



## **OPENING REMARKS**

**BY**

**Dr. PATRICE KANDOLO KABEYA**

**SENIOR PROGRAMME OFFICER-WATER**

**AT THE LAUNCH OF BUPUSA COMMISSION 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023 ,  
BEIRA, REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

**PRESENCE OF HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER, CECILIA CHAMUYOTA,  
REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE;  
STATE SECRETARY, SOFALA STELA ZACA;  
SOFALA GOVERNOR, LOURENCO BULHA;  
HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER, MR. MHARAPIRA, DEPUTY MINISTER  
RESPONSIBLE FOR WATER RESOURCES, REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE**

**THE PROJECT MANAGER OF BUPUSA,  
DELEGATION ACCOMPANING MINISTERS FROM TWO MEMBER STATES,  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP-SOUTHERN  
AFRICA,  
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATING PARTNERS (ICPS)  
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

**DEAR COLLEAGUES,**

**Good morning and welcome.**

On behalf of the SADC Secretariat Executive Secretary, His Excellency Mr Elias Mpedi Magosi, I want to begin by thanking all Ministers of the two Member States for enduring that the establishment of the BUPUSA Commission becomes a reality for the SADC region

I wish also to thank the following partners for supporting the implementation of the BUPUSA Roadmap:

- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) with funding from BMZ and DFID, through SADC Strategic Action Plan IV
- USAID Resilience Waters Programme (USAID)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) BRIDGE Programme
- Global Environmental Facility (GEF), through the BUPUSA Project
- Department for International Development (DFID) through Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Fund (CRIDF) and
  
- Global Water Partnership is the Executing Agency for the BUPUSA project

**Honourable Ministers,**

**Distinguished Guests,**

***Ladies and Gentlemen***

SADC views Transboundary water management cooperation has a critical element in all forms of sustainable development — from conquering water scarcity and protecting biodiversity to building stronger economies and ensuring peace and security.

Within the water management paradigm, the paradox of water is identified as being scarce and abundant. It is also shared unequally among regions, which can worsen the impact of climate change. Noting that agriculture and industry are major consumers of water, that competition over access to water may be in the future and water-related conflicts may increase. Further, there is a lack of governance regarding water and a lack of cooperation frameworks for shared waters. SADC recognised that within the water cooperation, it is important to emphasise on its centrality of cooperation in realizing Sustainable Development Goal 6 and the important role of hydro-diplomacy in preventing crises. For the SADC Region, water should not be a source of tension, but rather a bridge between people.

Noting, the need for management of shared water resources, regional instruments to support the joint management and development of shared watercourses have been developed and adopted. The Revised SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses (2000), the Regional Water Policy (2005) and the Regional Water Strategy (2006) are the instruments of cooperation, which guide joint development, and management of the resources. The five-year rolling Regional Strategic Action Plans (RSAP) on Integrated Water Resources Development and Management.

The implementation of the regional water programme has led to the establishment of Shared Watercourse Institutions (SWIs) which play a critical role in the management of shared water resources.

Over the years – the Shared Watercourse Institutions (SWIs) have provided platforms for Member States to build a common understanding of the opportunities and challenges in the shared watercourses contributing to promoting sustainable development and contributing to peace and security in the region.

SADC has a lot of examples of successful cooperation such the establishment of institutions to manage the water sector at basin level, this has promoted stability in the region through integrated management of water resources.

Despite, the establishment of several Shared Watercourse Institutions (SWIS)/ River Basin Organisations (RBOs)/SWIs in the region – there is need to support a number

of river basin organisations in the region that are yet to be fully established. It is important, to ensure that no shared watercourse is left behind in driving regional integration through transboundary water cooperation.

With the launch of the BUPUSA as the first Tri-Basin Institutional Model in the SADC Region, I wish to state that BUPUSA is now joining family of the SADC RBOs/SWIs such as OKACOM, ORASECOM, LIMCOM, ZAMCOM, and other RBOs/SWIs under development such as RUVUMA, KUNENE, etc. Now the challenge is for Member States (Mozambique and Zimbabwe) to ensure today accomplished milestone is well managed in terms of strengthening BUPUSA operations for the benefits of the people of the two countries.

The Role of SADC is to continue support the BUPUSA Commission in all forms of supports and urge Member States to work together with the interim Secretariat to implement the rest of Roadmap activities to achieve socio-economic development. At SADC we believe that water must bring people together and remain essential for peace and resilience, and cooperation as the way forward.

Important to note that SADC transboundary water cooperations agreements are the result of complex negotiations and compromise which have provided tremendous potential in promoting integration in the SADC region. SADC with her concrete experiences of successful transboundary cooperation, good governance of water can impact sustainable development and prosperity of the region.

It is important to reiterate that the global pressures on the quality and quantity of water have increased since the 1980s. Estimates suggest that 2.3 billion people currently live in water-stressed countries. SADC region is no exception to the above-mentioned trend. With a rapidly growing population, the SADC region is likely to transition from a water-stress to a water-scarce region in the coming future. Additionally, across the globe, climate change is placing additional pressure both on the quality and the quantity of the world's water resources. As one of the most vulnerable region, in the world to climate change, SADC region faces multiple challenges, as seen in the devastating floods in some of countries.

There is need to support integrated management of water resources, underlining the importance of mutually beneficial partnerships for transboundary basins. Calling on

States to place dialogue at the heart of resolving differences, and transboundary cooperation as a major initiative that will enable to consolidate actions undertaken to operationalize cooperation on all levels.

Our event today testifies the evolution of the transboundary cooperation in the management of three exclusively co-shared river basins between Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of Zimbabwe have been cooperating for several years resulting in several agreements being signed by the two countries. The two Member States by signing the BUPUSA Establishment Agreement have now set the tone for institutionalising the cooperation in the management of the three River basins. The Joint Water Commission (JWC) approved the first BUPUSA roadmap in July 2019. This document presents a revised roadmap focused on the operationalisation of the provisions of BUPUSA Agreements following the signing of the Save Water Sharing Agreement, Establishment and Hosting Agreements on 17th May 2023. The roadmap will be a critical document for the Member States and BUPUSA Commission in working towards developing an action plan for the operationalization of the Agreements.

The application of the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses guides Mozambique and Zimbabwe in managing their shared river basins. The two countries share a number of watercourses namely: the Limpopo and Zambezi (share with other countries); and the Buzi, Pungwe and Save watercourses exclusively between themselves. In line with the protocol, the two governments realise the importance of institutionalising regional cooperation and development in promoting peace and prosperity in the shared River Basins.

Over and above the guidance from the SADC protocol on shared Watercourses, the two countries have in their Water Sharing Agreements and national plans prioritized the need to promote equitable and reasonable utilisation of water resources in shared watercourses, protection of the environment, and promotion of sustainable development and economic growth.

We wish to highlight that the two countries have made remarkable progress on negotiations and elaboration of the following transboundary Agreements.

- Co-operation on the Development, Management and Sustainable Utilisation of the Water Resources of the Pungwe Watercourse (signed in July 2016);
- Co-operation on the Development, Management and Sustainable Utilisation of the Water Resources of the Buzi Watercourse (signed in July 2019);
- Co-operation on the Development, Management and Sustainable Utilisation of the Water Resources of the Save Watercourse (signed in May 2023);
- The Establishment of the Buzi, Pungwe and Save Watercourses Commission (BUPUSA COMMISSION) – (signed in May 2023), and;
- The Hosting of the BUPUSA Commission Secretariat (signed in May 2023);
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Now it is time to operationalise the above-mentioned agreements and ensure that joint water programmes/ projects are well coordinated to address some of the aspects of socio-economic development and reduce poverty level at the basin level. This should be in line with the spirit of shared vision agreed by three basins.

**Honourable Ministers.**

**Distinguished delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In conclusion, I believe that the launch of BUPUSA should help the region advance transboundary cooperation at all levels of the basins, thereby contributing to regional integration.

I thank you for your kind attention.