



PRESS RELEASE:

Mozambique hosts the 31st SADC PF Plenary Assembly

SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) wishes to announce that the National Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique will be hosting the 31st Plenary Assembly of the Forum from 09 to 16 July 2012 at Hotel Polana in Maputo.

The SADC PF 31st Plenary Assembly will be held under the theme **“Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy”** and it seeks to ensure greater parliamentary role in enhancing participatory democracy and good governance in SADC.

The Secretary General of SADC PF, Dr Esau Chiviya explained that this theme is timely as it comes at a time when National Parliaments in SADC have adopted the *Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures in Southern Africa* which is a standards instrument meant to guide legislatures to transform themselves into democratic and effective institutions.

The Plenary Assembly will among other things, consider the *Benchmarking and Self-Assessment Toolkit* which is an implementation tool to guide SADC Parliaments as they seek to domesticate and institutionalise the *Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures in Southern Africa* and in so doing strengthen parliamentary democracy in SADC countries.

The 31st Plenary Assembly will be officially opened by Mozambique President, His Excellency Armando Emilio Guebuza on Friday, 13 July, 2012. Chairperson of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, Hon. Lovemore Moyo, who is also Speaker of the House of Assembly of Zimbabwe and the host Speaker, Hon. Verónica Nataniel Macamo Dhovo will also address delegates during the Official Opening Session.

The biannual event will be attended by Speakers and Parliamentarians from the 14 SADC Parliaments namely the host Mozambique as well as Angola, Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Ends//

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