



Republic of Zambia

**CLOSING STATEMENT BY HON MULAMBO HAIMBE, S.C, M.P, MINISTER  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AT THE  
CLOSING SESSION OF THE SADC MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE OF THE  
ORGAN (MCO) ON POLITICS, DEFENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION-  
11-12TH JULY, 2024 IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation,**

**LUSAKA**

**July, 2024**

- **Hon. January Makamba, Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania and Incoming Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation;**
- **Dr. Peya Mushelenga, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia and Outgoing Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation;**
- **Your Excellencies, Honorable Ministers of SADC Member States;**
- **Your Excellency, Mr Elias Magosi, the Executive Secretary of SADC;**
- **Senior Officials;**
- **Chiefs of Defence and Security Sectors;**
- **Secretariat Staff;**
- **Members of the media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

As we come to the end of the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Ministerial Committee of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, I wish to express appreciation to all the Honorable Ministers for accepting the invitation to attend this meeting. Your active participation in the meeting and remarks during the deliberations provided strategic guidance and will ultimately positively contribute to the region's peace and security agenda.

**Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates**

Our meeting highlighted the fact that the region has continued to show positive signs in the consolidation of democracy, as observed during the 2023-2024 electoral cycle, through the holding of successful Presidential and Legislative Elections in the Kingdom of Eswatini, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Republics of Madagascar, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

With regard to regional security, it was noted that the deployment of the SADC Mission in the DRC(SAMIDRC) in December, 2023 signified the commitment of SADC Member States, in ensuring the security of the region was prioritized to enable economic integration for all our nations. It should be noted that the Mission still requires more support to operate at its optimum but credit must be given to Member States who are already supporting the Mission in various forms, a reflection of Member States commitment to ensuring that the region remains stable.

### **Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates**

The meeting noted that as one Mission recently began, another is drawing to a close. The SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) will fully withdraw by 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 from Pemba, Cabo Delgado Province having carried out its mandate. I am pleased to note that SAMIM registered significant millstones since its deployment, including recapturing villages, dislodging terrorists from their bases, and other achievements that are bound. The region is hopeful that with these millstones, the Government of Mozambique, alongside its Cooperating Partners will continue where SAMIM left off, and successfully eradicate the extremists from Cabo Delgado Province.

It is my ardent hope that recommendations made here will be favorably considered by our Heads of States and Government at the upcoming SADC Summit to be convened in Harare, Zimbabwe in August, 2024.

**Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates**

Allow me to take this opportunity to pay special tribute to the Republic of Namibia, the outgoing Chair of the Organ Troika, for their invaluable support during our Chairmanship since August 2023.

May I also take this opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Zambia to offer support to the United Republic of Tanzania, as they assume the Chair of the Organ.

Furthermore, it would be remiss of me, if I did not express my sincere gratitude to all Member States for the support rendered to Zambia during her tenure as Chair of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. This spirit of solidarity indeed resonates with the spirit of ubuntu promoted by our region.

**Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates**

The Success of our meeting depended to a large extent on the hard work of our Senior Officials and dedicated Officials from the SADC Secretariat who I would like to commend for a sterling job.

As you depart to your various capitals, I do hope you have enjoyed your short stay in Lusaka, and take time to visit the various tourist attractions.

It is now my honour and privilege to declare the 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ officially closed.

**Thank You,**

**Meri Beaucoup,**

**Muinto Obrigado,**

**Asante Sana,**

**Zikomo Kwambili**