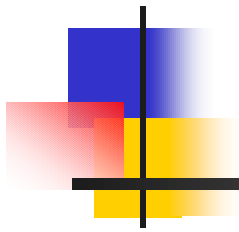


# SADC COMPETITION POLICY



---

**AUSTIN KHULUMULA**  
SADC SQAM EXPERT



# SADC TREATY

---

- A 1992 Treaty established the Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- Set up a framework for co-operation among the Member States and provided for cross-border investment and trade and the free movement of factors of production, goods and services across national borders.
- The Treaty allowed for the negotiation of a series of Protocols to realise the regional integration agenda.



# SADC FTA

---

Under this Treaty, a SADC Trade Protocol was developed which was signed in Maseru in August 1996 as a framework agreement to establish a Free Trade Area (FTA). After detailed negotiations between the Member States and obtaining the required number of signatories, the Trade Protocol came into force in January 2000 when it had been ratified by 10 out of the 11 signatories.



# TRADE LIBERALIZATION

---

Following a series of negotiation meetings during 2000 Member States reached agreement on the tariff phase down which were approved at the Windhoek Summit in August 2000 as an Annex to the Protocol. The Protocol became operational in September 2000 and by August 2001 all 11 Member States had deposited their instruments of implementation.



# TRADE LIBERALIZATION & COMPETITION

---

Member States of SADC have made considerable progress in removing barriers to trade within the region as part of their programme of regional integration. The removal of trade barriers was expected to encourage a more efficient allocation of resources and lead to higher growth within the region.



# INTERVENTION POLICIES

---

As tariffs and quantitative restrictions to trade decline, there is an increased awareness that technical barriers to trade (TBT) measures can impede trade to goods. The reduction of trade tariffs within the region and the introduction of trade liberalization have brought to light the need to organize and introduce a number of rules, tools and policy instruments.



# COMPETITION POLICY <sup>1</sup>

---

One such policy is on competition issues. The SADC Secretariat has started the process of developing a SADC-wide policy framework with speed on this matter as the problems being faced by Member States on a day to day basis are common. The key business players involved are the same.



# COMPETITION POLICY <sup>2</sup>

---

In the interest of wider cooperation and effective monitoring and regulation of business practices, and the protection of the consumer and the economies of the Member States, SADC needs to develop with speed the policy framework on competition.



# CONCLUSION

---

SADC looks forward to working with UNCTAD, World Bank and other international cooperating partners in this activity.