

Stuart Kufeni
Chief Executive Officer
SADC Development Finance Resource Centre

Stuart Kufeni is the Chief Executive Officer of the Southern African Development Community - Development Finance Resource Centre (SADC-DFRC). The DFRC is the secretariat of the SADC Network of Development Finance Institutions and is a regional institution mandated to provide technical and capacity building support, advisory services, policy research and advocacy on development finance in the region. The SADC DFI Network has a current membership of 40 national DFIs spanning across all 15 countries constituting the SADC regional economic community.

His career spans over thirty years during which he has acquired extensive experience in macroeconomic policy formulation and management having worked in central banking at senior levels as Director of Research and Director of Financial Markets at the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe. His experience with the SADC-DFRC of almost twelve years, coupled with responsibilities as a board member for regional organisations and a trade and development bank, among others, has deepened his knowledge of development finance and regional development challenges, particularly within SADC.

In his present position as chief Executive Officer of the SADC-DFRC, Mr. Kufeni oversees the development and implementation of best practice policy, regulatory and governance frameworks for DFIs as well as the development of training programmes to address their requisite skills gaps. These are important to capacitate DFIs individually and as a collective/network within SADC to effectively mobilise resources for investment in key growth-generating sectors such as infrastructure, SMEs, agriculture, ICT and social infrastructure, including housing and hospitals, critical for the attainment of the SADC goals of sustainable economic development and regional integration.

In this respect, Mr. Kufeni works closely with governments, financial organisations, RECs such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and international cooperating partners, among these, JICA; regional and multilateral financial institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the African Development Bank and COMESA/PTA Bank. This has seen him participate and present papers at various fora within SADC and other regions on key development finance issues and participate in the establishment of new institutions in the region, among these, the SADC Project Preparation and Development Facility, the SADC Regional Development Fund and the SADC Public – Private Partnership Network under the SADC-DFRC.

Mr. Kufeni is a holder of an MA (Economics) Degree, University of Manchester, (UK); and a BSc. (Hons) Economics Degree, University of Zimbabwe.