



SECONDING SPEECH FOR THE REPORT OF THE DGHR COMMITTEE TO THE 52ND PLENARY ASSEMBLY

Mr President,

I rise to second the Report of the DGHR Committee to this 52nd Plenary Assembly so ably moved by the Chairperson.

In seconding the Report, I wish to associate myself with the view advanced by the Mover regarding “putting people first” and striving to address the needs and interests of SADC citizens.

From the perspective of a Member of Parliament and indeed as a member of the DGHR Committee, I found the public hearings to be very informative, most rewarding, intriguing and satisfying.

I believe I speak on behalf of the members of the DGHR Committee when I say that it was delightful to listen to the very compelling submissions from the lived experiences of SADC citizens. Even more satisfying, was the fact that the citizens themselves lauded the decision of the SADC-PF to open up its doors to the public through the public hearings.

It is my fervent hope and prayer, that the DGHR Committee will remain at the disposal of all stakeholders henceforth. In line with the tenets of participatory democracy, it is imperative that our national and regional parliaments continuously engage SADC citizens and take their views into

consideration in the search for solutions to regional challenges.

To bridge the distance, SADC-PF should continue to embrace and fully utilize various innovations in Information Communication Technology (ICT), to accommodate as many citizen voices from across the region as possible, as was the case in the recent public hearings.

Beyond taking citizen voices on board, it remains for us legislators and governments of SADC Member States to develop legislation and implement policies aligned to the aspirations of our citizens upon returning to our respective countries.

Ultimately, parliaments as representative bodies in democracies, ought to at all times, reflect the will of the people. In this regard, I implore you fellow MPs to avail yourselves and continuously interact with your citizens outside of the electoral cycle.

I second the Motion Mr President.

I thank you.