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SADC STATEMENT ON THE PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE MADAGASCAR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

SADC welcomes the publication, on 21st August 2013, of the final list of candidates for Presidential Elections by the Special Electoral Court of Madagascar and hails it a landmark towards the restoration of constitutional order in Madagascar.

SADC stresses that the decision of the Special Electoral Court constitutes an important step towards the creation of the necessary conditions for the organization, of free, fair, transparent and credible elections in Madagascar with the support of the international community. SADC fully supports the decision as it restored legality in the list of presidential candidates, by complying with the relevant laws of Madagascar as well as SADC and AU decisions.

SADC recognizes the sense of responsibility, patriotism and critical role played by the President of the Transition, Andry Rajoelina, in the efforts to re-launch the electoral process as well as for the full cooperation extended to SADC and the AU in their efforts.

SADC requests the Independent National Electoral Commission of the Transition (CENI-T), in close collaboration with the United Nations (UN), to immediately decide on new dates for the holding of elections in Madagascar this year.

SADC encourages Madagascar's international partners to resume the provision of financial, technical, material and logistical assistance for the organization of free, fair, credible and peaceful elections in Madagascar this year.

SADC reiterates its determination to apply, together with the African, International Contact Group on Madagascar (ICG-M) and the wider international community, robust targeted sanctions to all those who seek to undermine the smooth running of the electoral process.

Member States:

Angola	Lesotho	Malawi	Namibia	Swaziland	
Botswana	Madagascar	Mauritius	Seychelles	United Republic of Tanzania	
Democratic Republic of Congo		Mozambique	South Africa	Zambia	Zimbabwe

All correspondence should be addressed to the Executive Secretary

SADC urges the people of Madagascar, in particular the Malagasy political stakeholders to play a positive role and maintain peace, stability, tolerance, appeasement and national reconciliation as the country moves towards elections to end the crisis and restore constitutional order in Madagascar.

SADC Secretariat

Gaborone, 23rd August 2013

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2

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