

# SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY



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## SADC approves industrialisation strategy

**THE APPROVAL** of a strategy and roadmap to promote industrialisation in southern Africa represents a huge step towards economic liberation in the region and is expected to ensure that Member States harness the full potential of their vast and diverse natural resources.

The SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap was approved by SADC leaders at their Extraordinary Summit held in April in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The leaders said the industrialisation strategy and roadmap is anchored on three pillars: Industrialisation, Competitiveness and Regional Integration.

"Summit approved the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap and reaffirmed the importance of industrial development in poverty alleviation and the economic emancipation of the people of the region," read a communique issued after the summit on 29 April.

The message from the summit was clear - southern Africa has the capacity to become a dominant force in global affairs if the region adds value to its vast natural resources before exporting them.

SADC chairperson, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, said that the strategy will ensure that the region fully benefits from its vast natural resources.

At present, SADC Member States are getting very little in return since their resources are usually exported in raw form, with most of the value-addition and beneficiation taking place outside the region, thus benefiting other countries.

"Our region is endowed with abundant and diverse natural resources," President Mugabe said, adding that the mineral sector, for example, contributes about 55 percent of the world diamond production while the platinum group of metals contributes about 72 percent.

"But alas, despite the rich and diverse endowments of our region, about 70 percent of our people continue to live below the poverty datum line," he said.

He said it is, therefore, imperative for the region to address this disparity to allow SADC countries to use their natural resources to finance socio-economic developments in the region.

"It is only through adding value to our products that we can make the first step. If we continue as net exporters of raw materials, we are sure to remain trapped in the jaws of underdevelopment, while those who add value on our behalf flourish at our expense," he said.

The strategy, whose drafting was spearheaded by a team of regional and national consultants, aims to provide the framework for major economic and technological transformations at the national and regional levels within the context of deepening regional integration.

"I am confident that the strategy, if implemented effectively, has the potential of unlocking opportunities beyond our borders, leading to sustained economic growth and development," Mugabe said.



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## SADC approves industrialisation strategy

He noted that during the implementation phase, it will be important for the region to focus more on key enablers such as infrastructure development, energy, as well as research and development to enhance the effectiveness of the strategy.

With regard to the financing model for the strategy, it is imperative for SADC to work out an effective mechanism to fund the action plan, Mugabe said.

"We cannot expect those who benefit from our status as exporters of raw materials to fund our efforts to wean ourselves from the unequal relationship, a relationship in which they have the prerogative of dictating the terms of trade.

"Just as we were our own liberators from the colonial bondage and oppression, we have to find the resources to free ourselves from economic bondage. In short we have to fund our industrialisation strategy."

The SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, concurred, saying it is critical for all stakeholders to work together in implementing the strategy.

She said it is encouraging that the private sector has already shown its commitment to support governments to boost socio-economic development in the region.

"I am happy to inform you that the private sector is already gearing itself up to walk the journey of industrialisation of the region with a conference that is taking place in the margins of this summit. Such efforts are commendable and encouraged," she said.

"I am hopeful that with this spirit, the region has been set on the right path for growth and development. We look forward to continued commitment by Member States in the creation of an enabling environment, including the provision of the necessary resources and capacities as critical success factors for the implementation of our strategy."

The strategy, covering the period 2015-2063 is aligned to Agenda 2063, which is a continental strategy that aims to optimise the use of Africa's resources for the benefit of all Africans.

During the period 2015-2020, SADC will strive to progress from being factor-driven to being investment-driven.

### Proposed industrialisation strategy phases

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** has recalibrated its regional integration targets as part of efforts to align the region's development agenda with new realities and emerging global dynamics.

This follows the successful completion of the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), which was endorsed by SADC leaders at their Extraordinary Summit held in Harare, Zimbabwe in late April.

The RISDP, which has been under review since 2010, is a 15-year strategic plan agreed by SADC leaders in 2003 as a blueprint for regional integration and development.

The SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, said the development of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap has been instructive in finalising the RISDP.

The Revised RISDP identifies four main priorities to be pursued by the region from 2015-2020.

From 2021-2050, the region will aim to advance to being an innovation-driven economy, while the period 2051-2063, the target for SADC is to achieve high levels of economic growth, competitiveness, incomes and employment.

While there is no one size-fits-all prescription, the strategy and roadmap proposes a wide range of industrial policy options that are available to the SADC region.

One of the options is the adoption of Special Economic Zones.

Another possibility is the promotion of domestic, regional and global value chains as one of the interventions that should be pursued by SADC in its efforts to industrialise.

In addition to this, the strategy advocates for a pow-

erful case for SADC governments to invest in the collection of information and knowledge, and to make it readily available to actual and potential investors.

The SADC Extraordinary Summit was held as a follow-up to 34th SADC Summit held in Victoria Falls in August 2014, that mandated the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration to develop a strategy and roadmap for industrialisation in the region.

The theme for the 34th SADC Summit was "SADC Strategy for Economic Transformation: Leveraging the Region's Diverse Resources for Sustainable Economic and Social Development through Beneficiation and Value Addition." □



Priority A seeks to promote industrial development and market integration through strengthening the productive competitiveness and supply-side capacity of Member States as well as improving movement of goods and facilitating

financial-market integration and monetary co-operation.

Priority B is on provision and improvement of infrastructure support for regional integration.

Priority D is on promotion of special programmes of regional dimension under clusters such as education and human resources development; health, HIV and AIDS and other communicable diseases; food security and transboundary natural resources; environment; statistics; gender equality; and, science, technology and innovation, and research and development.

The above three priorities will be underpinned by Priority C on promotion of peace and security. □

## Member States prepare Intended Nationally Determined Contributions on climate change

**EXPERTS FROM** SADC Member States drawn from the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Lands, academia and private sector have met to review strategy on how the region can address the impacts of climate change.

The workshop held in Pretoria, South Africa in April, was a response to the global commitment to create a new international climate agreement by the conclusion of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris in December 2015.

In preparation, countries have agreed to publicly outline what post-2020 climate actions they intend to take under a new international agreement, known as their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).

The INDCs will largely determine whether the world achieves an ambitious 2015 agreement and is put on a path toward a low-carbon, climate-resilient future.

The need for every party to the UNFCCC to develop its internally determined contributions emanated from the 18th Conference of the Parties which took place in Doha, Qatar, in December 2012.

There it was agreed that all countries should commit to reduce emissions of green house gases that cause climate change.

INDCs are therefore expected to outline nationally determined areas and strategies for reducing carbon and other Green House Gas emissions that are based on national circumstances and would include issues of mitigation, adaptation, and enabling measure such as capacity building, financing and technology transfer.

Submissions of INDCs commenced in March 2015 and are due latest by 1st October 2015.

The workshop with the theme of “Fulfilling the Region’s Undertakings to the Global Community: Towards Communicating Intended Nationally Deter-

mined Contributions by SADC Member States”, was organised by the SADC Secretariat through the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate under the Programme on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in the Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA-EAC-SADC) Region.

The objective was to review progress on Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) preparation processes in the region.

The experts engaged in a rigorous debate about the meaning of INDCs and how each Member State had contextualised them to fit their national development and climate-change response plans.

Technical input from experts was given on emerging lessons in the production of INDCs in Africa.

This included some insights from UNFCCC decisions, processes and expectations on INDCs, determining adaptation needs and costs for Africa, and adaptation planning and policy analysis within the context of southern Africa.

The workshop started with Member States presenting country reports on progress achieved in developing their INDCs.

The meeting noted that all SADC Member States have started their INDCs development process with some at very advanced stages, thereby committing to prepare and communicate their INDCs well in advance of (COP) 21.

There was indication that all Member States would meet the UNFCCC deadline of 1st October 2015 for communicating their INDCs.

However, the process of preparing to develop INDC has not been without challenges. Notable among the difficulties that Member States have to grapple with is the limited technical capacity and financial resources to undertake thorough analysis and data collection for this purpose.

This scenario has worsened difficulties in framing, customising and communicating the scope and content of INDCs as well as difficulties in transforming already existing technical information into national contributions.

However, cooperating partners including the UNDP, UNEP and USAID are providing financial and technical support to Member States for this purpose.

The experts provided guidance in response to technical challenges tabled by Member States on how to develop the INDCs, saying that this needs consideration to fairness and equity while considering also the historical responsibilities, capabilities and development needs.

All SADC Member States expressed willingness to support each other and share experiences and lessons in this novel process, and to submit their INDCs before the deadline. *sadc.int* □

**AFRICA'S POSITION** regarding climate change negotiations remains the same -- increased finance, technology and capacity for adaptation and risk management.

The continent wants an approach in which developing countries will be beneficiaries of technology transfer, capacity building and funding to the tune of US\$200 billion a year by 2020.

Other demands by Africa include the need to cut emissions to at least 40 percent below the 1990 levels by 2020. The continent also wants deeper cuts by developed countries to reach at least 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. □







## SADC Secretariat – A key institution in regional integration

by Kizito Sikuka

**THE INTEGRATION** agenda of southern Africa hinges on the effectiveness of the SADC Secretariat to coordinate and implement regional programmes aimed at promoting socio-economic development.

Headed by an Executive Secretary, the Secretariat is the principal executive institution of the SADC, responsible for strategic planning, facilitation and coordination and management of all SADC Programmes. The Secretariat is based in Gaborone, Botswana.

Speaking at a familiarisation tour of the SADC Headquarters in May, SADC chairperson, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe said the Secretariat is an important SADC institution, and without it "SADC as an organisation, would not realise its objectives."

As such, all countries in southern Africa will continue to render their support to the Secretariat and ensure that the region remains a reference point for regional cooperation, integration and prosperity.

"We are alive to the fact that, for us to achieve the development goals SADC has set for itself, we need an efficient, well-managed and well-resourced Secretariat," he said.

"We will, therefore, on our part, always endeavour to ensure that the needs of our staff are well taken care of, within the limits of available resources."

He said a well-resourced Secretariat would ensure that

regional programmes such as the recently adopted SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap, and Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) are fully implemented for the benefit of the region.

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Lawrence Stergomena Tax concurred, saying the Secretariat is committed to deliver and implement regional programmes in its bid to boost integration and development.

"As a resource at the disposal of SADC, we are committed to the cause of regional integration and development agenda," she said, adding that the organisation continues to make good progress in implementing various programmes, making it one of the leading regional blocs in Africa.

Some of the major milestone for the Secretariat include the launch of the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) in 2008.

By attaining the status of the FTA, consumers in the region are now getting better products at lower prices due to increased production, while producers are benefiting from a tariff-free trade for all goods originating within the region.

On energy development, the Secretariat has facilitated the establishment of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), where regional utilities are afforded the platform to sell and buy surplus electricity from each other, thereby helping some countries to meet their growing demand for energy.

With respects to peace, the Secretariat has succeeded in consolidating peace and security in the region through various ways.

These include peace mediation in countries where there have conflicts such as in Lesotho and Madagascar, as well as sending election observer missions, and providing troops to help SADC countries defend their sovereignty, as in the case of the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1998, when some neighbouring countries tried to invade it.

The Secretariat, which is involved in the day to day running of the SADC integration agenda, has also led efforts for countries to attain 50/50 representation of gender in all decision-making positions.

The SADC Executive Secretary has two deputies, one for Regional Integration and another for Finance and Administration.

According to the revised SADC Organisational Structure that was approved in 2008, the Secretariat is arranged into eight Directorates, and eight stand-alone Units responsible for cross-cutting issues. The eight Directorates are:

- **Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation** – together with the head of the Organ Troika is an instrument for ensuring and supporting the political and socio-economic security and safety of the region;
- **Infrastructure and Services** – tasked with improving the quality of infrastructure in the region;

- **Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment** – facilitates and coordinates the gradual reduction of trade restrictions and improved relations in the areas of trade and finance;

- **Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources** – aims to ensure food availability, access, safety and nutritional value, as well as equitable and sustainable use of the environment and natural resources;

- **Social and Human Development and Special Programmes** – tasked with supporting the development of SADC's human capital to its fullest potential as an essential step towards tackling the socio-economic challenges facing the region;

- **Policy, Planning and Resource Mobilisation** – coordinates all the planning, policy development and monitoring and evaluation functions of the SADC Secretariat;

- **Budget and Finance** – provides financial administration and risk management services to the operations of the SADC Secretariat; and

- **Human Resources and Administration** – provides and supports the operations of SADC Secretariat through the management of human resources, procurement of goods and services, and management of physical assets.

The SADC Units are Gender; Public Relations; Internal Audit; Macro-economic Convergence Surveillance; Conference Services; Procurement; Legal; and Information and Communication Technologies. □



## Zimbabwe hands over title deeds of RPTC

**PEACE IS** a prerequisite for socio-economic development and there can be no development or closer cooperation among countries in southern Africa without peace and stability.

This was said by the SADC chairperson, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe at the handing over ceremony of title deeds of the regional peace-keeping training centre to the SADC Secretariat.

The ceremony was held during the SADC Extraordinary Summit held on 29 April in Harare.

President Mugabe said in cognisance of the critical role a stable political environment has on the general socio-economic situation, SADC found it necessary to establish the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (SADC RPTC).

"The SADC RPTC was born out from the realisation that peace and security are pivotal to the socio-economic development of the region and the uplifting of the lives of our people," he said.

He urged the region to consolidate and maintain the stability to ensure that SADC citizens are able to enjoy the benefit of independence and integration.

In her acceptance speech of the deeds, SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Lawrence Stergomena Tax said the gesture by Zimbabwe demonstrates the country's commitment to pushing the regional integration agenda forward.

"The donation to SADC demonstrate once again the commitment of the Govern-



President R.G Mugabe (right) handing over the SADC RPTC keys to the SADC Executive Secretary Dr Tax

ment of Zimbabwe and its people to SADC operations and regional corporation agenda," she said, adding that the development will go a long way in improving peace and stability in the region.

Launched in 1996, the SADC RPTC provides ongoing military, police and civilian training for citizens of member states to facilitate their active participation in United Nations and African Union peace support operations, with contributions ranging from military observers, civilian police and logistics, and peacekeepers.

However, the history of the training centre dates back to the early 1990s when the SADC re-

gion started getting active in peace support operations.

Initially, peace support training was conducted individually by SADC Member States and trained the military personnel only.

Later when SADC decided to coordinate and harmonise this training, it assigned Zimbabwe the responsibility to spearhead peace support training in the region.

Therefore, the SADC RPTC traces its formative years to the Zimbabwe Staff College where it began and later operated as an independent entity offering courses to SADC Member States, before eventually becoming a SADC institution in 2005.

The establishment and operations of the SADC RPTC falls directly under the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

The SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, whose main objective is to promote peace and security within the region,

was launched in June 1996 as a formal institution of SADC with the mandate to support the achievement and maintenance of security and the rule of law in the region.

Hence, the SADC RPTC forms part of the core objectives of the SADC Organ, as its role is to provide training for peace support missions in the region.

Since its establishment, the centre has remained a regional training centre within the framework of the SADC peace-keeping capacity building.

Some of its major achievements include the delivery of training courses for peacekeeping practitioners from the SADC region and other parts of Africa has remained the core activity of the Centre.

The centre now also plays a key role in the implementation of the SADC Brigade and Standby Force established in 2007.

The centre has also participated in the preparation and running of all major peace-keeping exercises conducted in the region including, the Blue Hungwe in Zimbabwe (1997), Blue Crane in South Africa (1999), Tanzanite in Tanzania (2002), Exercise THOKGAMO (2005) in Botswana and Ex-Golfinho in South Africa in 2009.

The centre has continued to be one of the main implementing entities of the SADC Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO) in the area of peace keeping training.

Furthermore, the SADC RPTC is credited for being the first peacekeeping training centre in Africa. □

**SADC RPTC** has trained just over 5,000 individuals – military, correctional services, police and civilians – drawn from every member country.

The outgoing RPTC Commandant, Brigadier General Christopher Chellah from Zambia, says the training has allowed countries to strengthen their relations and collectively work towards maintaining and promoting regional peace

As its role expands, the RPTC has started to train more women in accordance with the SADC 50 percent Gender requirement.

"We are happy that women have responded positively. In the follow-up courses we have 50 percent female and 50 percent male participants and all of them are very active," Chellah said.



## ICRC, SADC sign MOU

**THE INTERNATIONAL** Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and SADC have concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will contribute to the strengthening of relations between the two organisations and improve the coordination of their activities.

The MoU was signed on 15 May in Gaborone, Botswana by Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, the SADC Executive Secretary, and Jürg Eglin, head of the ICRC regional delegation in Pretoria.

SADC and ICRC agreed to hold regular consult-



SADC Executive Secretary Dr Tax, signs MOU with Jürg Eglin of ICRC

ations on issues of mutual interest.

They will work together to promote International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and encourage member states to fully comply with their treaty obligations, while the ICRC will sup-

port SADC through capacity building in IHL, as well as International Human Rights standards applicable in law enforcement operations, to bodies within SADC, including the SADC Standby Brigade.

The ICRC works with SADC Member States, in co-operation with the national Red Cross societies, to protect and assist people adversely affected by armed conflict and other violence. □

## SADC, SARDC update MOU

**THE SOUTHERN** African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) has signed a revised Memorandum of Understanding with the SADC Secretariat.

The updated MoU was signed in April by the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, and the SARDC Executive Director, Munetsi Madakufamba.

SADC and SARDC first established a formal agreement in 1995, which was later reviewed and broadened in 2005 and again in 2015.

The MoU strengthens collaboration between the two institutions to support regional integration through the development of a regional knowledge base, for which SARDC provides information, research and publications to support to the SADC Secretariat in various sectors.

This support includes the production of Southern Africa Today / SADC Today – a bi-monthly regional publication produced on behalf of SADC since 1997.

SARDC is an independent regional knowledge resource centre established in 1985 to strengthen regional policy perspectives and knowledge base, and track implementation on a range of issues in southern Africa.

The Centre is made up of thematic institutes that focus on relevant regional processes,

and has a long track record of knowledge support for regional development.

The SARDC Board is chaired by Professor Peter H. Katjavivi, founding Vice Chancellor of the University of Namibia and currently the Speaker of Parliament in Namibia.

The Founding Patron of SARDC was the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere of the



SADC Executive Secretary is shown with the SARDC Executive Director, Munetsi Madakufamba.

United Republic of Tanzania, who was Chairperson of the Front Line States and of the South Centre. □

## SADC and SAFAC discuss SADC Protocol Against Corruption

**THE SADC** Secretariat and the Southern African Forum against Corruption (SAFAC) have held discussions on the implementation of the SADC Protocol Against Corruption.

The two parties resolved to expeditiously operationalise the SADC Anti-Corruption Committee (SACC), established under the Protocol.

This was agreed at a meeting between the SADC Secretariat and a delegation of SAFAC which visited the SADC Secretariat in late April.

The SADC Protocol against Corruption of 2011 aims to promote and strengthen the development, within each Member State, of mechanisms

needed to prevent, detect, punish and eradicate corruption in the public and private sector.

The Protocol further seeks to facilitate and regulate cooperation in matters of corruption amongst Member States and foster development and harmonisation of policies and domestic legislation related to corruption.

The Protocol clearly defines preventative measures for “acts of corruption”, jurisdiction of Member States, as well as extradition.

The SAFAC delegation that visited the Secretariat comprised of Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies from Botswana, Kingdom of Lesotho, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia. □

## SADC strengthens ties with United Nations

**SADC EXECUTIVE** Secretary Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax participated in the UN Secretary General’s High Level Retreat held in early May in New York City.

A number of continental and regional organisations that deal with political issues with regard to the UN in mediation, peace building and peace operations, participated in the retreat that dealt with the following key areas:

- Opportunities for cooperation between the UN and regional partners in mediation;
- The way forward in building and sustaining peace-promoting inclusive political processes and preventing lapses into conflict; and
- The changing role of the UN peace operations – discussion with members of the Secretary-General’s High Level Independent Panel of Peace Operators.

The retreat allowed for open and productive exchanges on how the UN and regional/continental bodies can strengthen cooperation and address the complex challenges they face. □

# Historic launch of largest integrated market in Africa

by Kizito Sikuka

**THE HISTORIC** launch of the largest integrated market covering 26 countries in eastern and southern Africa, is a bold move by Africa to reform internal trade.

The current economic landscape is structured in such a way that African countries, who possess the bulk of natural resources trade more with the outside world than among themselves.

This trade imbalance is caused by various factors including poor infrastructure built during the colonial era to disallow any smooth movement of goods, services and people between African countries, as well as the imposing of non-tariff barriers between African countries.

Another major factor is the lack of a vibrant industrialised sector that weans Africa from being a source of cheap raw materials for other countries in the west.

The long-awaited launch of an enlarged market in Africa is expected to change the economic landscape by boosting intra-regional trade in Africa and deepening regional integration through improved infrastructure development, investment flows and enhanced competition.

Commonly known as the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA), the integrated market comprising the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was launched on 10 June in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt.

The TFTA creates a combined population of some 600 million people covering half of the Member States of the African Union (AU) and a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of about US\$1 trillion.

The enlarged market aims to promote the smooth movement of goods and services across borders, as well as allowing member countries to harmonise regional trade policies to promote equal competition.

The harmonisation of trade policies, and removal of non-tariff barriers and other trade barriers such as huge export and import fees would enable countries to increase their earnings, penetrate new markets and contribute towards their national development.

According to a communiqué released soon after the launch, the three regional economic communities pledged to prioritise industrial and infrastructure development to ensure that the tripartite arrangement is a great success.

Speaking at the launch of the "Grand" FTA, the chairperson of the AU, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, said Africa has come a long way and it is now time for the continent to take its rightful position on the international scene.

However, for this to happen, countries should intensify efforts to improve other enablers for socio-economic development such as industrialisation, infrastructure and energy development.

"Our shared experiences have demonstrated that competitive production of goods and services for an FTA that delivers jobs, economic growth and prosperity cannot be achieved without enabling infrastructure, energy and industrialisation," said Mugabe, who is also the outgoing COMESA-EAC-SADC chair.

"We need to pursue robust industrialisation policies and create jobs for our people and curb the migration that has seen our men, women and children die in their thousands in the Mediterranean Sea as they search for jobs."

The new COMESA-EAC-SADC chair, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn concurred, and urged countries to ensure a quick and speedy implementation of all integration programmes, as well as speedy completion of negotiations in the tripartite arrangement.

Negotiations for the TFTA have been conducted in three different phases - preparatory phase, phase one and phase two.

The preparatory phase mainly covered the exchange of all relevant information including tariffs, applied national tariffs as well as trade data and measures.

Phase one of negotiations covered core FTA issues of tariff liberalisation, customs procedures and simplification of customs documentation, transit procedures among other issues.

Facilitating movement of business persons within the region was negotiated in parallel with the first phase.

The last stage of negotiations, which is phase two, deals with trade in services and trade related issues including intellectual property rights and trade development, cooperation in trade and development and competitiveness. Negotiations are still to be finalised on some of the issues.

At the 3rd Tripartite Summit held in Egypt to launch the "Grand" FTA, a total of 15 countries signed the agreement. These are Angola, Burundi, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Swaziland became the 16th country on 15 June to sign the agreement, meaning that eight of the 15 SADC Member States have signed the agreement.

The remaining countries requested more time to complete their internal processes before signing the document. However, all countries are expected to have signed the agreement within a period of one year.

They will then initiate the ratification process through their legislative assemblies or other local procedures, and the agreement will come into force once ratification is attained by two-thirds of the 26 Member States.

The process of ratification advances the regional law from being a stated intention to actual application.

The establishment of the Tripartite FTA is a decisive step to achieve the African vision of establishing the African Economic Community as envisioned in the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos of 1980, Abuja Treaty of 1991 as well as the Resolution of the African Union Summit held in Banjul, the Gambia in 2006.

Africa aims to launch a Continental FTA by 2017 to promote the smooth movement of goods, services and people across the continent.

Negotiations for this enlarged market began in June, and the Continental FTA is expected to evolve from the existing FTAs in sub-regional economic blocs, eventually creating a continental bloc in excess of more than one billion people and combined GDP of more than US\$3.4 trillion.

Such a development will set the stage for African countries to increase trade among themselves and reconstruct the global economic landscape. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net) □

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News Features





## Botswana to build solar plant

**THE LONG-AWAITED** construction of a 200 megawatts (MW) solar station in Botswana could soon become a reality after the national utility, the Botswana Power Corporation, moved the project from its scoping phase and pre-feasibility to feasibility study stage.

The feasibility study is expected to be completed in 12 months, leading to project capitalisation by the BPC and its funding partners, construction and eventual commissioning.

The multi-million-dollar project was initiated in 2006, and is expected to reduce the country's heavy dependence on fossil fuel and costly diesel-fired power stations.

Results of a pre-feasibility study released in 2014 indicated that Botswana has good solar irradiation, capable of supporting a solar power station.

The study identified five locations as ideal sites for the construction of such a station –Jwaneng, Selebi-Phikwe, Serowe, Letlhakeng and Maun.

The BPC is now seeking consultants to carry out the feasibility study, and funding has been sourced from the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

"The scope of work will also include identification of project risks and coming up with appropriate mitigating measures as well as performing a detailed assessment of plant location and design from the pre-selected areas referred to in the PFS," reads part of the BPC tender documents

Once completed, the solar power station will eclipse Morupule Power Station's current capacity, alleviating the prevailing power shortfall and diversifying the country's sources of power supply.

It is expected that the power station will be used to supply the country's booming mining sector. □

## First solar plant opens in Namibia

**NAMIBIA'S FIRST** solar power plant was commissioned in May, and will add a total of 4.5 Megawatts (MW) of electricity to the national grid.

The plant, situated in Omaruru of the Erongo region, is the first renewable energy project in Namibia by an Independent Power Producer (IPP).

Built by French and Namibian investors, the plant is expected to run independently until 2040 when it will be handed over to the national utility, NamPower.

"The 4.5 MW solar power plant is a clear testimony of the fact that IPPs can work in Namibia and NamPower is more than willing to support and enter into power purchase agreements with IPPs," NamPower managing director Paulinus Shilamba said.

"Even on a small scale, the 4.5 MW Omburu Solar plant will relieve the pressure from the national electricity grid."

## MOVING INTO THE FUTURE WITH

**TRADITIONAL ENERGY** sources such as coal are fast reducing, increased climate warming and caused environmental damage. The future by embracing the use of renewable energy services and reliable, renewable energy from sources such as the sun is a better environment than fossil energy. This issue of Southern Africa is doing to advance the use of renewable energy sources to e

He said the plant was a positive step in realising the aim of generating 10 percent of installed generation capacity from renewable energy as per the country's renewable energy policy. The plant comprises about 30,000 solar panels, and occupies a total of 15 hectares. □

## SEFA boosts renewable energy in Mozambique

**THE SUSTAINABLE** Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) has approved a US\$740,000 technical assistance grant for Mozambique to enhance private investments in the country's renewable energy sector.

Specifically, the new SEFA grant will support the implementation of the country's feed-in tariff regime for small-to-medium renewable energy projects through the provision of standardised power purchase agreements, guidelines for grid connectivity, and investor guidelines for prospective developers.

The grant will lay the foundation for a mini-grid regulatory framework, with special focus on designing a tariff structure and corresponding technical and environmental regulations, as well as providing capacity-building and awareness-raising activities for national and local representatives.

"The SEFA project will play a key role in unlocking investments in small-scale renewables, particularly in rural areas where needs are the greatest," AfDB coordinator for SEFA, João Duarte Cunha said.

"This will certainly improve energy access for households and businesses while reducing dependence from large-scale hydro and upcoming coal and gas projects."





# RGY

## ERN AFRICA



## Zimbabwe develops tariffs for renewable energy



**ZIMBABWE IS** developing a policy structure that makes it mandatory for energy companies responsible for operating the national grid to purchase electricity from renewable energy sources.

The Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority (ZERA) is developing a renewable energy feed in tariffs, which is designed to encourage and support greater private sector participation in power generation from renewable energy technologies, through the establishment of an appropriate regulatory framework.

ZERA chairperson, Canada Malunga said the tariffs are to be developed for renewable energy technologies applicable such as solar power, hydro power, biomass, bagasse and biogas.

The tariffs would be at a pre-determined price that is deemed sufficiently attractive to stimulate new investment in the renewables sector.

The most prominent national grid operator in Zimbabwe is currently the Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company, a subsidiary of ZESA Holdings.

The tariffs will also provide a guaranteed purchase price, differentiated by technology for a fixed duration, ensuring an appropriate return on investment for developers.

Permanent Secretary for Energy and Power Development, Patson Mbiriri, said the tariffs have been identified by government as a response to stimulate the uptake of renewable energy in the country.

"Our tariffs should be based on costs. This is on the assumption that it is better to have [renewable] power than have none at all," he said.

"Government is committed to supporting renewable energy proposals and projects with minimal bureaucracy. The extent to which tariffs are affordable is the extent to which the economy is moving," he said.

Zimbabwe's tariff regime is pegged at an average of US\$0.09 per unit, which investors have found to be not rewarding enough or providing a sufficient rate of return on investment.

Thirteen countries are currently implementing or investigating renewable energy procurement mechanisms in Africa, among them Kenya, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. Feed-in tariffs are more common in developing countries, combined with tendering for larger projects.

The envisaged benefits of renewable tariffs include costs being pushed down, and financial risks reduced by providing certainty, thereby increasing private sector and other investment.

The downside is that there would be an increase in the retail price of electricity paid by consumers, due to independent power projects being compensated above avoided cost.

In addition, there may be poor back up service in remote rural areas, limited local experience and expertise with some technologies, lack of awareness and inadequate funding for the sub-sector. *The Standard* □

## H RENEWABLE ENERGY

running out, and emissions from these fossil fuels have increased. Therefore, southern Africa has started preparing for the future energy sources. In addition to being more accessible, secure and wind will not be depleted and is less polluting to the environment. Africa Today looks at what some SADC Member States are doing to ensure sustainable socio-economic development.

The fund is in support of the country's long-term objective of increasing energy access to 50 percent by 2024 and doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030.

Mozambique is rich in renewable energy sources which remain largely untapped in a country where only 33 per cent of the population has access to electricity. □

## Tanzania to finalise land acquisition for gas project



**THE UNITED** Republic of Tanzania plans to spend about US\$6 million to buy land for the planned construction of a liquefied natural gas plant.

The project estimated at US\$30 billion, has run into delays mainly due to complex land acquisition procedures and an uncertain legal and regulatory framework.

Along with neighbouring Mozambique, the country plans to build the plant with the main aim of exploiting the global gas demand and supply gap that is expected to increase by 2020.

"The government has set aside 12 billion shillings (about US\$6 million) in 2015/16 for assessment and compensation of 450 people...where the plant will be built," the government's planning commission said in a report. The 2015/16 fiscal year starts on 1 July 2015.

The plant would be built in the small southern town of Lindi, located close to an offshore deep-sea region where huge natural gas discoveries have been made.

Tanzania is estimated to have more than 53.2 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of gas reserves off its southern coast but its energy sector has long been challenged by allegations of graft and other problems. □

# CCARDESA Towards regional food security

by Timothy Simalenga and  
Simon Mwale

IN JULY 2011, the then Vice President of Botswana, the late Lieutenant-General Mompoti Sebogodi Merafe said, "...it is my singular honour and privilege to declare the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA), formally launched."

That was the culmination of five years of hard work by the SADC Secretariat and SADC Member States in establishing a subsidiary organisation responsible for coordinating agricultural research in the region.

The commitment of the Member States to CCARDESA as its implementing wing on matters of agricultural research and development is expressed in the Charter Establishing CCARDESA which has been signed by 13 of the 15 Member States.

The commitment goes beyond signatures – member countries have committed to make a once-off financial contribution to CCARDESA. This has already been fulfilled in part.

Since its launch in 2011, CCARDESA has been running at supersonic speed in establishing itself as an indispensable institution delivering the much needed outputs for increasing food security in the region.

The inaugural board of directors was appointed in 2011 and went ahead to develop

the key documents of the organisation and also recruited the executive director.

The appointment of Professor Timothy Simalenga as CCARDESA Executive Director offered unique experience and a high level of commitment to agricultural development.

The new leadership prioritised five aspects as priorities -- human resource capacity development, formalisation of CCARDESA in Botswana, technical programming, project implementation, and building partnerships. These had to run concurrently, although their implementation spans were different.

Within four months of his appointment, he led the recruitment of the critical mass of staff for the organisation.

By February 2013, CCARDESA had all the key staff members in office and ready to start the building of the main pillars of the organisation especially administrative structures, financial management controls, procurement and technical processes for research management in the region.

To formalise the existence of CCARDESA in the host country, CCARDESA concluded negotiations with the Government of Botswana which led to the signing of a hosting agreement between in December 2014.

Under the agreement, the Government of Botswana provides free office accommodation to the CCARDESA Secretariat, a gesture which



shows the goodwill and political support given to the centre.

CCARDESA has elaborated the details of its technical vision in the Medium Term Operational Plan (MTO), which identifies five thematic areas dealing with farmer empowerment; use of information technology; capacity building; research technology development and dissemination; and monitoring and evaluation.

The MTO was developed and approved in a fully participatory manner involving stakeholders from the region, and is aligned to the key strategic documents of SADC such as the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan and the Regional Agricultural Policy.

This is critical in maintaining the organisation's focus and ensuring that it remains an implementing arm of SADC.

The MTO is also aligned to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), a continental blueprint for agricultural-led development in African countries.

Progress in the development and implementation of agricultural research projects has seen CCARDESA emerge as a regional fulcrum for supporting agricultural research.

CCARDESA is facilitating the implementation of 64 research and development projects in the region which cover different disciplines within the agricultural sector but have a common goal of contributing to improved food security and livelihoods.

CCARDESA uses different approaches to identify, mobilise resources and fund







these projects. The centre has developed a competitive grant system in which it makes open calls for proposals and regional organisations submit bids and compete for these funds. The first call was made in 2014.

Eight organisations have been awarded research grants under this initiative.

Other avenues are also used since competitive approaches are not always the best way of supporting institutions with variable competencies.

Apart from the actual research projects, CCARDESA has strongly supported innovative approaches to technology dissemination in the region.

It has adopted and advocated for the Integrated Agri-

cultural Research for Development (IAR4D) approach, which provides for inclusiveness in planning and execution, as well as the use of "innovation platforms".

Innovation platforms bring together all stakeholders within a geographical area to collectively address challenges and spur development. In the past two years, new innovation platforms have been created in Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Through the innovation platforms, farmers have improved their collective approaches to dealing with challenges as well as negotiation positions for marketing of products.

The operational model of CCARDESA is one that reflects the principle of subsidiarity, where roles and responsibilities are clearly defined while respecting the boundaries of competencies.

Nowhere has this principle been practically and candidly expressed than in the relationship between CCARDESA and its partners at the national level.

At country level, the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), consisting of all relevant stakeholders in agricultural research and development, have the responsibility of implementing all CCARDESA supported projects.

CCARDESA has established strong collaboration with the NARS, and has gone further to document this through the Dar-es-Salaam Commitment.

This document states that CCARDESA and the NARS shall collaborate on all matters related to research and development in the region.

Of utmost importance is the fact that a Committee of Research Directors, composed of directors of agricultural research from the public and private agricultural research institutions of the NARS, was formally established in November 2014 and will convene annually.

The committee has advisory roles to play on CCARDESA technical matters and also in deepening the linkages and synergies between CCARDESA Secretariat and the NARS.

One of its latent functions shall be to provide a forum for collaboration and technical interaction among the research institutions in the SADC region.

CCARDESA works with both private and public organisations, being the two main drivers of agricultural development. It subscribes to the principles of inclusiveness in the planning and execution of research and development activities.

On this basis, CCARDESA has had very strong synergies with regional economic communities, international agricultural research organi-

sations, farmer organisations, higher learning institutions, regional and national policy research organisations, community based organisations, etc.

Significant financial support has been received from various international cooperating partners since the establishment of CCARDESA.

The resources have enabled the organisation to deliver on its work plans and also to achieve the milestones this far.

The support of the international cooperating partners has been fully recognised and appreciated by the CCARDESA board of directors on behalf of SADC Member States.

With a five-year operational plan in place, 64 research projects running, a competitive research grant system operating, strong collaboration with NARS forged, strong collaboration with regional, continental and global organisations established, as well as inroads made in working with the private sector as a strong partner in development - and considering that all this has been achieved in less than 3 years - CCARDESA is indeed a baby borne with teeth.

SADC Member States would do well to increase their support to CCARDESA and ensure it builds on the current momentum to achieve results for them, in line with the objectives for which it was established. □





## SADC gender ministers review progress on gender protocol targets

by Nyarai Kampilipili

**MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE** for gender and women affairs in southern Africa met in Zimbabwe in May to review targets of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development for 2015.

The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development was adopted in 2008 to promote the empowerment of women, eliminate discrimination, and achieve gender quality and equity through gender-responsive legislation, policies, programmes and projects.

However, the protocol only entered into force in 2013 following ratification of the instrument by the requisite two-thirds of Member States.

These are Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The meeting allowed the ministers to reflect on progress made in the implementation of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development targets for 2015, some of which were aligned to the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that expire this year.

The discussion focused on the post-MDGs agenda and the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be discussed later this year by the UN General Assembly in New York.

The ministers made a strong appeal for a larger budgetary allocation for the SADC Gender Unit for implementation of the gender programme at both regional and national levels.

Speaking at the meeting, the Vice President of Zimbabwe, Emmerson Mnangagwa, said SADC remains committed to gender empowerment since there can be no real socio-economic develop-

ment without gender parity and equality.

"The commitment by SADC Heads of State and Government to ensure gender equality remains on the agenda of the SADC regional integration thrust and this is commendable," noted Mnangagwa.

He said the decision to review the targets set out in the protocol will further allow Member States to "push forward the spirit of the protocol in achieving women's empowerment and gender equality."

Acting Zimbabwean Minister of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development, Sithembiso Nyoni concurred, saying the year 2015 is an important year for women as the African Union has declared this as the Year for Women's Empowerment.

In addition, 2015 is the 15th Anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, as well as the 20th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Nyoni said it is critical to "reflect on the journey that commenced back in Beijing in 1995 to date," adding that

"this should be a moment of celebrating achievements as a region while at the same time paving the way forward on how to address and overcome challenges and stumbling blocks that we met along the way."

She said SADC has made significant progress in appointing women from the SADC region to leadership positions, such as the chairperson of the African Union Commission, Executive Secretary of SADC, Vice President of the Pan African Parliament, and the Executive Director of UN Women.

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, applauded SADC Member States for being the only regional economic community with a legally binding instrument on gender, and encouraged Member States to safeguard the gains made in gender empowerment.

"As the first female executive secretary of SADC, I am among the direct products, and part of these efforts, and a living testimony that regional efforts on gender empowerment are indeed making a difference," she said.

Although noteworthy progress has been made since the adoption of the protocol, challenges remain.

Nyoni noted that there was still a lot of work to address other issues that impact on women in the region such as poverty, maternal and infant mortality, HIV infection, and gender-based violence. Member states were encouraged to develop comprehensive strategies to address these issues.

Gender ministers also welcomed the development of a training course for peace support operations on sexual and gender based violence by the SADC regional peacekeeping training centre.

Thirteen SADC Member States were represented by ministers and senior officials from Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, South Africa, Swaziland, Seychelles, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Botswana, which takes over the SADC chair in August, will host the next meeting in 2016. □

### Gurib-Fakim elected President of Mauritius

**THE MAURITIAN** National Assembly in June unanimously elected Dr Bibi Ameenah Firdaus Gurib-Fakim as the Indian Ocean island state's new president.

The motion for the election of the new president was presented by the Prime Minister, Sir Anerood Jugnauth who stated that the election of Dr Gurib-Fakim "will certainly go down in history as another landmark in government's relentless pursuit to place women in their rightful place in the Republic of Mauritius."

The Prime Minister recalled that the recent appointment of Maya Hanoomanjee



as the first woman as Speaker of the National Assembly and now the election of Dr Gurib-Fakim constitutes major milestones in the journey towards greater gender equality and empowerment of women in Mauritius.

Dr Gurib-Fakim is one of the leading figures in the local academia, having started her career in 1987 as a lecturer at the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Mauritius.

She was until recently the managing director of the Centre for Phototherapy and Research and professor of organic chemistry at the University of Mauritius. □



## SADC conducts regional research on Trafficking in Persons

by Nyarai Kampilipili

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** is intensifying efforts to respond to rising trafficking in persons, which is now among the world's fastest growing organized crimes.

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) usually involves the illegal movement of an individual into a country for purposes of exploitation.

TIP also refers to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by means of threats or use of force for purposes of exploitation.

Traffickers thrive on the vulnerabilities created by a number of factors including poverty, conflicts and post conflict instabilities, gender inequality, unemployment, economic instability and a general lack of opportunities.

The SADC region remains a fertile ground for traffickers who target men, women, boys and girls who seek "better" opportunities elsewhere.

To meet these challenges, SADC countries are strengthening their legal frameworks to combat trafficking in persons and ensure that citizens do not fall prey to such criminal activities.

A total of 13 SADC countries have taken measures to address the issue of trafficking in persons, and have set up anti-trafficking structures which help in supporting victims of trafficking.

These are Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles,

South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe and the remaining two - the Democratic Republic of Congo and Namibia - are in the process of developing similar legislations.

The legislations are in line with the 10-year SADC Strategic Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children adopted by SADC.

Adopted by the SADC Council of Ministers in August 2009 in Kinshasa, DRC, the plan of action covers the period 2009 to 2019 with the aim of facilitating the establishment of an enabling policy and legislative environment to reduce trafficking in persons and enhance capacities of Member States to implement comprehensive policies, strategies and legislation on trafficking in persons.

Speaking at a recent Regional Trafficking in Persons Research Validation Workshop held in late April in Johannesburg, South Africa, coordinator of the SADC Regional Political Cooperation Programme, Dr Joao Ndlovu said there is need for more research and documentation on the impact as well as how to curb trafficking in persons.

He urged the region to also tackle the surge of piracy, particularly in the SADC island states where a number of SADC citizens have fallen prey to trafficking in persons.

"We should not only concentrate on the SADC region but we should also look at pirates in the Indian Ocean who are trafficking young boys and men to work for them," he said.

The Regional Trafficking in Persons Research Valida-

tion Workshop was held to validate the research findings of a research that had been carried out to provide SADC Secretariat with up-to-date statistics on the nature, scope and trends of trafficking in persons in the region and to facilitate a coordinated approach to preventing and combating the problem in the region.

Additional information on TIP in the region was brought out in the validation workshop to help strengthen the research findings and the report.

The research covered southern Africa where the consultant visited member states to gather information on what member states are doing to curb the vice, the constraints they are facing such as capacity for implementation of the legislations.

The research findings also included a draft directory which had contact information of shelters for TIP victims, organizations that provided legal assistance to victims as well as places to report TIP amongst others.

Member states were urged help to strengthen the report by providing more information that still lack in the report.

The research validation workshop brought together a variety of experts, mostly from government ministries, who were responsible for issues to do with trafficking in persons and this gave the workshop rich discussions. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net)

**THE REGIONAL** research on trafficking in persons proposes a number of recommendations on how SADC could curb the surge of human trafficking. Some of the main recommendations are:

- SADC Secretariat to:
  - o Support Member States to establish systems and mechanisms to address the challenge of trafficking in persons at country level;
  - o Put in place mechanisms to facilitate tracking of the implementation of Member State legislations as a way of supporting countries to effectively enforce laws.
- Member States to:
  - o Share information and experiences on trafficking in persons and associated crimes, including the exploitation of adopted children; and
  - o Coordinate and reinforce data collection on trafficking in persons, including establishment of a centralised point of reference, to ensure data reliability. □



## Racing against digital migration deadline

by Joseph Ngwawi

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN** countries are stepping up efforts to meet the agreed global deadlines to complete the migration from analogue to digital broadcasting.

Digital broadcasting involves the use of digital signals rather than analogue waveforms that transmit television broadcast channels on assigned frequency bands.

Thanks to the use of data compression, digital links generally have more efficient bandwidth usage than analogue, making it possible for more services and improved television picture quality than had been previously feasible.

The global deadline set by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) for migration to Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) broadcasting is 17 June 2015, but this refers only to the securing of systems within national boundaries so that analogue signals are not accessible across borders.

According to Simon

Kekana, DTT Project Manager at the SADC Secretariat, five Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries are "operating a digital network and continuing roll-out" – Mauritius, Malawi, Namibia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. South Africa is still at "dual-illumination" stage.

This is the interim period in which both analogue and DTT signals are allowed to be transmitted before the cut-off date later when the analogue signal will be switched off.

He told a recent workshop organised by the Southern African Digital Broadcasting Association (SADIBA) in Johannesburg, South Africa, that seven other countries are still at the stage of procuring and installing equipment while two are running trials.

SADIBA is a voluntary industry forum dedicated to promoting the coordinated introduction of digital broadcasting technologies in southern Africa.

Mauritius and Tanzania were the first SADC Member States to migrate to the new system.

Mauritius was the first African country to fully digitise television broadcasting for all regions and islands in 2007, after initiating 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).

Tanzania completed the migration at the end of 2012 and immediately commenced a staggered programme of

switching off analogue broadcasting in December of the same year in an exercise that saw six of the regions accessing DTT services. These were the capital Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Mwanza and Arusha.

The next phase of the programme to switch-off analogue transmission started in 2013, targeting the remaining 14 regions in the country.

Namibia revealed in February that the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation had successfully completed migration from analogue signal to DTT.

Malawi has indicated that it is confident of meeting the ITU deadline but faces challenges of raising awareness among the consumers.

Like most other SADC member states, Malawi had as late as March 2015 not yet started a vigorous programme to sensitise people in the country to understand the new technology.

The country has developed a Digital Broadcasting Communication Strategy as a guiding tool for sensitising all stakeholders and the general public to create awareness.

The strategy will also ensure that there is smooth migration from analogue to digital broadcasting in line with the Malawi Digital Broadcasting Policy.

A company which will be distributing content signal, the Malawi Digital Broadcasting Network Limited, has been established.

Malawi currently has more than 25 licensed television broadcasters, meaning that at least 25 frequencies have been allocated on restricted frequency.

Botswana, Madagascar and Zimbabwe have also expressed confidence that they would meet the digital broadcasting migration deadline.

Zimbabwe's broadcasting signal carrier, Transmedia, announced in May that it had received US\$3 million equipment from Chinese telecommunications firm Huawei.

The equipment, which includes antennae systems and transmitters, is being installed at six new transmission sites located in border areas. According to Transmedia chief executive officer, Florence Sigudu Matambo, a total of 30 transmission sites will be upgraded from analogue to digital broadcasting.

Angola and Mozambique have said they cannot meet the migration deadline.

Mozambican Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications, Manuela Rebelo, revealed in April that, given the impossibility of completing the transition in time, the analogue signals would not be switched off in June, noting that switching off the analogue signal was "a sovereign decision" that Mozambique was not about to make.

Angola, on the other hand, says it requires more time to migrate, a process that could take up to 2017 to complete.

SADC Member States had initially targeted analogue switch-off by 31 December 2013. This was meant to give countries in the region ample time to address teething challenges that may arise in the migration process ahead of the global deadline.

This regional target was however not met, with only Mauritius and Tanzania meeting the deadline. □





## Events June-August 2015

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June 3, South Africa	<b>World Economic Forum on Africa 2015</b> The World Economic Forum on Africa will mark 25 years of change in Africa. Over the past decade and a half, Africa has demonstrated a remarkable economic turnaround, growing two to three percentage points faster than global GDP.
5, UN	<b>World Environment Day 2015</b> World Environment Day raises awareness of unique environment challenges and successes, including climate change, waste management, unsustainable consumption, degradation of natural resources, and extreme natural disasters.
7-15 South Africa	<b>25th African Union Summit</b> African Heads of State and Government will meet under the theme, "Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063". Prior to the 25th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State/Government of the African Union from 14 to 15 June there will be the 30th Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representative Council 7-8 June and the 27th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council 10-12 June.
8-11, United Arab	<b>Africa Energy Forum</b> The 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 in Africa.
July 1-2, South Africa	<b>Renewables and Mining Summit and Exhibition</b> This will bring together energy and mining decision-makers from Africa to discuss challenges and assess the options for renewables as part of a sustainable solution towards securing cost-effective and reliable energy for their operations.
9-10, Russia	<b>7th Summit of the BRICS</b> Commonly referred to as the emerging economies, the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) will meet to explore new models and approaches towards a more equitable and inclusive system that promotes sustainable socio-economic development.
August 10-18, Botswana	<b>SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government</b> SADC leaders will meet to discuss regional integration and development, preceded by meeting of senior officials and the Council of Ministers. Botswana will become the SADC chair at this Summit for the coming year, taking over from Zimbabwe, who will remain a member of the SADC Troika.
20, Tanzania	<b>SADC Lawyers' Association Annual (SADCLA) General Meeting and Conference</b> SADCLA is the representative body of lawyers, law societies and bar associations in the SADC region. This year's conference will be held under the theme, "Using the law to strengthen good governance practices and to facilitate social, economic and political transformation in the SADC Region".
25-28, Angola	<b>45th SAPP Management Committee Meeting</b> The meeting held annually brings together leaders of power utilities and government representatives to discuss key management issues related to SAPP activities.



# Hashim Mbita hero of liberation in Africa

by Phyllis Johnson

**HASHIM MBITA** occupies a special place in the history of several countries in southern Africa and in the hearts of those who fought to take back their independence from colonial rule.

He was the last and longest-serving executive secretary of the coordinating committee established by African leaders at their first assembly in 1963 that became known as the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Liberation Committee and was hosted by the United Republic of Tanzania.

After taking office in 1972 until he said "mission accomplished" in 1994, Mbita mobilized materials and training for the liberation forces of the remaining countries still under colonial rule, all of whom gained independence during his tenure, including Guinea-Bissau (1974), Mozambique (1975), Cape Verde (1975), Angola (1975), Zimbabwe (1980), Namibia (1990), and finally majority rule in South Africa (1994).

Brigadier General Mbita died on 26 April at Lugalo military hospital in Dar es Salaam, and when he was laid to rest with military honours three days later, most of those countries were represented at a senior level to mourn with his family and the President and people of Tanzania.

President Kikwete led Tanzanians in mourning at the military parade at Lugalo Barracks, also attended by former President Benjamin Mkapa.

"There are very few people that have served the country the way Mzee Mbita has served this nation," Kikwete said in a statement, citing his service to the party, the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) now Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), where he served as Executive Secretary, and in the Tanzania People's Defence Force where he rose to the rank of Brigadier General, adding that there is not a freedom fighter in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola and South Africa who does not know the contribution made by the late Mbita.

Hashim Mbita was born in Tabora in western Tanzania on 2 November 1933, and died on 26 April 2015 at the age of 81. He is survived by his wife and six grown children, and several grandchildren.

Future generations should also know about the key role that Mbita played but he would not allow his perspective to influence the SADC History Project for which he mobilized fiercely and was the patron. He insisted that the story should be told by the people who liberated themselves from colonial rule, and not by himself or others.

That history runs to nine volumes and should be available for distribution this year, after its launch at last year's SADC Summit in Victoria Falls.

Mbita saw his role simply as a facilitator who was "doing his duty" on behalf of his country in supporting the people of southern Africa and the African continent.

He was, however, persuaded to tell his story separately, and that story will soon be published.

SADC leaders observed a minute of silence in honour of Brig-General Mbita at their Extraordinary Summit in Harare on 29 April, led by President Mugabe, who said the news of Mbita's passing was received with "a deep sense of sorrow and sadness."

"The fact that we are now what we are, a free people, independent running freely, our own political systems – no longer with the racism here of the Rhodesian settlers or in South Africa the apartheid system of the Afrikaansers, that achievement he could claim to have been not just ours but his as well." □



**BRIG-GENERAL HASHIM** Mbita, the former Executive Secretary of the OAU Liberation Committee and Patron of the SADC History Project, was awarded SADC's highest honour, the Seretse Khama SADC Medal, for his role in the liberation of the region. Shown above with the host President Hifikepunye Pohamba (middle) at the 30th SADC Summit held in Windhoek in 2010. The other recipients of the SADC medal shown here are the founding President of Zambia, Kenneth Kaunda (left), and the founding President of Namibia, Sam Nujoma (second from right). Below, President Robert Mugabe confers Zimbabwe's highest honour for a non-citizen, the Royal Order of Munhumutapa, on General Mbita through his daughter, Shella, at the 34th SADC Summit in Victoria Falls in August 2014, for his contribution to national liberation.

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

June- August 2015

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

\*\*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