



## **Statement on the announcement of Patron of the SADC Youth Parliament**

**The Young people, the media, the SADC Youth Parliamentarians, stakeholders, partners, and our esteemed Mentors, the Master of ceremonies Dr. Keratilo Mogotsi, the Secretary General of SADC PF H.E Boemo Sekgoma.**

Today is an important and a great day in the history of SADC and Africa; it is a testimony of the Africa that we want, where young people get the opportunities to share spaces with leaders that inspires them, where young people work closely with celebrated regional leaders to transform Africa.

Ladies and gentlemen in the past weeks the region witnessed the announcement of 37 members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> SADC Youth Parliament followed by the announcement of the SADC Youth Parliament Mentors. The SADC Youth Parliament is 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.

Today we are announcing the SADC Youth Parliament Patron. The Patron plays an important role in the work of the young people and the parliament, young people will benefit from the advice, motivation, expertise, achievements, integrity, and support to their work to achieve their vision.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my privilege on behalf of the SADC Youth Forum (Forum) to announce the SADC Youth Forum Patron, The SADC Youth Parliament Patron is Her Excellency Boemo Sekgoma the Secretary General of SADC-PF.



Her Excellency is known for her passion to ensure the lives of young people in Africa is transformed. Apart from her hectic schedule, she offered her time to transform the lives of young people and contribute significantly to their development. H.E Sekgoma has demonstrated leadership and commitment to youth matters in the SADC, opened spaces to influence policies and co-create pan-African solutions; young people appreciate her admirable work in the region, youth centered approach to development and SADC Youth are eager to benefit from her outstanding stewardship.

Your Excellency we thank you for taking time to accept to work with young people in the region, your passion and zeal shall be documented in the books of history. A remarkable gesture of how leaders can transform lives and foster the spirit to serve.

Ladies and gentlemen as I conclude I would like to thank you all joining us on this meeting and those following live on Facebook.

**Issued by the Media, Advocacy, and Communications Department**

**On behalf of the Southern Africa Youth Forum (SAYoF)**

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