



MEDIA BRIEFING NOTE

BY

**CHAIRPERSON OF COUNCIL AND MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION,
HON. JAKAYA KIKWETE**

ON THE

**2004 EXTRA-ORDINARY SUMMIT ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD SECURITY**

14 MAY 2004

**DAR ES SALAAM
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen of the media,

I wish to take this opportunity to brief you on the SADC business we have been engaged in over the past two days.

Review Committee Meeting

The final meeting of the Review Committee on the Restructuring of SADC institutions was held yesterday. As you know the Committee has been in existence since 1999, first to review the operations of SADC institutions and later to oversee the implementation of the Restructuring of SADC Institutions.

Most of the tasks identified in the Report on the Restructuring of SADC Institutions which was adopted by the SADC Heads of State and Government in March 2001 have now been completed. Our organisation has now moved from being a decentralised one, to a centralised one with the phasing out of all Sector Coordinating Units and Commissions and the setting up of Directorates at the headquarters in Gaborone. We have also advertised the positions of Heads of Directorates and some of the Units which have appeared in our local newspapers.

We hope to have these key staff members on board by August 2004 as per the directive of Council.

We have completed the development of a Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), which was launched by the Chairperson of SADC, President Mkapa in March 2004 in Arusha. This is the blueprint for the development of the region for the next 15 years and it spells out priority areas, targets and timeframes, as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. We are currently developing business plans based on the RISDP for presentation to the Integrated Committee of Ministers and on to Council by February 2005.

These are just some of the many activities that we were tasked with under the Report on the Restructuring of SADC Institution. The main issue is that we are nearing completion of this important milestone in the development of SADC.

Agriculture and Food Security Summit

This morning we held a Council of Ministers meeting on Agriculture and Food Security. As you know, this Summit was called by the current Chairperson of SADC to map out strategies to rid our region of the perennial problem of food insecurity. Since this requires all hands on deck, we have invited our international cooperating partners such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, World Food Programme, the World Bank, the European Union and continental organisations such as the African Development Bank and the African Union, to name but a few.

This morning we considered both short-term and long-term strategies aimed at ensuring sustainable agriculture and food security for the region which we are recommending to Summit for approval.

Among the short-term strategies which we intend to implement by 2006 include the following:

- (a) Ensuring the availability of key agricultural inputs such as improved seeds, fertilisers and agro-chemicals and the production and use of appropriate farm machinery and implements. We also plan to increase the availability and productivity of farm labour as well as increase access to land for farmers and in particular vulnerable groups;
- (b) Enhancing the control and eradication of crop and livestock pests and diseases;
- (c) Enhancing crop, livestock, fishery and non-traditional agricultural production such as mushrooms;
- (d) Increasing market access to ensure safe nutritious and affordable food;
- (e) Enhancing water resource management and irrigation development; and
- (f) Strengthening disaster preparedness mechanisms.

On the long term strategies, which are to be attained over a period of 15 years, in line with the RISDP, we agreed on the following:

- (a) Ensuring sustainable agricultural financing and investment, this includes an increase in budgetary allocations for agriculture upto 10%, as per the African Union Maputo Declaration of July 2003;
- (b) Ensuring improved access to key agricultural inputs;
- (c) Enhancing food production, productivity and the overall availability;
- (d) Access to productive agricultural land;
- (e) The development and management of water resources for promoting irrigated agriculture;
- (f) Ensuring sustainable utilisation of natural resources;
- (g) Improving access to safe and nutritious food;
- (h) Strengthening disaster preparedness mechanisms; and
- (i) Mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS and other chronic diseases on agriculture and food security.

These are key issues we have agreed upon and which we will be presenting to Summit.

I thank you and now welcome comments and questions.