



**SECONDER'S SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED DURING PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL SADC PF POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS AT THE 52<sup>ND</sup> PLENARY ASSEMBLY SESSION, KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

**Mr. President,** in seconding the motion, let me begin by commending the mover for articulating the issues deliberated on by the Executive Committee so eloquently. I wish to specifically focus on the significant progress recorded towards the Transformation of the SADC PF into a SADC Regional Parliament. Let me reiterate that it is incumbent upon us to prioritise advocacy and lobby activities in our respective countries in order for our Heads of State to sign the Agreement Amending the Treaty on order to facilitate further processes to bring the transformation into effect.

**Mr. President,** I also wish to emphasise the need for us as SADC PF Member Parliaments to seriously consider supporting our Secretariat through the secondment of a staff to the Programmes and Parliamentary Business Department on full time basis. It is not a secret that the secretariat is operating without staff in this core department. We must remember that if we allow this situation to continue, we shall be shooting ourselves in the foot as the secretariats capacity to support our work is severely impaired.

**Mr. President,** allow me, as I conclude to remind the Parliaments of Angola, DRC and Namibia to proceed with the identification and nomination of the persons to serve as Trustees on the Board of Trustees of the SADC parliamentary Forum and Its Successors Trust in order to avoid any delays in registration of the Trust once the on-going consultations are concluded.

**Mr. President, with these few words, I beg to second the motion. I thank you.**