



Communiqué
**33rd Plenary Assembly Session of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, Gaborone,
Botswana 15th – 23rd June 2013.**

***“ENHANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY OF SADC- What Parliaments can do to Facilitate
Regional Integration in SADC”.***

1. The 33rd Plenary Assembly Session of the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) was held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 15th to 23rd June 2013, under the theme *“Enhancing the Implementation Capacity of SADC – What Parliaments can do to Facilitate Regional Integration in SADC”.*
2. The 33rd Plenary Assembly Session was attended by all the Member Parliaments of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, namely Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
3. In attendance were representatives of the SADC PF’s regional and international Cooperating partners such as the SADC Secretariat, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Southern Africa Resource Watch, British High Commission and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, South African High Commission, SADC Council of NGOs, United Kingdom Aid (UKAID), Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC Countries and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.
4. In his Introductory Remarks to the delegates of the 33rd Plenary Assembly Session, Dr. Esau Chiviya, the Secretary General of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, highlighted the fact that supporting the implementation capacity of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) is a stated Constitutional objective, and urged that this be revitalized.
5. In her statement, Hon. Biata Beatrice Nyamupinga, MP, Chairperson of the Regional Women’s Parliamentary Caucus (RWPC) reiterated the need for SADC to domesticate and implement the SADC Gender and Development Protocol (2008) in order to achieve the desired 50/50 gender representation.
6. Addressing the official opening ceremony Hon. Abdool Razack Peeroo, SC, GOSK, Chairperson of the SADC Parliamentary Forum noted that in response to the need to enhancing the

implementation capacity of SADC, the SADC PF has resolved to operate like a Parliament and its Committee structures and programmes are accordingly being aligned to that of SADC. It was noted that this is also in keeping with the Forum's aspirations to be transformed into a SADC Regional Parliament.

7. Hon. Dr. Margaret Nasha, Speaker of the National Assembly of Botswana warmly welcomed the delegates to Botswana and urged them to feel at home. The Speaker invited the delegates to visit Jwaneng Diamond Mine which is an important national source of revenue for Botswana.
8. Officially opening the 33rd Plenary Assembly, His Honour Dr. Ponatshego H. K. Kedikilwe, PH. MP., Vice President of the Republic of Botswana, recalled that SADC according to its Treaty (1992) was established to *"promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration, good governance and durable peace and security, so that the region emerges as a competitive and effective player in international relations and the world economy"*.
9. Noting that this is a mammoth task, the Vice President stated that the SADC Executive cannot achieve this on its own and there is therefore a need for SADC Parliamentarians as the representatives of the people to support the implementation capacity of SADC and therefore highly welcomed the theme of the 33rd Plenary Assembly Session.
10. In giving a vote of thanks during the official opening ceremony, Rt. Hon. Lovemore Moyo, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zimbabwe thanked Botswana for its demonstrated support to advance the Regional Integration Agenda of SADC as well as the role that the Parliament of Botswana has played in advancing the vision of the Forum.
11. The 33rd Plenary Assembly Session received an expert presentation from Dr. Angelo Mondlane, Director of Policy, Planning and Resource Mobilization at the SADC Secretariat who affirmed that SADC has adopted a Common Agenda which is aimed at promoting sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development that will ensure poverty alleviation with the ultimate objective of poverty eradication.
12. Dr. Mondlane informed the Plenary Assembly that, though under review, the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the Strategic Indicative Plan of the Organ (SIPO) are the two principal instruments guiding the implementation of the SADC Common Agenda.
13. Dr. Mondlane informed the Plenary Assembly Session that SADC is committed to enhancing the standard and quality of life of the people of Southern Africa and to support the socially-disadvantaged groups through regional integration. It was noted that these would be achieved through democratic, legitimate and effective institutions which promote common political values and systems. The role of Parliament in supporting the implementation capacity of SADC was therefore emphasised.

14. In noting the country reports on the role of National Parliaments in promoting the implementation of the regional integration agenda of SADC, the Plenary Assembly affirmed that ratification, domestication, implementation and monitoring of regional and international Protocols and other legal instruments remain a challenge. To this end, the SADC Parliamentary Forum called for greater flow of information at the national and regional level in order to facilitate the role of Parliament.
15. In view of the need for Parliamentarians to enhance the implementation capacity of SADC, the SADC Parliamentary Forum reaffirmed its resolve to continue to engage relevant stakeholders at the national and regional levels regarding its ultimate transformation into a Regional SADC Parliament which would make it an effective player on matters of regional integration.
16. The Plenary Assembly Session further acknowledged that regional integration is a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral process which requires the SADC Executive, the legislature, judiciary and other stakeholders to work together. To this end, greater cooperation and exchange of information between the SADC Parliamentary Forum and the SADC Secretariat was urged.
17. In appreciation of the mediation role which SADC is performing in the region, the Plenary Assembly took note of the progress and achievements being made in maintaining peace and stability in the region and expressed hope that the remaining isolated instances of political instability would be amicably resolved. In this regard, the Plenary Assembly Session wishes to express appreciation for the role that SADC is playing in bringing the situation in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar and Zimbabwe to normalcy.
18. The Plenary Assembly congratulated the Republic of Zimbabwe for holding a credible referendum process in which the people of Zimbabwe freely and fairly endorsed their new Constitution, paving the way for General Elections in that country. The SADC Parliamentary Forum therefore confirmed its commitment to observe upcoming elections in Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Madagascar.
19. The 34th Plenary Assembly Session will be held in the United Republic of Tanzania, in October 2013.
20. The SADC Parliamentary Forum expressed its profound gratitude to the Parliament, Government and people of Botswana for their warm hospitality including the visit to Jwaneng Diamond Mine.

Done at Gaborone, Botswana, 21 June 2013