



OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHIEF MENTOR, MR. SHEUNENI KURASHA, DURING THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF MENTORS FOR THE SADC YOUTH PARLIAMENT ON 27TH JUNE 2023

- Director of Ceremonies,
- Esteemed mentors
- Young Leaders from SAYoF
- Young people across the SADC region, from the continent and across the world

It is with great pleasure and a profound sense of optimism that I address this inaugural meeting of SADC Youth Parliament Mentors as the Chief Mentor of the SADC Youth Parliament. On behalf of the Youth Parliament and indeed on my own behalf, I extend a warm welcome to each and every Mentor to this very important session.

Today marks a significant milestone in our collective pursuit of empowering the youth of the region under the auspices SAYoF, specifically through the SADC Youth Parliament. This meeting stands as a clear demonstration of our collective commitment to the shared vision to cultivate and nurture the next generation of leaders who will shape the future of our region.

It is incontrovertible that the SADC Youth Parliament represents an incredible platform that bridges the gap between potential and opportunity for the young leaders in the SADC region. It is a strategic vehicle through which we can empower young individuals with the necessary skills, knowledge, and support to become catalysts for positive change in their respective communities.

As Mentors, we have been bestowed with a great responsibility. We have been entrusted with the task of guiding, inspiring, and empowering the young minds who will be future Presidents and leaders in various sectors of the economies of our countries. Our role goes beyond imparting knowledge; it is about fostering a **culture of leadership, integrity, and inclusivity**.

Together, we will help young people navigate the intricacies of parliamentary procedures, engage in constructive debates, and champion the causes that resonate with their peers and the whole of society. We will encourage them to think critically, to question the status quo, and to propose innovative solutions to the challenges that our region faces.

The SADC Youth Parliament stands as a beacon of hope, providing a platform where the voices of the youth can be heard and amplified. Today, we embark on a journey of mentorship that

holds the power to shape not only the lives of these young leaders but also the destiny of our entire region.

I urge each one of you to embrace this role with passion and dedication. Your knowledge, experiences, and guidance will be invaluable to the development of these bright minds. Let us create an environment that nurtures creativity, fosters inclusivity, and instils a sense of purpose in every young person.

Together, we will empower these young leaders to become the architects of change, to build a future that is equitable, prosperous, and sustainable. The journey ahead may be challenging, but with our collective wisdom and unwavering commitment, we can overcome any obstacles that come our way.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt welcome to all the mentors. Let us embark on this transformative journey with enthusiasm, determination, and purpose. Together, let us inspire greatness in the youth of the SADC region.

Thank you.

Statement Issued by the Media, Advocacy, and Communications Department

On behalf of the Southern Africa Youth Forum (SAYoF-SADC)

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