



**STATEMENT FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SADC-PF
ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PARLIAMENTARISM
30TH JUNE 2020**

Dear Colleagues/partners,

As you may be aware, today 30th June 2020 is the International day of Parliamentarism [Resolution A/RES/72/278 of UN General Assembly].

On behalf of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, I wish to share my endearing commitment to this day, and reiterate the role of the Forum in promoting inter-parliamentarism and cooperation on issues of regional interest for SADC.

As we salute the efforts made by Parliaments on this day, we also recognise that Parliaments are focal agents of change and are at the centre stage to address social and economic issues through targeted legislative, budgetary and oversight action. Currently, the COVID-19 crisis is an issue which most SADC national Parliaments are boldly dealing with and addressing through emergency legislation, responsive budgets and by holding Government to account on health measures and access to medicines.

More than ever, this year is thus appropriate to salute Parliaments as institutions, and Parliamentarians worldwide and in the SADC, for the commendable and selfless efforts made to redress the Covid-19 situation and to continue with progressive work in ensuring that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are mainstreamed while other regional SADC objectives are also met. This is also a day to salute the leadership of Parliaments, who are Speakers and Presiding Officers who have stood up to uphold democratic values, the Rule of Law and decorum in the House even in the most difficult and challenging times.

Long live democracy and parliamentary action.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Sekgoma'.

**Ms B. Sekgoma,
Secretary General,
SADC Parliamentary Forum
30th June 2020**