



**OPENING STATEMENT BY HON. CHRISTINE //HOEBES, DEPUTY MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION,
AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM MINISTERIAL BRIEFING, 17 MARCH 2019,
SAFARI HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER
WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA**

**Honourable Ministers,
Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Executive Secretary of SADC,
Prof. Eddy Maloka, CEO of the APR Secretariat,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I wholeheartedly welcome you all to the African Peer Review Mechanism Ministerial Briefing Session this morning. This briefing demonstrates the value we attach on good governance and our aspiration to create societies that respect the rule of law.

Our continent has made vast strides in good governance, transparency, accountability and ensuring the impartial execution of the rule of law through the establishment of democratic institutions.

Honorable Ministers,

I encourage, all of us here today, at this briefing, to ensure that the APRM becomes a tool, to improve good governance on our continent and achieve the goals we have set ourselves for the Agenda 2063; that of a prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own people.

We should therefore continue, to align our National Development Plans to the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, as leaders, we should endeavour to end all forms of discrimination and exclusion, promote participation and good governance and protect the dignity and rights of our people.

As leaders, entrusted by our citizens with the prudent and efficient utilization of our natural and other resources, which should allow for the full benefit of the people of our continent and future generations.

Honourable Ministers,

I commend the APRM Secretariat for producing a detailed report on African Governance 2019. This report gives much needed insight, on the way forward and the challenges we need to address as Africans, to ensure that, we build an Africa that we want.

Honourable Ministers,

In conclusion, I encourage SADC Member States, to undergo Peer Reviews by subscribing to the universality of the African Peer Review Mechanism. As SADC Member States, we need to support the process of openness and willingness to improve in good governance and inclusivity, in order to ensure economic growth and sustainable development that meaningfully contributes to institutional democracy and nation building.

I thank you.

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