



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

**DRAFT ACCEPTANCE SPEECH**

**BY**

**DR. LUCKIE KANYAMULA SIKWESE,  
SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SENIOR  
OFFICIALS' MEETING OF THE FORTY- FIRST ORDINARY SUMMIT  
OF SADC HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

**IN LILONGWE, MALAWI**

**AUGUST, 2021**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Lilongwe 3.**

- **Ambassador Carlos Rodrigues Da Costa, Director for Regional and Continental Integration and SADC National Contact Point for the Republic of Mozambique and Outgoing Chairperson of the SADC Senior Officials;**
- **Dr. Thembi Thlongo SADC Deputy Executive Secretary-Regional Integration**
- **Officials from the SADC Member States;**
- **Officials of the Government of Malawi;**
- **Distinguished Delegates, Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I am deeply honoured to preside over this important meeting in my capacity as the new Chairperson of the Standing Committee of Senior Officials here today, at the Bingu International Convention Center (BICC).

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Malawi and indeed, on my own behalf, allow me to extend a warm welcome to Malawi, commonly known as the “Warm Heart of Africa” to you all the members of delegations from SADC Member States. Please feel at home and be free to enjoy the beautiful City of Lilongwe. **Takulandirani!**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Let me, at this juncture, indicate that this meeting will precede the upcoming meetings of the SADC Council of Ministers and the 41<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Summit of the SADC Heads of State and Government, which will also be held here, from 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, and, from 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, respectively.

The main role of this Meeting of the SADC Committee of Senior Officials is to prepare fully the work to be considered and adopted by the SADC Council of Ministers.

Before I delve into the substantive agenda of this Senior Officials' meeting, allow me, to make a few remarks. I would like to express our utmost gratitude for the opportunity accorded to the Government of the Republic of Malawi to host this remarkable meeting of our prestigious Regional Organisation, SADC, in the midst of the many challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am very confident that the conclusions of the proceedings of the Senior Officials meeting will pave way for the implementation of important programmes and projects that will deepen the SADC regional integration agenda and ultimately improve the wellbeing of citizens of SADC.

Therefore, I would like to appeal to you all to openly and frankly deliberate on these issues, in order to achieve the intended goals and objectives of this meeting.

### **Executive Secretary, Senior Officials, Ladies and Gentlemen**

As we are all aware, SADC is making great strides in many areas of regional economic cooperation and integration under the frameworks of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030 and SADC's Vision 2050 that aims at having a peaceful, inclusive, competitive, middle to high income industrialised region, where all citizens enjoy sustainable economic well-being, justice, and freedom by 2050.

The Government of Malawi is, therefore, committed to work tirelessly with you all in the realisation of the goals and objectives of the RISDP 2020-30 and SADC Vision 2050 thereby translating the aspirations of our fore fathers into realities.

I cannot conclude my speech without expressing my sincere appreciation to the Outgoing Chairperson of the SADC Standing Committee of Senior Officials, **Ambassador Carlos Rodrigues Da Costa**, for your outstanding performance during your tenure as Chairperson of the Standing Committee of Senior Officials. Your dedication and leadership helped our Committee to deliver our mandate and reach our intended

goals. I trust that I can still count on your wisdom and guidance on relevant issues as we take over the Chairship of SADC. Despite the incredibly big task ahead of our SADC Chairship, I strongly believe it can be made less taxing with the support of you all. Together, we will be able to eventually overcome all challenges that this noble role presents.

With these few remarks, I fully commit to be at your service as the new Chairperson of the Standing Committee of Senior Officials and, therefore, declare this meeting of the SADC Committee of Senior Officials officially open.

I wish you fruitful and successful deliberations.

**Thank you for your kind attention**

**Muito Obrigado**

**Merci Beaucoup**

**Asante Sana**

**Zikomo Kwambiri**

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