrange meetings with Heads of State and Government, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and their Permanent Secretaries as well as their Clerks of Parliaments under the Speakers' auspices to clarify any grey areas that may still exist and elicit affirmative responses to the Transformation Agenda ahead of the August SADC Summit. In that regard, the SADC PF Secretariat was tasked to fashion a schedule of meetings with Heads of State in the Region in liaison with respective Speakers of Parliament to enable the finalisation of the Lobby process. The matter is tabled to the Plenary Assembly for noting.

7.0 ENCOURAGING THE UNION OF COMOROS TO JOIN THE FORUM

- 7.1** In line with the principle of regional integration as espoused in Article 6(c) of the SADC PF Constitution, the EXCO reiterated its commitment to continue engaging the Union of Comoros to persuade it to join the Forum. The EXCO recognized that in the absence of the Union of Comoros, the SADC PF family remains incomplete. To that end, the EXCO resolved to constitute a delegation comprising Hon. Speaker Roger Mancienne (Seychelles), Hon. Speaker Advocate Jacob Francis Nzwidamilimo Mudenda (Zimbabwe), Hon. Speaker Professor Peter H.

Katjavivi (Namibia), Hon. Speaker Christine Razanamahasoa (Madagascar), and either Hon. Speaker Esperanca Laurinda Francisco Nhiuane Bias (Mozambique) or Hon. Speaker Catherine Gotani Hara (Malawi) depending on their availability, as well as the Secretary General, to travel to the Union of Comoros to physically engage the Speaker of the Parliament of the Union of Comoros with a view to canvas the national Parliament to join the Forum. This would be implemented when flight restrictions and quarantine requirements due to COVID-19 are eased up in the relevant Member States such that the SADC-PF delegation can travel safely to the Comoros. The matter is presented to the Plenary Assembly for noting.

8.0 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE JOB EVALUATION AND SALARY REVIEW EXERCISES

- 8.1** The EXCO wishes to advise the Plenary Assembly that the Job Evaluation and Salary Review Exercises should be concluded within the next three months or so. Being cognisant of the heavy burden placed on SADC national economies by the COVID-19 pandemic, the EXCO has tasked the Committee of Clerks/Secretaries General to accommodate the proposed organizational structure and salary review exercise within the current budget without increasing the annual mandatory contributions. The report once concluded will be tabled to the Plenary Assembly for approval. The matter is presented to the Plenary Assembly for noting.

9.0 SECONDMENT OF MEDIA SPECIALIST BY THE PARLIAMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

- 9.1** The EXCO invites the 49th Plenary Assembly to commend the Parliament of South Africa for graciously seconding a Media Specialist, Mr. Modise Kabeli, to the Forum. It is envisaged that the secondment of Mr. Kabeli will come in handy in projecting a positive image of the Forum as well as raising the visibility of the Forum especially as we pursue transformation ahead of the make-or-break August SADC Summit.

10.0 UPDATE ON THE COVID-19 SITUATION ACROSS SADC

- 10.1** The EXCO wishes to advise the Plenary Assembly that the Forum, in collaboration with other regional partners, has taken the initiative to take stock of the COVID-19 situation currently prevailing across the SADC region. The general trend is that most Member States are struggling to mitigate the transmission of the virus and no Member State was COVID free at the time of the survey. Vaccine availability remains a live issue in the SADC region as all Member States are struggling to procure vaccines from the international market. The COVAX facility sponsored by the WHO and other partners could assist developing nations to procure vaccines from a pool but the extent to

which the SADC region will be able tap from this facility is yet to be ascertained.

- 10.2** Given this context, the EXCO invites the Plenary Assembly to note the prevailing COVID-19 situation in the SADC Region and encourage Member States to explore all possible means of cooperation to pool procure vaccines, obtain essential medicines and mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, together with sharing information on the spread of new variants.

11.0 FINALISATION OF MODEL LAWS AT THE FORUM AT ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE

- 11.1** The EXCO wishes to remind the Plenary Assembly that the Forum, in collaboration with its partners, is spearheading the development of the SADC Model Law on Public Financial Management (PFM), and the SADC Model Law on Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Both Model Laws, which are at the drafting stage, are closely intertwined with the Strategic Plan of the Forum (2019-2023) and have linkages with the Forum's axes of interventions. In addition, both Model Laws will be of particular relevance to the SADC Region in the post-COVID-19 recovery period where it is likely that poor financial management can create social gaps that particularly affect women and young girls within households.

- 11.2** The EXCO invites the Plenary Assembly to note the progress in the development of the Model Laws and that both Model Laws should be ready for adoption at the Golden Jubilee of the Forum, that is, the 50th Plenary Assembly, later in 2021.

12.0 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY THE FORUM

- 12.1** The EXCO is pleased to advise the Plenary Assembly of the huge demand from national Parliaments and partners, for capacity development initiatives through the SADC Parliamentary Forum. This is in line with Strategic Objective 3 of the Forum's Strategic Plan which enjoins the Forum to ***“facilitate capacity development and other programs of support for Members and staff of Parliaments to augment skills, knowledge and competencies to face emerging challenges.”***

Accordingly, from February 2020 to May 2021, the SADC PF has conducted 82 capacity development programmes, covering a total of 1,624 participants.

- 12.2** The EXCO invites the Plenary Assembly to commend the Secretariat for the roll out of the afore stated capacity building programmes and encourage the Secretariat to continue capacitating Members and Staff in order to enhance their effectiveness in the discharge of the duties.

Mr. President, I so submit.

Hon. Speaker Christophe MBOSO N’KODIA PWANGA
PRESIDENT

DATE

Ms. Boemo Sekgoma
SECRETARY GENERAL

DATE