



SADC PF

38TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY

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The SADC PF and Parliament of Namibia convened a press conference on Monday, 23 November 2015 at Sea Side Hotel in Swakopmund, Namibia to brief the media on the deliberations in the ongoing Plenary Assembly Session. Speaking on behalf of the Vice President of SADC PF Hon Joseph Njobvuyalema, the Secretary-General of the SADC PF, Dr. Esau Chiviya said 12 SADC countries with the exception of the United Republic of Tanzania and Seychelles were represented at the 38th Plenary Assembly Session. The two countries could not attend due to reasons related to elections.

Dr. Chiviya said the Plenary Assembly Session which officially started on Saturday, November 21 deliberated on a number of motions and reports such as the Report of the Joint Session of Standing Committees & the RWPC Draft Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting those Already in Marriage; Motion on the Criminalisation of HIV Transmission, Exposure and Non-Disclosure in SADC Member States; Motion on Legislation for Gender Quotas as a Strategy to Accelerate Gender Equality in line with the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and Motion for Adoption of the Report of the Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development.

In addition, Dr. Chiviya said the Plenary Assembly Session would proceed with the consideration of the Report of the Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus; Motion on the Need for SADC

Member States to Invest in Alternative Sources of Energy Report of the SADC PF Delegation to the High Level Seminar on Peace, Security and Sustainable Development held in Brussels, Belgium on 8 - 9 October 2015.

He said in terms of the SADC PF's Rules of Procedure 6(3), SADC PF is required to submit its Plenary Assembly Resolutions to the SADC Secretariat and to relevant national Government Ministries through their National Parliaments. Accordingly, the resolutions from the Plenary Assembly would be forwarded to these two institutions to ensure that the key stakeholders at national and regional levels are informed about citizens' views on various issues of Regional interest and concern.

Speaking at the same press conference, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi said the Plenary Assembly was honoured to have been addressed by a number of Government dignitaries including Hon. Cleophas Mutjavikua, Governor of Erongo Region; the Hon. Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education,

Training and Innovation as well as Hon. Dr. Becky Ndjoze-Ojo, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation.

On Saturday 21st November 2015, the Plenary Assembly hosted a Symposium, where key resource persons from various institutions including the Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA) and UNDP, addressed the delegates.

"Apart from discussions around the theme of the Assembly, there will be an opportunity for Parliamentarians in attendance, to visit places of significance in Swakopmund and Walvis Bay, for instance, the Walvis Bay port and major fish processing companies. Walvis Bay Corridor is a key hub within the region, linking a number of our countries and therefore it is important that Parliamentarians from within the SADC Region familiarise themselves with the developments in the area. "Swakopmund is one of our major tourist destinations. So far, the Plenary Assembly Session has been well-attended and was progressing as planned," Hon. Prof. Katjavivi noted.



Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi (left) and Dr. Esau Chiviya during the Press Conference

SADC PF Plenary adopts Executive Committee Report



Hon. Garry Nkombo, Treasurer of the SADC PF presents the Executive Committee Report

Staff Reporters

The 38th Plenary Assembly Session of the SADC PF which is underway at the coastal town of Swakopmund yesterday adopted the Report of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee is the Management Board of the SADC PF which oversees implementation of Plenary Assembly resolutions and its own. It deliberates on the affairs of the SADC PF and makes recommendations to the Plenary which is the highest decision making body of the SADC PF.

The Treasurer of SADC PF, Hon Garry Nkombo from Zambia tabled the Report, which also included the Treasurer's Report. It includes the budget for the Forum for the next financial year.

In discussions before the Report was adopted, some MPs raised concerns on various issues that affect the operations of the SADC PF. Issues raised include the

turning down of invitations extended to Members by the Secretariat to participate in donor funded activities because some National Parliaments are unable to upgrade their tickets and top up their daily upkeep allowances as well as a proposal to increase the SADC PF Members per country from six to seven.

The MPs felt that the Secretariat should ensure that documents are delivered to them on time for scrutiny ahead of discussions.

The issue of Climate Change that has affected the world was also raised, and the Plenary felt that mitigating its effects was an option. They recommended that countries in the Region work together to develop policies on Climate Change. The Plenary recommended that the people of the SADC Region be sensitized on the importance of planting more trees to prevent desertification.



Plenary draws lessons from Tanzania elections

Staff Reporters

The 38th SADC PF Plenary Assembly Session on its third day of sitting adopted an Interim Report on Election Observation Mission to the United Republic of Tanzania General Elections held on the 25 October 2015.

Presenting the report, Deputy-Leader of the Mission Hon. Agnes Limbo from Namibia, informed the session that the SADC PF Election Observation Team was in Tanzania from 18 to 29 October 2015. The mission was preceded by a Pre-Election Technical Assessment Mission which covered both the Mainland and Zanzibar from 22 August to 4 September 2015

She said the mission was constituted in response to an invitation by the National Electoral Commission of Tanzania (NEC). "The team constituted of Parliamentarians from Angola, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe and the SADC PF Secretariat," she noted.

Hon. Agnes Limbo of Namibian presents the Interim Report on Election Observation Mission to the United Republic of Tanzania General Elections held on the 25 October 2015 during the 38th Plenary Assembly Session of SADC PF



Hon. Limbo expressed, disappointment that there was no gender balance among the MPs nominated by the National Parliaments to this Mission. I was the only female MP that formed the delegation. This violates not only our own constitution which recognizes gender parity and political inclusion as cardinal values, but also the principle of inclusive governance that SADC PF preaches during election observation missions.

The Mission marked the third time SADC PF has observed elections in Tanzania and the 38th Election Observation Mission to be deployed since 1999 when the Forum started observing elections in SADC Member States. "The Mission concluded its work with an Interim Statement which was presented at a press conference attended by stakeholders in Tanzania. The Interim Statement outlined the Mission's findings, good practices, recommendations and overall assessment of the

2015 Tanzanian General Elections. A more detailed Final Mission Report is being compiled by the Secretariat and will be published in due course," she revealed.

Hon Limbo informed the session that the Mission observed a comprehensive array of good electoral practices, such as laws governing all aspect of elections; a high degree of political tolerance; existence of high number of diverse and robust media affording citizens a full range of political options and a Constitutional provision for quota seats for women MPs, amongst many.

Additionally, the mission also identified areas for improvement, which include the need for possible Constitutional Amendments to allow election petitions for the Presidential Election results declared by NEC in order to allow candidates and political parties the right to challenge the validity of election results in line with regional and international standards.

"There is a need to further enhance the integrity of NEC by making the appointment process of NEC Commissioners more inclusive by involving Parliament," she commented.

The mission was satisfied that the elections were held in a peaceful and conducive environment.

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