VOTE OF THANKS

BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE TLOHANG SEKHAMANE,

SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

ON BEHALF OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM,

DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 59TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY ON 21 NOVEMBER 2026, EZULWINI, KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

SALUTATIONS

It is both a privilege and a distinct honour to convey this Vote of Thanks on behalf of the SADC Parliamentary Forum and all delegates attending this 59th Plenary Assembly.

Guest of Honour, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, permit me, first and foremost, to express our profound appreciation for honouring us by officially opening this Assembly. Despite the weighty responsibilities of your high office, you have graciously joined us, lending distinction to this gathering and reaffirming Eswatini's commitment to parliamentary diplomacy, regional solidarity and cooperation.

Through you, Right Honourable Prime Minister, we respectfully convey our heartfelt gratitude to His Majesty King Mswati III, the King and iNgwenyama of the Kingdom of Eswatini, for the gracious hospitality extended to us. We are deeply touched by the warmth, generosity and spirit of *ubuntu* with which Their Majesties, the Government and the people of Eswatini have welcomed us.

Guest of Honour and Distinguished Delegates,

Our sincere appreciation goes to our gracious host, the Honourable Speaker Mabuza, and to the Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini for the excellent arrangements and the warm reception accorded to all delegates.

We could scarcely have imagined a more fitting setting for this Assembly than Ezulwini, aptly known as the *Valley of Heaven*. Its breathtaking natural beauty, rich cultural heritage and the warmth of its people have made our stay truly memorable. Indeed, there is something inspiring about gathering in this beautiful valley to deliberate on building a more just, inclusive and prosperous Southern Africa.

I also wish to commend the President of the SADC Parliamentary Forum for his distinguished leadership, and Her Excellency Boemo Sekgoma, the Secretary General, together with the entire Secretariat, for their dedication and tireless efforts in organising this Assembly in close collaboration with the host Parliament.

We equally appreciate the participation of the Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus and the Southern Africa Youth Parliament, whose voices remind us of the importance of inclusive regional development.

Our gratitude extends to fellow Speakers and Presiding Officers, Honourable Members of Parliament, Clerks and Secretaries General of Parliaments, parliamentary staff, development partners, distinguished guests, cultural performers, and everyone whose contributions have made this occasion a success.

Guest of Honour and Distinguished Delegates,

As I conclude, allow me once again to express our profound gratitude to the Right Honourable Prime Minister and, through him, to His Majesty King Mswati III; to the Parliament, Government and people of Eswatini; and to all who have made this occasion memorable.

May I invite you all to join me in a warm round of applause for our distinguished Guest of Honour, our gracious hosts and everyone who has contributed to the success of this occasion.

I thank you. Merci beaucoup. Muito obrigado. Siyabonga kakhulu.