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MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 9 August 2024

To: All Media Houses

For Immediate Release

SUBJECT: THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA ATTENDS THE SOUTHERN AFRICA DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION FORUM ESTABLISHMENT MEETING IN CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town, South Africa: The Public Service Commission (PSC) of Namibia is attending the SADC PSC Forum meeting which started from 06-09 August 2024, at The President Hotel in Cape Town, Sea Point, South Africa.

The main objective of the meeting is to establish the SADC PSC Forum where Public Service Commissions within the SADC Region will now be able to convene and engage on matters of common interest including inter alia, collaboration and sharing best practices.

The secondary objectives include mobilization of resources and coordination of human resources-related matters which will contribute immensely to the professionalization of the public service administration within the SADC region and help establish relationships and reporting lines to the SADC and African Union structures.

The Namibian delegation is led by Commissioner Salmaan D. Jacobs, Chairperson of the PSC, Commissioner Batseba U. Katjiuongua, Commissioner Gerson H. Kamatuka, whereas the

Secretariat is represented by PSC Deputy Executive Director Alfred T. Tjihambuma and the Chief Information Officer Chalo Chanda.

The three-day meeting was officially opened by South Africa's Minister of Public Service and Administration Honourable, Minister Nkosi Mzamo Buthelezi whereas Professor Somadoda Fikeni Chairperson of the Public Service of South Africa and Interim Convenor gave the opening welcoming remarks.

The countries in attendance included Angola, Botswana, The Kingdom of Eswatini, The Kingdom of Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, whereas The Comoros Islands, The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Seychelles and Madagascar attended virtually, whilst Malawi and Mozambique are expected to join the meeting on the second day of the event.

The Chairperson of the respective countries' Commission attending the meeting presented a comprehensive brief overview of the mandates, functions and roles of their countries' Commissions and welcomed the need to forge ahead as a regional block with the establishment of the SADC Public Service Commission Forum.

The SADC Countries in attendance divulged their full support for this noble initiative, however, the initiative need not be rushed but it should be done so by laying a solid foundation that is in line with the SADC industrial strategy and road map and it should not sprout into a vacuum just occupied vacancies but to build a legacy and foundation for the future.

Furthermore, the meeting felt the need to engage the SADC line ministers and heads of state to solicit their support through the structures and processes.

Some of the attendees' expectations are that as we move to the formation of the Forum there is a need to strengthen the concept note, and scope of work and support the interim committee and continue to guide them and should be founded on principles of laying a strong foundation that will guide the road map.

Delivering his remarks Commissioner Salmaan D. Jacobs, Chairperson of Namibia Public Service Commission stated "This is indeed a historic occasion, where we will look back to say, this is how it all started. Namibia thus welcomes the establishment of this Forum within the SADC region where members of the Public Service Commissions in the region will now be able to convene and engage on matters of common interest" he emphasized. Our late President, Dr Hage Geingob, emphasized the importance of building strong institutions, systems and processes, for effective Governance Architecture.

The relevance and necessity of having a framework for closer collaboration between and amongst SADC member states cannot be over-emphasized. The Forum therefore should indeed be seen as an important platform, contributing to the professionalization of public service administration

within the SADC region. It will assist and guide the establishment of relationships and reporting lines to the SADC and African Union structures. Commissions tasked with overseeing recruitment and coordination of employment in the public service will now gather around the same table to collaborate and share best practices.

Participants further cautioned the need for further consultations with the country's respective principles to ensure that the creation of this forum complies with the protocols of approval as required by each member country's foreign and bilateral relations protocols, bilateral exchange agreements and existing laws and regulatory frameworks of member SADC member states, SADC Blueprint and African Union political structures.

Last but not least, the meeting had a consensus that the Forum should be used by SADC PSCs as a conduit through which we will be able to collaborate, benchmark and capacitate different National Schools of Government for the training of Public Servants within the region. Furthermore, this Forum pushes the agenda for human resource issues, public administration and management issues to become discussion items, worthy to be discussed during SADC Summits by our Heads of States. With regards to continental engagement Commissioner Salmaan mentioned that Namibia recently returned from Rabat Morocco, where Namibia attended the African Training and Research Centre in Administration and Development (CAFRAD), where it attended the 59th Governing Board meeting. Namibia serves as the SADC Executive Committee member representing the rest of SADC.

CAFRAD is the Pan African Intergovernmental Organisation created in 1964 by African governments with the support of UNESCO. CAFRAD was created with the mission to improve and promote the system of public administration and governance through research and various interdisciplinary training activities based on contemporary challenges and opportunities needed for the development of African countries. In addition, CAFRAD serves as a Centre of Excellence and supports to activities of governments in Africa and related agencies in capacity building, innovation and performance in public administration for improved service delivery to the citizens, visionary leadership and participatory public policies.

Therefore, "I urge other SADC PSC Forum members to make use of CAFRAD as we are likely to benefit from some of the activities and programmes as a region. The visibility of CAFRAD and the benefits to our public servants will be strengthened by our participation as SADC member states. It is for us to purposefully intervene towards its programmes and for our public servants to benefit from its activities in terms of capacity building, training, skills transfer, exchange programmes, and international participation" he revealed.

the meeting noted that the Forum formation should be guided by the institutional arrangements and by the legal instruments guiding the road map of SADC Regional structures such as the SADC Council of Ministers as will be agreed upon.

At the end of the meeting, it is expected that the members will come up with resolutions and recommendations that will drive the road map towards the establishment of the forum.

END

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Department of Public Service Commission Secretariat

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Mission

To act as centre of expertise that transforms, facilitates, coordinates and capacitates Public Service for effective service delivery

Vision

A better Namibia driven by an innovative and citizen-centric public service



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