**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**TO THE 59TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY ON FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**TREASURER'S PRESENTATION**

***Ezulwini, Kingdom of Eswatini, November 2026***

## SECONDER'S SPEECH

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO THE 59TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY ON FINANCIAL MATTERS

Honourable Mr President,

I rise to second the motion before this august Assembly and to express my support for the recommendations submitted for our consideration.

At the outset, I wish to acknowledge the work undertaken by the Treasurer, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat in preparing the financial papers before us. These documents provide an important basis for the decisions we must take as an institution, particularly at this defining stage in the evolution of the SADC Parliamentary Forum.

Honourable Members,

The matter before us goes beyond the approval of an annual budget. We are preparing an institution for a new chapter in its history: the transition from a Parliamentary Forum towards a SADC Regional Parliament. This transformation will bring greater expectations, a broader institutional role and an enhanced responsibility to the people of the Southern African Development Community.

Such an undertaking requires us to look beyond our existing arrangements and consider whether the resources, administrative

systems and institutional capabilities at our disposal are adequate for the responsibilities that lie ahead.

The proposed budget for 2027/2028 must therefore be viewed within this wider context. It provides an opportunity to begin putting in place the foundations upon which the future Parliament will operate. However, institutional growth must be accompanied by careful judgement, appropriate oversight and a clear understanding of the financial obligations that new arrangements will create.

Honourable Mr President,

I wish to emphasise that the success of this transition cannot rest upon the Secretariat alone. It calls for a collective undertaking by all Member Parliaments.

Our national Parliaments have an important role to play in ensuring that the emerging institution receives the support necessary to discharge its regional mandate. This includes honouring agreed financial commitments, facilitating the participation of Members in parliamentary activities, providing opportunities for staff secondments and supporting the development of the new institution.

The proposed arrangements for sharing the costs associated with parliamentary meetings also deserve our support. They offer a practical means of strengthening ownership among Member Parliaments while ensuring that the responsibilities of hosting and participating in regional parliamentary business are more evenly distributed.

Honourable Members,

As we move towards a Regional Parliament, we must also recognise that the institutional arrangements of yesterday may not be sufficient for the demands of tomorrow. The proposed realignment of the Secretariat is intended to provide the professional support, specialised expertise and administrative capacity required by a more developed parliamentary institution.

I also wish to underline the importance of maintaining strong accountability in the management of resources entrusted to the

Forum. The Assembly must remain assured that expenditure is properly authorised, that established controls are respected and that resources are directed towards activities which advance our common parliamentary objectives.

The financial papers before us should therefore be regarded not merely as records of past performance or projections of future expenditure, but as instruments to guide our collective choices and strengthen our stewardship of the institution.

Honourable Mr President,

The future SADC Regional Parliament will require a stronger sense of common purpose among Member States. Its effectiveness will depend not only on the legal and institutional arrangements that establish it, but also on the willingness of Member Parliaments to provide the practical support necessary for it to function.

We must consequently approach this transition with ambition, but also with realism. The decisions we take today should enable the institution to grow responsibly, preserve the confidence of Member Parliaments and position it to fulfil its regional mandate.

In light of the foregoing, I support the recommendations placed before the Assembly, namely:

1. That the Assembly takes note of the financial papers presented under Papers 1 to 4.
2. That the Assembly considers and approves the proposed budget for the 2027/2028 Financial Year under Paper 5.
3. That the Assembly takes note of the external support reflected in the proposed budget.

Honourable Mr President,

In conclusion, the transition to a SADC Regional Parliament presents us with a historic opportunity to strengthen parliamentary democracy, deepen regional cooperation and bring the work of our institution closer to the aspirations of the people of our region.

Let us ensure that the decisions we take are equal to the ambitions we have set for ourselves, and that our commitment to establishing

a credible and effective Regional Parliament is matched by the support and responsibility required to sustain it.

I have great pleasure in seconding the motion.

I thank you, Honourable Mr President.