



REMARKS BY

**SADC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
HIS EXCELLENCY MR. ELIAS M. MAGOSI**

AT THE 2026 SADC SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK EVENT

THEME:

***“Driving a Regional Economic Growth Best Clean Energy and
Energy Efficiency”***

**Elephant Hills Hotel,
VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE**

25 FEBRUARY 2026

General (Rtd) Honourable Dr. Constantino Chiwenga, the Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe;

Honourable Mr. July Moyo, Minister of Energy and Power Development of the Republic of Zimbabwe, and our host and partner;

Honourable Dr. Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, Minister of Electricity and Energy of the Republic of South Africa, and Interim Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers Responsible for Energy;

Hon. Richard Moyo, Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Matabeleland North;

Honourable Ministers and deputy ministers here present;

Dr. Kevin Kariuki, Vice President responsible for Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth (PEVP), African Development Bank Group (AfDB);

Representative of the World Bank Group, Ms. Nadia Taobane;

Mr. Kudakwashe Ndhlukula, SACREEE Executive Director;

International Cooperating Partners;

Distinguished Sponsors of the 2026 SADC Sustainable Energy Week

Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to Zimbabwe;

All Invited Guests and delegates;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Good morning.

Allow me to extend my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe for hosting this event through the Ministry of Energy and Power Development, in collaboration with the SADC

Secretariat and the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE).

As we gather today, we are reminded that energy is not just about kilowatt-hours, joules, or infrastructure such as transmission lines and substations. At its core, energy is about people families, communities, businesses, and the survival of nations. It challenges our beliefs and norms, while inspiring hope, progress, and the fulfilment of our national and regional aspirations.

Through our shared commitment as SADC, we will continue to pursue universal access, energy security, deeper regional integration, and the industrialisation and development our region deserves.

We are honoured by the presence of **Honourable Vice President** at this year's edition of the SADC Sustainable Energy Week, held under the theme *“Driving Regional Economic Growth Through Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency.”* Your attendance **Honourable Vice President** elevates the significance of this event and sends a strong message across the region that energy security is not an abstract policy ambition, but a lifeline for development, one that touches every household, every school, every clinic, and every economic activity.

I also wish to acknowledge and appreciate the participation of Ministers from SADC Member States responsible for energy. The willingness of Honourable Ministers to engage in this important dialogue demonstrates our collective commitment to addressing shared energy challenges and finding sustainable solutions together.

I also wish to extend gratitude to our sponsors, the private sector and regional partners whose support has been instrumental in organising this event. We could not have done this without you, and for that we say, thank you.

Your Honour, Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

The SADC Sustainable Energy Week (SEW) was established as an annual event by the Joint Committee of Ministers responsible for Energy and Water in May 2024 in Angola. The Republic of Botswana hosted the inaugural edition in Gaborone in 2025, starting us on a path towards collective engagement, building trust among member states, and assuring private sector and other partners of a crucial seat at the table. We wish to thank Botswana for this bold step to initiate the process of the SEW. We are grateful that the second edition of 2026 is convened here in Vic Falls, Zimbabwe. The country has showed leadership in taking the baton forward and facilitating collaboratively with the SADC Secretariat and the SACREEE to deliver a successful SEW. I am also informed that the Kingdom of Eswatini is considering hosting the 2027 edition of SEW and am confident that it will build on the gains from the last two and chart a progressive path for the region.

Building on the 18 actionable items identified during the 2025 SEW, this year's programme includes high-level presentations, panel discussions, B2B engagements, and networking sessions. Discussions will focus on policy frameworks, including national energy strategies and compacts, as well as investment, financing, grid integration, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and a just transition.

This aligns with the theme of the 45th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government: ***“Advancing Industrialisation, Agricultural Transformation, and Energy Transition for a Resilient SADC.”***

In coordinating implementation of the 18 actionable outcomes, the Secretariat reports the following progress:

1. Member States are developing and implementing National Energy Compacts to deliver seven key outcomes, including expanded energy access, stronger political commitment, accelerated off-grid solutions, and advancement of the Dar es Salaam Declaration under Mission 300.
2. The Secretariat continues to leverage funding mechanisms for priority regional projects and is working with SAPP to operationalise the Regional Transmission Infrastructure Financing Facility (RTIFF) to address critical financing gaps.
3. In collaboration with SAPP and SACREEE, the SAPP Generation and Transmission Master Plan (Pool Plan 2026-2040) is under review to ensure integrated planning that incorporates renewable energy and natural gas within a diversified regional mix.
4. A Draft Framework on Just Energy Transition for the SADC Region has been developed and is pending submission to the relevant SADC structures. We commend the United Republic of Tanzania for championing clean cooking initiatives across the Region.

Honourable Vice President,

Energy security and universal access remain fundamental enablers of regional integration, industrialization and sustainable economic growth. The Region's total installed generation capacity currently stands at 83,055 MW, including 1,548 MW from our Oceanic Member States of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles. While progress is clearly evident, we must continue to scale up investment, deepen regional cooperation and accelerate implementation to ensure that no Member State is left behind in our collective journey toward a resilient and energy-secure SADC.

The above notwithstanding, our region continues to face power shortages due to inadequate infrastructure such as limited transmission capacity and the intensifying effects of climate change. The installed capacity in the Region is still dominated by coal-fired plants mainly from Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Currently, coal accounts for 59% of electricity generation in the Region, while hydropower contributes 24%. Encouragingly, the share of lower-carbon sources, including solar, wind and natural gas, has increased significantly from 3% to 12% over the past decade, reflecting steady progress in diversifying the regional energy mix.

In this context, the Region must continue exploring a broad range of technologies to strengthen energy security and sustainability. These include clean coal technologies to improve efficiency and reduce emissions from existing assets, as well as nuclear energy as a potential baseload option, where feasible and in line with international safety standards.

At the same time, we must intensify energy efficiency measures across all sectors, recognizing that the most affordable and sustainable energy is the energy we save.

The climate-related droughts of 2024-2025, which lowered river levels and reduced hydropower output, exposed our region's vulnerability. As we cannot predict the frequency or impact of such events, diversifying our energy mix is imperative. This includes gas-to-power options, cleaner coal technologies, the peaceful use of nuclear energy, emerging solutions such as green hydrogen, and virtual power plants supported by commercial and residential rooftop solar.

These innovations require robust regulatory frameworks to ensure safety, technical compliance, environmental protection, and investor confidence

through cost-reflective tariffs and effective net metering. At the same time, promoting energy efficiency across all sectors will lower demand, reduce service costs, and help defer major capital investments.

Honourable Vice President, Honourable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Electricity access in the SADC Region shows progress alongside persistent gaps. While Mauritius and Seychelles have achieved universal access, the regional weighted average stands at 56%, ahead of the EAC (39%) and ECOWAS (53%).

Continental progress is also advancing: 30 of 55 African states have completed National Energy Compacts. Within SADC, this number has risen from four in January 2025 to eleven of sixteen Member States (69%) by January 2026.

This milestone, achieved within one year of the inaugural SADC Sustainable Energy Week, demonstrates strong political commitment to advancing energy access, security, and sustainability across the Region.

While these steps demonstrate strong political will, they must be complemented by investments in power generation, transmission, distribution, mini-grids, and cross-border electrification initiatives such as those between Zambia and Malawi, between Botswana and Zambia, as well as between Lesotho and South Africa. We must continue intensifying efforts to expand electricity access through innovative financing mechanisms, rural electrification agencies, and diversified technological approaches, including grid extension, smart grids, and off-grid solutions tailored to rural and disadvantaged communities, such as micro-grids, mini-grids, and stand-alone solar systems.

Honourable Vice President,

I am pleased to report strong progress on regional interconnector projects. The Malawi-Mozambique interconnector is nearing completion and is tentatively scheduled for commissioning by June 2026. The Tanzania-Zambia interconnector has secured World Bank financing on the Zambian side and is expected to be completed by 2028. Together, these projects will connect two of the remaining three mainland Member States to the SAPP grid, easing congestion and strengthening regional electricity trade.

Efforts to link Angola to the SAPP network through Namibia are also advancing and have reached the financial structuring stage. Once completed, these priority interconnectors will enable Angola to trade surplus power and support evacuation from major regional projects, including Grand Inga (DRC), Mpanda Nkuwa (Mozambique), and the Baynes Hydropower Project (Namibia-Angola).

The Secretariat is engaging Oceanic Member States to consider joining SAPP, enabling them to benefit from regional capacity-building, technical cooperation, and peer learning, while strengthening system planning and market development across the Region. They are also encouraged to submit priority projects to the SADC Project Preparation and Development Facility (PPDF) and the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (NEPAD-IPPF), which provide upstream support to enhance bankability and mobilize investment.

I am pleased to report that all SADC Member States have now established national energy regulators, with the Democratic Republic of Congo and Comoros the most recent. This marks a major step in strengthening regulatory governance and investor confidence.

In this regard, I encourage the regulators of Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, and Seychelles to join RERA to promote regulatory harmonization, capacity development, and transparent, efficient energy markets in SADC.

Your Honour, Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Energy infrastructure requires significant financing. We call on Member States and partners to support priority projects under the SADC RIDMP Short Term Action Plan (2023-2027), which identifies an energy financing gap of USD 18 billion, and to operationalize the SADC Regional Development Fund to mobilize resources for regional initiatives.

To address structural challenges including low access, energy poverty, reliance on coal and hydropower, and limited efficiency, the Secretariat, with UNECA, is developing a Framework on Just Energy Transition for submission to Ministers. We are also reviewing the Regional Power Generation and Transmission Master Plan and undertaking mid-term reviews of REEESAP and REASAP. We will continue working closely with SACREEE and urge Member States to ratify the Inter-Governmental Memorandum of Agreement establishing the Centre to enable it to fully execute its mandate.

In conclusion, the 2026 SADC Sustainable Energy Week provides a platform for dialogue that must translate into tangible results. By measuring progress and holding ourselves accountable, we can ensure that our collective efforts deliver lasting improvements in energy access and security across the Region.

**I Thank You for your attention! Merci Beaucoup! Muito
Obrigado! Asante Sana! Tantenda! Siyabonga! Kealeboga!**