

FOR WRITTEN REPLY FOR QUESTION NO.117 (NW122E) AS APPEARED
IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY NO.1-2014 OF
13 FEBRUARY 2014

QUESTION NO: NW122E

Mr T Botha (Cope) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

Whether the dominance of former liberation movements in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has any influence on the participation of independent voices and opposition parties; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what (a) are the relevant details and (b) room is there for democratic participation within SADC structures? NW122E

QUOTE

REPLY:

1. Within SADC, participation of independent voices and opposition parties is encouraged. This is based on the agreed values, norms and principles as contained in the SADC Treaty, the Strategic Indicative Program of the Organ and the SADC Guidelines and Principles Governing Democratic Elections.
2. The SADC Treaty enjoins Member States to amongst other things apply the following principles and norms.
 - Article 4 (c) human rights, democracy and the rule of law
 - Article 5 (b) promote common political values, systems and other shared values which are transmitted through institutions which are democratic, legitimate and effective
 - Article 5 (c) consolidate, defend and maintain democracy, peace, security and stability

3. Furthermore the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO), as the implementation framework of the Protocol, emphasises the need for democratic consolidation in the region. It stipulates in its Article 2 (g) promote the development of democratic institutions and practices within the territories of State Parties and encourage the observance of universal human rights as provided in the Charters of the AU and UN respectively.

UNQUOTE