SECONDER'S SPEECH ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRATISATION, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS (DGHR) TO THE 60TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY

Mr President, it is my honour and privilege to second the motion moved by the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Democratisation, Governance and Human Rights (DGHR), the Honourable Napo Moshoeshoe, that this 60th Plenary Assembly do adopt the Report of the Committee laid on the Table.

At the outset, I wish to commend the Chairperson for his leadership and guidance in steering the work of the Committee. I also wish to acknowledge the commitment and valuable contributions of the Honourable Members of the Committee, whose deliberations informed the issues and recommendations contained in the Report. Further, I extend my appreciation to the SADC PF Secretariat and the staff who supported the Committee and undertook the work of compiling the Report.

Mr President,

The Report deserves the attention and consideration of this Assembly because it addresses matters that are central to the

strengthening of democratic governance, constitutionalism, the rule of law, human rights and accountability in the SADC region. In particular, it highlights the need for Parliaments to respond effectively to emerging challenges affecting electoral integrity, public confidence in democratic institutions and meaningful citizen participation. It also draws attention to the importance of preparing our parliamentary institutions to anticipate future governance challenges through strategic foresight, institutional resilience and responsive oversight.

Honourable Members,

A key strength of the Report is that it goes beyond identifying challenges and proposes practical measures that can be pursued by Member Parliaments and the relevant structures of the Forum. These include strengthening national electoral frameworks, supporting parliamentary participation in election observation missions, improving mechanisms for citizen engagement, building parliamentary research and foresight capacity, and promoting the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence in parliamentary processes.

I am particularly encouraged by the emphasis placed on the need to translate regional commitments into concrete national action through the legislative, oversight, budgetary and representative functions of Parliament. These recommendations provide a useful basis for strengthening cooperation among Member Parliaments and ensuring that the work of the Forum continues to respond to the evolving needs and aspirations of the people of our region.

Mr President,

The adoption of this Report would therefore represent an important step towards advancing the work of the SADC Parliamentary Forum. It would provide a basis for following up on the recommendations, assigning responsibility to the relevant parliamentary and institutional actors, and monitoring progress in their implementation. It is through such deliberate follow-up that the deliberations of this Assembly can produce tangible results and contribute to stronger, more accountable and resilient democratic institutions across the SADC region.

In view of the foregoing, Mr President, I wish to reiterate my support for the Report and urge Honourable Members to give it due consideration and engage in constructive debate on the matters raised therein.

Mr President, I accordingly second the motion that the 60th Plenary Assembly do adopt the Report of the Standing Committee on Democratisation, Governance and Human Rights.

I thank you.