



34th SADC Summit Economic transformation takes centre stage

by Kizito Sikuka

THE 34th Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government, set for Zimbabwe in August, will be an important milestone for socio-economic development in southern Africa.

The theme for the Summit on 17-18 August in Victoria Falls is “SADC Strategy for Economic Transformation: Leveraging the Region's Diverse Resources for Sustainable Economic and Social Development through Beneficiation and Value Addition.”

Southern Africa has vast natural resources that include minerals such as diamonds, gold and platinum.

Mining is an industry of strategic importance in southern Africa. Roughly half of the world's vanadium, platinum, and diamonds originate in the region, along with an estimated 36 percent of gold and 20 percent of cobalt.

In fact, two of the three countries that are the largest producers of platinum in the world are in the SADC region. South Africa currently provides about two-thirds of the world's platinum mining output, followed by Russia and Zimbabwe.

However, the region continues to be among the poorest in the world despite the abundant natural resources since most coun-

tries do not have beneficiation policies, with the bulk of the value-addition taking place elsewhere and benefiting others.

There is, therefore, need for southern Africa to come up with a viable strategy that ensures that the extraction of natural resources benefits the people of the region.

As the incoming SADC chair, Zimbabwe has made a commitment to lead the regional integration agenda in southern Africa through the promotion of industrialisation and value-addition to production.

Industrialisation and value-addition are key components of the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZimAsset) launched in 2013.

ZimAsset is a government blueprint aimed at shaping the economic transformation and development of the country for the five-year period until December 2018.

Four clusters were identified to lead this transformation: Food Security and Nutrition; Social Services and Poverty Eradication; Infrastructure and Utilities; and Value Addition and Beneficiation.

Another highlight of the 34th SADC Summit is expected to be the presentation of the revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP).



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The RISDP is a 15-year strategic plan approved by SADC Member States in 2003 as a blueprint for regional integration and development, currently under review as part of efforts to realign the region's development agenda with emerging global dynamics.

A multi-stakeholder task force, including representatives of the SADC Secretariat, Member States and non-state actors, was formed this year to implement the recommendations of an independent mid-term review undertaken between 2012 and 2013.

The task force has met twice to formulate new priorities for the regional integration agenda for the remainder of the RISDP timeframe.

The revised RISDP is expected to be submitted to the 2014 SADC Summit for approval, as agreed at the previous Summit.

The independent review of the RISDP recommended, among other things, a revision of most SADC protocols to align them with the new challenges and emerging issues affecting regional integration.

SADC Member States have signed 27 protocols and a number of declarations, charters and memoranda of understanding on various matters ranging from trade, mining, and finance and investment to illicit drugs, forestry and shared watercourses.

Most of the protocols have been ratified and entered into force. However, the mid-term review noted that there is no roadmap to enable a systematic approach to implementation of protocols at both regional and national levels.

One shortcoming of most of the existing protocols that was noted was that the obliga-

tions agreed are neither legally binding nor obligatory.

Another key recommendation by the independent review is that SADC should broaden participation and become people-driven. The review called for the creation of a platform for policy engagement by the SADC Secretariat with the private sector and other non-state actors.

Existing engagement between the Secretariat and non-state actors is on a programme-by-programme and activity-by-activity basis without any clear strategic collaboration and specific goals to be achieved. Participation of all stakeholders in the regional integration agenda is provided for in the SADC Treaty.

The 2014 SADC Summit is also expected to review implementation of the SADC Infrastructure Master Plan launched in 2012 in Maputo, Mozambique, and issue a declaration on its infrastructure programme.

The Master Plan is intended to guide the implementation of cross-border infrastructure projects between 2013 and 2027. It is being implemented through three five-year intervals – short term (2012-2017), medium term (2017-2022) and long term (2022-2027).

At least 106 cross-border infrastructure projects covering the priority sectors of energy, transport, tourism, water, information communication technology, and meteorology have been identified for implementation by SADC by 2017.

The new SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax will make her first presentation at Summit during which she is expected to articulate the programme of action and priorities since tak-



ing over from Mozambican Dr Tomaz Augusto Salomão in August 2013.

In one of her first interviews as Executive Secretary, Dr Tax said her main task is to take the integration agenda forward.

"My goal is to continue strengthening regional integration and cooperation that has existed in SADC since its formation," she said.

Summit is expected to receive a report on the regional economic integration agenda from the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration.

The report is expected to highlight the status of a framework for the proposed SADC Customs Union and progress towards the establishment of the Tripartite Free Trade Area involving the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and SADC.

The ministerial task force has reported during the past two years that some progress has been made in developing the parameters, benchmarks, a model customs union for the region, and the timing of activities leading to the launch of the Customs Union.

The SADC leaders are also expected to discuss a common regional position ahead of the 20th Conference of the Parties (COP 20) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in December in Peru.

The chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba, will table a report on the political situation in the region.

The re-admission of Madagascar back into SADC will mark the first time in several years that all 15 SADC Member States will meet together to chart the way forward towards deeper integration in southern Africa.

Madagascar was suspended from SADC in 2009 after the then opposition leader Andry Rajoelina seized power from President Marc Ravalomanana in a public demonstration backed by the military, similar to the method used by the latter when he seized power a few years earlier from his predecessor, Didier Ratsiraka.

SADC mediation eventually achieved results at the end of 2013 when Madagascar successfully held presidential elections, won by former finance minister Hery Rajaonarimampianina.

The suspension was lifted by SADC in February following the restoration of constitutional order on the Indian Ocean Island.

This will be the first time Zimbabwe hosts the annual regional meeting in 25 years. The country last hosted the SADC Summit in 1989 when the regional organization was still known as the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference.

At the Summit, President Robert Mugabe will assume the rotating SADC chair from the newly elected Malawian President Peter Mutharika, who won presidential elections held on 20 May.

The Summit will be preceded by meetings of senior officials and the Council of Ministers. r

Digital broadcasting consumer guidelines adopted

SADC MEMBER States have adopted guidelines to cushion consumers from the impact of the planned migration from analogue to digital broadcasting.

The SADC Guidelines on Consumer Protection and Awareness on Digital Broadcasting Migration were adopted by the 7th SADC Digital Broadcasting Migration Forum held in Kasane, Botswana in June.

“The Forum adopted the SADC Guidelines on Consumer Protection and Awareness on Digital Broadcasting Migration, and Member States are encouraged to implement the Guidelines with immediate effect,” the forum said.

The guidelines will enable governments to cushion consumers from the effects of the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting and outline measures to be taken by Member States to raise awareness about the migration.

The measures to cushion consumers include subsidies for purchasing digital receivers.

SADC is leading other African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in terms of progress towards meeting the global deadline for the migration from analogue to digital broadcasting.

Two SADC Member States – Mauritius and the United Republic of Tanzania – were the first African countries to migrate to Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT).

Mauritius was the first African nation to fully digitise television broadcasting for all regions and islands in 2007.

The country initiated its migration process in 2005 with

a “soft launch” of its first digital services offering six free-to-air channels.

Two digital channels were launched in 2008 to speed up consumer purchases of digital TV sets and the appropriate Set-Top Boxes (STBs). Full analogue switch-off was completed in December 2013.

Tanzania completed the migration at the end of 2012 and immediately commenced a staggered programme of switching off analogue broadcasting in December in an exercise that has so far seen six of its regions now accessing DTT services. These are Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Mwanza and Arusha.

Key success factors for the migration programmes in both Mauritius and Tanzania included effective regulatory environments and introduction of subsidies to enable consumers to acquire DTT receivers.

The success of the Tanzanian digital migration exercise is also attributed to its effective awareness campaign conducted parallel to the implementation of the programme.

However, challenges encountered by most SADC Member States include lack of funding to roll out the migration programme, and standardisation of receivers available on the market and their affordability.

To pursue a smooth DTT migration, SADC Member States resolved to reflect on financing models that provide for an efficient process for disseminating information about the DTT migration process.

For example, to avoid this problem, the Tanzanian government has exempted

taxes on decoders and Set Top Boxes.

Among other measures introduced by SADC is the introduction of a DTT Project Management Office at the SADC Secretariat to coordinate the regional DTT programme.

The DTT office is a special desk at the Secretariat that acts as a one-stop shop for coordinating, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the implementation of the SADC Roadmap for Digital Broadcasting Migration to ensure all Member States meet the migration deadline.

The SADC region has also approved a Harmonised SADC Digital Dividend Strategic Plan that outlines, among other things,

specifications for low-cost, free-to-air decoders and a digital licensing framework for the region.

The global deadline set by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) is 17 June 2015.

Digital broadcasting involves the use of digital signals rather than analogue wave forms to transmit television broadcast channels on assigned radio frequency bands.

Thanks to the use of data compression, digital links generally have more efficient bandwidth usage than analogue, which makes it possible for more services and channels, and improved picture quality than previously possible. r

SADC sets up risk management committee

THE SADC Secretariat is taking steps to strengthen implementation of its Risk Management Policy to ensure proactive management of both the potential opportunities and the adverse effects of regional integration.

As risk management is increasing prominence globally due to the growing turbulence and uncertainty in the external environment, the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, has established an Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC) to strengthen institutionalisation of risk management at the Secretariat.

The committee will play an important oversight role in the implementation of risk management at the SADC Secretariat.

As part of its work, the Committee engaged an international risk management expert to provide a two-day orientation for the SADC Secretariat Management Team and senior officers in April.

The course provided a platform for creating awareness and appreciation of risk management principles among the Secretariat’s management.

The SADC Risk Management Policy was approved by the Council of Ministers meeting held in March 2012 in Luanda, Angola. r



SADC approves infrastructure declaration

by Kizito Sikuka

SADC MINISTERS have adopted a declaration that aims to strengthen cooperation in the development of regional infrastructure projects and encourage the participation of the private sector in construction of dams, roads and other facilities.

The ministers responsible for Infrastructure adopted the draft SADC Declaration on Regional Infrastructure Development at their meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, on 20 June.

The declaration is expected to unlock opportunities for financing various infrastructure projects and inspire Member States to scale up and continue working together on cross-border regional projects.

“We have agreed to make our best efforts to promote mutually beneficial cooperation between Member States in the rapid development of bankable projects that will foster adequate and efficient trade routes for regional and

international,” reads part of the declaration.

The declaration urges SADC countries to implement regional agreements and protocols to facilitate development of infrastructure, as well as create the necessary conditions to attract investment and promote industrialization.

Other key issues contained in the declaration include the need to collaborate with international cooperating partners, multilateral financial institutions such as the African Development Bank, the private sector and other stakeholders to secure funding for the SADC infrastructure programme.

Particular attention will also be put on the transport needs of landlocked SADC countries who because of “their geo-political circumstances have special needs for transport and transit services and bear high costs for capacity and access to external markets.”

The ministers also committed to the operationalization of

the SADC Regional Development Fund that was approved in November 2013.

The fund is critical in supporting infrastructure projects in the region. However, due to various challenges, among them the change in the financing mode, the fund is yet to be operational.

“We encourage all stakeholders, including all regional finance institutions and the private sector, to provide all necessary support for the implementation of this declaration and the RIDMP,” reads part of the declaration.

“We will review progress on the implementation of this declaration on a regular basis during Summit meetings.”

The declaration was referred to the Ministers of Justice/Attorney Generals from the region for perusal before it is forwarded to the SADC Council of Ministers for final approval in August.

Once endorsed by Council, the declaration will be pre-

sented for approval by regional leaders at the 34th Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government set for Zimbabwe in August.

Tentative dates for the summit whose theme is “SADC Strategy for Economic Transformation: Leveraging the Region’s Diverse Resources for Sustainable Economic and Social Development,” are 17-18 August in Victoria Falls.

Speaking at the official opening ceremony of the SADC Infrastructure Ministers meeting, Zimbabwe’s Vice President, Joyce Mujuru, said poor infrastructure impedes on intra-regional trade.

“This challenge must be confronted head on, working closely with our financial technical experts who should assist with the mobilization of sustainable long term funding, not forgetting the utilization of our won natural resources,” Mujuru said.

The SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomona Lawrence Tax, concurred, saying that “the region needs to redouble its efforts to deploy regional infrastructure to facilitate value addition.”

“The provision of integrated, efficient, and cost effective infrastructure networks to address the region’s supply side constraints and reduction of the cost of doing business is paramount,” she said.

Regional infrastructure development is key for socio-economic development as a thriving economy depends on a reliable infrastructure base at both the national and regional levels.

The SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan launched in 2012 identifies a total of 418 infrastructure projects for implementation by 2027. r

Zimbabwe assumes control of Limpopo Bridge

ZIMBABWE ASSUMED control of the New Limpopo Bridge that links the country to neighbouring South Africa at one of sub-Saharan Africa’s busiest entry points.

This followed the expiry of a 20-year Built Operate and Transfer (BOT) agreement with New Limpopo Bridge Limited (NLB), a company that constructed the bridge in 1994.

A BOT is an arrangement where a company undertakes an infrastructure project and is allowed to operate it in order to recover costs and make some profits before transferring the facility to the government.

The handover ceremony took place in June at the Beit-



Limpopo Bridge

bridge border post and was witnessed by Zimbabwean Transport and Infrastructure Development Minister, Obert Mpofu, and his South African counterpart, Dipuo Peters.

Mpofu said officials from both countries have been tasked with developing a memorandum of understand-

ing by the end of September to cover the operations of the bridge.

Peters said private public partnerships are a viable option for financing the infrastructure that countries should actively consider in order to release funds for other pressing needs. *Herald* r

Food security remains stable in SADC

THE 2013/2014 agricultural season has come to an end in most southern African countries, and the overall food security situation remains stable as a number of countries are expecting bumper harvests.

A joint assessment by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS), UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, says the projected average to above-average cereal harvest is sufficient to meet the region's requirements for the next six months and beyond.

"Despite an erratic and delayed start of season, the overall regional perspective reflects that the 2014/15 consumption season in terms of cereals supplies is much better than last year's with bumper harvests being recorded in Zambia, South Africa and an improvement in Zimbabwe compared to last season," according to the assessment.

Malawi and Mozambique are expecting good production despite the late onset of rains and localized mid-season dryness.

Angola and Namibia were negatively affected by adverse weather conditions during the season.

Regional cereal availability is likely to be above last year and close to the past five-year average, and will be sufficient to meet regional requirements for the next six months and beyond – covering the import needs of structurally grain-deficit countries and leaving a surplus that could be exported outside of the region.

Major exportable maize surpluses are expected from

Zambia (approximately 1.1 million metric tonnes), and South Africa (about 1.8 million metric tonnes).

In Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, cereal availability is expected to meet national domestic consumption needs, though poor households in localized areas in Malawi are likely to face constrained access.

Zimbabwe has "recorded one of the best maize performances in the last close to 20 years." The area under cereal crops in Zimbabwe rose by 16 percent during the 2013/14 farming season compared to the previous year.

A second-round crop estimates report for Malawi estimates maize output at 3.93 million MT, which is an increase on the output for 2012/13.

Crop production is expected to be more than last year in Madagascar due to

better locust control. Harvesting is expected to start in June.

The food security outlook is generally better in Mozambique this year compared to 2012/13 season, with a noticeable decrease in food prices except for areas that were affected by floods and cyclone Helen.

Areas affected by heavy rainfall and flooding included the Incomati, Maputo and Limpopo Basins in the south of the country, as well as coastal Cabo Delgado and Nampula in the north.

In the case of Namibia, national cereal production is provisionally forecast at 122,390 tonnes, reflecting an increase of 50 percent over last season's harvest but still two percent below average.

Much of this improvement comes from the commercial areas where most of the production is under irrigation. r



Botswana reviews agricultural policy

BOTSWANA HAS revised its National Policy on Agricultural Development to align it to the changing global dynamics, including ensuring it responds to emerging issues such as climate change.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Micus Chimbombi said the policy was first launched in 1991 and the need for its review arose from the fact that a number of sector specific developments as well as international conventions and commitments on agriculture have taken place.

He said the revised policy and its newly introduced implementation plan will now be reviewed after every 10 years "to bring them in line with the

ever-changing national, regional and international trends."

The review will focus on the policy performance in terms of its objectives and adequacy of the instruments as well as on major changes that are necessary because of new national, regional and international developments.

Among other things, the policy aims to improve food security, diversify the agricultural sector production base, increase agricultural output and productivity, increase employment opportunities, conserve the scarce agricultural land resources, and to provide a secure and productive environment.

Some of the issues that have necessitated the review of the policy include the adoption of the Botswana Vision 2016 as an overarching strategy for social and economic development.

One of the aspirations of Vision 2016 is to eradicate absolute poverty by the year 2016.

In addition, Botswana adopted a National Strategy for Poverty Reduction (NSPR) in 2003, to allow for a coordinated approach to poverty reduction.

Given the high incidence of poverty in rural areas, agriculture has a role to play in contributing to the achievement of poverty reduction targets. r



China contributes to African green revolution

by Kizito Sikuka

AGRICULTURE HAS been identified as a priority area of development in the China-Africa strategic partnership.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang reaffirmed his country's commitment to assist Africa increase agricultural productivity and improve food security during a visit to Africa in May.

He announced that China plans to train 2,000 agricultural technicians and management personnel in Africa during the next five years.

Under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) launched in 2000, the two sides agreed to work together in boosting agricultural production in Africa and ensuring food security for its citizens.

China pledged in 2012 to increase the number of agricultural technology demonstration centres from 15 to 20.

As Africa celebrates 2014 as the Year of Agriculture and Food Security, a visit to the Gwebi Agricultural Demonstration Centre near Harare in Zimbabwe was undertaken to find out how China is contributing to the green revolution in Africa.

The Gwebi Agricultural Demonstration Centre is one of the 20 agricultural centres to be built in Africa by China. A total of 15 centres are already operational, of which seven are in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). These are in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mada-

gascar, Malawi, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The other demonstration centres are located in Benin, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Liberia, Togo, Sudan, Uganda and Rwanda.

The Gwebi Agricultural Demonstration Centre project started in 2009 when the governments of Zimbabwe and China signed an agreement to build the facility.

Construction began in March 2010 and was completed in 2012. Under the agreement, the 100-hectare centre will be managed by China between 2012 and 2015, after which the centre will be handed to Zimbabwe.

Chinese experts at the Gwebi Agricultural Demonstration Centre said the facility has strengthened the capacity of local farmers to manage their crops and farming machinery.

"Since we started operating in 2012, we have trained over 3,000 students and farmers," one of the experts, Richard Wang, said.

He revealed that the centre leased farming equipment such as tractors and combine harvesters to Zimbabwean farmers as part of a programme to improve agricultural mechanisation in the country.

At least four training courses are conducted at the centre every year, each targeting 20 farmers.

The centre also conducts on-site courses in rural areas for those that cannot afford to attend the training in Harare.

"We mainly focus on farmers who come to us, and our wish is to also train as many smallholder farmers as possible, particularly those based in the rural areas," Wang said.

The demonstration centre also works with the Gwebi Agricultural College to train its students, as well as offer technical support in some of its commercial farming ventures.

He said Zimbabwe and the rest of Africa have the potential to become global players in agriculture if right policies are put in place.

"Africa could have enough food for itself if things are done properly because the conditions for agriculture are there and very good," he said.

He said the continent has vast fertile land and enjoys good weather and abundant labour.

"What you call smallholder farms here in Africa in terms of space are actually commercial farms in China," weighed in Frank Yu, another Chinese expert at the centre.

Yu noted that China is ready to assist Africa to reach its full potential in harnessing its agricultural potential.

He dismissed the notion that the involvement of China in African agriculture was another scramble for land on

SADC: "Let us support our farmers"

SADC HAS urged stakeholders to redouble their efforts towards creating a conducive environment for farmers to boost production.

Farmers are at the centre of Africa's agricultural transformation agenda since they are the ones that produce the food for the citizens of the region.

Therefore, right agricultural policies such as access to inputs including seeds and fertilizer, as well as credit facilities would help improve yields.

Appropriate and sufficient extension services also have the capacity to allow farmers to try out new crop or livestock enterprises and then decide whether it would be possible to upscale any of these enterprises to community, national and regional levels.

Speaking at the 1st General Assembly of the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA), SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax said the region should support its farmers as most of them continue to experience challenges in their daily work.

"One of the major weak points in the stimulation of agricultural led growth in SADC has been the lack of a strong base for technology generation and public-private partnership models for commercialisation of technologies," she said.

Dr Tax said climate change had also become a main challenge threatening food security in the region, hence the need to develop appropriate technologies for adaptation and resilience.

"This calls for careful consideration of resource allocation and applied research which can give results of immediate use to farmers in improving the resilience of their production technologies and farming systems to climate change," she said.

"In this regard, I wish call upon CCARDESA and its stakeholders to place considerable attention on the needs of farmers in the development of programmes."

These programmes include improving the transport network and storage facilities so that agricultural produce could smoothly move from one place to another.

Storage facilities allow farmers to store their harvest for use in poor seasons. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), post-harvest crop losses are estimated to be as high as 40 percent in the region.

Agriculture is the backbone of most economies in southern Africa hence the sector should be identified as a priority area of development.



Access to seeds and fertilizer improves yields

For example, more than 62 percent of the SADC region's 277 million people are dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods, according to the SADC Secretariat.

Furthermore, the sector contributes an average of 17 percent to the regional GDP, and is therefore a very important sector to all SADC Member States in terms of job creation and income generation.

Dr Tax also urged the region to increase food production to keep pace with growing population.

She said while food production can be increased by increasing the area of land to be used for agriculture, "this is not a viable option in the SADC region, the most desirable and sustainable option before us is to increase productivity so that more food can be produced per unit area of land."

She said there is need for the region to engage and co-opt the youths into agricultural development.

"As we celebrate the African Union year of Agriculture and Food Security, we need to launch a SADC-wide youth programme to create opportunities in agricultural value chains and building agricultural entrepreneur."

African leaders adopted 2014 as the year of agriculture at their 33rd summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to encourage the continent to reflect and recommit its efforts to boost production.

For example, under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), African governments made a commitment to allocate at least 10 percent of their national budgets to the agricultural sector each year.

Ultimately, this ambitious and broad vision for agricultural reform in Africa aspires for an average annual growth rate of six percent in agriculture.

The 1st CCARDESA General Assembly was held on 6-8 May in Gaborone, Botswana. CCARDESA is a sub-regional organisation established in July 2011 to coordinate the implementation of agricultural research and development in the SADC region. r



tion

the continent motivated by the need to feed its own people back home in Asia.

China, he said, was in Africa to help the continent develop its agricultural sector and ensure global food security.

He said in 2015 the Chinese government will hand over full control of the Gwebi Agricultural Demonstration Centre to Zimbabwe.

This is a general procedure in each of the African countries that have the agricultural demonstration centres.

"When we hand over the centre, we will, however, be available to offer any technical support needed," said Yu.

He indicated that similar handovers in other countries such as Mozambique have been successful as host governments "are always keen to make the projects a success."

The investment by China in African agricultural is thus critical in ensuring the green revolution on the continent. *sardc.net* r



SADC – Africa's energy source

THE SADC region is poised to become a major continental source of energy if current plans to boost generation capacity are implemented.

The region is home to the world's largest proposed hydropower scheme, the Grand Inga, which is the centrepiece of a grand vision to develop a continent-wide power system.

Located in western Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), about 50 km upstream of the mouth of the Congo River and 225km southwest of the capital Kinshasa, Grand Inga is expected to generate 40,000MW when completed.

Based on a feasibility study conducted between 2011 and 2013, Grand Inga will be constructed in six development phases, with the Inga III Dam and hydropower project being the first of these phases.

When completed, Inga III will produce 4,800MW of electricity.

The proposed dam is the fourth and largest of a series of dams that have been built or are proposed for the lower end of the Congo River.

The dam site is on the largest waterfall in the world by volume, the Inga Falls – a series of falls and rapids that drop in elevation via small rapids.

The falls are incorporated into the current Inga I and Inga II hydroelectric facilities, with the volume of the river diverted some 30 percent of the average discharge.

The power generated will be double the capacity of the largest dam in the world, the Three Gorges Dam in China.

The DRC and South Africa signed a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2011 for the development of Grand Inga and followed that up with a cooperation Treaty in May 2013 to jointly develop the Inga III Dam.

South Africa will purchase 2,500MW of the total 4,300MW generated, making it the principal buyer for Inga III electricity.

The DRC has commenced the process of selecting a developer, with a number of consortia currently bidding for selection as developers of the Grand Inga.

These include SinoHydro and the Three Gorges Corporation from China, Actividades de Construcion y Servicios, and Eurofinsa, both of Spain, and Daewoo-Posco from South Korea.

Construction is planned to commence in 2016 following the conclusion of social and environmental assessment studies.

The Grand Inga mega-project is a priority for a number of Africa development organizations, including SADC and the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Grand Inga dam has been estimated to cost more than US\$80 billion, including cost of the transmission lines needed to carry its power across Africa and potentially to Europe.

Another SADC country, Angola, has also announced plans to quadruple its power generation capacity from the current 2,250MW to about 9,000MW by 2025.



Energy and Water Minister João Baptista Borges said most of the power will come from the Middle Kwanza hydropower station, Lauca station and the Central Cambambe hydro plant.

"Our ultimate goal is to reach 9,000MW by 2025," he said, adding that "This means multiplying by four the current capacity, our great resource is hydropower production."

At least US\$23 billion has already been invested by Angola in the energy sector to rehabilitate and expand some of the existing power plants.

"The rehabilitation of power station and the expansion of the distribution networks of these dams are our priorities because

WITH PLANS to build new 21,500 megawatts (MW) by the government's efforts to achieve energy on the front of developing renewable

we want to be part of the best producers of power in Africa, as well as produce and distribute the energy to Angolan population," the Secretary of State for Water, Luís Filipe da Silva, said.

Key activities to fall under the investment include the construction of a hydropower station at Lauca Dam which will add 2,060 MW into the national system whilst another Combined Cycle Station with a production capacity of 750 MW will be constructed. r

Renewable energy centre to be launched

THE PROPOSED SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) should be launched by September 2014 under a revised roadmap agreed by SADC and development partners.

According to the revised roadmap, a preparatory phase runs from January to July 2014.

This would be followed by the first operational phase running for three years, which includes the official launch by September this year.

SADC is working closely with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) to accelerate implementation within the revised timelines.

The proposed centre would, among other things, spearhead the promotion of renewable energy development in the region.

It is expected to contribute substantially to the development of thriving regional renewable energy and energy efficiency markets through knowledge sharing and technical advice in the areas of policy and regulation, technology cooperation, capacity development, as well as investment promotion.

It has been agreed that the centre should be an independent SADC institution that should be owned and supported by SADC member states for sustainability purposes.





ENERGY AFRICA

ew short-term generation projects to add more than
y 2017, southern Africa holds the key to the conti-
energy self-sufficiency. This region is also in the fore-
able, clean energy sources.



Cambambe dam on the Kwanza river

by September

Such a development would give the centre more authority to spearhead efforts to increase the uptake of renewable energy sources in the region.

Various cooperating partners such as UNIDO and ADA have pledged to provide financial support to the centre for the first three years. After that, the centre should be self-sustaining.

The location of the centre is yet to be decided although a number of SADC countries have expressed interest in hosting it.

Establishment of the SACREE is expected to see a gradual increase in the uptake of cleaner energy sources that could result in reduced carbon emissions in line with the global trends towards clean and alternative energy sources.

According to the African Development Bank (AfDB), the region has the potential to become a "gold mine" for renewable energy due to the abundant solar and wind resources that are now hugely sought after by international investors in their quest for clean energy.

For example, the overall hydropower potential in SADC countries is estimated at about 1,080 terawatt hours per year (TWh/year) but capacity being utilised at present is just under 31 TWh/year.

A terawatt is equal to one million megawatts. r

Communicating Energy in Southern Africa Understanding the regional dimensions of energy generation

ENERGY IS not only a national issue in southern Africa, but incorporates significant regional dimensions.

The cross-border implications of energy generation and energy trading are not well understood, nor is the management role of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP). SAPP is the coordination centre for most national electricity utilities in the region, and is located in Harare, Zimbabwe.

A project to deepen understanding of the regional dimensions of energy provision in southern Africa will be implemented in partnership with SAPP and SADC by the Regional Economic Development Institute of the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), with support from the Austrian Development Agency.

The purpose is to strengthen the knowledge base and the cross-border flow of information on development of the energy sector in the SADC region comprising 15 Member States. This includes tracking the development of hydroelectricity and other regional energy sources.

Key activities include knowledge support to the SADC Energy Thematic Group, production of regional knowledge sources such as *Southern Africa Today (SADC Today)* and *Southern African News Features*, as well as new publications, the *SADC Energy Monitor* and the *SADC Energy Investment Year Book*.

The SADC Energy Monitor will track developments in the energy sector and implementation of commitments by Member States.

The proposed *SADC Energy Investment Year Book* will high-

light investments in energy provision by the private and public sectors in the SADC region.

Electricity generation is one area where regional cooperation has advanced significantly.

The SADC Energy Protocol which entered into force in April 1998 outlines the general principles and objectives in this regard.

The regional energy policy is centred on the interconnectiveness between energy and economic growth and development.

The SADC region is richly endowed with energy resources with significant reserves of coal, petroleum and natural gas that can be exploited for local consumption as well as export.

Electricity in the region is generated mainly from thermal and hydroelectric resources, although natural gas is becoming a key energy source, especially in Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Austria is the lead agency for SADC's Energy Thematic Group of International Cooperating Partners, and the project will assist the work of the group through research and information support.

SARDC is an independent regional knowledge resource centre and a longstanding SADC partner in research and information, a collaboration rooted in a shared understanding of the importance of information access and communication to the achievement of regional integration and development, and the importance of "research that informs development". r

Angola to build new airport in Luanda

CONSTRUCTION OF the new Luanda International Airport will begin this year and is expected to cost US\$3.8 billion, according to a contract signed by the Transport Ministry and the China International Fund Limited.

The new airport will have a terminal covering an area of 160,000 square metres, with capacity to handle 13 million passengers per year as well as a cargo terminal with 6.2 million square metres to handle 35,000 tons of cargo per year.

The new international airport will have two double runways with capacity to receive the world's largest commercial aircraft. The northern runway will be 4,200 metres long and the southern runway will be 3,800 metres long.

This is the second-largest public investment in infrastructure in Angola after the Capanda hydroelectric dam in Malanje province. *Macauhub* r

Seychelles, Madagascar sign new air service agreement

SEYCHELLES AND Madagascar have signed a new bilateral air services agreement, providing a framework to govern air access between the two island states and heralding an era of enhanced connectivity to support the development of trade and closer cultural links.

The agreement was signed by the chief executive of the Seychelles Civil Aviation Authority, Gilbert Faure, and director-general of the Civil Aviation Authority of Madagascar, James Andrianalisoa, in late April. "The new air services agreement between Seychelles and

Madagascar is consistent with our regional integration agenda to improve connectivity in the region and promote the two centre-destinations also known as the Vanilla Islands initiative," Faure said. *Seychelles Government* r

Zimbabwe and Mozambique to strengthen trade

ZIMBABWE PLANS to send a high-powered trade and investment mission to Mozambique to revive its export markets, with contacts in Tete, Nampula and Niassa provinces.

"The mission is expected to build on the momentum gained during November 2012, when participating companies obtained orders and established contacts in Tete," ZimTrade said in a statement. r

Lesotho, South Africa in water deal

PREPARATIONS FOR Phase Two of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project have started and should be completed by 2023.

The project will generate hydroelectric power for Lesotho while increasing the volume of water transferred to South Africa from the current 10 billion cubic metres a year to about 15 billion.

Lesotho Highlands Development said the procurement process will be undertaken soon to ensure construction begins next year. Work on environmental assessments, mitigation plans, resettlement and compensation has begun and should be completed by November this year.

The first phase of the project comprising a series of dams, hydropower stations and tunnels between South Africa and mountainous, landlocked Lesotho was completed in 2004. The second phase will involve building the Polihali Dam in the Mokhotlong district, located in the northeastern part of Lesotho.

A new tunnel will also be constructed from the Polihali Dam to Katse Dam, along with new hydropower features and other advanced infrastructure. r

Namibia's Business and Intellectual Property Authority online

THE MINISTRY of Trade and Industry in Namibia has been working to reform the cumbersome process of business registration and has set up the

Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) to ease the process.

A draft bill on business registration and protection of intellectual property is under consideration by cabinet and expected to go to parliament later this year.

One option is for online registration to reduce administrative bottlenecks, a process the BIPA chief executive officer, Tilelinge Andima, said would also allow for better data capture on business activity in Namibia.

"Once those processes have been done and we are allowed to do a lot of things online, then we anticipate having a registration process taking place within 24 hours to 48 hours," Andima explained.

A notable innovation of BIPA was the introduction of a web-based Integrated Company Registration System in the last quarter of 2013, which enables the agency to register companies and close corporations as well as name reservation and name searches online. r

Mauritius endorses framework on agricultural

MAURITIUS HAS approved the country programming framework with the Food and Agriculture Organisation for 2014-2019 which provides the basis for support in agri-business development and the agro value-chain, promotion of sustainable agriculture for food security, and sustainable fisheries, among others. It was signed with FAO by the Agro Industry and Food Security Minister, Satya Veyash Faugoo.

The framework addresses the issue of sustainable agriculture for food security with focus on strengthening the enabling institutional environment for land-use management, early warning

systems for animal and plant diseases and pests, and agricultural statistics for improved evidence-based decision-making.

Priorities are set out for collaboration in agri-business development with a focus on strengthening the enabling environment as well as strategies, legal and management frameworks, and institutional capacities.

The framework also deals with sustainable fisheries with focus on improving the enabling environment, policies and legal framework and institutional capacities for the promotion of sustainable off-lagoon fisheries. *gis.gov.mu* r

Chirundu one-stop border Improving informal cross-border trade

INFORMAL CROSS-BORDER Trade is important to the economies of most countries in southern Africa and provides employment to many people, particularly women and youth.

This has become a profitable business across several borders in the region to the extent that some people have left formal employment to concentrate on informal cross-border trading.

However, despite its benefits, cross-border trading remains an expensive venture for most traders as they continue to face challenges, including bureaucracy and long delays at border posts that result in the loss of business for the traders and incur additional costs that reduce profits.

To address these challenges and ensure benefit from the sector, the region is engaged in various programmes to harmonize customs and immigration laws.

One practical example is the Chirundu border post between Zambia and Zimbabwe, which has simplified cross-border trade following its transformation to a one-stop border crossing.

Launched in November 2009 as a pilot, the Chirundu One Stop Border Post has significantly improved the smooth movement of goods and people across the border. Travellers and traders are cleared just once for passage into another country in contrast with the previous situation when travellers had to complete immigration and

customs formalities on both sides.

According to the Zambian Ministry of Commerce, traffic at Chirundu has more than doubled between 2009 and 2012 as it is now easier to travel between Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The clearance time for haulage trucks has been reduced from about six days to less than 24 hours. Clearance of cross-border traders and other passengers now takes less than five minutes from an estimated one hour previously.

The reduction of clearance time is an essential cost factor

Cross-border rail corridors key to regional development

DEVELOPMENT OF cross-border rail corridors linking SADC Member States is the most effective way to unlock regional trade and create sustainable cooperation, a regional conference was told recently.

"The rail corridor concept should be adopted as the modus operandi of the SADC region," South Africa Public Enterprises director-general Tshediso John Matona told the Southern African Railways Association (SARA) at their conference held in South Africa.

Matona said there is a strong linkage between rail and the extractive commodity sectors, which are considered as key drivers of economic growth in the subcontinent.

A regionally linked rail network would enable more effi-

cient transport of these commodities to the export centres, thus improving the region's supply-chain capability and enhancing its level of international competitiveness.

"We now need to move on cross-border rail projects. The nature of railways and other infrastructure means that it makes sense to take advantage of economies of scale, so we need to focus on what each country is doing and join up our economies," he said.

A number of rail projects planned in the region include the South Africa-Swaziland rail link, and another involving Zambia, Botswana and Namibia to link the Zambian rail network and the Walvis Bay rail corridor. *Zambia Daily Mail* r

Beitbridge is considered to be among sub-Saharan Africa's busiest border crossings, with hundreds of commercial trucks passing through the two border posts every day in both directions. r

AfDB strengthens capacity for infrastructure development

THE AFRICAN Development Bank has launched the Capacity Building Project to strengthen the capacity of African countries to plan, prepare and coordinate the implementation of regional infrastructure programmes.

The three-year US\$8.6 million project aims to enhance Africa's physical and economic integration and socio-economic transformation with a focus on the African Union's Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA).

AfDB is the executing agency for PIDA, which defines priority regional cross-border infrastructure projects intended to interconnect, integrate and transform Africa through modern infrastructure at an investment cost of US \$68 billion up to the year 2020.

It provides the strategic framework for African stakeholders to develop regional and continental infrastructure necessary for more integrated networks to boost trade, spark growth, create jobs and support regional integration. r



Elections consolidate SADC peace credentials

THE SUCCESSFUL elections in South Africa and Malawi have consolidated SADC's position as a peaceful region based on good governance.

South Africa and Malawi held hotly contested general elections on 7 and 20 May, respectively, and the outcomes of the two polls indicate that the regional political situation is characterized by an acceptance of the choice of the electorate.

The African National Congress (ANC) won another mandate to rule South Africa although the elections confirmed the strengthening of prominent opposition groups.

Final results announced by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) showed that, with all 22,000 voting districts counted, the ANC had 62.1 percent of the popular vote – several percentage points lower than the 65.9 percent it got in the last elections in 2009.

The ruling party garnered more than 11.4 million votes of the 18.7 million people who voted during the fifth democratic elections since the end of apartheid.

The main opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) was a distant second, with about 22.2 percent of the popular vote. This was an improvement over the 16.7 percent that the DA got in 2009.

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) led by expelled ANC Youth League leader Julius Malema won about 6.4 percent of the vote.

The IEC results tally showed that 13 of the 29 political parties that contested the elections received enough votes to have seats in the National Assembly.

The ANC won the most seats in the National Assembly, acquiring 249 seats out of a total 400. This was 15 seats lower than the 264 seats it got five years ago and much lower than the 297 seats it controlled after the 2004 elections.

The DA obtained 89 seats, up from 67 in 2009. This means the main opposition party has nearly doubled its representation in the National Assembly from the 47 it controlled in 2004.

The EFF got 25 seats while the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) won 10.

Under the South African Constitution, the leader of the party with the majority seats in the National Assembly is elected president of the country.

Thus the ANC leader, Jacob Zuma, was re-elected President, and dedicated the victory to the late anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela's memory, pledging to form a government "that will serve all the people of our country, regardless of who they voted for."

Newly elected Malawian President Peter Mutharika extended an invitation to his opponents to set aside their political differences and actively participate in the process of nation-building after a bruising election campaign marred by allegations of vote manipulation.

The incumbent's call for fresh elections was declared illegal by the High Court in Blantyre and Banda later conceded defeat, urging the country to throw its weight behind Mutharika.

In a widely received inauguration speech in early June, Mutharika said Malawi needed "collective participation in development."

"That is why I have extended a hand of reconciliation to my colleagues who contested for this highest office," he said during the inauguration ceremony held at the Kamuzu Stadium in Blantyre and attended by several other southern African leaders.

Mutharika and his former opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) won the elections that saw an unprecedented number of independent candidates elected to the House of Assembly.

Mutharika won the presidential election, with nearly two million votes, or 36.4 percent of the ballot.

Results announced by the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) showed that then President Joyce Banda, with 20 percent of the valid votes, was beaten into third place by Lazarus Chakwera of the Malawi Congress Party (MCP) who garnered 27.8 percent.

Malawi uses the first-past-the-post system where the candidate with the largest share of votes is declared winner of the presidential race.



Presidents Peter Mutharika of Malawi and Jacob Zuma of South Africa

The presidential elections were held concurrently with polls to choose parliamentarians and local councillors.

Results announced by the MEC showed that the DPP led by Mutharika won 50 seats or 26 percent of the 193-member House of Assembly.

MCP, the country's first post-independence ruling party, got 48 seats, followed by the People's Party led by Banda that could only manage 26 seats during the hotly contested elections held on 20 May.

The outcome of the parliamentary poll means that Malawi will have a hung parliament as no party has an overall majority in the House of Assembly.

Independent MPs make up 27 percent of the House, meaning that any party wishing to push through legislation would have to get the support of these legislators.

The SADC Electoral Observation Missions (SEOM), while noting some concerns and shortcomings in both elections, declared that these did not affect the integrity and credibility of the electoral process.

SEOM concluded that both elections were peaceful, free, transparent and credible, and reflected the will of the voters, urging that any complaints should be handled through the appropriate channels according to the laws of the country. r



Setback for gender parity in Malawi, South Africa polls

ELECTIONS HELD in the SADC region in the first half of 2014 have shown a static or weakening trend in performance towards attaining gender parity in political decision-making positions, despite the SADC target of 50:50 by 2015.

Elections to choose members of the National Assembly in South Africa that were held on 7 May saw 165 women elected, which is 41.3 percent of the 400-member Assembly.

This is less than the 42.3 percent representation of women in parliament recorded by the country during the last elections in 2009. The last poll five years ago produced 169 women parliamentarians.

A similar picture emerged from the Malawi general elections held on 20 May. Only 30 of the 192 Members of Parliament elected are women, translating to 15.6 percent of the total. This is significantly lower than the 26 percent representation of women

achieved during the last elections in 2009.

In local government elections held concurrently with the parliamentary poll, only 56 of the 457 winning candidates were women, accounting for just 12 percent representation.

With regard to representation of women in cabinet, there was also a slight decline in the number of women appointed to the South African cabinet announced by President Jacob Zuma in May.

A total of 15 women were named in the 36-member cabinet, making up 41.7 percent of the new executive team. Women accounted for 42 percent of the cabinet after the 2009 elections.

The women named to the new cabinet include Tina Joemat-Pettersson responsible for the Ministry of Energy, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula (Defence and Military Veterans), Maithe Nkoana-Mashabane (International Relations and Cooperation), and Nomvula

Mokonyane (Water and Sanitation).

In the case of Malawi, only three women were appointed or 17.6 percent of the 17-member cabinet announced by President Peter Mutharika in June.

These are Jean Kalirani (Minister of Health), Grace Chiumia (Youth, Sports Development and Culture) and Patricia Kaliati (Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare).

The relatively poor performance in terms of gender parity has a negative impact on the region's efforts to achieve its target of 50:50 representation in politics and decision-making by 2015.

Three more elections expected this year, in Botswana and Mozambique in October and Namibia in November, are strategic as the 2015 deadline approaches for SADC to attain the target of 50:50 representation of men and women in key decision-making positions.

According to the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development signed in 2008 and entered into force in 2013 after ratification by two-thirds of the signatories, southern African should achieve 50:50 representations of men and women in key decision-making positions by 2015.

Only six SADC countries are significantly close to the target of parity in parliament, having reached above the 30-percent threshold set previously by regional leaders for representation of women.

These are Seychelles (43.8 percent), South Africa (41.3 percent), Mozambique (39.2 percent), the United Republic of Tanzania (36 percent), Angola (34.1 percent) and Zimbabwe, which introduced a

quota system in the new constitution adopted prior to elections in 2013 and now has 31.5 percent women representation in the National Assembly and 47.5 percent in the Senate.

The forthcoming elections in SADC countries should aim to consolidate the gains and improve the achievements. r



Women elected to parliament in Malawi

Mbete returns as Speaker in South Africa

THE NATIONAL Chairperson of the African National Congress, Baleka Mbete, was elected Speaker of the National Assembly during the first sitting of the House on 21 May in Cape Town, replacing Max Sisulu who was sworn in as an ordinary ANC Member of Parliament.

Mbete, who held the post previously from 2004 to 2008, defeated the Democratic Alliance nominee for the post, former ANC Eastern Cape premier Nosimo Balindlela who left to join the official opposition in 2012. She gained 260 votes to 88 for Balindlela.



Baleka Mbete

There were 366 ballots cast of which 18 were invalid.

The Speaker is a powerful position in South Africa. The constitution provides that in the event of unavailability of the President, the Speaker of the National Assembly must act as President until the appointment of another MP as head of state and government. r



Women elected to parliament in South Africa

23rd Summit of African Union

Towards a climate change response

AFRICAN LEADERS have identified five key priorities to address the impacts of climate change on the continent.

These are climate finance and technology needs, adaptation, mitigation, participation, as well as institutional cooperation.

The priorities were identified by African leaders who met on the sidelines of the 23rd African Union (AU) Summit held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in late June.

Africa is the least contributor of greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change, yet the most affected, hence the continent sees the need for decisive action to raise additional funds and technological advancements to support mitigation and adaptation.

Speaking at the meeting, President Jakaya Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania urged member states to work together in addressing the impacts of climate change.

"Climate change is a real challenge but also an opportunity because if we decide wisely, we will benefit from the different strategies available to reduce effects of climate change," said Kikwete, who chairs the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC).

He emphasized the need to prioritize skills development, the provision of training for young people and the need to improve disaster preparedness and management to minimize the effects of climate change.

He said there is need to mobilize more resources as Africa now required in excess of US\$15 billion per year to combat climate change.

Other efforts must be channelled towards research development, and the mainstreaming of gender in all socio-economic activities, including agriculture, since women are worst affected by climate change.

In this regard, the leaders resolved to develop a CAHOSCC Women and Gender Programme on Climate Change to engage women and gender experts on climate change-related actions.

CAHOSCC was established by African leaders in 2009 to spearhead the African Common Position on Climate Change and to ensure that Africa speaks with one voice in

global climate change negotiations.

The committee is also tasked with finding the best possible strategies to tackle climate change and its effects on the African continent. r



Member states are urged to work together in addressing the impacts of climate.



Africa committed to eliminate diseases

IMPROVING ACCESS to medication and health service is critical towards eliminating diseases such as malaria in Africa.

This is one of the main recommendations of the AIDS Watch Africa report adopted by African leaders at the 23rd African Union (AU) Summit held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in June.

Other recommendations included prioritising HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria interventions in the post-2015 development agenda to ensure that continued international financing of the response is not threatened.

HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria remain major threats to Africa's health and development priorities. In 2012, AIDS

claimed about 1.2 million people on the continent, according to the report.

"Yet, based on the progress that has been made, ending the AIDS epidemic is possible in the Post-2015 era," the AU said in a statement.

"To achieve this, Africa will need to accelerate antiretroviral treatment as a catalytic action for ending AIDS."

The report calls for African countries to take advantage of the current unprecedented expansion of infrastructural development taking place on the continent to ensure that environmental impact assessments contribute to expanding access to HIV and AIDS, TB, and malaria services.

In addition to this, member states should continue to prioritise rights-based responses to HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria in the areas of access to justice and law enforcement, including the prioritisation of marginalised populations. r

Africa to establish a monetary fund

AFRICAN LEADERS have adopted the Protocol and the Statute for the establishment of an African Monetary Fund

The fund aims to foster macroeconomic stability, sustainable shared economic growth and balanced development in order to facilitate the effective and predictable integration of African economies.

The fund is expected to be headquartered in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and will be open to all member states who sign and ratify or acceded to the Protocol.

The 23rd African Union (AU) Summit held in Equatorial Guinea in June "called on member states to sign and ratify that Protocol as expeditiously as possible, for its early entry into force." r



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Knowledge for Development




5, UN

World Environment Day 2014

World Environment Day 2014 has the theme "International Year of Small Island Developing States" with the goal of raising awareness of unique environmental challenges and successes, including climate change, waste management, unsustainable consumption, degradation of natural resources, and extreme natural disasters.

18-20, Zimbabwe

SADC Infrastructure Ministers

Ministers responsible for infrastructure will meet to discuss several issues including investment opportunities and solutions for the regional infrastructure. The meeting is also expected to approve a SADC Declaration on Regional Infrastructure Development for presentation to the SADC Summit in August.

20, Zambia

SADC Tourism Ministers

Ministers responsible for tourism meet annually ahead of the SADC Summit to discuss current issues affecting the sector in the region.

18-20, Turkey

Africa Energy Forum 2014

Africa Energy Forum brings together governments, power utilities and major players in the energy sector of Africa and the rest of the world to focus on delivery of power infrastructure projects in Africa.

20-27, Equatorial Guinea

23rd African Union Summit

African Heads of State and Government meet at Summit with the theme of "Agriculture and Food Security". This sector remains a priority and leaders are expected to discuss ways to achieve goals set earlier this year.

TBA, Namibia

Ministerial Committee of the Organ

Ministers will deliberate on peace and security issues in the SADC region. The committee is made up of the ministers responsible for foreign affairs, defence, public security and state security from the countries that make up the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

23-24, South Africa

Renewables and Mining Summit 2014

This will bring together energy decision-makers from African mines to discuss energy challenges and assess the options for renewables as part of the solution towards securing cost-effective and reliable energy for their operations.

25, DRC

SADC Ministers of Public Information Dialogue

Ministers responsible for information will meet to discuss best practices and policies that will contribute positively towards the attainment of regional goals. Information sharing is recognized as one of the key tools for regional development and sustainable development.

July

2-4, Namibia

Sixth Africa Carbon Forum

This is a knowledge-sharing platform for carbon investments in Africa, a place to discuss the latest developments in the carbon market, and application of the Clean Development Mechanism in Africa.

August

10-18, Zimbabwe

SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government

SADC leaders will meet to discuss regional integration and development, preceded by meeting of senior officials and the Council of Ministers. The theme is "SADC Strategy for Economic Transformation: Leveraging the Region's Diverse Resources for Sustainable Economic and Social Development through Beneficiation and Value Addition". Zimbabwe will chair SADC for the next year.

15 years

Lusaka Peace Accord to end war in DRC

15 YEARS have passed since the historic signing of the Lusaka Agreement for a Ceasefire in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Lusaka Peace Summit on 10 July 1999 culminated in the agreement signed by the leaders of the six countries involved and Zambian President Frederick Chiluba, witnessed by SADC, the Organisation of African Unity (now African Union), and the United Nations.

The countries militarily involved were Rwanda and Uganda which acknowledged supporting rebels who invaded DRC, and SADC Member States Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe, who supported the government.

The peace agreement was extracted after almost one month of intense negotiations in the Zambian capital, involving first, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence from all SADC countries, and later restricted to representatives of those countries militarily involved in the conflict, the hosts and the rebels.

A dispute within the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD) as to who should represent the movement delayed the RCD signing until 1 September, and brought Uganda and Rwanda into open conflict with each other inside DRC.

Zambia and South Africa brokered a compromise within the rebels under which all 50 founding members signed the document on behalf of the RCD.

The rival Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC) had sent representatives to the Lusaka peace summit who initially refused to sign, saying they would do so only after the RCD.

However, with the involvement of SADC leaders, the MLC leader was allowed to sign the

agreement on condition he could withdraw his signature if other rebel groups did not follow suit.

Among its provisions, the agreement called for the cessation of hostilities within 24 hours of signing and the release of hostages and prisoners of war within 30 days.

It established a Joint Military Commission (MC) composed of the belligerent parties to oversee the implementation of the ceasefire, withdrawal of foreign troops and disarming of militias, investigate ceasefire violations, and undertake the peacekeeping operations until deployment of a larger UN peacekeeping force. Chaired by the OAU, the JMC included two representatives from each of the signatories, and was assisted in its operations by a joint OAU/UN observer mission.

The agreement committed the DRC government and rebel movements to enter into "an open national dialogue" of all political forces in the country, leading to a new political dispensation and national reconciliation.

President Laurent Kabila was assassinated 18 months later, on 18 January 2001, coinciding with the assassination 40 years earlier of the country's first indigenous Prime Minister, Patrice Émery Lumumba, on 17 January 1961.

Kabila's son Joseph, who was military commander, was appointed President and the dialogue continued, culminating in the 2003 signing of an all-embracing peace deal that ushered in a transitional government led by President Joseph Kabila.

The transitional government had until 30 June 2005 to organise polls, a deadline later moved to 30 June the following year, when Kabila was re-elected. r



Malawi celebrates Golden Jubilee

ON 6 JULY Malawi will celebrate 50 years since the country attained independence from Britain in 1964. Hastings Kamuzu Banda was instrumental in the fight for independence of the then Nyasaland, beginning with the formation in 1953 of the Nyasaland African Congress (NAC). Violent protests against British colonial authorities in March 1959 led to the arrest of opposition leaders and banning of the NAC, later renamed the Malawi Congress Party. Despite his detention in Gwelo prison in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Banda was chosen to lead the new party and invited to attend talks in London on constitutional reformation of the Federation. This resulted in the creation of a new Legislative Assembly and elections won by the MCP in August 1961. Nyasaland was granted autonomous self-government in January 1963, with Banda elected prime minister the following month; and Independence the following year after dissolution of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in December 1963. Various activities are planned to celebrate the Golden Jubilee, with one of the highlights an international friendly soccer match in Blantyre between the national team and neighbouring Mozambique.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

June-August 2014

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5 June | Liberation Day | Seychelles |
| 16 June | Youth Day | South Africa |
| 18 June | National Day | Seychelles |
| 23 June | Corpus Christi | Seychelles |
| 25 June | Independence Day | Mozambique |
| 26 June | Independence Day | Madagascar |
| 29 June | Ascension Day | Lesotho |
| 29 June | Independence Day | Seychelles |
| 30 June | Independence Day | DRC |
| 1 July | Sir Seretse Khama Day | Botswana |
| 6 July | Independence Day | Malawi |
| 7 July | Public Holiday | Malawi |
| 7 July | Saba Saba Industry Day | Tanzania |
| 7 July | Heroes Day | Zambia |
| 8 July | Unity Day | Zambia |
| 17 July | King's Birthday | Lesotho |
| 21 July | President's Day | Botswana |
| 22 July | Public Holiday | Botswana |
| 22 July | Birthday of late King Sobhuza | Swaziland |
| 27 July | Eid Ul Fitr* | Malawi, Mauritius, Tanzania |
| 1 August | Parents Day | DRC |
| 4 August | Farmers Day | Zambia |
| 8 August | Nane Nane Peasant Day | Tanzania |
| 9 August | National Women's Day | South Africa |
| 11 August | Heroes Day | Zimbabwe |
| 12 August | Defence Forces Day | Zimbabwe |
| 15 August | Assumption Day | Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles |
| 17 August | SADC Day** | All |
| 26 August | Heroes Day | Namibia |
| 30 August | Ganesh Chaturthi | Mauritius |

* Exact date depends on sighting of the new moon
 ** SADC Day is not a public holiday but a commemoration of signing the SADC Treaty on 17 August 1992