

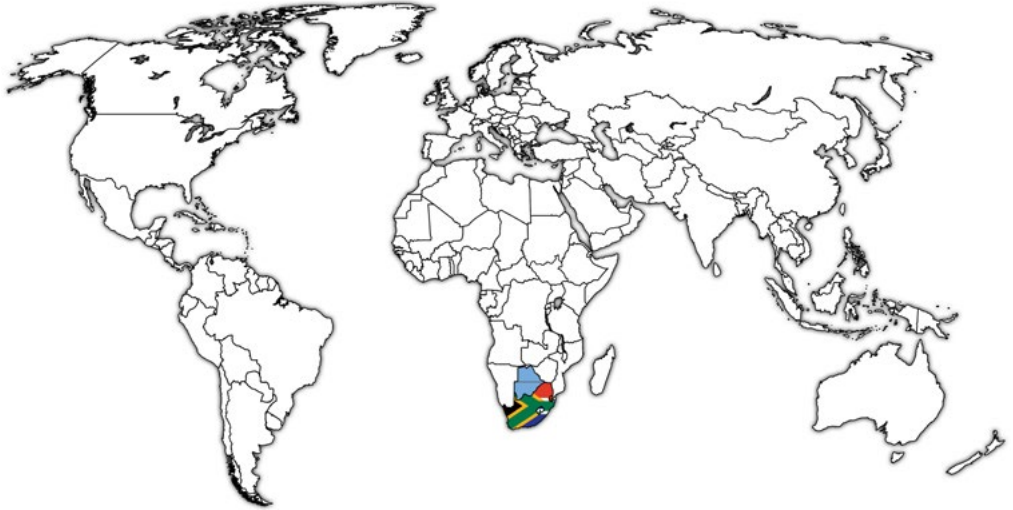


THE INAUGURATION OF THE SACU HEADQUARTERS

12 NOVEMBER 2015, WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA







“An economic community with equitable and sustainable development, dedicated to the welfare of its people for a common future”

ABOUT SACU VISION AND MISSION



The Governments of the Republic of Botswana, Kingdom of Eswatini, Kingdom of Lesotho, Republic of Namibia and Republic of South Africa.

Acknowledging the positive role which the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) has played in the past one hundred years and the important role it can play in promoting regional integration and the economic development of all its Member States;

Mindful of the different levels of economic development of the SACU Member States and the need for their integration into the regional and global economy;

Recognising the challenges presented by developments at the regional and global level and the need to position SACU to respond to these;

Convinced that SACU can be a vehicle for deeper development integration both within itself and within the Southern African region;

Hereby commit to the following:

VISION

An economic community with equitable and sustainable development, dedicated to the welfare of its people for a common future.

MISSION

To serve as an engine for regional integration and development, industrial and economic diversification, the expansion of intra-regional trade and investment, and global competitiveness.

To build economic policy coherence, harmonization and convergence to meet the development needs of the region.

To promote sustainable economic growth and development for employment creation and poverty reduction.

To serve as a building block of an ever closer community among the peoples of Southern Africa.

To develop common policies and strategies for areas such as trade facilitation; effective customs controls; and competition.

To develop effective, transparent and democratic institutions and processes.

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▲ Ms. Paulina Mbala Elago, Executive Secretary of SACU.

FOREWORD BY MS. PAULINA MBALA ELAGO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF SACU

It gives me great pleasure to present this exclusive memorabilia that documents the Inauguration Ceremony of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Headquarters. This SACU Headquarters Inauguration Memorabilia presents the historic Inauguration Ceremony through the speeches delivered and the lens at the event as it unfolded. The Headquarters was officially inaugurated by the SACU Heads of State or Government on Thursday, 12 November 2015.

The Inauguration Ceremony was graced by the presence of **H.E Lt. General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, former President of the Republic of Botswana; H.E Jacob G. Zuma, former President of the Republic of South Africa and the then Chairperson of SACU Summit; H.E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia and the host of SACU; the late Right Honourable Dr. Barnabas S. Dlamini, the then Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Eswatini; and Honourable Mothetjoa Metsing, the then Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho.** The Ceremony was also attended by the Honourable Ministers and Senior Government officials from the SACU Member States, the officials of the Secretariat, the Diplomatic corps, key stakeholders, and the media, among other invited guests.

The SACU Headquarters, consisting of four (4) floors and a basement, was designed and managed by Barnard Mutua Architects, a Namibian Company; whilst construction, which was completed in 2014, was carried out by New Era Investment Ltd.

The land on which the SACU Headquarters is built on was donated by the Government of the Republic of Namibia, the host of the SACU Secretariat. Prior to the construction of the premises, the SACU Secretariat was housed in a building made available by the Government of the Republic of Namibia. The Staff of the Secretariat relocated to the new building on 3 November 2014.

The Inauguration Ceremony was preceded by a Meeting of the SACU Council of Ministers on 11 November 2015. This was to ascertain that all the preparations were in place for the Ceremony. Another objective of the meeting of the Council was to set and clear the Agenda of the Special Meeting of the Heads of State or Government that took place on 12 November 2015, after the Ceremony.

The Special Meeting of the Heads of States or Government (HOSG) included the discussions on the SACU Work Programme and approved a Roadmap to invigorate and resuscitate the SACU Work Programme. The Roadmap comprises the Ministerial Retreat in 2016, a Meeting of the Council and Summit of HOSG held in 2017. The Retreat provided an opportunity for the SACU Council to reflect on all issues and introspect on SACU as an Organisation that supports economic development in the Member States.

In their remarks, the Heads of State or Government expressed appreciation and thanks to the Government and people of Namibia for hosting the event and for providing support to the SACU Secretariat since its establishment in 2004. The Heads of States or Government also reiterated their commitments to SACU.

As a regional block, SACU is driven by a Vision to be “an economic community with equitable and sustainable development, dedicated to the welfare of its people for a common future”. Towards the attainment of this Vision, the SACU Work Programme is geared towards deepening the level of integration amongst its Member States guided by economic development through industrialization as the overarching strategic objective. To that end, the Member States are working to improve the policy environment such that SACU can benefit from the national resources and productive capacity to attain higher levels of economic development.



I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Heads of State or Government, the members of the SACU Council of Ministers and the Commission for taking time off their busy schedules to attend this historic event that will forever be remembered in the annals of SACU. I would also like to thank Member States, members of the Headquarters Task Team,

Secretariat staff and members of the local Organising Committee for the Inauguration who worked tirelessly together with the service providers to make the Inauguration Ceremony a high quality and very successful event. Let me also thank the Secretariat's Communications and Editorial Teams for compiling this historic publication.



Last but not least, I wish to acknowledge the immense contributions made by the late Ambassador Tswelopele Cornelia Moremi, the founding Executive Secretary of SACU, who was instrumental in operationalising the SACU Agreement of 2002 and for her leadership in steering the Headquarter project right from its inception.

We are proud to have the SACU Headquarters Building amongst the architectural landmarks of the City of Windhoek.

Ladies and gentlemen, enjoy this read and the memories it brings to us!

ARRIVAL OF THE HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT AND VVIP





▲ Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia; Honourable Carl-Hermann Gustav Schlettwein, Minister of Finance in the Republic of Namibia; Ms. Paulina Mbala Elago, Executive Secretary of SACU; and Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia awaiting the arrival of the President of the Republic of Namibia and Host of SACU.



▲ His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia; arriving at the SACU Headquarters received by the Hon. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia.





▲ His Excellency Dr. Hage Gottfried Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia; Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia; Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister in the Republic of Namibia; Honourable Carl-Hermann Gustav Schlettwein, Minister of Finance in the Republic of Namibia; Ms. Paulina Mbala Elago, Executive Secretary of SACU; and Mr. Thabo Khasipe, Deputy Executive Secretary of SACU; awaiting the arrival of the Heads of State or Government.



▲ Mr. Thabo Khasipe, Deputy Executive Secretary of SACU; Ms. Paulina Mbala Elago, Executive Secretary of SACU; Honourable Carl-Hermann Gustav Schlettwein, Minister of Finance in the Republic of Namibia; Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister in the Republic of Namibia; and far right: His Excellency Dr. Hage Gottfried Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia; awaiting the arrival of the invited delegates.



▲ Arrival of the Former President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba; being received by His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia.



▲ *His Excellency Dr. Hage Gottfried Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia; receiving the Honourable Mothetjoa Metsing, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho.*





▲ Arrival of The Right Honourable Dr. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Swaziland; received by His Excellency Dr Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia.





▲ *Arrival of His Excellency Lieutenant General, Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana; received by His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob.*





▲ Arrival of His Excellency Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa; received by His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob.





▲ Heads of State or Government being escorted by the host to the main event hall.



THE MAIN PROCEEDINGS OF THE INAUGURATION OF SACU HEADQUARTERS



▲ Heads of State or Government, Executive Secretary of SACU and the Hon. Nhlanhla Nene, Minister of Finance for the Republic of South Africa and Chairperson of the SACU Council of Ministers during the singing of the Namibian National Anthem.





▲ Introduction of the Heads of State or Government by the Director of Ceremonies Honourable Carl-Hermann Gustav Schlettwein, Minister of Finance for the Republic of Namibia.



▲ Prayer by Pastor Abraham Kheibeb, Dean of the Windhoek Circuit, Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia.



▲ Remarks by the Executive Secretary of SACU, Ms. Paulina Mbala Elago.



▲ Executive Secretary of SACU, Ms. Paulina Mbala Elago.

REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF SACU, MS. PAULINA MBALA ELAGO

12 NOVEMBER 2015, WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

Good Morning! Dumela, mwalalapo, mwapenduka, morweni, sawubona, goeie more, bonjour, habari za asibuji, gutten morgen, I am greatly honoured to address this August gathering on the occasion of the inauguration of the SACU Headquarters. On behalf of the SACU Secretariat and on my own behalf, it is my privilege to welcome you all to this historic occasion. Thank you for honouring our invitations to witness this momentous ceremony.

I would like to extend a special welcome to the SACU Heads of State and Government to the SACU Headquarters.

On behalf of the Secretariat, we express our deepest gratitude to their Excellencies for finding the time in their busy schedules to come to Windhoek, to inaugurate the SACU Headquarters which is your very own building. This will certainly be an event which will forever be etched in SACU's annals and legacy.

In the same vein, let me also welcome the SACU Council of Ministers, members of the SACU Commission and the Finance and Audit Committee, and further thank them for their leadership and oversight provided to the Secretariat, during the construction of this building.

Looking at the entire facility, which you will all have an opportunity to tour later on, we can all be proud of the output of our efforts. At the Secretariat, and indeed the whole of SACU, we are truly proud to contribute such a modern structure to the landscape and architecture of the City of Windhoek.

Your Excellencies;

It will be remiss of me not to acknowledge the tremendous support that the Secretariat has received from the Government and the people of Namibia, since its establishment in 2004. The Government of Namibia, through its different Ministries and Agencies

has generously supported SACU in various ways to facilitate the Page operations of the Secretariat in Namibia. More critically we thank the Government of Namibia for making available the land where our Headquarters is standing, as well as the organisation of this event.

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests;

The construction of this building commenced in September 2012, and was completed in April 2014, which was within the agreed timeframe as well as the approved budget.

To that end, I wish to recognise the people, some of whom are with us here today, who worked tirelessly to plan, coordinate and build this landmark in the heart of Windhoek. The immense and invaluable contributions made by all those that were involved in ensuring that this Headquarters became a reality, are highly appreciated.

Let me, therefore, also extend a warm welcome to the architects, who were responsible for the design of this impressive building, and congratulate them for a job well done.

In the same vein, I would like to extend our appreciation to the contractor, engineers, quantity surveyor and indeed all the other professional teams who were involved in this Project.

I further acknowledge the hard work that the Secretariat staff put into this Project, and their patience in ensuring that the Project is successfully delivered. One can only concede that the Secretariat could not have managed to monitor this Project, without the critical and invaluable technical support of the Task Team on the SACU Headquarters Project. We appreciate all their inputs and expert advice and applaud them for their guidance.

As I only came in at the tail end of the Project in April 2014 when I joined SACU, I can only extend my deep gratitude to my predecessor and the founding Executive Secretary of SACU, Ambassador Tswelopele Moremi, for steering the Project to its conclusion.

Your Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen;

Surely, with this impressive facility at the disposal of the Secretariat, it goes without saying that this has created an enabling environment necessary for us to execute our mandate. Let me assure you that the Secretariat staff stand ready to fully implement the SACU Priority Work programme as approved by the Summit, in order to realize SACU's Vision of *"An economic community with equitable and sustainable development, dedicated to the welfare of its people for a common future"*.

It is acknowledged that full implementation of the SACU Agreement 2002 requires great efforts both by the Member States and the Secretariat. We need to put together processes that will ensure that we attain our goals as an organization. I am mindful of the challenges towards the achievement of these goals; however, I strongly believe that these challenges are not insurmountable.

Your Excellencies, distinguished ladies, and gentlemen;

Once again, let me thank you for being here, especially to their Excellencies, who have taken valuable time out of their tight schedules to be here with us to inaugurate this new home for the SACU Secretariat.

Thank you for dedicating your time to participate in this event and we look forward to your continued support.

I thank you for your kind attention.





▲ Tour of the building by the Heads of State or Government and delegates led by Mr. Barnard of Barnard Mutua Architects and Project Manager Mr. Marco Scriba of Barnard Mutua Architects, Namibia.



▲ *President of the Republic of Namibia and the Host of SACU Headquarters, H.E. DR. Hage Geingob.*

WELCOMING REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AND THE HOST OF SACU HEADQUARTERS, H.E. DR. HAGE GOTTFRIED GEINGOB

12 NOVEMBER 2015, WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Namibia, I warmly welcome you to Windhoek. Your presence here today is testimony to the importance we all attach to this Union and its continued role in deepening economic integration amongst our five countries. SACU is the oldest customs union in the world and therefore serves as a building block for SADC and other regional economic bodies. I am reminded of the words of late Nelson Mandela who said: *"I dream of the realization of the unity of Africa, whereby its leaders combine in their efforts to solve the problems of this continent"*. While ours is a Union of only five (5) countries, the aims and objectives of SACU encompass the ideals referred to by Comrade Mandela.

A worrying global development is the discrepancy in income distribution across and within nations. The rich are getting richer while the poor remain in a vicious poverty trap. Therefore, prosperity must be shared and growth must be inclusive.

Furthermore, let us be cognisant of the dangers of unequal economic development. What we want for our Union and region are economies characterized by sustained and inclusive growth as well as stable political climates.

The African Development Bank undertook a study on the prospects for the economic integration of Southern Africa. The Study indicates that Africa must transform its weak production structures and fragmented markets by embracing economic integration with a renewed sense of purpose and direction. The ghastly alternative would be a sub-continent at risk of marginalisation in its participation in the global economy. In this regard, we need to transform our region into a hive of economic opportunities and in so doing; make economic participation more accessible and inclusive.

Your Excellencies;

Under the SACU Agreement of 2002, the Council provides political and strategic guidance and is the highest decision-making authority on all SACU matters. I am happy that we have made progress in institutionalizing the Summit of the SACU Heads of State and Government. It can thus be expected that the SACU Summit will strengthen sub-regional stability and development, and increase investor confidence in our sub-region.

The extent of our political will and commitment to the economic integration process will determine the success of SACU.

It is against this background that I call upon all our Member States to work together to further deepen and strengthen work on the priority areas of focus of SACU, including a review of the revenue sharing model, intellectual property, industrial development, industrial policy, and strengthening the capacity of the SACU Secretariat, amongst others. With these remarks, please allow me once again to welcome my brothers to the Land of the Brave for the Inauguration of the SACU Headquarters. Let us continue to work together as a Family in this SACU House to build a strong and prosperous sub-region where nobody should feel left out.

Let me conclude by quoting the SACU vision, which was adopted at the SACU Heads of State and Government meeting right here in Windhoek in 2010. It reads as follows, *"An economic community with equitable sustainable development, dedicated to the welfare of its people for a common future."*

I thank you.



▲ *President of the Republic of South Africa and Chairperson of the SACU Summit, H.E. Jacob Zuma.*

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE SACU SUMMIT, H.E. JACOB ZUMA

12 NOVEMBER 2015, WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

Let me take this opportunity, first, to express my personal gratitude to our host, President Geingob, his Government and the beautiful people of Namibia for the hospitality extended to us since our arrival. The hospitality afforded to us and indeed the wonderful welcoming remarks by President Geingob have suddenly reminded us that we are one people. We belong to the same region and we share the same history and aspirations.

Let me also hasten and extend our profound gratitude to the Government and people of Namibia for generously donating the land on which our SACU Headquarters are built.

Ladies and gentlemen;

It was on 22nd April 2010 that we marked a historic occasion of the celebration of the 100 years of SACU on this very site.

Today, five (5) years later, we meet again to mark yet another milestone which is the conclusion of a project to build the SACU Headquarters' building.

As we meet here today we are fully conscious of the collective responsibility we bear towards Africa's Founding Fathers to promote continental and regional integration.

The visionary words of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah are worth repeating when he said: *"The forces that unite us are intrinsic and greater than the superimposed influences that keep us apart."* These words are as important today as they were decades ago.

We are pleased therefore to gather as regional leaders today to witness the official launch of the SACU Headquarters' Building, which is a symbol of our collective effort to promote regional growth

and development of the SACU region and its people, as well as a symbol of unity among SACU Member States. This is, therefore, an important and historic gathering.

Your Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen;

We meet in a time of global turbulence, framed by the uncertainty of a seemingly fragile world economic recovery and outlook.

Effective regional integration is of particular pertinence now, especially with uncertainty surrounding the global economy and stagnation still likely to continue in traditional markets such as Europe.

Enormous opportunities for cross-border trade within Africa in food products, basic manufactures and services remain unexploited. The cross-border production networks that have been a salient feature of development in other regions, especially East Asia, have yet to materialise in Africa. Hence, the renewed focus on sectoral cooperation through a value-chain approach to industrial development.

We need to utilise our resources to change the region's fortune away from an exporter of primary products and an importer of manufactured goods.

Challenges in our own continent remind us of the immense burden of responsibility we carry as African leaders, to bring about substantive improvements to the material wellbeing of all our citizens.

As such, we are compelled to create enabling environments for our economies to prosper and grow. Sustainable economic growth and development is essential if we are to support the creation of more sustainable livelihoods for our citizens and in



▲ Honourable Carl-Hermann Gustav Schlettwein, Minister of Finance in the Republic of Namibia inviting His Excellency Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa to deliver his address as SACU Summit Chairperson.

particular our youth, through the provision of decent jobs and employment.

We, therefore, need to align developmental strategies and programmes aimed at poverty alleviation, under-development, food security and the like across national, regional and continental boundaries.

There is no single country that can prosper on its own. Our destinies are intertwined. Our economies are inextricably linked and our market is small, by global standards.

Global growth is expected to be the slowest since the Great Recession. This new world order is characterised by lower commodity prices which are likely to stay low for the foreseeable future, and weakening of currencies resulting from slow growth in the economies of our major trading partners, particularly China.

Ladies and gentlemen;

Developing economies such as ours face widening trade deficits resulting from low commodity prices and weak demand for imports has come to put pressure on our foreign exchange reserves and, consequently, on our fiscal and monetary policies.

As SACU Member States, we need each other more than ever before.

We need to consider very seriously what we can do to avert these crises for the benefit of our people.

It is my considered opinion that as we celebrate another achievement in SACU we should spare a moment to reflect on all these urgent and pressing challenges.

It cannot be business as usual, we need to develop practical work programmes that address the challenges we collectively face to promote complementarities between our economies. We need to consider a funding mechanism that will ensure speedy and effective implementation of agreed programmes. This requires that we take charge of our destiny due to limited resources and aid globally.

Ladies and gentlemen;

Diversification is important. An economy and export basket concentrated in a few products could be very vulnerable and prone to destabilization. Sustainable

and continued economic development becomes very unlikely, if not impossible, in such a destabilized economic environment.

In addition, a strong and diversified manufacturing sector across the region will increase the impact of SACU as an integration tool for all of us. Competitive and diversified manufacturing will increase the trade potential among us.

Ladies and gentlemen;

As SACU Heads of State and Government, we have met several times and, on 12 April 2013, we signed the Amendments to the SACU Agreement of 2002, institutionalising the SACU Summit. We have noted that the SACU Council of Ministers had streamlined the five-point priority list to underpin the SACU Work Programme on regional industrial development as an overarching objective of SACU.

The work programme included eight (8) priority sectors with potential for cross-border collaboration:

1. Textile, clothing, and apparel;
2. Agro-processing;
3. Mineral beneficiation and processing (including Mining and Quarrying);
4. Leather and Leather Products;
5. Automotive, including automotive components;
6. Energy, including renewable/alternative energy;
7. Arts and Crafts; and
8. Support Services (Information and Communication Technology (ICT); Financial Skills Development; Infrastructure, Transport and Logistics; and Engineering).

We must, therefore act purposefully to strengthen and identify competitive advantages in value added production and trade, including through the development of complementary cross-border value chains.

Well-developed infrastructure, as well as the market size offered by the combined SACU member states' markets are essential underpinnings for industrial

development and are key to foster economic development.

Ladies and gentlemen;

SACU has potential through collective effort to address the challenges facing the region.

Our economies have resources that can be utilised to spur economic growth through the development of both our agriculture and manufacturing sector. We must redouble our efforts to build and rehabilitate the regional infrastructure that must underpin production and trade growth.

We also agreed that SACU continues to play an important role in the economies of its Member States and that it should be transformed into a vehicle for regional integration capable of promoting equitable development and the new SACU Vision. Consequently, as leaders, we agreed on the need to take bold decisions, requiring a collective commitment towards securing the long-term economic prosperity of our region to the benefit of our people.

Ladies and gentlemen;

As we inaugurate this eco-friendly and state-of-the-art building, we should move beyond strategies towards programmes that meet our strategic objectives.

Our people expect a lot from us. They expect us to create employment opportunities, they expect us to deliver social services.

With our collective effort, we can deliver these and we need to commit ourselves to doing exactly that.

We dare not fail!

I thank you!

Issued by:
The Presidency, Pretoria, South Africa.



▲ *Right Honourable Dr. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini,
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Swaziland.*

VOTE OF THANKS BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE DR. BARNABAS SIBUSISO DLAMINI, PRIME MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND.

Your Excellencies, on behalf of His Majesty King Mswati III and the Queen Mother of the Kingdom of Swaziland, let me start by conveying our deep appreciation to His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob for welcoming the SACU Heads of State and Government together with their delegations to your beautiful capital Windhoek. It is an honour for all participants to be present at this special occasion in the history of our SACU partnership. I thank all present for their attendance at this very special event of SACU, the continuing support and active collaboration that has been given towards the realization of SACU's objectives is greatly appreciated.

We have all been together on this long journey, from concept to completion in the project to construct the SACU Headquarters. The outcome is the magnificent structure that is about to be inaugurated here in Namibia, the home of SACU, and a building that is the source of great pride to us all as we participate in today's ceremony. It is my privilege to be able to express our deep gratitude to the Government and the People of Namibia for donating the land for the project. Furthermore the membership of SACU is immensely grateful to the Government of Namibia for the support and facilitation work given during the execution of the construction project. From the presentations and viewing this iconic structure, it is clear that a project of such magnitude, was no easy task. It was many hands that made light work as the saying goes, in other words that made the huge amount of work achievable.

In that regard, let me therefore commend all officials under the able leadership of the SACU Council of Ministers and the SACU Commission who ensured that the project was delivered within the allocated budget and agreed timelines. To Madam, the Executive Secretary and her officials at the Secretariat, we give our congratulations for their dedication to ensuring successful completion of the project. Credit also must go to the members of the Task Team for the SACU Headquarters project. This team was made up of the representatives of the SACU Member States and we thank them for the professional

and technical support given to the Secretariat during the project implementation.

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen;

Let me further extend our appreciation to the technical team that carried out the construction of the new building, Barnard Mutua the Architects, New Era Investments, the Contractor, Hendrik Herselman Quantity Surveyors, Burmeister and Partners Engineers, Seelenbinder the Consulting Engineers, and Windhoek Consulting Engineers as well as all professional teams involved in the construction of the building. We commend and thank you all for your work. Not only now do we have a truly impressive new Headquarters, but it has been achieved on time and without any escalation costs. In this fiscal challenging time that our representative governments face, that is music to the ears.

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, as we celebrate this historic event in the life of SACU, we can only encourage the Secretariat to treasure the building and ensure that maintenance is carried out in a manner commensurate with the highest standards of construction. We hope further that the high quality and superb facilities of the building will prove to be an inspirational work environment assisting the officials of the Secretariat and indeed all other stakeholders as they work to facilitate the achievement of SACU's objectives.

In conclusion, Your Excellencies, may I express appreciation to Madam Executive Secretary and her staff as well as all other officials for the efforts made in preparing for this inauguration. Our sincere gratitude also goes to the Government of Republic of Namibia, our Host, for the usual warm welcome and Namibian hospitality extended to all of us.

Thank you so very much.





◀ *His Excellency Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa; and His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia.*



▲ His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana.



▲ Honourable Mothetjoa Metsing, Deputy Prime Minister in the Kingdom of Lesotho.



▲ *The Right Honourable Dr. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Swaziland.*



▲ Honourable Nhlanelo Nene, Minister of Finance in the Republic of South Africa and Chairperson of the SACU Council of Ministers.





▲ Entertainment by one of the Namibian Local Cultural Dance Groups.

CUTTING OF THE RIBBON BY HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT AND TOURING OF THE BUILDING



▲ The SACU heads of States or Government cutting of the ribbon to officially mark the inauguration of the SACU Headquarters building.



THE UNVEILING OF THE INAUGURATION PLAQUE BY HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT





▲ Ms. Paulina Mbala Elago, Executive Secretary of SACU; Heads of State or Government; and His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, Former President of the Republic of Namibia officially Inaugurating the Secretariat Headquarters.

TOUR OF THE SACU SECRETARIAT HEADQUARTERS BUILDING BY HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT LEAD BY MR. BARNARD OF BARNARD MUTUA ARCHITECTS, NAMIBIA







▲ Heads of State or Government appreciating the office of the Executive Secretary.





SPECIAL SUMMIT MEETING



▲ His Excellency Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa and Chairperson of SACU Summit.



▲ His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana; and Honourable Ontefetse Kenneth Matambo, Minister of Finance and Economic Development in the Republic of Botswana.



▲ *His Excellency Dr. Hage Gottfried Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia.*



▲ *The Right Honourable Dr. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Swaziland.*



▲ His Excellency Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa; and Honourable Dr. Rob Davies, Minister of Trade and Industry of South Africa.



▲ Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister of Namibia; and Honourable Carl-Hermann Gustav Schlettwein, Minister of Finance in the Republic of Namibia.



▲ Honourable Mothetjoa Metsing, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho; and Dr. 'Mamphono Khakepla the Minister of Finance in the Kingdom of Lesotho.



▲ Honourable Martin Dlamini, Minister of Finance in the Kingdom of Swaziland; and Honourable Chief Mgwagwa Gamedze, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in the Kingdom of Swaziland.





DEPARTURE OF THE HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT AND VVIP





▲ Honorable Mothetjoa Metsing, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho; His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, Former President of the Republic of Namibia; The Right Honourable Dr. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Swaziland; Honorable Carl-Hermann Gustav Schlettwein, Minister of Finance in the Republic of Namibia; Ms. Paulina Mbala Elago, Executive Secretary of SACU; and Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister in the Republic of Namibia.



▲ His Excellency Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa; and Chairperson of the Summit bidding farewell to His Excellency Dr. Hage Gottfried Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia; and Host of SACU Secretariat.



▲ The departure of His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana; Ms. Paulina Mbala Elago, Executive Secretary of SACU; His Excellency Dr. Hage Gottfried Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia; and Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia.



▲ The departure of The Right Honourable Dr. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Swaziland; Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia; and His Excellency Dr. Hage Gottfried Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia.



▲ The departure of Honourable Mothetjoa Metsing, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho; Ms. Paulina Mbala Elago, Executive Secretary of SACU; Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia; and His Excellency Dr. Hage Gottfried Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia.



▲ The departure of His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, Former President of the Republic of Namibia; and His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia.



▲ The departure of His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia.



▲ National flags of SACU Member States being, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa.



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SACU
SOUTHERN AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION

▲ *The SACU Headquarters.*



































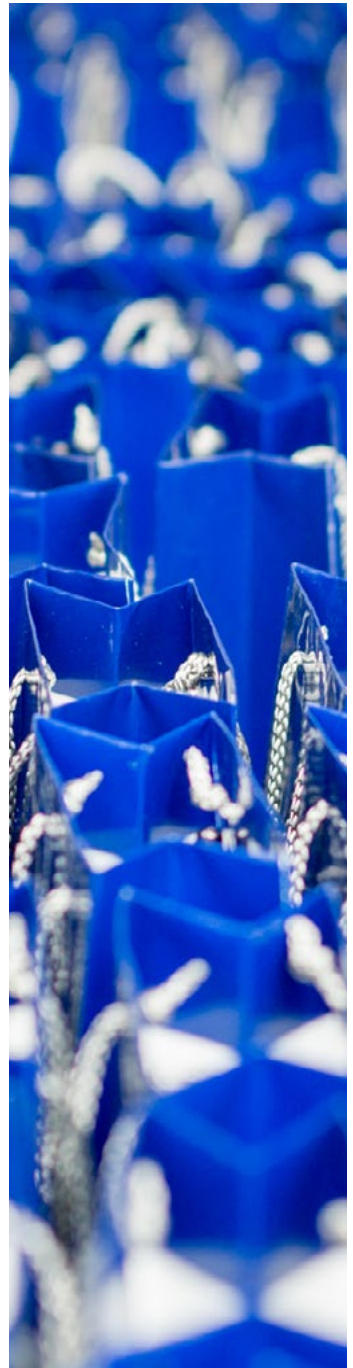










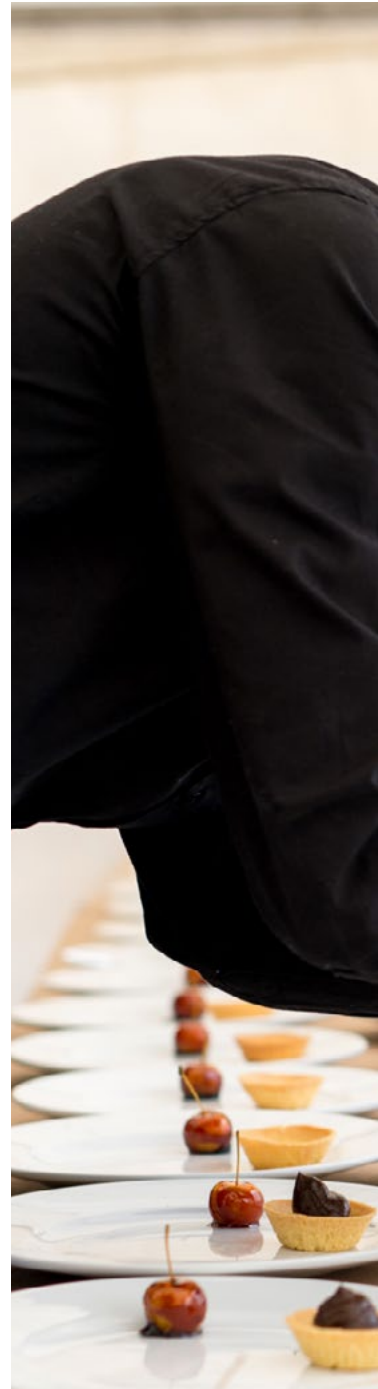


























We wish to acknowledge the immense contributions made by the late Ambassador Her Excellency Madam Tswelopele Cornelia Moremi, the founding Executive Secretary of SACU, who was instrumental in operationalising the SACU Agreement of 2002 and for her leadership in steering the Headquarter project right from its inception.



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