



## **Official Announcement of 3<sup>rd</sup> SADC Youth Parliament Mentors**

**Dear Colleagues, ladies, and gentlemen, young people from our beautiful region, the media, the SADC Youth Parliamentarians, stakeholders, partners, and our esteemed Mentors.**

Today is a great day not only in the Southern Africa region, but for Africa; a few days ago, the region witnessed the announcement of 37 members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> SADC Youth Parliament a regional policy advocacy, engagement arm, and flagship program coordinated by the Southern Africa Youth Forum (SAYoF) and other stakeholders. A platform for key decisions that influence policy and practice at national, regional, and international levels. Through consultative processes with young people in the region, the Southern Africa Youth Parliament adopts key policy decisions and recommendations to the policymakers, communities, and stakeholders in the Southern Africa region. The Parliament is composed of Young Leaders from diverse backgrounds not limited to Political, Health, Arts, Culture, Disability, Business, Environment, Agriculture, Religious Leaders, Academic, Media, and Sports among others.

At the center of the SADC Youth Parliament, there are Mentors. The mentors play a very important role in the development of young leaders in SADC, including sharing best practices drawn from their experiences, and best models on practical youth empowerment.

The SADC Youth Parliament Mentors will serve as advisors for the young parliamentarians, nurture them, give guidance in their leadership journey, be the referral agent, be councilors, and motivate the young leaders to be transformative leaders at national, regional, and international levels. The Mentors will act as a liaison to the mentees on various leadership and developmental issues of mutual interest.

Some of the Objectives of the SADC Youth Parliament Mentorship Program aim to:

- Engage and inspire young leaders in the SADC Youth Parliament to use their knowledge and experience to enhance national, and regional development.
- Assist parliamentarians to enhance their leadership capacity, to respond to various policy issues at the national, regional, and international levels, further improving their knowledge, reaching their full potential, and keeping them motivated.
- Create regional networks of youth leaders that are supported by experienced individuals among others.
- Provide guidance and support to youth parliamentarians.
- Facilitate dialogue and cross-pollinate ideas between them, while enabling an ambiance of open communication.
- Initiate discussions, and programs for the development of mentees



- Transmit their knowledge and experience to mentees to help them develop strategies for action.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Media, our esteemed Guests, it's my singular honor and privilege to announce the Mentors

- 1. Chief Mentor – Mr. Sheuneni Kurasha (SADC-PF)**
- 2. Mentor - Honourable Neema Lugangira (Member of Parliament Republic of Tanzania)**
- 3. Mentor - Honourable Patience Masua (Member of Parliament Republic of Namibia)**
- 4. Mentor – Dr. Keratilo Mogotsi (Lecturer Wits University)**
- 5. Mentor – Honourable Richard Marc Labrosse (Member of Parliament Republic Seychelles)**
- 6. Mentor – Ms. Shumirai Zihou (Southern Africa Trust)**
- 7. Mentor – Ms. Phendulile A Zikalala (Former SAYoF Co-Chair and Trade Unionist, Kingdom of Eswatini)**

We are humbled to have such people of high repute to complement our youth development journey in the region. We believe that at the center of every development strategy lies the strong partnerships among different structures, among them the experts, the leaders, and the youth.

Thank you all!