



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

## OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

### PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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**To: All Media Houses  
For Immediate Release**

#### **MEDIA RELEASE: SADC PSCs FORUM GENERAL MEETING OPENS IN WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA**

The Public Service Commission of Namibia (PSC) is hosting the Southern Africa Development Community SADC PSCs Forum from 14 to 16 July at the Mercure Hotel and Conference Centre in Windhoek, Namibia.

Welcoming the guests, the Chairperson of the Public Service Commission, Commissioner Salmaan D. Jacobs, underscored that the idea of the Forum was mooted during our benchmarking visit to Botswana and South Africa in July 2023, some two years ago, and became a reality. During that visit, an idea was shared of desire to see a closer collaboration and interaction between and amongst Public Service Commissions of the member states in SADC, which has taken root, and one man took it upon himself to make it a reality.

In his opening remarks, Professor Somadoda Fikeni, Chairperson Public Service Commission of South Africa, and the Forum indicated that the assembly of such distinguished individuals underscores the importance of our collective aim to enhance public service delivery across the SADC region. "Our gathering today is marked by a shared commitment to advancing excellence, integrity, and innovation within our respective public sectors", he said. The outcomes of our discussions and decisions will undoubtedly impact the future direction of

governance and public administration, not only within our nations but also throughout the entire Southern African Development Community, he added.

Furthermore, Somadoda stated that for this noble transformation to materialize, a new type of public servant must emerge, one who is ethical, technically proficient, socially conscious, and deeply development-oriented, equipped with strategic foresight and guided by a profound moral compass. A new consciousness and a collective conscience must be cultivated, transcending.

He called on the conference delegates for unity of purpose, "We are united by a common dedication to fostering excellence, integrity, and innovation within our respective public sectors. Our deliberations and decisions will undoubtedly shape the future of governance and public administration, not only in our nations but across the entire Southern African Development Community".

In conclusion, Prof. Somadoda extended his gratitude to the Government and people of Namibia for their generous hospitality, as well as to each delegate for their unwavering commitment.

"I hope that this assembly will serve as a beacon of hope, a symbol of our collective strength, and a testament to our shared determination to transform governance and enhance the human condition", he concluded.

The forum was officially opened by Honourable Dr. Kaire Mbuende, Director General of the National Planning Commission, on behalf of the Prime Minister, Right Honourable Elijah Tjitunga Ngurare, marking a significant step forward in regional collaboration among public entities.

In his address, Prime Minister Ngurare underscored the pivotal role of public administration in enhancing regional development, promoting governance excellence, and reinforcing the capacity of national public service sectors.

The forum brings together esteemed representatives from Angola, Botswana, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Kingdom of Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Namibia, the host.

In addition, to the Chairpersons of each SADC PSC, the forum is attended by Commissioners, members of each PSC Secretariat, and key policy makers. It is also attended by industry leaders and academic experts committed to elevating public service delivery throughout the region.

Developed following an initial gathering hosted by the South African Public Service Commission in May 2024 and a subsequent follow-up meeting in August 2024, the SADC PSC Forum is a landmark initiative.

It is designed to foster collaboration in sharing best practices, mobilizing resources, and addressing common challenges across member states.

The forum's establishment was further reinforced by resolutions adopted during the SADC Ministers of Employment, Labour, and Social Partners meeting held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, in March 2025. The forum's primary objectives include sharing expertise, exchanging information and training programs, and mobilizing resources to enhance public service capacity and professionalism.

Delegates deliberate on aligning public sector strategies with SADC and continental policy frameworks, while also establishing linkages with regional, continental, and international bodies.

It is designed to foster collaboration and sharing best practices, mobilizing resources, and addressing common challenges across member states. The Forum establishment has been included on the SADC Council of Ministers Agenda for possible adoption and admission into the SADC organs during the Council of Ministers meeting scheduled for August 2025.

The Public Service Commission of Namibia (PSC), in collaboration with the Social Security Commission (Gala Dinner sponsor), will host a Gala Dinner on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025, ensuring that conference delegates can network and share more details on best practices.

In addition, the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVA Fund) provides an Ambulance with Paramedics on occasion to ensure that the delegates receive a well-coordinated medical response in case of emergencies.

In his closing remarks, Chairman of the Service Commission of Zimbabwe Dr. Vincent Hungwe paid a heartfelt tribute to Namibia, "truly the Land of the Brave, whose enduring spirit and unwavering commitment to liberation, peace, and unity continue to inspire the region and the world. This is the Namibia that gave us icons such as the revered Founding President, Comrade Sam Nujoma, whose legacy of principled leadership laid the foundation for a resilient and democratic nation. May his soul rest in eternal peace".

Dr. Hungwe expressed his deepest respect to the Interim Chairperson of the SADC Public Service Forum, Professor Somadoda Fikeni - a man whose leadership has been both compass and anchor in these times of transition. "The wise lead not by

force, but by the quiet pull of vision," and in you, Professor, we have witnessed the rare convergence of foresight, grace, and resolute purpose.

Acknowledging the host Chairperson, Commissioner Salmaan D. Jacobs of the Namibia Public Service Commission, Dr. Hungwe, "It is the heart that gives, not the hand," and your heart of hospitality has been evident in every detail of this gathering. To host a meeting of this stature is no small feat, yet you have done so with grace and quiet strength, making each of us feel not like guests, but kin. The cultural expressions shared reminded us, powerfully, that "a people without culture are like a river without source" — and indeed, we are proud children of the African soil, concluded Dr. Hungwe.

The meeting validated and adopted the Concept Note of the SADC PSC Forum, and it will close on Wednesday, 16 July 2025, with delegates touring the City of Windhoek and selected national heritage sites.

**END**

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**Issued for immediate release by:**

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**Department of Public Service Commission Secretariat  
Office of the Prime Minister**

#### **Mission**

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