

***Closing Remarks by His Excellency,
Lt. General Seretse Khama Ian
Khama, President of the Republic
of Botswana***



Friday, 12 April 2013

Gaborone, Botswana

Your Majesty, King Mswati III

Your Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba;

Your Excellency President Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma;

The Right Honourable, Prime Minister [Dr Thomas Motsoahae Thabane](#);

Chairperson of the SACU Council of Ministers;

Honourable Ministers;

Madam Executive Secretary of SACU;

Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Senior Government Officials;

Distinguished invited guests;

Ladies and Gentleman.

We have now come to the end of our fourth Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU). By all accounts, our Summit was a success. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Heads of State and Government to

reflect on the state of our Union. This Summit once more confirmed that by working together we can achieve more, while ensuring that the benefits of our union trickle down to all our people.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

We have received a report on the implementation of the priority areas that were identified at our last Summit in March 2011. I note with satisfaction that the work on the development of a regional industrial development policy has commenced. This policy is key towards achieving the Vision of an integrated regional economic community. We welcome the report of the SACU Council of Ministers and urge them to expedite this important work.

We have also received a positive report on the implementation of the trade facilitation programme. This is an area where we should endeavour to intensify our cooperation, as it is important that goods and

services can flow freely among Member States of the Customs Union, with minimum delays at our internal borders.

SACU has until now not had the institutional framework that is required to formalize the SACU Summit. I am therefore pleased to announce that in line with our earlier decision to institutionalize the SACU Summit, we have taken an important step towards this goal by approving the necessary amendments to the SACU Agreement. You will soon witness a signing ceremony confirming this decision. The institutionalisation of the Summit will provide the impetus for SACU's integration efforts and provide the platform where strategic leadership and political direction can be given.

We are pleased that the construction of the SACU Headquarters Building in Windhoek, Namibia, has started. On behalf of all of us, I want to express appreciation towards the Government of the Republic of Namibia, the host country for SACU, the SACU

Council of Ministers and the Secretariat for getting this project off the ground. The construction of this Headquarters represents an important step towards the consolidation of our Organisation. I therefore look forward to soon enjoying the conveniences of having our own building, which not only reflects the status of our Organisation, but will also contribute to a more conducive work environment within which we can conduct our business.

From the reports that we have received today, it is clear that the SACU work programme is proceeding well. This is good news indeed. However, we should not be oblivious of the challenges facing us, both from within and from outside our Organisation. I therefore wish that we remain vigilant and continue to work towards ensuring that all Member States are reaping the benefits of belonging to this Customs Union.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my colleagues who have taken time off their busy schedules to participate

in this Summit. This signifies the commitment we attach to transforming SACU into a vibrant regional Organisation dedicated to the welfare of its people for a common future.

Your Majesty and Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish all of you a safe journey back home. It has been my pleasure hosting you today. I thank you.