SECONDER'S SPEECH ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT THE REPORT OF THE JOINT SITTING OF THE SADC PF STANDING COMMITTEES TO THE 59TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY

Mr President,

I rise to second the motion ably moved by the Mover.

The significance of this Report lies in its recognition that the challenges confronting our region are interconnected and require coordinated parliamentary responses. The Joint Sitting demonstrates the importance of collaboration across our Standing Committees in advancing democratic governance, human rights, gender equality, social inclusion and regional integration. Importantly, the Report reinforces the need to translate regional commitments into concrete national action through legislation, budgetary allocations, effective oversight and inclusive public participation.

Honourable Members,

The Report addresses several critical priorities, including advancing women's political representation and substantive influence, strengthening youth and disability inclusion, protecting human dignity through correctional oversight and safeguards against sexual harassment, and promoting constitutionalism, the rule of law and electoral integrity.

Of particular relevance to this Plenary Assembly is the emphasis on accelerating the eradication of child marriage through evidence-based parliamentary oversight, supported by the Child Marriage Dashboard. Equally important are the recommendations on strengthening parliamentary oversight of regional integration commitments and development financing.

Mr President,

A key strength of the Report is its practical and action-oriented recommendations. These provide a clear basis for Member Parliaments to strengthen legislative harmonisation, institutional accountability and coordinated implementation of regional commitments.

The adoption of this Report would therefore reaffirm our collective commitment to ensuring that the work of the

Forum translates into measurable improvements in governance, inclusion and the well-being of our citizens.

As we advance the transformation of the Forum into a SADC Parliament, the collaborative approach demonstrated by the Joint Sitting provides a valuable foundation for stronger institutional coherence and parliamentary effectiveness. I therefore urge Honourable Members to support the recommendations contained in the Report and ensure their effective implementation at the national level.

I second the motion Mr President.

I thank you.