



**56<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY ASSEMBLY SESSION  
8<sup>TH</sup> TO 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024  
LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA**

**MOTION ON ENHANCING EFFORTS TO INTEGRATE  
COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION (CSE) INTO  
NATIONAL SCHOOL CURRICULA IN SADC MEMBER STATES**

Mover: Hon. Thato MOHALE, Lesotho  
Seconder: Hon. Linda NXUMALO, Eswatini

**Date for which Notice is given: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Question Proposed: That the 56<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly Session of the SADC PF:-

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in Eastern and Southern Africa has been a vital area of focus for improving sexual and reproductive health outcomes among young people;

**RECOGNISING** that countries in this region have made substantial commitments to CSE through various frameworks and policies aimed at addressing challenges such as high rates of HIV, unintended pregnancies, gender-based violence, and gaps in sexual health knowledge;

**NOTING** that in 2013, 20 countries in the region endorsed the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) Commitment on CSE and Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Adolescents and Young People, which ensures young people have access to age-appropriate, scientifically accurate, and culturally relevant sexuality education alongside youth-friendly health services to, among other objectives, reduce HIV infections, early pregnancies,

and gender-based violence while improving educational outcomes and promoting gender equality;

**CONSIDERING** that CSE is a rights-based, evidence-informed approach that empowers individuals with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and rights;

**RECOGNISING** that CSE contributes to the prevention of early and unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), gender-based violence, and other sexual and reproductive health issues, thereby promoting overall public health and well-being;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that CSE fosters respect for human rights, gender equality, and the dignity of all individuals by promoting an understanding of diversity, consent, and healthy relationships;

**AFFIRMING** that CSE is recognised as a critical component of education for sustainable development, human rights, and gender equality;

**CONSIDERING** that research has demonstrated that CSE, when implemented effectively, does not encourage earlier sexual activity but instead helps young people delay sexual initiation, increases the use of contraception, and fosters positive attitudes towards gender equality and sexual health;

**RECOGNISING** that young people, particularly adolescents, are often not provided with sufficient, accurate, and age-appropriate information on sexuality, which can result in misinformation, unhealthy relationships, and poor decision-making that negatively impacts their futures;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that many countries have made significant progress in integrating CSE into their national education systems, leading to measurable positive impacts on sexual and reproductive health outcomes, while others still face barriers to full implementation;

**NOW THEREFORE:**

- (i) *Encourages* SADC Member States that have not yet done so to integrate CSE into the national education curricula for all

primary and secondary schools, ensuring that it is age-appropriate, evidence-based, inclusive, and accessible to all students, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, ability, or socio-economic status;

- (ii) *Urges* Parliamentarians to advocate for CSE to be taught by trained educators who are knowledgeable, nonjudgmental, and sensitive to students' diverse cultural and religious contexts while promoting respectful and inclusive school environments;
- (iii) *Urges* Member States to provide adequate resources and funding for developing, implementing, and monitoring comprehensive sexuality education programmes, ensuring that all schools have the necessary materials, staff, and support to deliver CSE effectively.
- (iv) *Calls for* the participation of parents, communities, and civil society organisations in the design, delivery, and evaluation of CSE programmes, fostering a collaborative approach that respects the rights and views of all stakeholders;
- (v) *Encourages* Member States to support research and evaluation efforts to assess the impact of CSE programmes on the sexual and reproductive health outcomes of young people and use this data to continuously improve the quality and effectiveness of educational programmes;
- (vi) *Calls for* CSE to be delivered in an inclusive and non-discriminatory manner, addressing issues such as gender equality, sexual orientation, and disabilities, and ensuring that it is adapted to the needs of diverse populations, including marginalised and vulnerable groups;
- (vii) *Urges* SADC Member States to collaborate with international organisations and development partners to strengthen the implementation of CSE, drawing on global best practices and lessons learned; and
- (viii) *Calls upon* SADC Member States to commit to monitoring progress on implementing comprehensive sexuality education and provide regular reports to Parliaments on the

achievements, challenges, and recommendations for future action.

**SIGNATURE OF THE MOVER:** .....