



THE ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS: IS REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT EFFECTIVELY FOCUSED ON IFFS AND THE DEBT QUESTION?

Anele Ndebele (MP)

SADC-PF Trade Industry Finance and Investment (TIFI) Standing Committee

Presentation Outline

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- ❑ What is SADC-PF?
- ❑ What is the mandate of SADC-PF?
- ❑ The organs and structures of SADC-PF.
- ❑ The mandate of TIFI.
- ❑ SADC-PF Parliamentary business.
- ❑ Legal and regulatory gaps in Public Finance Management across the SADC region.
- ❑ Efforts to STEM unsustainable debt.
- ❑ Final Remarks.

What is SADC-PF?

- On 8th Sept 1997, in Blantyre, Malawi the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government *'approved the establishment of the SADC PF as an institution of SADC, in accordance with Article 9(2) of the SADC Treaty'* (Records of Summit, 1997).
- The primary role of SADC-PF is to act as a Parliamentary Consultative Assembly for the SADC region (Record of Summit, 1997).
- In other words, its a regional parliamentary framework for dialogue on issues of regional interest and concern (Record of Summit, 1997).

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- SADC PF is lobbying for its transformation into a regional Parliament.
- The call for transformation is based on the fact that the Protocol to the Constitutive Act of the African Union that establishes the Pan African Parliament is based on the existence of regional parliaments throughout Africa.
- With the exception of SADC, other regions on the continent have regional parliaments (**With limitations of a consensus based organisation**).

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- Currently SADC PF comprises 15 Member Parliaments and by extension represents over 3 000 MPs.
- The Forum started with only 3 professional staff and 2 Programmes, and now has 5 Programmes and a staff complement of about 18.
- The new Programmes are aligned to the Directorates and Sectors of SADC and each Programme is linked to a Standing Committee.

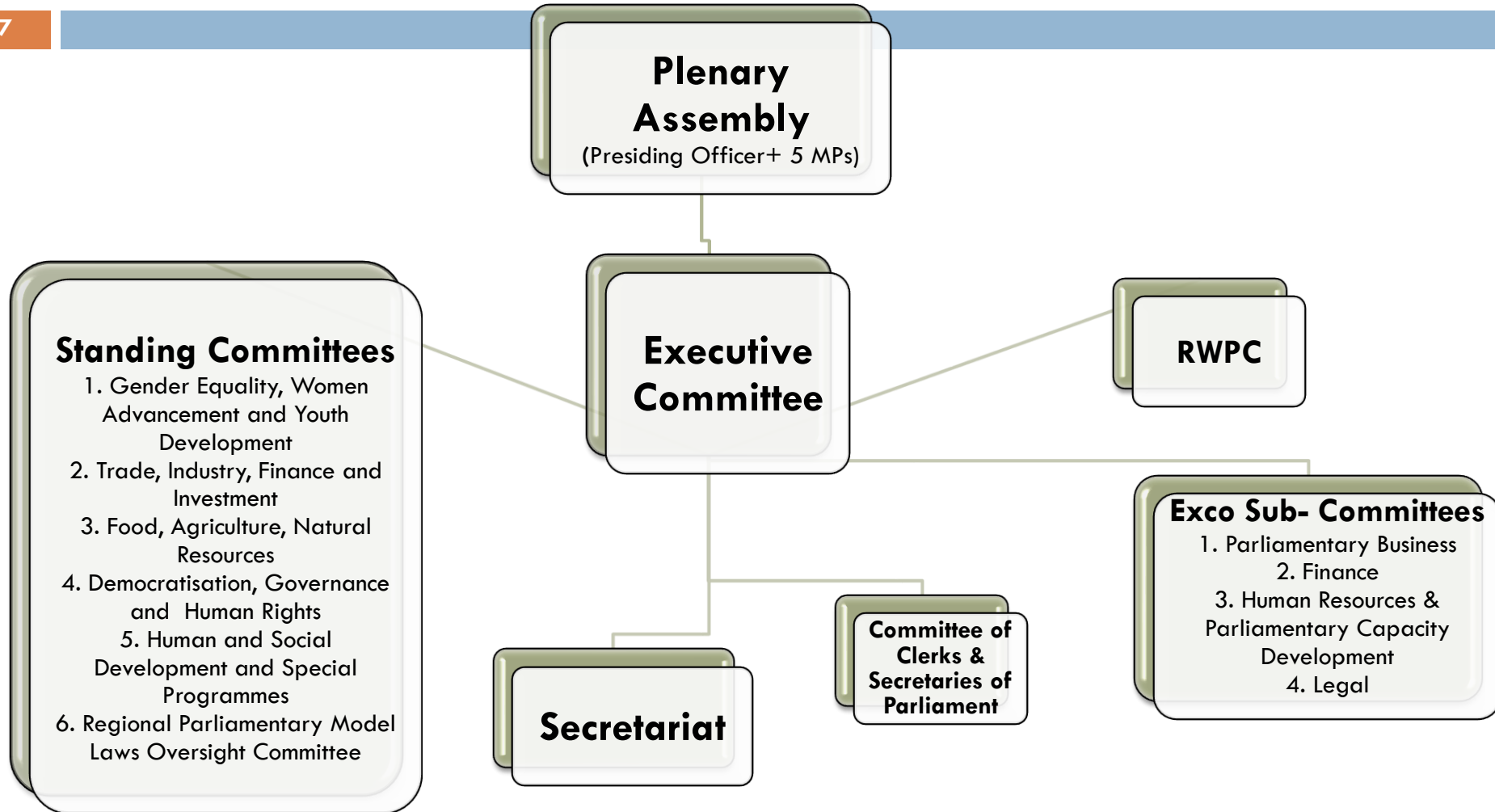
Mandate of SADC-PF

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- SADC PF is therefore, the vehicle through which SADC National Parliaments and Parliamentarians, as the elected representatives of the people, participate in promoting the regional integration agenda.
- SADC PF is **“The Voice of the Parliaments”**.
- It works with and through National Parliaments.

SADC PF ORGANS AND STRUCTURES

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SADC-PF Parliamentary business process

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- The Parliamentary Business of SADC PF, just like in National Parliaments, involves various processes that are undertaken by different organs at various stages, culminating in the Plenary Assembly which meets to deliberate on various issues of regional concern bi-annually.
- The resolutions of the Plenary Assembly are submitted to various stakeholders including the **SADC Secretariat, National Parliaments and through National Parliaments, to the relevant Ministries of SADC Member States.**

The mandate of TIFI

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- The Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment deals with matters related to:
 - Economic cooperation;
 - Industry and trade;
 - Mining;
 - Finance and investment;
 - Regional integration; and
 - infrastructure development.

Legal and regulatory gaps in PFM across the SADC region

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- ❑ Narrow ambit of reports under the scrutiny of Public Accounts Committees (PACs).
- ❑ PACs lack enforcement powers.
- ❑ Lack of enforcement for regulation of public sector debt.
- ❑ Lack of performance based budgets with clear KRI.
- ❑ Disconnect between international commitments and budgeting.

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- Misuse of supplementary budgets.
- No limit on the quantum of contracts entered by the executive

Efforts to STEM IFFS

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1. Workshops - SADC PF in collaboration with partners such as AFRODAD and Amnesty International among others has held seminars and Summer Schools on IFFs eg.: The Negative Effects of Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs)” (May,2019).
2. Natural Resource Governance Barometer- It was crafted to measure and curb the extent of IFFs in the extractive industry (This links with the Africa Mining Vision).
3. Model law on Public Finance Management- It was created to benchmark best practices of managing public finance in the region (Ongoing).

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4. SADC-PF endorses the Pan-African Parliament's adoption of the Thabo Mbeki African Union Report on IFFs. All our standing committees are seized with this cross cutting issue.
5. SADC-PF has also endorsed the ratification and domestication of the African Union Protocol on Good Governance, Democracy and Election which is an instrument can use to fight IFFs.
6. Plenary debates have centred on corruption and IFFs debates. Resultant resolutions have been sent to member Parliaments.

Efforts to STEM unsustainable debt

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1. Workshops- SADC-PF in collaboration with AFRODAD and other regional partners have held workshops on public debt e.g
 - i. “Negative Effects of Sovereign Debt in Southern Africa” (May 2019)
 - ii. International Public Finance and Budget credibility in the SADC region.
2. Model Law on PFM- Prescribes how SADC countries can contain public debt.
3. Lobbying the IMF to issue SDRs to finance efforts to combat COVID-19 eg. Workshop held BY SADC-PF in collaboration with AFRODAD (March 2021)

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FINAL REMARKS

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- In conclusion, governments in the SADC region should domesticate the SADC model law on PFM once it has been approved.
- Moreover, the resolutions adopted at SADC plenary relating to IFFs and debt management should be adopted and domesticated by each government.
- International Financial Institutions, development agencies, the donor community and Civil Society Organisations should partner SADC-PF in its efforts to improve PFM in the SADC region.
- Local CSO should lobby governments to domesticate the model laws as soon as they are approved.

-End-

Thank You