



**57TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY SESSION
31ST MAY TO 7TH JUNE 2025,
VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE**

MOTION ON ENHANCING FOOD CHAIN SYSTEMS IN THE SADC REGION

Mover: Hon. Senator Thato Mako MOHALE, Lesotho

Seconder: Hon. Faustine Kenda KAZITERIKO, DRC

Date for which Notice is given: 5th June 2025

Question Proposed: That the 57th Plenary Assembly Session of the SADC PF:

RECOGNISING that efficient and resilient food chain systems — encompassing production, processing, storage, distribution, and marketing — are essential for ensuring food security, economic growth, and rural development within the SADC region;

RECOGNISING that enhancing food chain efficiency can unlock opportunities for value addition, job creation, increased incomes for smallholder farmers, and the development of agro-processing industries within the region;

CONCERNED by the fragmentation, inefficiencies, and vulnerabilities in current food supply chains, which contribute to market distortions, limited farmer incomes, and restricted consumer access to affordable, nutritious food;

AWARE that climate change, inadequate infrastructure, limited access to markets, and lack of regional coordination continue to disrupt food chain systems and compromise regional food self-sufficiency;

RECALLING the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy, the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), Agenda 2063, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) all of which underscore the importance of integrated markets and food value chains as drivers of regional development;

RECALLING the establishment of the SADC Parliamentary Alliance on Agrifood Systems, Food Security and Nutrition (FSN Alliance) during the 56th Plenary Assembly of the SADC PF held in Livingstone, Zambia, in December 2024, which serves as a platform for parliamentarians to collaborate, advocate and provide oversight on legislative and budgetary matters related to agrifood systems, food security and the right to adequate food;

RECOGNISING the critical role of the FSN Alliance in enhancing the effectiveness of parliamentary engagement through cross-sector collaboration, capacity development, and knowledge exchange, and acknowledging its mandate to advocate for the harmonisation of laws to support alignment with regional and international frameworks and in promoting domestic resource mobilisation;

NOW THEREFORE:

- (i) *Call upon* all SADC Member States to develop and implement national strategies aimed at strengthening and modernising food chain systems, aligned with the FSN Alliance objectives, focusing on value addition, cold storage, agro-processing, inclusivity and sustainability;
- (ii) *Encourage* the participation of all national parliaments in the FSN Alliance and the formation of national parliamentary alliances or caucuses, to promote coordinated oversight and harmonised legislative efforts across the region;
- (iii) *Encourage* the relevant standing committees of national parliaments to engage proactively with the FSN Alliance, including participation in the Alliance's working groups and activities such as the upcoming Third Global Parliamentary Summit Against Hunger and Malnutrition and the 20th anniversary of the Right to Food Guidelines;
- (iv) *Urge* governments and private sector stakeholders to invest in digital technologies, data systems, and logistics infrastructure to improve supply chain efficiency and access to real-time market information;
- (v) *Recommend* the harmonisation of food quality, safety, and packaging standards across the region to facilitate seamless intra-regional trade and protect consumer health;
- (vi) *Endorse* the empowerment of smallholder farmers, cooperatives, and agro-SMEs through inclusive policies, capacity-building programmes, and access to finance, markets, and technology; and

- (vii) *Direct* the SADC PF Regional Parliamentary Model Laws Oversight Committee to institutionalise regular reporting on progress in food chain and agrifood systems reform throughout the region, through a mechanism developed jointly with the FSN Alliance.

SIGNATURE OF THE MOVER:
