

---

# SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

Parliament Gardens • Erf 578 Love Street  
Private Bag 13361 • Windhoek • NAMIBIA  
Tel.: 264-61-287 0000 • E-mail: info@sadcpf.org  
Website: www.sadcpf.org



---

*All official correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary General*

15<sup>th</sup> September, 2025

## **STATEMENT OF THE SG ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY 2025: LEVERAGING CITIZENSHIP ENGAGEMENT TO ADVANCE PUBLIC HEALTH, EQUALITY AND DEMOCRACY**

Dear Colleagues and Esteemed partners,

It is with immense pleasure that I deliver this statement to Member Parliaments and partners to commemorate the International Day of Democracy 2025.

Today, we recognise that democracy is the beating heart of a nation which energises and bestows vitality to the country's main arteries such as the rule of law and parliamentary sovereignty. Democracy is liberation of the people through freedom of choice of the elected representatives who will govern them. Yet, around the world, democracy threatens to be eroded by routine acts conducted by quasi-dictatorship regimes or autocratic regimes which operate under the cloak of feigned democracy. The gagging of the media, the suspension of social media platforms, the disruption of the internet to slow down keyboard soldiers have been found to be novel ways to stop democracy and promote despotism. The Forum therefore associates itself with the UN theme for 2025 "From Voice to Action" which depicts the need to promote citizen engagement for concrete actions towards advancing democracy, including to promote Universal Health Coverage, gender equality, and more generally the Sustainable Development Goals which are cardinal for social accountability and peaceful societies.

The Forum also recognises that modern democracy includes the protection of minorities, including sexual minorities and key populations, who may not have the number to field elected representatives in Parliament. Democracy, in this sense, takes the form of a social pact forged in human rights, to ensure that nobody is truly left behind. Democracy is the enemy of discrimination, and it remains an invincible shield for all those who are parched for equality and justice.

At the Forum, initiatives are ongoing to foster citizenship engagement through public hearings which are essential for citizens to review laws and interact with MPs on legislative reforms which can enhance democracy. In line with the Strategic Plan (2024-2028) of the Forum, we aim in the years to come to continue advocating for democracy through the Forum's Member Parliaments and diverse partnership grid.

Long Live Democracy!

Yours sincerely,



**Boemo Mmandu SEKGOMA,  
SECRETARY GENERAL**

