

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

PRESS RELEASE

SADC MINISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR AND SOCIAL PARTNERS, 28-30 MARCH, 2022, BINGU INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE (BICC)

The Government of Malawi will host the Meeting of Ministers responsible for Employment and Labour and Social Partners from 28th to 30th March, 2022 at the Bingu international Convention Centre (BICC) in Lilongwe, Malawi. **Honourable Nancy Tembo, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Malawi)** will preside over the official opening on Wednesday, the 30th of March, 2022 from 9.00 am. **Honourable Vera Kamtukule**, Minister of Labour (Malawi) will take over the Chairpersonship of the SADC Committee of Ministers responsible for Employment and Labour and Social Partners from **Honourable Sra. Margarida Adamugy Talapa**, Minister of Labour and Social Security, (Mozambique) and will Chair the Meeting.

The last meeting was held virtually and it was hosted by Mozambique on the 30th of April, 2021 with the objective to review implementation of COVID-19 measures, strengthening global and regional solidarity. The meeting also considered the draft SADC Employment and Labour Policy Framework and gave guidance on the development of the new SADC Protocol on Employment and Labour.

The forthcoming meeting will be held under the August, 2021 Summit theme, which "***Bolstering Productive Capacities in the Face of COVID-19 Pandemic for Inclusive, Sustainable, Economic and Industrial Transformation",*** and it will take stock of progress since the last meeting. Specifically, the meeting will consider a

number of Frameworks and Reports including: the revised SADC Code of Conduct on Child Labour; Model Framework on Social Dialogue Institutions in SADC to provide legislative and mutual guidelines on social dialogue; SADC Labour Migration Action Plan (LMAP) Reporting and Monitoring Tool; SADC Labour Market Observatory; Report by SADC Private Sector Forum (SPSF); Report by Southern Africa Trade Union Coordination Council (SATUCC); Implementation of International Labour Standards in SADC and a Report on Joint Sector Meeting on Economic Growth and Job Creation. In addition, the meeting will provide further guidance on the development of the new SADC Protocol on Employment and Labour, which aims at articulating measures to address emerging labour markets challenges, such as those posed by COVID-19, rapid technological, climate change and demographic transformation.

The meeting will be attended by Ministers of Labour responsible for Employment and Labour Matters, Representatives of Employers and workers, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the Southern Africa Trade Union Coordinating Council (SATUCC) and SADC Private Sector Forum (SPSF), among others. The Government of Malawi would like to take this opportunity to Salute SADC for maintaining its values of values of promoting job creation agenda, harmonious relations in the labour market, human rights, peace through social justice and oneness through regional integration.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Minister of Labour for Malawi and the Minister of Employment and Labour for South Africa will also take advantage of this meeting to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two countries on cooperation in the field of employment and labour. The purpose of the MOU is to promote better understanding of each country's labour system, sound labour policies and practices and improve the capacities and capabilities of the two countries.

The Government of Malawi welcomes all the Delegates to the ***"Warm Heart of Africa"*** and wishes the meeting successful deliberations and conclusions to take employment and labour and decent work forward.

Wezi Kayira

SECRETARY FOR LABOUR