



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17 August 2026

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF AL JAMA-AH AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE SADC STATE BANQUET AND REGIONAL MARITIME TRADE ENGAGEMENTS

PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA – Attending the State Banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Heads of State and Government from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region was both a privilege and a powerful reaffirmation of South Africa's dedication to regional solidarity. Representing the government in dual capacities as the President of AL JAMA-AH and the Deputy Minister of Social Development Hon. Ganief Hendricks provided an invaluable opportunity to position human-centered growth, social welfare, and grassroots empowerment at the heart of Southern Africa's broader economic agenda. The diplomatic gathering reinforced the necessity of translating regional integration strategies into concrete measures that uplift marginalized communities, promote social equity, and enhance the well-being of citizens across member states.

In the margins of the event, productive high-level discussions took place with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, focusing on strategic trade infrastructure and regional connectivity. A key priority of the dialogue was the development and optimization of a dedicated maritime shipping line connecting South Africa to Mozambique and the wider coastal trade network. Enhancing maritime logistical corridors between neighboring nations remains critical to accelerating cross-border trade, streamlining regional supply chains, and driving sustainable economic development for local commercial enterprises.



AljamaahZA



Al_jama_ah



Aljama-ah



This exchange emphasized the profound synergy between robust trade logistics and long-term social stability across SADC partner nations. By coordinating social development objectives alongside major transport and trade infrastructure investments, South Africa is actively reinforcing its diplomatic and economic ties with Mozambique and the broader regional block. These collaborative efforts establish a durable foundation for shared economic resilience, job creation, and sustainable growth throughout the continent.

ENDS

Media Contact:

Sinazo Mtshengu

078 512 3186