

DRAFT

SPEECH HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE

AT THE SADC DFI CEO FORUM

**AT ROYAL SWAZI SUN HOTEL &
CONVENTION CENTER – EZULWINI,
SWAZILAND**

THURSDAY, 7TH TO 8TH DECEMBER 2017

- Program Director
- Chairman of the SADC DFI Network, Mr. Dumisani Msibi.
- Chairperson of the Board of SADC DFI Network Board, Mrs. Nthabiseng Posholi
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps
- Key Note Speaker, Ms. Thembi Langa, Senior Programme Officer, SADC Secretariat
- Senior Government Officials present.
- The SADC DFRC CEO, Mr. Stuart Kufeni.
- CEOs, MDs and Senior Executives of all other institutions.
- Distinguished Ladies & Gentleman.
- All Protocol observed

1. Let me start off by thanking you for inviting me to officiate at this SADC DFI Network CEO Forum.

2. As a member of the Council of SADC Ministers of Finance, I am well aware of the importance that has been placed on the Regional DFI Network through the Finance & Investment Protocol (FIP). I must say that we have very high expectations from yourselves in so far as regional social and economic developmental impact are concerned.

3. SADC continues to take interest in the work done by Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) in the region and that is why a treaty was signed sometime back to establish the SADC Development Fund with the aim of availing wholesale funding

resources to Governments, DFIs and other stakeholders in order to accelerate development.

4. On behalf of His Majesty's King Mswati III Government and on my behalf as the Minister of Finance I wish to express our great appreciation to you for choosing Swaziland, to host your annual meetings on this occasion.
5. I commend the local DFIs namely FINCORP, Swazibank, SIDC and NIDCS for taking membership in the SADC DFI Network as it promotes knowledge transfer and information sharing.
6. I have also been made aware of the fact that the Chairmanship of SADC DFI Network currently rests on Swaziland as represented by the Group Managing Director of FINCORP, Mr. Dumisani Msibi. As a Ministry, we pledge our full support to him and the network at large.
7. Distinguished delegates turning to the purpose of this gathering themed ***“Financial Inclusion in SADC – the Role of DFIs”*** there could have been no better time than now to reflect on this subject matter as many of our people remain excluded from accessing financial services especially those at grassroots level.
8. Financial inclusion matters not only because it promotes growth, but because it also ensures prosperity and welfare is widely

distributed among our people. Access to financial services plays a critical role in lifting people out of poverty in a dignified manner, empowering women, and helping governments deliver much needed services to their people.

9. As a Government in this country we have escalated our efforts to deal with this delinquency by setting up a Centre for Financial Inclusion in Swaziland and we look forward to achieving improved levels of financial inclusion in order to spur socio-economic growth and development.
10. We have also pioneered several initiatives aimed at enhancing financial literacy and access to credit namely the setting up of a Poverty Reduction Fund; Regional Development Fund; most recently Youth Fund to name just a few but the biggest challenge has always been sustaining these initiatives. As practitioners of development finance this is where you come in.
11. SADC has also prioritized financial inclusion efforts with the aim of ensuring that all citizens have an equal chance of having access to financial services and thereby promoting economic growth.
12. Across the continent and most importantly in the SADC Region, governments have realised the pivotal role that financial inclusion can play in combatting poverty and contributing to

inclusive economic growth. Financial sector deepening is a prerequisite for economic development and reducing income inequality among the poor and creating employment opportunities.

13. Distinguished delegates, innovations in addressing Rural Finance challenges in Africa remains a complex issue which require the right mix of policies, strategies, technology, institutional arrangements, products design, systems development as well as innovative incentives. However, the main challenge will be to foster these innovations in poor communities in order to make financial services more accessible to them.
14. Research undertaken by FINMARK Trust in the SADC Region suggests that a large section of the population in sub-Saharan Africa remains excluded from formal financial markets and therefore DFIs still have a lot of work to do.
15. Let me state that DFIs will only be able to deliver on SADC developmental programs if proper structures for Governance, Prudential Financial Management and Operational Management are put in place.
16. SADC is well aware that the DFI Network has made meaning progress on these subject mattes using the Prudential, Guidelines, Standards and Rating Systems (PSGRS) and as

Ministers we encourage you to enforce the implementation of these performance standards without fail. It's the right thing to do.

17. Distinguished delegates, Before I conclude my speech I wish to challenge you as DFIs to pay particular attention to the following pertinent developmental imperatives :

- i. Provision of Business Support Services to credit clients in order to increase their chances of survival.
- ii. Proving innovative solutions for resource mobilization for project finance.
- iii. Increased provision of infrastructure in particular bulk water, energy and transportation.
- iv. Provision of Project Preparation and feasibility study support.
- v. Increasing industrialization and economic integration with the SADC Region.

18. If the above imperatives were to be addressed satisfactorily, the SADC region would prosper.

19. I will keenly await your feedback on these very important issues.

20. It is now my singular honour and a great privilege to declare the 2017 SADC CEO's Forum officially opened.
21. Do find time to visit the various places of interest that our beautiful kingdom offers to all its special guests. As a nation we honestly believe that we are "Africa's New Promise" hence we have a very big vision of transforming this country to a first world status meaning improved quality of life and prosperity for all.
22. I thank you for your attention and wish you fruitful deliberations.

Sen. Martin G. Dlamini
Honourable Minister of Finance