



SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY



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Targeting deeper integration

| | |
|------------------|------|
| POLICY | 3 |
| INFRASTRUCTURE | 4 |
| TRADE | 5 |
| FOOD SECURITY | 6 |
| CLIMATE CHANGE | 7 |
| ENERGY | 8-10 |
| BUSINESS BRIEFS | 11 |
| GENDER | 12 |
| ELECTIONS | 13 |
| PEACE & SECURITY | 14 |
| EVENTS | 15 |
| HISTORY TODAY | 16 |

SOUTHERN AFRICAN leaders have expressed satisfaction at the way the region is moving towards deeper socio-economic integration in anticipation of the imminent launch of a tripartite trading arrangement involving two other regional economic communities.

Closer regional integration among SADC Member States also consolidates the gains from the Free Trade Area (FTA) established three years ago, while at the same time signaling a positive step towards the ultimate launch of the SADC Customs Union.

Meeting at the just ended 31st SADC summit in Angola on 17-18 August, southern African leaders noted that the region had recorded an improvement in the macro-economic performance indicators such as growth in real

average Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

According to SADC, the region's GDP growth "stood at about 4.9 percent [in 2010] compared to about 2.4 percent in 2009." This represents a two-fold increase.

"Investments improved from 22 percent of the GDP in 2009 to 24.9 percent of GDP in 2010 as well as a decline in inflation from 12.4 percent in 2009 to 7.5 percent in 2010," SADC leaders said in a communiqué released after the summit.

However, the leaders said the region should remain alert to the risks posed by financial and economic volatilities in the developed economies.

As such, the SADC Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration was mandated to come up with strategies on how to protect the economies from external

shocks and to restructure the regional economies in order to combat poverty.

To ensure this integration process is deepened, the leaders said, Member States should pay special attention to infrastructure development to accelerate investment and trade.

Such infrastructure programmes should target the energy sector as well as transport among other sectors. Practical examples include the Kazungula Bridge, the Chirundu One Stop Border Post and the Zimbabwe-Zambia-Botswana-Namibia Inter-connector.

The annual summit noted progress made in consolidating the SADC FTA and commended Seychelles for having taken steps to join the FTA.

continued on page 2...

Targeting deeper integration

continued from page 1...

With the exception of Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), all Member States are party to the FTA, which has enormously widened economic space in SADC, opening trade to a market of more than 270 million potential consumers in the region.

One of the benefits of the SADC FTA is the availability to the consumer of goods that are competitive in terms of quality and prices. The removal of tariffs as well as non-tariff barriers has reduced the cost of imports from elsewhere in the region, thus benefiting the regional consumers directly.

On the proposed launch of a Customs Union, the leaders directed the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration to expedite work leading to agreement and common understanding on the roadmap for the SADC Customs Union. A Customs Union is a higher level of economic integration compared to a FTA as it involves common tariffs for external trade.

Regarding the recently launched negotiations to establish an enlarged FTA involving 26 countries in east and southern Africa, the summit urged Member States to consult, adequately prepare and accelerate the negotiations.

COMESA, EAC and SADC formally launched negotiations to create an integrated market, which would become Africa's largest market comprising a combined population of almost 600 million people and a total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of about US\$1 trillion at their 2nd tripartite summit held in South Africa in May 2011.



On the political situation, the summit noted that the region continued to be characterized by democracy, peace and security.

"Summit commends the Christian Council of Lesotho as Mediator and the SADC Facilitation Team for successful completion of the political mediation process in the Kingdom of Lesotho and the stakeholders for their commitment to the completion of the dialogue process."

In respect of Madagascar, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the mediation process in that country and ensure that all stakeholders fully implement the roadmap as amended by the decision taken by the Extra-Ordinary Summit in June 2011.

The political problems in Madagascar started in March 2009 after Andry Rajoelina seized power from the elected President Marc Ravalomanana following a public demonstration backed by the military.

On Zimbabwe, the Summit took note of progress in the implementation of its decisions taken during the Special Summit in June.

"Summit urged the parties to the Global Political Agreement to remain committed to the implementation of the Agreement and finalize the roadmap for resolving outstanding issues."

The summit also urged DRC, Lesotho and Zambia to hold peaceful elections as planned during the 2011/12 calendar.

On gender, southern African leaders noted the steady progress made by Member States in ensuring equal representation of women in political and decision-making positions.

Half of the 15 Member States have ratified the Protocol on Gender and Development, with seven of them having already deposited their instruments of ratification with the SADC Secretariat.

These are Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. However, for the protocol to enter into force, at least two-thirds of SADC Member States are required to ratify it.

The main objectives of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development are to provide for the empowerment of women, eliminate discrimination, and achieve gender equality and equity through gender-responsive legislation, policies, programmes and projects.

In respect to the food security situation, the Summit urged Member States to intensify measures to increase production, diversify and promote income-generating opportunities in order to improve

access to food, in line with the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security.

On climate change, the southern African leaders reaffirmed their support for the common African position ahead of the international climate change conference scheduled for South Africa in November – December this year.

Africa's negotiation stance is expected to be based on the need for increased finance, technology and capacity for adaptation and risk management.

The Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos assumed the SADC chair from Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba, who hosted the 2010 summit; and South African President Jacob Zuma is to chair the Organ Troika on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation for the next year, taking over from President Rupiah Banda of Zambia.

President Jakaya Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania is the new member of the Organ Troika, deputizing Zuma for the coming year.

The next ordinary SADC summit is scheduled for Mozambique in August next year. Therefore, the Mozambican President, Armando Guebuza, joins dos Santos and Pohamba on the SADC Troika for the coming year. □

Youth and vulnerable children

Ministers agree on plan to tackle youth challenges

SADC MINISTERS responsible for youth have agreed on a three-year plan of action to accelerate programmes and projects aimed at addressing problems faced by the youth and vulnerable children in the region.

A joint meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for youth and Ministers responsible for vulnerable children held in Windhoek, Namibia, adopted common plans and actions for the region to accelerate the delivery of basic services and needs for vulnerable children and youths.

These include the provision of safe drinking water, health care, education and skills that enable youths to earn income and to create jobs for themselves, protection from abuse, and the provision of housing and family care.

Other basic services include helping to improve the capacity of children and youths to cope with the stresses of life, and to be able to live in harmony with others in society.

The ministers resolved that problems facing children and youths were common and therefore could not be addressed by individual countries working alone.

“In this regard, they approved regional activities that will be implemented by all Member States during the period from 2012 – 2014. These activities will be coordinated by the SADC Secretariat,” the ministers said in a communiqué.

The Windhoek meeting was convened to discuss common ways of addressing the problems and concerns of Orphans and other Vulnerable Children and Youths (OVCY) in the SADC region, which include diseases such as HIV

and AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis; poverty; hunger and malnutrition; social and political conflicts; disability among children and youths; and the growing challenges of teenage pregnancy and unemployment among the youth.

The ministers noted that these challenges posed a serious threat to the development and wellbeing of children and youths as well as to the peace and security of the region.

In this regard, they agreed to strengthen their regional efforts to collectively address these challenges as a matter of urgency.

The ministers also discussed the priorities for addressing challenges facing youths that were developed at the continental level by the African Union, and agreed to align them with those at the SADC level.

These include the need to support the creative ideas of youths and to create jobs and develop the economies of the region, support youths to participate in political affairs and in their involvement in making decisions that affect their countries.

The priorities were submitted for discussion and approval by the Summit of Heads of States and Governments of the African Union held in Equatorial Guinea at the end of June which was dedicated to youth development.

The ministers also agreed on the priority issues for youths from the SADC region that were submitted as international priorities at the 65th Session of the United Nations Assembly on Youth held in New York in July.

The ministers agreed to set up the necessary structures required to fully implement

their decisions and improve the lives of children and youths in the region.

They noted that the problems of children and those of youths were very different in most cases. In order to discuss and address them more effectively and in greater detail, they agreed that in future they would meet separately as ministers responsible for children, and those responsible for youth.

The ministers agreed to meet again in 2012, subject to approval by the SADC Council of Ministers, to follow up progress on the implementation of their decisions.

This will also allow them to monitor the situation of children and youth in the region, and to determine better ways of continuing to address their situation.

In view of the challenges faced by the youths and vulnerable children, SADC has developed specific interven-

tions focusing on OVCY, elaborated through a Strategic Framework and Programme of Action for OVCY, 2008 – 2015 that was approved by SADC Ministers of Health and HIV and AIDS in November 2008.

The Framework and an accompanying Business Plan marked the first deliberate effort to mount a regional response on OVCY in SADC.

The premise of the SADC approach to the care and support for OVCY is the recognition that people, in particular children and young people who comprise the majority of the region’s population, are the real wealth of Member States.

Thus, the fundamental purpose of development should be directed at enlarging their human freedoms and capabilities by expanding the choices that they have to live productive and creative lives, contributing to sustainable development in SADC. r

Article 12 of the African Youth Charter makes a commitment that every State Party shall develop a comprehensive and coherent national youth policy.

- The policy shall be cross-sectoral in nature considering the inter-relatedness of the challenges facing young people;
- The development of a national youth policy shall be informed by extensive consultation with young people and cater for their active participation in decision-making at all levels of governance in issues concerning youth and society as a whole;
- A youth perspective shall be integrated and mainstreamed into all planning and decision-making as well as programme development. The appointment of youth focal points in government structures shall enable this process;
- Mechanisms to address these youth challenges shall be framed within the national development framework of the country;
- The policy shall provide guidelines on the definition of youth adopted and specify subgroups that shall be targeted for development;
- The policy shall advocate equal opportunities for young men and for young women;
- National programmes of action shall be developed that are time bound and that are connected to an implementation and evaluation strategy for which indicators shall be outlined;
- Such a programme of action shall be accompanied by an adequate and sustained budgetary allocation.

Seamless transport corridors key to regional integration

SOUTHERN AFRICA is investing in transport corridors to facilitate trade and economic liberalization by ensuring the smooth movement of goods and persons across Member States.

Fourteen transport corridors in the SADC region have been identified for development (see table), including the North-South Corridor, which is the largest, traversing eight countries in eastern and southern Africa.

The other corridors involve between two and five countries each, and when operational they are expected to deepen regional integration and boost intra-regional trade.

Development of these corridors involves the upgrading of road, rail and port infrastructure to support trade along the routes.

Energy transmission lines are also to be built to expand the regional grid and allow more countries to share electricity, one of the main necessities for regional development.

Due to its fast growing economies, the SADC region's power needs far outstrip supply, affecting growth.

Under the transport corridor framework, One Stop Border Posts are to be established to reduce congestion at entry points, hence promoting the smooth movement of goods and services.

Goods and people will be cleared just once for passage across the border into another country, in contrast with the current situation where travelers have to be cleared on both sides of the border.

This development is expected to address issues of delay, which are experienced at most border posts.

The first one-stop border post in the SADC region was established in 2009 at Chirundu between Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Plans are underway to implement a similar concept at the Beitbridge border post between South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Beitbridge and Chirundu are considered to be among sub-Saharan Africa's busiest

Namibe, Trans-Orange and Maseru-Durban corridors.

SADC requires about US\$100 billion for its regional infrastructure development programme in the medium term, according to the 2010 SADC Infrastructure Development Status Report presented to the 2010 SADC Summit held in Namibia.

The larger share of this budget is attributed to the

energy sector, which needs about US\$47 billion, followed by road and railway infrastructure that requires an estimated US\$26 billion.

Ports and inland waterways require an estimated US\$18 billion, while information and communication technologies (ICTs), post, meteorology and water infrastructure requirements are jointly estimated at US\$9 billion. r



Southern Africa's transport corridors will facilitate the free movement of goods and persons.

ports of entry with hundreds of southward or northward commercial trucks passing through the two border posts every day.

To strengthen the operations of the various corridor initiatives, SADC member states have signed legal instruments to govern and manage the corridors.

Some of the instruments adopted to date include Memoranda of Agreement for the Trans-Kalahari, Beira, Nacala and Mtwara corridors.

Legal instruments for corridor governance have also been signed for the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi, Dar es Salaam and the Central Transport Corridor.

An agreement is currently under discussion for the North-South Corridor, while instruments still need to be developed for Trans-Cunene, Lobito (Benguela), Malange,

| SADC Transport Corridor | Member States |
|---|---|
| 1. North South | Tanzania, DRC, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa |
| 2. Maputo | Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland |
| 3. Beira | Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia |
| 4. Nacala | Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia |
| 5. Mtwara | Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia |
| 6. Dar es Salaam | Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, DRC |
| 7. Central Transport Corridor | Tanzania, DRC, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi |
| 8. Trans-Kalahari | South Africa, Botswana, Namibia |
| 9. Trans-Orange | Namibia, South Africa |
| 10. Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi (Trans-Caprivi) | Namibia, Zambia, DRC |
| 11. Trans-Cunene | Namibia, Angola |
| 12. Namibe | Angola, Namibia |
| 13. Lobito (Benguela) | Angola, DRC, Zambia |
| 14. Malange | Angola, DRC |

Source: SADC Infrastructure Development Status Report

Tripartite Free Trade Area

What are the challenges?

by Kizito Sikuka

THE RECENT launch of negotiations to establish an integrated market covering 26 countries in eastern and southern Africa has generated lively debate.

One of the questions discussed is whether the enlarged Free Trade Area (FTA) will strengthen Africa's quest to deepen regional integration and accelerate progress towards an African Economic Community.

Launched in June at the Second Tripartite Summit of leaders from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and SADC, the Grand FTA was created to boost intra-regional trade and address the challenge of overlapping membership among African regions.

African leaders and policy-makers understand that the multiplicity of membership in regional economic communities constrains the economic integration aspirations of the region.

Hence COMESA, EAC and SADC established a framework that allows all countries from the three groups to work together in various projects.

They argue that bigger regional projects have the

capacity to attract investment compared to smaller ones, while at the same time cross-border projects have the advantage of a positive socio-economic effect on the region.

An Aid for Trade programme along the North-South Corridor has already been identified by COMESA-EAC-SADC to upgrade road, rail and port infrastructure as well as to support trade along the corridor, which traverses eight countries in eastern and southern Africa.

Some trade experts question the workability of the Tripartite FTA project, arguing that the project could fail unless pragmatic measures are put in place to fully implement the agreement.

Trade and Development Studies (TRADES) Centre Director, Tendai Chigwanda said it could prove difficult for countries to adhere to the Tripartite Agreement, considering that some are failing to meet previous commitments already agreed under the smaller Regional Economic Communities' (RECs) respective FTAs.

"The Grand FTA is almost a replica of what we already

have at individual regional communities except that this is a bigger market," she said, adding that if member countries in each bloc are failing to meet their own FTA obligations, then what guarantee is there that they will adhere to the Grand FTA.

She urged individual RECs to address their individual capacity challenges so that the formation of a larger grouping is a success.

This calls for concerted efforts by COMESA-EAC-SADC to mobilize adequate resources, not only waiting for donor funding but also raising own resources to meet the requirements.

Another major challenge for the three regional communities is to encourage Member States to fully buy into the idea of a Grand FTA.

For example, in COMESA, some members have yet to adopt the common external tariff, while some SADC members have not complied with their free trade obligations after deadlines lapsed.

In addition, Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo have expressed reservations, saying they are not ready to be part of an economic market due to various limitations such as weaker economies following years of civil war.

"There would be a lot of losers unless ways are found to accommodate the smaller countries," said Dianna Games, the vice-president of Africa Advisory, Global Pacific and Partners.

Consequently, this requires extra effort to ensure smaller

and weaker nations are not pushed out of business by the more powerful countries in an open market.

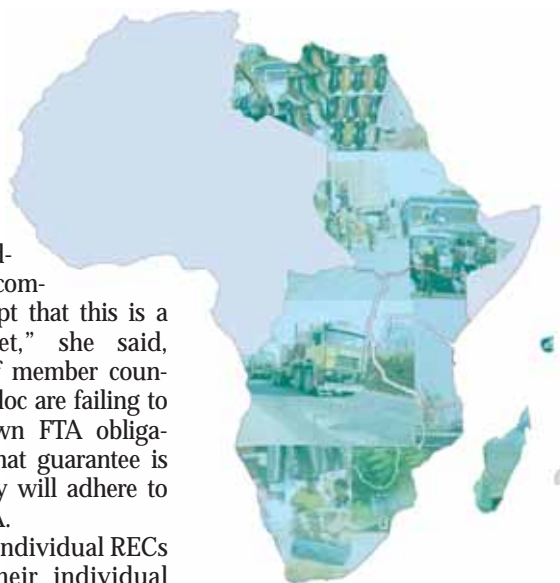
Physical connectivity is another challenge that faces the Grand FTA. The three communities need to address the infrastructure gap and rehabilitate roads, rail and ports to promote intra-regional trade among member countries.

Due to poor connectivity, most countries in COMESA-EAC-SADC trade more outside of Africa than between each other.

In this regard, regional integration is a work in progress that requires the support of all, particularly in the development of trade corridors.

Despite these daunting challenges, there is strong political backing for the Grand FTA, seen as crucial in unlocking the next phase of regional development.

The grand project is not just about reducing tariff barriers – it is more about improving infrastructure, as African countries need to rehabilitate the existing cross-border facilities as well as building new infrastructure to achieve socio-economic growth and development. r





SADC, AfDB to strengthen food security in Okavango Basin

SADC AND the African Development Bank (AfDB) are working on a project to improve water management and food security in the two Okavango Basin states of Angola and Namibia.

The proposed project, titled "SADC Agriculture Water Management and Food Security Upper - Okavango Basin" will be presented to the AfDB board for approval on 25 October. It has five components covering increased agricultural productivity, sustainable natural resources utilization and management, community and institutional development and financing, infrastructure development, and project coordination and management.

The main purpose of the agricultural productivity component will be to identify and disseminate technical knowledge of improved approaches to water management, agricultural production (including livestock and aquaculture) and market

access to smallholder farmers within the basin area.

Other activities planned under the crop production sub-component include field testing and demonstration of new small-scale production approaches, including the utilization of water conservation techniques, expanded use of inputs, improved varieties and crop diversification.

It is also proposed that there will be technical support for expanded irrigated crop production. In Namibia, this is envisaged as occurring largely through the government's "Green Scheme", already being implemented at two other sites in the country under AfDB financing.

Under the aquaculture sub-component, the project plans to provide support for fishing cooperatives in Cuito Cuanavale, Nancova, Cuchi and Cuelei in Angola, including tanks for restocking and the provision of fishing kits.

The component also envisages provision of expanded

technical assistance for improved post harvest, storage, processing and marketing skills to farmers in Angola and Namibia.

The second component of the project will focus on ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources within the project area, with particular attention to efficient water resource utilization.

Main and subsidiary activities will include undertaking an inventory of the existing natural resources in the basin within both Angola and Namibia as well as identification, demonstration and promotion of sustainable and productive agricultural technologies - conservation farming, water harvesting and catchment, and slope management and stabilization.

This component will also aim to strengthen land-use planning and zoning capacity in the Okavango Basin, including wetland and buffer zone management in order to

ensure that sustainable land development takes place.

The community and institutional development component will focus on the creation and strengthening of local capacity and social capital for sustainable economic development and increased food security.

This will involve creation of community water user groups (rainfed and irrigated) and other special interest groups, as well as the establishment of an agriculture research centre in Cuchi and a professional training centre in Menongue, both in Angola.

There are also plans to establish the Okavango Community Investment Fund, a small-scale investment fund accessible by communities, groups and local entrepreneurs to provide shared cost financing of productive activities at local level.

The fourth component of the project will involve infrastructure investment, particularly in roads and bridges.

Key major and subsidiary activities will include a demining sub-component under which large tracts of land will be cleared in Angola to make way for roads and create agricultural fields as well as the rehabilitation and construction of water storage and distribution canals in the two basin countries.

Road construction and rehabilitation will be crucial to open up key agricultural supply chain routes for farmers in the basin area.

The total investment cost for the project is provisionally estimated at US\$66 million over a six year implementation period, with US\$37.5 million for Angola and US\$28.5 million for Namibia. r

Malawi approves creation of agricultural university

THE MALAWIAN Parliament has passed a bill to delink Bunda College of Agriculture from the University of Malawi (UNIMA) to make way for the creation of the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANR).

Education, Science and Technology Minister, Peter Mutharika told parliament that the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources Bill intends to combine Bunda, Natural Resources College,

Chitedze Research Station, Agricultural Research and Extension Trust to be one constituent college.

"Bunda College of Agriculture will continue under the same name as a constituent college of the Lilongwe University," said Mutharika.

According to Mutharika, the establishment of LUANR was a sign of the Malawian government's commitment to moving the country from a resource-based economy to a knowledge-based one.

He said there were plans to link the agricultural university to similar institutions around the world to improve Malawi's capacity as a leading food producer in the SADC region.

Malawi has registered significant growth in food production during the past few years. As a result of this robust turnaround in the agricultural sector, Malawi has moved from being a food deficit country to one producing surplus grain for export to other SADC countries. r



SADC targets climate funding

by Eglina Tauya

WATER STAKEHOLDERS in southern Africa say that the region should urgently produce bankable projects that qualify for the proposed climate change funds critical to addressing the region's water challenges.

This emerged from the 5th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue recently held in Mbabane, Swaziland where about 150 delegates from SADC Member States brainstormed on ways to tap into climate mitigation and adaptation funds.

Access to the proposed Green Climate Fund (GCF) by developing nations will be one of the topical issues at the forthcoming global climate change talks to be held in South Africa in November this year.

As noted at the meeting, water management is one of the adaptation strategies most used in southern Africa and the region should urgently devise ways to access some of the global funds meant to strengthen existing programmes.

In relation to water, the UN Millennium Declaration of 2000 has targeted halving the population without access to safe drinking water by 2015. But the key question for southern Africa is how far the region is from meeting this target?

The meeting noted that for most countries, the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) reviews have indicated that there is need to redouble efforts if meaningful progress is to be achieved.

Similarly, SADC's economic blueprint, the Regional Indicative Strategic Develop-

ment Plan (RISDP), has set out targets for the water sector that include developing water infrastructure needed to double land under irrigation by 2015.

The meeting noted that such targets cannot be realized unless adequate resources are available to develop the much-needed infrastructure for this sector, which is why this year's theme addressed itself to the pivotal issue of water infrastructure financing, more specifically through opportunities provided under climate financing.

The SADC Multi-stakeholder Water Dialogue is an annual activity that originated through the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Awareness Creation Component of the SADC-DANIDA Regional Water Sector Programme in the

SADC Water Division's Regional Strategic Action Plan.

Since 2007, SADC has conducted the dialogue as a platform for regional stakeholders to discuss and share experiences on different aspects of IWRM.

The water dialogues are held under the overall theme of "Watering Development in SADC" and highlight how IWRM approaches can address key aspects of socio-economic development and poverty reduction in southern Africa.

This year's theme was "Watering Development in SADC: Financing Water for Climate Resilience to Ensure Regional Security".

The Mbabane dialogue was important to the issue of infrastructure development because the 15 SADC countries are finding ways of tapping into climate finance, given that

their governments do not have adequate budgets to invest in water infrastructure.

SADC Director of Infrastructure and Services, Remmy Makumbe said the region has already developed some instruments to ensure effective utilization of funds by Member States.

Such instruments already in place include the SADC Water Infrastructure Development Programme.

"We will define projects within each Member State and those that are integrated so that the funds are used within those frameworks," he said.

The dialogue brought an increased understanding of issues relating to climate finance as well as an increased appreciation of funding opportunities available for climate change adaptation with regards to water resources. r

SADC develops common position on COP 17

SADC HAS developed a common "framework" intended to shape and support a regional climate change response to ensure the region goes to the forthcoming United Nations climate change talks in November with one voice.

The framework would be implemented over the next five years and focus would be placed on systemic observation and monitoring of climate change effects, vulnerability and risk, and mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Efforts would be also targeted at building regional

capacities in terms of infrastructure, institutional arrangements and policy frameworks, according to a report published during a meeting of officials from ministries of environment in SADC Member States recently held in Pretoria, South Africa.

"I see this process as a very important step. We won't be going to COP17 [the 17th Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban] wearing different jackets, never mind speaking with different voices," said Rungano

Karimanzira, a director in Zimbabwe's Science and Technology Ministry. "We have developed a shared framework to take forward for the next step, which is implementation."

Developing nations are battling reluctance from some of the world's most developed nations, such as the United States, Canada and Japan, to sign up to a second commitment period for the 1997 UN's Kyoto Protocol that started international collaboration on stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. r

SADC ENERGY INVESTMENT

Energy Policy Brief No. 6, August 2011

1. Introduction

Current energy shortages in southern Africa have led to a surge in projects aimed at augmenting generation capacity in the region.

Starting in 2000, SADC has pushed for energy infrastructure investment and development to beat a crippling power shortage that has seen most countries in the region introducing load-shedding programmes to spread available supplies equitably.

Member State utilities through the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) have identified a number of priority projects for commissioning over the next few years to address the energy situation in the region.

Between 2009 and 2013, SAPP expects member state utilities to commission projects that would add about 8,800 megawatts (MW) of electricity to the regional grid, allowing the region to match supply and demand.

However, the lead time for most power-generation projects is long. Five to seven years are needed from the day when the soil is turned on the project site to the day when an electricity user can switch on the light at the other end.

Thus, SAPP's planning horizon stretches to 2020 and beyond when most projects starting now would be ready if they go according to plan.

The projects that would be ready by 2013 ought to have started by 2008, yet unavailability of funds, among other challenges, has continued to hamper the implementation process.

2. Financing Options

The SADC energy sector requires large investments in the next decade or so. Estimates put the total level of investment required to bring stability to the regional power situation at US\$83 billion if the region opts for least-cost energy projects such as hydropower stations – or an extra US\$48 billion if it takes the more expensive “Base Case” route that heavily relies on high-cost options such as coal-fired generation.

The first scenario or “Alternative Case” is based on least-cost projects whereby high-cost coal generation is replaced by low-cost options such as hydro and gas generation.

Public sector financing in the form of bilateral loans from donors and development banks has hitherto been the main source of funding for energy sector investment in the SADC region. Donor financing has been a popular investment avenue for the SADC energy sector, although this option is on the decline due to economic pressures in traditional source countries and there is need to increase private sector funding.

Private sector financing and granting of concessions have lately emerged as options, but require competition and proper market regulation as tariffs well above long-run marginal cost may be applied, to the exploitation of consumers.

The private sector has largely shunned venturing into major infrastructure projects to boost regional power supply, citing restrictive national laws as one of the reasons for not investing.



Opportunities and Challenges of Financing Energy in Southern Africa

Public Private Partnership (PPP) options where both private and public sectors acquire equity in a project in one form or another have gained traction in SADC.

One case is the Mozambique Transmission Company (MOTRACO) that has become a flagship example of public and private sector cooperation in the delivery of affordable electricity to communities. Formed in 1998, the project involved the construction and operation of electricity transmission lines that interconnect three countries – South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique.

It was created to transport electricity from South Africa on behalf of the Mozambican power utility EDM, the Swaziland Electricity Board and resources group BHP Billiton, as well as to sell power to Billiton's Mozal aluminium smelter in Mozambique.

3. Opportunities

The strong positive economic growth experienced in SADC during the past five years has resulted in increased investment in infrastructure and service delivery. This has fuelled growth in demand for energy.

The recently formed SADC Project Preparation and Development Facility (PPDF) opened a window for comprehensive packaging of infrastructure projects within the community.

The objective of the fund is to mobilize investment and financing for energy and other sectors, with focus on financing of commercially viable regional investments projects as well as mobilization of climate change funding to address the environmental concerns and challenges facing the SADC energy sector.

Investment opportunities in the SADC energy sector are not limited to the development of large-scale infrastructure such as power stations. There is wide scope for private sector participation in the nascent renewable energy sector.

The strong market growth in the solar or photovoltaic (PV) sector makes this the dominant Renewable Energy Technology (RET) in the SADC region. Investment opportunities exist in creating improved manufacturing capacity of PV system com-



Financing Energy Development

ponents such as solar batteries, direct current lights, and charge controllers.

Growth in the domestic solar electrification sector also generates opportunities for creating low-power DC appliances such as television sets.

The bulk of the investment taking place in southern Africa's RET market is, however, focused nationally without consideration for potential regional impacts. There is need for the development of a regional framework to facilitate coordination of investments in renewable energy technologies.

SADC is currently working on a draft Regional Renewable Energy Strategy, that seeks to promote the uptake of clean energy and ensure that southern Africa takes advantage of the numerous renewable energy opportunities that exist in the region.

The strategy would be supported by other clean energy programmes that include the SADC Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Programme. Based on an analysis by SADC, there is potential for 19,000 MW of generation projects to be commissioned under the CDM in the region.

The shift from a monopolistic energy sector dominated by state utilities to a more liberalized market approach in a number of SADC Member States has opened up the opportunities for Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and distributors.

This is important for grid-connected generation projects such as wind or hydro but also for energy service providers such as rural electricity distributors.

4. Challenges

While private sector participation is now viewed as an appropriate alternative to traditional energy financing, it has its own shortcomings. Private sector players are not disposed to address all issues in the public interest, except where there is an attractive return on investment. As a result, opponents of this approach argue that the future of SADC's energy sector cannot be solely left in the hands of the private sector.

Faced with the ever-expanding need to ensure accessibility by all consumers, the public sector will always remain the main source of funding for infrastructure provision in the sector.

One of the major impediments to private sector investment in infrastructure is usually the lack of project preparation, development, marketing and funding of feasibility studies. There is, therefore, the challenge to unpack proposed projects in order to develop them to a bankable state.

Pursuant to this initiative, the SADC Secretariat has obtained funding for project preparation, development and feasibility studies. Through the World Bank, capacity would be provided by the SADC Secretariat to Member States for project planning, preparation and development for all infrastructure projects.

While the PPP concept has generally been accepted in SADC, only a handful of southern African countries have robust PPP markets and still many more do not have requisite institutional, policy, legal and regulatory frameworks.

But for a few countries such as Zambia, the majority of SADC Member States are yet to fully embrace the concept of PPPs despite being party to the SAPP Inter-Utility Memorandum of Understanding that formally allows private players into the region's energy sector.

Against this background, in June 2010 at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, SADC Ministers of Infrastructure tasked the SADC Secretariat to develop a Regional Infrastructure Development Strategy and to leverage private sector funding for infrastructure through PPPs.

Since then, the SADC Secretariat has worked closely with the SADC-Development Finance Resources Centre (DFRC) to develop a PPP Development Strategy for SADC with technical and financial assistance from the German development company, GIZ.

Lack of information and misconceptions about the potential for RETs, and particularly on photovoltaic technologies for rural electrification, tends to impact negatively on development of the sub-sector.

The absence of measures such as tax exemptions and other incentives for RETs is often seen as a high barrier to market development.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

It is possible to expand energy development and eliminate power shortages in SADC, and it makes sense to do so. There is, however, urgent need for regional policies to overcome the structural impediments that hinder private sector investment.

Policy cooperation will be required at regional level to stimulate investment in energy projects and reap the benefits of uninterrupted and reliable supplies. Such cooperation needs to address two urgent challenges:

- Policymakers must address the challenge of making it economically worthwhile for private investors to take an active role in the energy sector while maintaining a pricing structure that is accessible to all consumers. For instance, for the sustainability of the sector, tariffs need to be set at realistic levels, commensurate with the cost of providing the service while balancing the need to allow access by the majority; and
- Policies need to create financial incentives for project and supply chain developers, particularly in the rising renewable energy sub-sector. Existing support mechanisms in southern Africa operate at the national level. r

More countries turn to renewable energy

THE RENEWABLES 2011 Global Status Report (GSR) shows that the renewable energy sector continues to perform well despite continuing economic recession, incentive cuts, and low natural-gas prices.

In 2010, renewable energy supplied an estimated 16 percent of global final energy consumption and delivered close to 20 percent of global electricity.

"The global performance of renewable energy despite headwinds has been a positive constant in turbulent times," Mohamed El-Ashry, chairman of the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21) Steering Committee that produced the report said.

He said more people than before now derive energy from renewable sources as capacity continues to grow and prices fall.

Global solar or Photovoltaic (PV) production and markets more than doubled in 2010 compared to 2009, thanks to government incentive programmes and the continued fall in PV module prices.

Globally, wind power added the most new capacity, followed by hydropower and solar PV.

Renewable energy policies continue to be the main driver behind renewable energy growth.

By early 2011, at least 119 countries had some form of policy target or renewable energy support policy at the national level. This was more than double the 55 countries that had embraced renewable energy in 2005.

More than half of the 119 countries are in the developing world.

At least 95 countries now have some type of policy to support renewable power generation. Of all the policies employed by governments, feed-in tariffs remain the most common.

Last year, investment in renewable energy projects reached a record of US\$211 billion, about 30 percent more than the US\$160 billion invested in 2009, and more than five times the amount invested in 2004.

China attracted US\$48.5 billion, or more than a third of the global total, but other developing countries also experienced major developments in terms of policies, investments, market trends, and manufacturing.

Beyond Asia, significant advances are also seen in many Latin American countries, and at least 20 countries in the Middle East, North Africa, and sub-Saharan Africa have active renewable

energy markets, the report says.

"The increased renewable energy activity in developing countries highlighted in this year's report is very encouraging, since most of the future growth in energy demand is expected to occur in developing countries," El-Ashry said.

"More and more of the world's people are gaining access to energy services through renewables, not only to meet their basic needs, but also to enable them to develop economically."

Renewable energy in the most remote areas is ensuring that more of the world's people are gaining access to basic energy services, including lighting and communications, cooking, heating and cooling, and water pumping, while also generating economic growth through services such as motive power. Motive power refers to the use of water, steam or wind to drive machinery. ▮



Highlights from the Report:

- Renewable capacity now accounts for about a quarter of total global power-generating capacity and supplies close to 20 percent of global electricity.
- Developing countries (collectively) have more than half of global renewable energy power.
- China led the world in the installation of wind turbines and solar thermal systems and was the top hydropower producer in 2010. The country added an estimated 29 GW of grid-connected renewable capacity, for a total of 252 GW, an increase of 13 percent compared with 2009.
- Renewables accounted for about 26 percent of China's total installed electricity capacity in 2010, 18 percent of generation, and more than nine percent of final energy supply.
- Developing countries, which now represent more than half of all countries with policy targets and half of all countries with renewable support policies, are playing an increasingly important role in advancing renewable energy.

Energy fund for Africa

THE BOARD of directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) has approved a technical cooperation agreement with the government of Denmark for the establishment of a Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA).

The fund would be used for capacity building and investment in sustainable energy over a five-year period. The budget for the fund is set at DKK 300 million (about US\$57 million).

The objective of SEFA is to provide technical capacity-building and investment capital to support the provision of sustainable energy to small and medium enterprises in Africa.

The proposal to establish a sustainable energy fund for Africa demonstrates a strong commitment by the government of Denmark to support countries through the bank in addressing the major development challenges towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

It is intended that SEFA should ultimately become a multi-donor fund as soon as additional partners agree to join.

SACU says it must re-evaluate options

THE SOUTHERN African Customs Union should re-evaluate its viability as an integration arrangement so as to align itself with developments at global level and the renewed effort for deeper regional integration within Africa, Executive Secretary Tswelopele Moremi has said.

Speaking at the SACU regional conference recently held in South Africa, Moremi said the recent launch of negotiations for a tripartite Free Trade Area (FTA) cover-

ing 26 countries in eastern and southern Africa provides further impetus for SACU to transform itself.

“We, therefore, welcome this opportunity to share our challenges with our partners and stakeholders, and hopefully generate tangible solutions to the challenges we face as we pursue deeper integration in the region,” she said.

“With respect to regional integration, we face the critical question of positioning

SACU within the broader regional and continental integration framework. As efforts intensify to deepen integration, we believe SACU’s history and experience could provide a valuable input into regional integration efforts.”

SACU comprises South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland – all of which are SADC members, with Swaziland also a member of COMESA. *Swazi Observer* r

Botswana to set up special economic zones

THE BOTSWANA Export Development and Investment Authority has been tasked to set up an interim body to see the implementation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country.

The establishment of SEZs is expected to reduce red tape and attract potential investors. Targeted sectors for these special zones include manufacturing, tourism, and science and technology.

A number of SADC countries such as Mozambique and South Africa already have such zones that have helped attract crucial investment to boost economic growth. r

Botswana, Mozambique sign trade agreements

BOTSWANA AND Mozambique have signed several agreements formalizing plans to jointly invest in various projects that will give landlocked Botswana access to the Indian Ocean.

Among the projects is a proposed US\$7 billion deep-water port to be established in Mozambique’s Techobanine region as well as a 1,100-kilometre railway to link the southern region of Mozambique to Botswana, passing

through Zimbabwe, and an oil pipeline between the two countries.

Botswana President Ian Khama and his Mozambican counterpart Armando Guebuza signed the agreements during Khama’s recent visit to Mozambique.

The two leaders also agreed to increase cooperation in the supply of electricity and fuel to Botswana as well as training of diplomats from Botswana at Mozam-

bique’s Higher Institute of International Relations (ISRI).

Mozambique’s Transport and Communications Minister, Paulo Zucula, was quoted as saying that the facilities to be created would allow Botswana to import over five million cubic metres of fuel per year via Mozambique.

Zucula also noted Botswana’s interest in investing in the production capacity of the Cahora Bassa Hydroelectric Dam and the Mphanda Nkuwa dam, as a way of reducing its electricity needs.

“The port and the railway line will also make it possible to transport coal to Botswana.

It is important to note that, after the construction of the port, the private sector will be called upon to build container and fuel terminals, which will mean that investment will exceed \$7 billion,” Zucula said.

He said feasibility studies had been completed on most joint projects, adding that work would begin next year. r

Alliance benefits tourism in southern Africa

THE SOUTHERN Africa Tourism Services Association and the Regional Tourism Organization of Southern Africa (RETOSA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly enhance tourism and trade communications in the region.

In terms of the agreement, Member States will contribute editorial content about their tourism trade for publication in the Tourism Tattler magazine, which will become the region’s official trade journal.

“It is a reflection of the willingness to forge meaningful relationships which will enhance the visibility of the region among tourism stakeholders across the world,” RETOSA executive director Francis Mfuno said. r

Swaziland secures economic bailout

SOUTH AFRICA has extended a R2.4 billion (about US\$355 million) loan to neighbouring Swaziland after the kingdom, on the brink of bankruptcy, was rebuffed by other lenders.

The loan will be offered in three instalments, starting in August, according to a statement from South Africa’s Treasury department.

Under the terms of the loan, Swaziland must protect the peg between the local currency, the lilangeni, and the South African rand. It must also

strengthen financial reporting and auditing of accounts.

King Mswati III also announced that Swaziland had also secured a loan of 1 billion lilangeni (about US\$137 million) from the European Union that would be used for infrastructure development, particularly in the agricultural sector.

“We hope that the financial assistance we have received will assist in alleviating the country from the fiscal problems,” he said. *The Times of Swaziland* r



Mauritius strives for gender equality

MAURITIUS IS making progress in promoting gender equality as more women now occupy senior positions in the public services.

According to the latest Economic and Social Indicator (ESI) on gender statistics published by the Central Statistics Office, the number of women in high positions has more than doubled in the last 10 years.

However, although the participation of women in politics and decision-making is increasing, the representation remains low in the region, and concerted efforts will be needed to comply with regional and continental targets.

In 2010, there were only 13 women parliamentarians out of a total of 69, representing about 19 percent of all lawmakers.

Although the number of women candidates at the National Legislative Assembly increased, nearly four-fold over the past 20 years, they comprised only 11 percent of the candidates at the 2010 National Legislative Assembly election.

Similarly, there are only three women ministers, just 12 percent of a 25-member cabinet. These are Sheilabai Bappoo, who is the Minister for Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare; Leela Dookun-Luchoomun, Minister for Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions; and Santi Hanoomanjee, who is Minister of Health and Quality of Life.

In 2005, Mauritius had two women ministers in the 22-member cabinet, representing nine percent. Thus, the recent appointments have marginally increased gender representation.

However, the figure still falls short of the SADC target

of 50 percent women in decision-making positions in the public and private sector by 2015 set by the SADC Summit in line with the decision of the African Union, and the previous target of 30 percent by 2005.

One more election is scheduled in Mauritius before the regional target elapses and expectations are high that significant efforts will be made to ensure that the goal is met.

Mauritius and Botswana are the only two SADC

Member States that are yet to append signatures to the Protocol.

SADC Ministers responsible for gender/women's affairs recently endorsed a

roadmap for the operationalization of the Protocol to enable a systematic approach to implementation at both regional and national levels. r



Sheilabai Bappoo



Leela Dookun-Luchoomun



Santi Hanoomanjee

Promote justice for all: UN Women

DESPITE GLOBAL achievements in promoting gender equality, millions of women continue to experience injustice and violence, a recent report by the United Nations Women says.

The report - *Progress of the World's Women: In Pursuit of Justice* - notes that a total of 139 out of 193 member states now guarantee gender equality in their constitutions.

The SADC region is one of the few regions in the world that has made considerable efforts in eliminating gender injustice and violence, and where the rights of women and men are enshrined in most national constitutions.

Despite these achievements in southern African, global trends reveal that women continue to experience injustice, violence and inequality in their homes and workplaces.

To ensure justice becomes a reality for all women, UN Women is urging governments to repeal laws that discriminate against women and ensure that legislation protects women from violence and inequality in the home and at the workplace.

The report says governments should invest more in

justice systems that can respond to women's needs while there is need to put women at the helm of justice delivery such as the police, judiciary, legislature and as civil society activists.

Most SADC Member States have put in place legislation that outlaws domestic violence. (See box). Some of the measures introduced by SADC to curb discrimination and gender injustice include making marital rape a criminal offence.

Southern Africa has reached the third highest percentage of women in politics at the parliamentary level, with 20 percent, a figure surpassed only by the Nordic countries with 40.8 percent and the Americas at 21.4 percent.

The region's average percentage of women in Parliament is higher than the world average of 18.5 percent, the sub-Saharan average of 18.6 percent, Asia at 18.4 percent, the Pacific at 15.2 percent, and that of the Arab States (9.1 percent) which is the lowest.

In the region, South Africa has the highest proportional representation of women in parliament at 45 percent, followed by Mozambique at 39.2 percent, and Angola and the United Republic of Tanzania with 38.6 percent and 36 percent respectively.

These countries have electoral systems that encourage participation by women, and the minimum 30 percent representation is a constitutional requirement in Tanzania. r

SADC Member States with Domestic Violence legislation in place

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Botswana | Domestic Violence Act 2007 |
| Madagascar | Act to Punish Violence against Women 2000 |
| Malawi | Prevention of Domestic Violence Act 2006 |
| Mauritius | Protection from Domestic Violence Act 1991 |
| Mozambique | Law against Domestic Violence 2009 |
| Namibia | Combating of Domestic Violence Act 2003 |
| South Africa | Domestic Violence Act 1998 |
| Zimbabwe | Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims of Domestic Violence Act 2007 |

Source: A Fifteen Year Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in Africa +15 from 1995 - 2009, ECA Main Report, November 2009.

Zambia goes to the polls on 20 September

by Patson Phiri

ZAMBIA WILL hold general elections on 20 September following the dissolution of the Cabinet and the National Assembly by President Rupiah Banda at the end of July, in line with the country's constitution.

Banda announced in a live broadcast, that he had signed the Electoral (General Elections) (Date of Poll) Declaration Order, which effectively dissolved Cabinet and Parliament as of 28 July 2011.

"Further, I have also signed the Local Government Elections (Date and Times of Poll) Order ... This means the local government elections will be held together with the presidential and parliamentary elections," President Banda said. "I can now announce to the nation that the elections will be held on 20 September 2011."

Banda of the ruling Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) will face stiff challenge from opposition leaders Michael Sata of the Patriotic Front (PF) and Hakainde Hichilema of the United Party for National Development (UPND).

The MMD was the first political party to unveil its 150 parliamentary candidates in July, including about 15 women.

Other parties were yet to announce their candidates for the parliamentary elections.

A total of 709 parliamentary candidates contested for 150 seats in the National Assembly during the 2006 elections, of which 103 were women.

Banda noted that Zambia has a proud history of democracy which must be upheld and urged all political parties and candidates for local government, National Assembly

and presidential elections to conduct themselves with integrity, honour and fairness during the campaigns.

He appealed to Zambians to avoid lies, smears, political thuggery and negative campaigning.

"The revised Electoral Code of Conduct of 2011 sets out quite clearly the rules and regulations covering the coming election period. So I urge all candidates and all bodies covered by the Code to adhere to it," he said.



Zambians are ready to go to the polls, combining the local government elections, presidential and parliamentary elections on September 20, 2011.

Botswana's opposition forms coalition

BOTSWANA'S THREE main opposition parties have agreed to form a coalition that will challenge the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) in the next general elections to be held in 2014.

The parties – the Botswana National Front, (BNF), the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) and Botswana Movement for Democracy (BMD) – have been in talks to form a coalition that would contest the next elections as a united opposition.

BCP leader, Dumelang Saleshando, announced in

The tripartite elections will be the sixth presidential polls to take place in Zambia since the re-introduction of multi-party politics in 1991 when the country's liberation party, the United National Independence Party (UNIP), lost power to the ruling MMD.

Preparations for the general elections are progressing well, with the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) announcing that it requires more than 60,000 officials to conduct this year's vote.

ECZ director Priscilla Isaac said the commission has embarked on various legal and administrative activities to ensure that the elections are conducted to the letter and spirit of the laws of the land, and to the satisfaction of stakeholders.

The activities include voter registration, a delimitation exercise, review of the Electoral Code of Conduct and recruitment of polling officers.

The ECZ said 1,279,181 new registrations had been captured by the close of the voter registration exercise in March, resulting in the total number of eligible voters rising to 5,223,316.

Inspection of the provisional register closed on 12 June, after which the ECZ was expected to consolidate the register and certify it by 31 July.

"The commission is unable to extend the exercise this time around due to the fact that the final register has to be certified by 31st July, 2011 and any extension will delay the process," said Isaac.

This will be the second time that the ECZ will be using a computerized voter registration system introduced in 2006.

All voters' details, including fingerprints, are available electronically, which quickens the verification process.

In consultation with a cross section of stakeholders, the commission undertook a review of the Electoral Code of Conduct in 2010 with a view to strengthening it.

Isaac said the code will be translated into seven major vernacular languages and distributed to rural areas. *sardc.net*



AU lauds SADC peace efforts in Madagascar

THE PEACE and Security Council of the African Union has commended SADC for its efforts to facilitate a return to constitutional order in Madagascar.

The SADC mediator in Madagascar's political deadlock, former President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, briefed the Council in July on the situa-

tion in the Indian Ocean Island.

The Council, sitting at its 283rd meeting held in Addis Ababa, also heard presentations from the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ramtane Lamamra and Albert Muchanga, Permanent Representative of Zambia to the AU who spoke on behalf of the

SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

The Council took note of the decisions of the SADC Extraordinary Summit held in Sandton, South Africa, in June at which the Heads of State and Government called for the return of Madagascar to constitutional normalcy and approved, with amendments,

a roadmap for a way out of the political crisis in the Indian Ocean Island.

Madagascar's elected leader, Marc Ravalomanana, was ousted by Andry Rajoelina in March 2009 in an army-backed coup and his attempts to return to the country have been blocked by Rajoelina.

The AU Peace and Security Council requested that the roadmap be amended accordingly and be fully consistent with the relevant decisions and instruments of the AU and SADC.

"Council reiterated its appreciation to the SADC mediator, and encouraged him to pursue his efforts to reach a consensual and inclusive solution as soon as possible to the crisis in Madagascar," the Council said in a communiqué.

It requested the AU Commission and the SADC Secretariat to take the necessary steps to establish a joint presence in Madagascar to better monitor the situation and facilitate the implementation of the SADC roadmap.

SADC has been unable to convince Rajoelina to sign a power-sharing deal reached in August 2009.

Rajoelina's own initiatives to end the crisis have been unsuccessful and he has failed to secure domestic and international support. r

Zuma led AU mediation effort for Libya

SOUTH AFRICAN President Jacob Zuma led African Union (AU) efforts to negotiate a political solution in Libya where rebels began waging a war to topple Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi in February, with military support from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Zuma, with four other African heads of state, sought to break the deadlock between Gaddafi and the rebels, who insisted that he step down before agreeing to any deal.

Clearly there was no political will for a mediated solution as the rebels advanced on the capital with air and ground support from NATO, including logistics and materials.

One British television reporter said British Special Forces were assisting the rebels in their rapid advance, wearing the same uniforms and carrying the same weapons as the rebel forces.

South Africa had hosted an AU High-Level Ad Hoc Committee in Pretoria on 26 June to discuss the developments in Libya and the next steps in the implementation of its mandate as defined by the 265th meeting of the AU's Peace and Security Council of 10 March 2011.

The ad hoc committee expressed concern at the con-

tinuing fighting between the warring Libyan parties and at the NATO-led aerial bombardment of Tripoli and other towns controlled by government forces.

The United Kingdom, France and the United States used UN Resolution 1973, which imposed a no-fly zone for protection of civilians, as an entry point for fullscale military intervention in Libya to remove Gaddafi and his government.

Many AU leaders have publicly criticised NATO's assault on Gaddafi's regime, including Zuma who in June accused the alliance of abusing the UN resolution used to justify its bombing.

Zuma warned that by pursuing regime change, NATO had strayed far outside the resolution's civilian protection focus.

The committee meeting was attended by Presidents Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz of Mauritania, who chairs the committee, Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Amadou Toumani Toure of Mali and Zuma.

The committee noted the dire humanitarian situation created by the war, including loss of life among civilians, forced displacement, shortages of basic necessities, the destruction of vital civilian

infrastructure and the worsening problems faced by the African migrant workers, including the death at sea and in the desert of hundreds of them.

The committee reiterated the AU's position that only a political solution would make it possible to sustainably settle the current conflict.

In this regard, it reiterated that the AU roadmap remained a viable basis for a way out of the crisis.

The roadmap, which was rejected by the rebels who insisted that Gaddafi must resign or be removed, contains five elements:

- protection of civilians and cessation of hostilities;
- humanitarian assistance to affected populations, including both Libyans and foreign migrant workers, particularly those from Africa;
- initiation of political dialogue between the Libyan parties in order to reach an agreement on the practicalities of ending the crisis;
- establishment and management of an inclusive transitional government; and
- adoption and implementation of political reforms necessary to meet the aspirations of the Libyan people. r



Ring-tailed lemurs of Madagascar

EVENTS DIARY August-October 2011

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| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| August 4-5, South Africa | African Renaissance Conference The conference will examine issues related to redefining and rebuilding the African continent through assessing and developing its own socio-economic resources. |
| 11-18, Angola | SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government SADC leaders meet to discuss issues aimed at promoting regional integration and development in the region. The Summit is preceded by meetings of senior officials and Council of Ministers. |
| August 27-28, Namibia | SARCOF-15 The Fifteenth Southern Africa Region Climate Outlook Forum will develop a consensus climate outlook for the October 2011 to March 2012 rainfall season. The forum will also discuss potential impacts of the seasonal climate outlook on socio-economic sectors. |
| 29 August-2 Sept, South Africa | 37th SAPP Meeting The meeting is expected to review the power situation in the region. The Southern African Power Pool is the management centre for 12 electricity utilities in SADC. |
| September 5-6, South Africa | SADC Ministerial Session and Meeting of Negotiators The aim of the workshop is to work on a revised SADC position for COP17 aligned with the Africa position, reflecting recent developments and outcomes from the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Bonn session. |
| 8-9, South Africa | SANACTT The Southern African Network for Accelerating Investments in Climate Technology Transfer will hold a workshop on its potential as a tool/mechanism to support climate technology transfer in southern Africa, organized by the Energy Branch of UNEP. |
| 19-21, South Africa | Solar Energy Africa The conference will bring together energy experts to explore ways on how Africa could fully exploit its huge solar potential. Solar is regarded as one of the most reliable and clean forms of energy that does not pollute the environment compared to other forms such as coal. |
| 19-21, Lesotho | SADC Water Ministers Meeting The meeting will review various policies and programmes to address the challenges and opportunities facing SADC's water sector. |
| 19-23, South Africa | Hydropower Africa Energy experts will meet to discuss ways of harnessing hydroelectric power. |
| 23, Lesotho | SADC Water Infrastructure Investment Conference The conference will discuss infrastructure investment opportunities in the water sector as well as offer possible solutions for improving SADC's water infrastructure. |
| 27-28, South Africa | SADC Economic Development Forum 2011 Forum 2011 aims to promote a dynamic and integrated regional economy as a basis for growth and investment in SADC. |
| October 20, South Africa | China-Africa Business Forum The forum seeks to strengthen relations between China and Africa. China is now Africa's biggest trading partner. |

Remembering the defence forces

IN ANY sovereign nation, the defence force plays a significant role in nation-building that goes beyond protecting the country's airspace or borders.

In addition to providing a shield against external attacks, the defence force acts as a catalyst for economic growth and social cohesion within a country.

To honour the role played by the Zimbabwe Defence Forces (ZDF), the country commemorates Defence Forces Day in August each year.

The ZDF was established just after independence in 1980 through the integration of three belligerent forces, when the then Rhodesian Army was combined with the two liberation forces – the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) and the Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZPRA).

The then Prime Minister Robert Mugabe declared at independence that integrating Zimbabwe's armed forces would be a top priority for the new government.

The ZDF has since independence participated in various missions to protect peace in southern Africa and restore economic viability in landmine-infested areas.

As of 2010, the Zimbabwean army had cleared more than eight square kilometres of landmines along the border with Mozambique and about 300 sq km of mine-infested land along Zimbabwe's border with Zambia.

Zimbabwe's border areas were heavily mined by Rhodesian forces during the 1970s war of liberation to slow the progress of freedom fighters crossing into the country from Zambia or Mozambique.

More than 276 sq km of mine-infested land between the Victoria Falls and Milibizi fishing resort bordering Zambia have been handed over to government ministries responsible for public works and tourism to put to productive use.

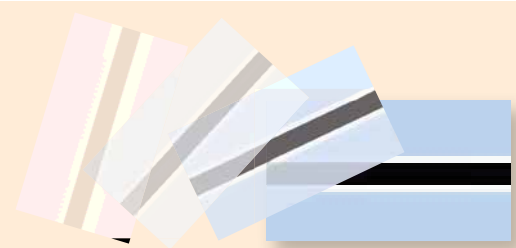
The Zimbabwe National Army and Air Force of Zimbabwe successfully provided ground and air support to Mozambique in the 1980s to protect the fuel pipeline at a time when South African-backed rebels were sabotaging infrastructure.

The ZNA and two other SADC countries provided military support to the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to protect its territory and confront a cross-border invasion in 1998-2003.

The Defence Forces Day is preceded by Heroes Day, another important occasion that celebrates the courage of thousands of young Zimbabweans who sacrificed their lives to fight for the country's independence.

The story of the country's struggle is, however, incomplete without mention of thousands of people in neighbouring countries who stood by their Zimbabwean brothers and sisters.

Thousands of Mozambicans, Tanzanians and Zambians supported the struggle to liberate their neighbour, and monuments have been established in those countries for remembrance.



Seretse Khama

“Retrieve what we can of our past...”

“WE WERE taught, sometimes in a very positive way, to despise ourselves and our way of life. We were made to believe that we had no past to speak of, no history to boast of. The past, so far as we were concerned, was just a blank and nothing more.”

These were the words of Botswana's founding president Seretse Khama during a graduation ceremony at the then University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland in May 1970.

He advocated for Africans to “retrieve what we can of our past”, urging all independent states to write their own history books to prove that they indeed have a past that was just as worth writing and learning about as any other.

He inherited an impoverished territory from British rule in 1966, and left an increasingly prosperous country with a significant role in southern Africa when he died in 1980.



PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

June-August 2011

| | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 August | Parents Day | DRC |
| | Farmers Day | Zambia |
| 8 August | Peasant Day | Tanzania |
| 8 August | Heroes Day | Zimbabwe |
| 9 August | Defence Forces Day | Zimbabwe |
| 9 August | National Women's Day | South Africa |
| 15 August | Assumption Day | Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles |
| 26 August | Heroes Day | Namibia |
| 30/31 August | Eid-El-Fitri* | Tanzania |
| | Eid-UI-Fitri* | Mauritius |
| 2 September | Ganesh Chaturthi | Mauritius |
| 6 September | Somhlolo Day | Swaziland |
| 7 September | Victory Day | Mozambique |
| 17 September | Founder of the Nation Day | Angola |
| | National Heroes Day | Angola |
| 24 September | Heritage Day | South Africa |
| 25 September | Armed Forces Day | Mozambique |
| 30 September | Botswana Day | Botswana |
| 1 October | Public Holiday | Botswana |
| 4 October | Independence Day | Lesotho |
| 4 October | Peace and Reconciliation Day | Mozambique |
| 14 October | Mwalimu Nyerere Day | Tanzania |
| 15 October | Mother's Day | Malawi |
| 24 October | Independence Day | Zambia |
| 26 October | Divali | Mauritius |

*Depends on sighting of the new moon