

SADC summit proposes a special summit on Zimbabwe and calls for international community to drop all sanctions against Zimbabwe.

9 September 2009

Zimbabwe's power-sharing deal has been taken off the agenda of a Southern African Development Community (SADC) summit currently taking place in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

"Zimbabwe is no longer on the agenda, and the SADC indicates that an extraordinary summit to discuss the issues will be held shortly," James Maridadi, a spokesperson for Zimbabwean Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, told reporters on the sidelines of summit.

With Zimbabwe having been removed from the agenda, the summit is expected to focus on Madagascar where leaders are expected to hear a report from the SADC special envoy for Madagascar, former Mozambican president Joachim Chissano.

There are media reports that the special summit on Zimbabwe will be held in Mozambique or possibly South Africa but no date has been set.

The SADC leaders also called for the international community to drop all sanctions against Zimbabwe. The EU has measures which target and name individuals. Most civil society organisations in Zimbabwe have not called for "sanctions" to be lifted at this time as the reasons they were applied, principally human rights violations in their view still pertain in Zimbabwe and they do not believe there is yet clear, demonstrable evidence of a return to democracy.