

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**VOTE OF THANKS BY H.E. DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE CLOSING OF THE 37TH SADC
ORDINARY SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT**

**Your Majesty King Mswati III of the Kingdom
of Swaziland and Outgoing Chairperson of
SADC**

**Your Excellency Mr. Jacob Zuma, President of
the Republic of South Africa and our new
Chairperson of SADC**

**Your Excellencies Heads of State and
Government**

Honourable Ministers

**Her Excellency Stergomena Lawrence Tax,
Executive Secretary of SADC**

SADC staff

Senior Government officials

Distinguished Invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the SADC Heads of State and Government, and indeed on my own behalf, I am honoured to express our collective thanks to you Comrade President Jacob Zuma, the Government and the people of the Republic of South Africa for the traditional warm hospitality extended to us and our delegations since our arrival in this historic City of

Tshwane. We indeed relished our stay here and felt genuinely at home.

I am particularly delighted to commend His Majesty King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Swaziland, the Outgoing Chairperson of SADC, for having steered the SADC Region with dexterity and sustained focus towards regional integration, through advanced industrialisation programmes, during His Majesty's tenure as Chairperson of SADC.

We are grateful for Your Majesty's hands-on approach on issues of economic development in the SADC Region as guided by the appropriate theme of the 36th SADC Ordinary Summit of Heads of State, which is, *"Resource Mobilization for Investment in Sustainable Energy Infrastructure for inclusive SADC Industrialisation and for Prosperity of the Region."*

I equally wish to take this opportunity to congratulate H.E. Mr. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa, for assuming the Chairpersonship of SADC. Your Excellency,

we are supremely confident that under your able leadership implementation of SADC programmes will be successfully undertaken in order to advance regional integration and improve the living standards of SADC citizens.

The choice of the theme for this year's Summit: "*Partnering with the private sector in developing industry and regional value-chains*" is a clear testimony of South Africa's commitment to the development of the SADC Region through partnerships with the private sector.

It is very clear that this year's theme builds on the recent Summit themes and focuses on the implementation of the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap in order to accelerate economic growth and development in the region.

As was alluded to by Dr. Songwe of UNECA during her remarks, there is an increased recognition in other regions of Africa and beyond the borders of Africa, that SADC is a cohesive, well-run Regional Economic Bloc, that could set the tone for Africa-wide

regional integration. However, there are some legitimate expectations among the peoples of SADC Member States that the presence of SADC should be felt among the communities, through implementation of our development projects, such as infrastructure, among others. We should, therefore, continue to put the triple challenges of poverty eradication, job creation and inclusive growth at the centre of our developmental agenda. As we develop and refine our policy responses, let us be guided by the notion as postulated by Joseph Stiglitz that, inclusive and shared

growth is a policy choice. Therefore, whether it is industrialization, financial sector deepening, promotion of the blue economy, or any other matter, let us be inclusive in our approach. We in Namibia believe that inclusivity spells peace and harmony, whereas exclusivity spells conflict and disaster. Our development must continue to be people centered and homegrown.

To meet these expectations, it is of paramount importance that we constantly demonstrate our commitment to the ideals of

the founding giants of SADC. Furthermore, we must renew our commitment to honour our financial obligations to the organization and implement our decisions and maintain unity.

Your Majesty and Excellencies

Before concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to commend President Eduardo Dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola and the people of Angola for taking the next step in solidifying their democracy. We have taken note of the smooth transition

at a party level, which once again demonstrates that inner party democracy is alive and at work in former liberation movements. We wish the people of Angola well with the general elections slated for the 23rd of August this year.

Similarly we are noting that the President of Botswana is leaving us at a young age. We are going to miss him and cannot allow him to retire at such a young age. We will, therefore, from time to time call on your wisdom in our quest to refining processes, systems and

institutions in our development community, as well as to deepen integration through industrialization and promotion of increased cross border trade and regional value chains.

We also take this opportunity to thank the Executive Secretary of SADC and Staff of the SADC secretariat, for the hard work behind the scenes in making this Summit successful.

In conclusion, Your Majesty and Excellencies, I would like to thank you for the honour bestowed upon Namibia as Deputy Chair of

SADC. In this regard, I extend my kind invitation to Your Majesty and Excellencies to come to Namibia for the 38th SADC Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government in 2018. The people of Namibia are look forward to welcoming you to the land of the brave.

I thank you