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MEDIA STATEMENT

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA TO HOST THE SADC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING 15-16 MARCH 2019, WINDHOEK

The Namibian Government will host the SADC Council of Ministers Meeting in Windhoek from 11 – 17 March 2019, under the theme: ***“Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development.”***

The SADC Council of Ministers oversees the functioning and development of SADC, and ensures that policies are properly implemented. The Council consists of Ministers from each of the 16 SADC Member States, usually from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economic Planning, Finance or Trade, and meets twice a year in March and August. Representatives from all SADC Member States (Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) are expected to attend the meeting.

During the two days, the Ministers will discuss issues of regional importance, consider a number of strategic documents and receive reports on the implementation of the priority areas of the revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2015-2020 (RISDP). Council will also review implementation of the 38th SADC Summit, of which the focus is on ***“Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development”***, the decisions from the last council, and approve the SADC Secretariat’s budget for the year 2019/2020.

The SADC Council of Ministers will be preceded by the meeting of the SADC Standing Committee of Senior Officials on 11 March 2019, and the meeting of the Finance Committee on 12 March 2019.

Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation is the current Chairperson of the Council of Ministers of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Namibia has assumed the role of Chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) on 17 August 2018, during the 38th Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government, which took place in Windhoek, taking over from South Africa.

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Selma Shihale-Musavi
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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