



SADC PF CLERKS MEETING /SECRETARIES GENERAL

23rd – 24th NOVEMBER 2022

CLERK TO PARLIAMENT

Mr. Benedict Xaba



Introduction

- The Committee of Clerks/Secretaries General of the SADC-PF is indeed a valuable organ of administrative support and advice established under Article 10(1)(f) of the SADC-PF Constitution which unites all the Clerks and Secretaries General of SADC Member Parliaments. Under Article 16A(4)(a) of the SADC-PF Constitution, the Committee has a unique mandate to provide advice to the Executive Committee on matters submitted to it by the Secretariat pursuant to the instructions of the Executive Committee or the Plenary Assembly



Continuation of Introduction

- The Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini is here proud of its affiliation to the Forum
- And in consideration of In this respect, this meeting of the Committee of Clerks/Secretaries prior to the 52nd Plenary Assembly to consider certain administrative, policy and financial issues which deserve to be discussed so that the Forum may further strategise
- Eswatini Parliament upholds this Forum and appreciate its involvement as a major stakeholder in the development of its 2022-2026 Strategic Plan which is such a roadmap in executing beyond the core mandate of Parliament, but a means of *“taking Parliament to the people “*.
- Also SADC PF involvement in the development of the 2022-2026 Wellness/HIV AIDS Strategy a first of its kind in the Region, thanks again to Parliament of Lesotho and Malawi to this success story who were equally consulted . Seconding staff, capacitate Mp and staff.
- These documents will be shared accordingly to the Secretary General s office.

Item 5. i. Presentation of Resolutions by each Parliament arising from the 51st Plenary Assembly Session actioned by Parliaments

- ▶ Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini is envisaging a robust Public hearing on the PFM Model Law, which speaks to certain clauses on the Public and Procurement Act, Money Laundering Act etc
- ▶ The GBV Model law- which speaks to some clauses on the SODV Act 2018,
- ▶ HIV and AIDS (2008) Model Law- In terms of domestication the country has such a sustainable HIV AIDS Legislative framework thus we reached the Target of ending AIDS, well before the stipulated timeline.
- ▶ Child Marriage Law – Domestication of this model law appreciated the age consent of marriage in country and the enactment of the SODV Act and the amendment of some contentious clauses.



5.ii Transformation of SADC PF INTO SADC PARLIAMENT

- ▶ Since the 42nd SADC Summit of Heads of States and Government which met on the 17th-18th August 2022 in Kinshasa, DRC approved the Amendment to the SADC Treaty for signature by countries, a lobby has to be conducted at administrative level with Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation in view of ensuring that the Amendment is tabled for signature. Up to now, around 6 countries have duly signed the Amendment establishing the SADC Parliament as an organ of the SADC under Article 9(1) of the Treaty, **Eswatini** inclusive, whilst the signature of 12 countries are needed to operationalize the $\frac{3}{4}$ (three-quarter) majority needed for an Amendment to take effect.



Continuation on transformation and financial implications

- ▶ The Committee will also be requested to advise on the state of financial affairs of the Forum *vis-à-vis* the Forum's aspirations to ascend to a Regional Parliament and the need at the same time to demonstrate financial viability of the transformation process.



5.iii Appreciation on the nomination of trustees

- ▶ Eswatini appreciates the nomination of trustees for the SADC Parliamentary Forum and Its Successors Trust by the Parliaments of **Namibia, Angola, and DRC** (respectively the Founder Parliament, and the alphabetical order of countries from the 2 other working languages of the Forum), and the ensuing physical participation that is necessary for a physical signature to take place in Windhoek, Namibia.
- ▶ The Trustees we believe will be able to assist the Forum with concrete resource mobilisation initiatives, liaise with potential donors and attract funding for developmental projects and more.



Item 6.1 Presentations from each Parliament regarding budgeting requirements for certain activities under the proposed SRHR Project (2023-2026)

- Institutionalisation of the SRHR, HIV and AIDS is key to achieving the intended goals of the project. Thus, Institutionalisation of this project is premised on the following legal and operational frameworks within Parliament of the Kingdom Eswatini, the Constitution of Swaziland, 2005 , Vision 2030- “Towards a Prosperous and Empowered Upper Middle income Society by 2030”, National Development Strategy and International and Regional Instruments- e.g CRC, SDGs, Maputo Plan of Action etc...



The project is embedded in six thematic areas

- ▶ Gender equality and Sexual Gender Based Violence
- ▶ Early and Unintended Pregnancy and Safe abortion
- ▶ Commodity Security and Access to SRHR & HIV
- ▶ Comprehensive Sexuality Education/Life Skills Education
- ▶ And Non- Discrimination and Key Populations
- ▶ Democracy, Human Rights and Governance



ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED THUS FAR

- Eswatini Parliament has implemented remarkable SRHR activities with the support of the UN Family, strong collaboration with CSOs, business sector, and a lot of other stakeholders.
- Formulation of National (NWG) with all relevant Line Ministries, CSOs Youth, Religious Forum, Traditionalists, Physically disabled, NGOs, UN Agencies and more
- Situational analysis conducted by all stakeholders to map out SRHR Policy gaps.
- MPs capacitated (Workshops) to appreciate SRHR policy and legal gaps by UNFPA
- Population policy Framework reviewed which was dating back 2002
- Foster care regulations in place to leverage abuse of orphanages and establishment of shelter homes for survivors
- Amendment of Contentious clauses in the SODV Act of 2018.
- Amendment of the Marriage Act and Matrimonial
- SRHR Motions tabled on GBV concerns



Continuation of activities implemented

- NWPC, SADC PF Committee, & SRHR Champions executed SRHR service provision in textile industries (mobile clinics, ART, Cancer screening, condoms distribution, counselling services and more)
- Dialogue by NWPC, a session with Women in Leadership in the interrogation of impact of COVID -19 at workplaces
- Virtual sessions by SRHR Champions in the respective regions on the impact of COVID-19 on the youth.
- National Youth Indaba on the impact of Covid-19, and related mental health problems
- Newsletter crafting in collaboration with Family Life Association of Swaziland,



Continuation of activities

- ▶ Drafting of guidelines on SRHR referral linkages an inclusive package with respect to Constitution of Swaziland.
- ▶ Engaging with MoET, UNICEF, on how best to handle Mental Health impact on school going kids and teachers caused by the strain of Covid -19.
- ▶ Engagement with Ministry of Education on the inclusivity of learners with special needs and access to SRHR Services and information to visually impaired people in the Shiselweni Region
- ▶ Guidelines for managing EUP in schools re-entry policy through EU campaign “Lets talk Pregnancy at the right time” this has been done through the
- ▶ Dignity packs have been distributed in 40 schools(ten sampled from each Region especially the most vulnerable schools) by SRHR Champions and the SADC PF Committee.
- ▶ Impact of Covid-19 on women and climate change this session was held in collaboration with WPC .



Continuation of activities implemented

- ▶ Collaborating meeting on Redressing Comprehensive Sexuality /Life skills education Policies, and to align Retention Policy after Covid P-19 impact
- ▶ Commemoration of World AIDS DAY , a Dialogue session with Key Populations /Marginalised groups on access to Health services
- ▶ National dialogue in Collaboration with FLAS BY SRHR Champions , SADC PF Committee and Portfolio Committee Chairpersons on the Prevention of EUP, and Sexually Transmitted Infections amongst youth and Adolescents.
- ▶ In Collaboration with I BILLION RISING SOLIDARITY, Eswatini Parliament reached out to Survivors of Violence in Commemoration International Women's Day, in response to *Eswatini to Rise for Women and Girls* and Grow rising Gardens in honor of Survivors of Violence and women workers, this was held at a FOSTER CARE POINT KNOWN AS HOSEA HEART AT SIDVOKODVO.
- ▶ GBV workshops have been conducted in collaboration with SADC Secretariat and the Security and peace Stand



Eswatini appreciation on the SRHR Project

- ▶ Eswatini Parliament appreciates Project would advise on the budgeting required for **MP events** at constituency level. Such activities could take the form of “public awareness constituency projects” or “constituency outreach projects” which could be accommodated to contextualize national specificities that relate to activities commonly performed by MPs. This would ensure that activities are realizable and are implemented with the requisite momentum in the next proposed phase of the Project. Clerks/Secretaries General would thus be expected to advise thereon in view of promptly informing the proposed budget for the next phase which is to run from 2023-2026.



PROJECTED BUDGET FOR SRHR ACTIVITIES 2023-2026

BUDGET FOR PARLIAMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI 2023-2026 SRHR PROJECT ACTIVITIES (Conferencing and Rappourtering)

ITEM	DELEGATES	FREQ	UNIT COST	TOTAL
Regional Dialogues for Womens caucus on GBV	50	4		\$30.00
Youth Parliament sessions on access to SRHR Services	50	4		\$30.00
Mens Caucus and Boy-child Championing activities	50	4		\$30.00
Total				\$360.00

ITEM	DELEGATES	FREQ	UNIT COST	TOTAL
Capacity development initiatives on Elections and the Physically disabled	160	4		\$100.00
Public hearings on Marriage and Matrimonial Act	160	4		\$100.00
Workshops in correctional facilities on GBV /SODV	160	4		\$100.00
Total				\$1,200.00

ITEM	DELEGATES	FREQ	UNIT COST	TOTAL
Reviewing of SRHR Legislative framework and policies with Law Reform and MoJC	160	4		\$100.00
Public hearings on domestication of Model Laws	160	4		\$100.00
Public hearings the impact of Early Unintended Pregnancies and its impact to the Girl-child.	160	4		\$100.00
Total				\$12,000.00

ITEM	DELEGATES	FREQ	UNIT COST	TOTAL
Regional Dialogues for Womens caucus on Comprehensive sexuality education/ life skills and culture	160	4		\$100.00
Regional dialogues for mens caucus on CSE	160	4		\$100.00
Media and SRHR Reporting	160	4		\$100.00
Total				\$12,000.00



**Item 6.2: Presentation by each parliament on key activities
Implemented from PAP, SOCATT, ASGP, SADC PF, among others, for
purposes of coordination and harmonization.**

Pan African Parliament :

There are five members Representation in different Standing Committees and serving various assignments ,

The Chairperson of the Finance Committee is from Senate (Senator Tony Sibandze) and from House of Assembly Hon. Robert Magongo is rappourter in the ICT Standing Committee

Hon. Thandi Nxumalo in view of supporting Regional and AfcTa Trade, is a member of the Committee on Agriculture, she is in a mission of coordinating women from 59 constituencies in the production of maize and beans. This initiative s piloted through the help of chiefs in respective communities .Women are given priority in this aspect to bring together ideas and concepts of farming and milk production. The NWPC, is party to these activities.



Continuation on PAP

The PAP Committee is also formulating a workplan for 2023- 2028 on the following;

- ▶ Agricultural Issues,
- ▶ Health issues,
- ▶ Shortage of water in rural areas
- ▶ Unemployment amongst the youth in the Kingdom of Eswatini



SOCATT

- ▶ We are members of SoCATT by virtue of being members of CPA
- ▶ Of the US\$12 500.00 we pay to CPA Africa Region, US\$2, 500.00 goes to SoCATT as subs.
- ▶ We haven't participated in its activities for a long time due to budgetary constraints. Sending delegates require that we pay registration fees over and above covering the cost of travel.
- ▶ But we may attend the upcoming Cape Town Planning meeting on e-Parliament and encouraging participation of Eswatini and Lesotho in the activities of the society.



SADC PF

- ▶ Capacitate Parliamentarians on the execution of their core mandate with diligence , thus Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini has majority of SADC PF Committee members in high profiled Executive positions.
- ▶ Representation on various standing committee session where Topical issues on Regional integration are unpacked
- ▶ Formulation of Model Laws which are such a pedestal for domestication with respect to SRHR Human Rights and Governance issues and more.
- ▶ Parliamentarians and staff orientation and induction workshops.
- ▶ Support Parliament in the formulation of Strategic Plan and wellness strategy
- ▶ Seconding of staff which is a motivational factor and offers such inclination on matters of Regional integration.
- ▶ Capacity building on formulation of Motions, and evidence based debates
- ▶ Sustainable collaboration with media which has prompted strong political will for members



Conclusion

THANK YOU VERY MUCH