



COMMUNIQUE

29th PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM, LUBANGO, ANGOLA 5th - 12th June, 2011 “TOWARDS A SADC REGIONAL PARLIAMENT”

1. The 29th SADC Parliamentary Forum Plenary Assembly was held in Lubango, Angola from the 5th to the 12th June 2011, under the theme *“Towards a SADC Regional Parliament”*.
2. The 29th Plenary Assembly was attended by eleven (11) Member Parliaments namely; Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Apologies from the Parliaments of Mauritius, Seychelles and Swaziland were duly noted.
3. The Plenary Assembly was attended by the Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), Hon. Abdirahin H. Abdi and the Clerk of the Pan African Parliament (PAP), Advocate Maitre Zwelethu Madasa, who both addressed the Plenary Deliberative session.
4. Welcoming the Delegates to the 29th Plenary Assembly, Speaker of the National Assembly of Angola, Hon. Antonio Paulo Kassoma, reiterated the progress made by the SADC Parliamentary Forum, further noting that parliamentary engagement is important in enhancing regional integration.
5. In his Introductory Remarks to the 29th Plenary Assembly, the Secretary General, Dr. Esau Chiviya, highlighted the contributions made by the SADC Parliamentary Forum over the years, including the Norms and Standards for Elections in SADC, the SADC Model Law on HIV and the Benchmarks for Democratic Parliaments in Southern Africa, among others.
6. His Excellency, Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos, Vice-President of the Republic of Angola, officially opened the 29th Plenary on behalf of H.E. Eng. Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola.

1. Recalling the decision of the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government of September 1997, which adopted the establishment of the SADC Parliamentary Forum with the ultimate objective of establishing a Regional Parliamentary Framework, the Vice-President highlighted the need for policy harmonisation and greater complementarity among SADC Member States.
2. The Vice President lauded the SADC Parliamentary Forum's programmes and activities as irreversible steps towards an inclusive and participatory regional integration.
7. Hon. Lovemore Moyo, MP, Chairperson of the SADC Parliamentary Forum and Speaker of the House of Assembly of Zimbabwe, underscored the urgency of transforming the Forum into a SADC Regional Parliament, which would serve as a platform for public participation in the affairs of the Region.
8. Hon. Regina Musokotwane, MP, Chairperson of the SADC Parliamentary Forum's Regional Women Parliamentary Caucus (RWPC), highlighted the progress made by some SADC countries in the advancement of gender equality and women empowerment, further observing that a SADC Parliament would lead to greater realisation of the objectives of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.
9. Delivering the Vote of Thanks, Speaker of the National Assembly of Mozambique, Hon. Verónica Nataniel Macamo Dlhovo, MP, commended the National Assembly of Angola for supporting the establishment of the SADC Regional Parliament, having already debated and adopted the motion on the matter.
10. The 29th Plenary Assembly drew lessons from experiences of the East African Legislative Assembly on among other things, the framework for its establishment, relationship between the Assembly and other Organs of the Community and the relationship with National Parliaments.
11. EALA and PAP further expressed readiness to work with the SADC Parliamentary Forum towards its transformation into a Regional Parliament.

12. Recalling Article 18 of the Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), which enjoins PAP to work in close co-operation with Parliaments of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), including the SADC Regional Parliament, PAP observed that the absence of a SADC Parliament has resulted in an ineffectual link with the continental integration process.
1. Expressing support for the transformation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum into a Regional Parliament, PAP reiterated that the SADC Parliament be premised on “the people shall govern” principle.
13. Noting the greater consensus on the urgent need to establish a Regional Parliament as a legislative Organ of SADC, the 29th Plenary Assembly therefore requests the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government to have the matter on its agenda.
1. The 29th Plenary Assembly resolved to establish a Task Force comprising political principals and technical experts to review and consolidate the documents on the Case for a SADC Parliament for consideration and approval by the 30th Plenary Assembly in November 2011.
14. The Plenary Assembly expressed its warm appreciation to the Government, the National Assembly and the people of the Republic of Angola for the warm hospitality extended to all delegates and facilities placed at their disposal that made the 29th Plenary Assembly a success.

*Done at Lubango, Angola
10th June 2011*

Hon. Lovemore Moyo
Chairperson

Dr. Esau Chiviya
Secretary General