

**LAUNCH OF BUSINESS FOR DEVELOPMENT  
VOTE OF THANKS  
BY CATHERINE GRANT, SADC EMPLOYERS GROUP**

Your Excellency President Mkapa  
Distinguished Guests

I have the pleasure of delivering the vote of thanks. This is the easy task as those before me have done the hard work.

On behalf of the SADC Employers Group I would like to express our appreciation for being given the opportunity to participate in the Business for Development pathfinder initiative. Our Chair and the CEO of BUSA, Mr. Jerry Vilakazi, has already outlined the commitment and enthusiasm of the business community in the region for B4D. A commitment was also made by the other members of the SADC Employers Group to this project at our meeting this morning. This was echoed by the details provided by Dr. Mhlongo.

Special thanks must go to our key note speaker today HE President Mkapa. As we have heard, President Mkapa is indeed a worthy champion of this important initiative. Under his leadership we are certain that B4D will develop the profile and support that it deserves.

Last but definitely not least, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to thank our hosts here today – Southern Africa Trust. The Trust is a unique organisation and a good friend of SEG. They have supported our efforts to strengthen the private sector in the region for a number of years. Their support has enabled SEG to broaden its scope beyond traditional labour issues and has helped the broader business community to start to participate in SADC debates on poverty and development.

We really value partners such as the Trust. Not only are they flexible but they are also creative. B4D is based on sound principles of responsible and inclusive business. These are not new but where B4D is different is that it brings together a code, toolkit and barometer in one package. There is much value in the combination and as the SEG Secretariat we are very excited to be part of the project going forward. It is now up to us as business to embrace the idea, refine it and mostly important implement it.

Thank you all for coming and showing your commitment to this worthy initiative.