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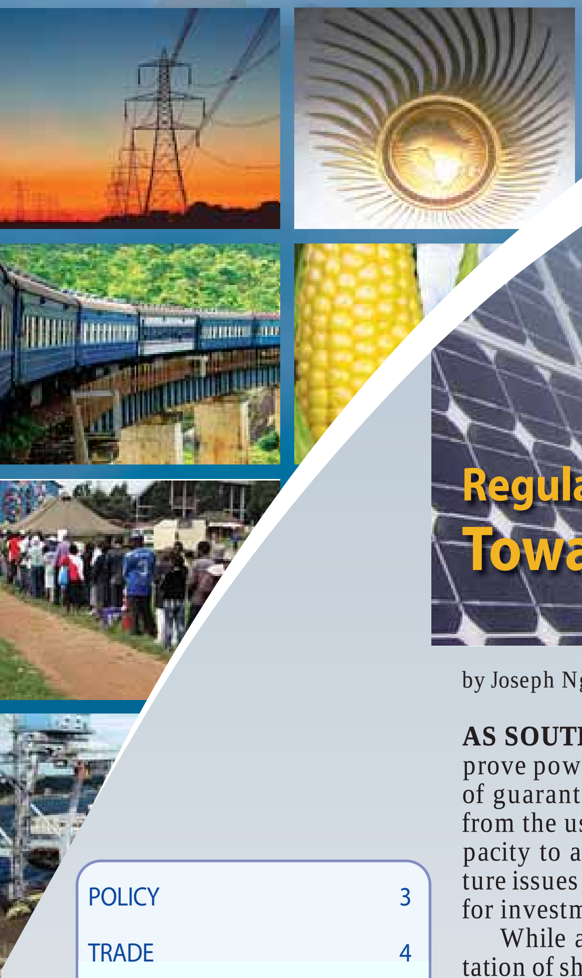

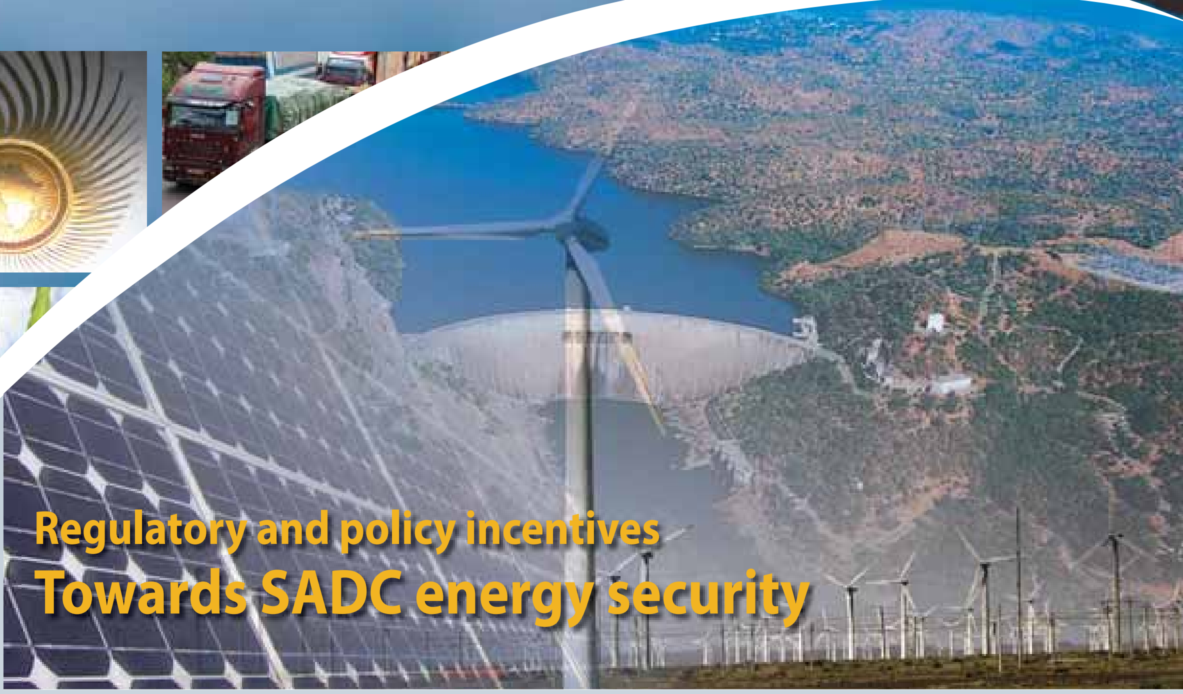

Regulatory and policy incentives

Towards SADC energy security

by Joseph Ngwawi

AS SOUTHERN Africa steps up efforts to improve power supply in the region, the question of guaranteeing energy security is expanding from the usual concerns around generation capacity to addressing pertinent soft infrastructure issues that create an enabling environment for investment in the sector.

While attention has focused on implementation of short-term measures such as construction of new power stations or rehabilitation of existing ones to improve generation capacity in the region, the debate is now shifting towards the policy environment and investment incentives for investors.

Southern Africa has suffered a shortage of electricity since 2007 as the growing demand exceeds supply and the expectation was that this energy gap would be addressed by 2014. However, the implementation of projects can lag behind their planned dates due to a lack of funding and other constraints.

SADC is now taking longer term measures to address the energy deficit and ensure self-sufficiency in energy generation and an end to electricity shortages, through an ambitious Energy Sector Plan that calls for the region to increase power generation by more than 70 percent and investment of more than US$170 billion over the next 15 years.

The Energy Sector Plan is part of the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan approved by the 32nd Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in Mozambique last year.

The policy environment in most SADC Member States does not encourage private sector participation in the energy sector.

Generally, there is need for a review of the operating environment in the power sector to encourage investment, including Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). This would involve a review of the legal and regulatory framework governing the sector.

With the exception of a few countries such as Zambia, the majority of SADC countries are yet to fully embrace the PPP concept despite being party to the SAPP Inter-Utility Memorandum of Understanding that formally allows private players to get involved in the energy sector.

Zambia has established a public institution that facilitates and promotes the implementation of PPPs.

A number of long-planned projects have failed to take off as the private sector has been reluctant to engage in partnerships with the public sector, mainly due to inappropriate financing formulas.

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Regulatory and policy incentives Towards SADC energy security

According to Lawrence Musaba, Coordination Centre Manager at the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), there is need for SADC to put in place mechanisms that improve the attractiveness of the power sector for investors.

"One measure proposed is the provision of incentives for all investors in the power sector, both local and foreign," Musaba said during a researchers workshop on the mid-term review of the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in May.

Proposed incentives include introduction of tax exemptions for investors involved in the construction and rehabilitation of power stations.

"For example, we are saying that Member States should allow for Value Added Tax and other tax exemptions for defined periods for those companies and investors who import power equipment and machinery," said Musaba.

In addition, other incentives should include the introduction of rebates for power producers in the form of subsidies as well as government grants for power utilities.

According to the SADC Regional Energy Access Strategy, any subsidies to the energy sector should prioritise access over consumption.

While subsidies have an important role to play in extending access, subsidy programmes need to be carefully designed and targeted at the power producers to encourage more investment.

The rationale is that subsidies to consumer energy prices simply reduce the cost of energy for those who already have access to electricity.

For this reason, government or donor resources available for subsidies would contribute more to equity and efficiency objectives if they are spent on once-off capital subsidies than on subsidies to recurrent costs.

The SAPP is also proposing the creation of a Demand Side Management (DSM) fund to support DSM initiatives. The rationale behind the fund is to compensate utilities for revenue losses emanating from the reduced energy usage as a result of the DSM initiatives.

SAPP is implementing various DSM programmes that include promotion of energy efficiency technologies such as the replacement of incandescent bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) and introduction of the solar water heater programme, hot water load control, and the commercial lighting programme.

Switching from traditional light bulbs to CFLs has been an effective programme by SAPP to reduce energy use at home and prevent greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

Research shows that residential lighting accounts for about 20 percent of the average home electricity bill in the SADC region. However, compared to incandescent bulbs, CFLs have been shown to save up to 80 percent of electricity consumption.

Similarly, the hot water load-control programme being pursued by SAPP has enabled consumers to install load control switches that automatically turn off power during peak periods or when appliances such as geysers have reached maximum demand.

To date, the majority of SAPP members have introduced the CFLs on a large scale. Other forms of DSM are at various levels of implementation.

Power savings realised from these four DSM initiatives between 2009 and 2012 amounted to 2,316 megawatts, according to SAPP.

It is envisaged that the DSM programme will include a public education campaign whose primary objective will be to increase awareness about energy efficiency.

However, the downside of implementing such initiatives is that they affect the viability of power utilities. Hence the need for the proposed fund.

Other measures being considered include the use of cost-reflective tariffs, time of use tariffs, renewable energy feed-in tariffs, as well as introduction of penalties for inefficient use of energy by customers.

Cost-reflective tariffs encourage people to move their electricity consumption from peak times to off-peak periods by adjusting the price charged at certain times of each day. This helps reduce the overall peak load and is referred to as load shifting, a common practice in many parts of the world.

Related to cost-reflective tariffs is the time-of-use pricing concept whereby electricity prices are set for a specific time period on an advance or forward basis, usually not changing more than twice a year.

Prices paid for energy consumed during these periods are pre-established and known to consumers in advance, allowing them to vary their usage in response to such prices and manage their energy costs by shifting usage to lower cost periods or reducing their overall consumption.

Renewable energy feed-in tariffs have been successful in increasing the use of renewable technologies worldwide.

They encourage investment in renewable energy generation by offering long-term contracts to producers and guaranteeing to buy and pay for all the electricity produced.

Feed-in tariffs have proven wildly successful in Germany and other European countries such as Denmark and Spain, where they are credited with the much greater adoption of wind and solar power there than in the United States.

There is, therefore, need to embrace the principle of energy efficiency in SADC and adopt regulatory principles that incentivise efficient use of electricity and penalise wasteful usage. r

Researchers contribute to RISDP mid-term review

RESEARCHERS FROM southern Africa have made an input into the ongoing independent review of the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP).

At a workshop held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in May, the researchers made some valuable input into sectoral issues and targets to be addressed in the mid-term review.

The issues identified included the need to interrogate whether the present SADC integration model promotes equitable and sustainable integration; a review of macroeconomic convergence targets in line with current regional and continental dynamics; and recognition of the impact on regional development of emerging issues such as climate change.

The RISDP was approved in 2003 and launched in 2004, while effective implementation began in 2005, following the development of a detailed operational framework.

The main purpose of the 15-year plan is to provide strategic direction with respect to SADC programmes and activities, and to align the strategic objectives and priorities of SADC with the policies and strategies for achieving its long term-goals.

The RISDP aims to deepen regional integration in SADC with the ultimate objective of eradicating poverty in the region.

To fasttrack the implementation of the RISDP, SADC refocussed its priorities in 2007 as: Trade, economic liberalization and development; Infrastructure in support of regional integration; Politics, defence and security cooperation; Food security, environment and management of trans-boundary natural resources; Social and human development; Gender and development; Statistics; and Science and technology.

In 2011, the SADC Council of Ministers directed the SADC Secretariat to conduct a desk assessment of the RISDP implementation.

The assessment revealed that significant progress has been achieved towards meeting the targets set in the SADC regional economic integration agenda.

The assessment noted that all sectors were able to reach most of the outputs and targets, either fully or partially, within the stated timeframes.

For example, SADC successfully launched its Free Trade Area in 2008, which has improved intra-regional trade by facilitating the movement of goods and services between member countries.

To complement the Secretariat's desk assessment, Council directed that an external mid-term review involving Member States and other stakeholders be done to assess the RISDP performance.

Such a review is important in determining progress made as well as in devising new strategies to accelerate poverty reduction and the attainment of other development goals of the SADC region in a sustainable manner.

The Trade and Development Studies Centre (Trades Centre) in Harare, Zimbabwe, is carrying out the independent RISDP Mid-Term Review.

The Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), with the support of the GIZ and in consultation with the SADC Secretariat and the Trades Centre, organised a Regional Researchers Consultative Workshop on the SADC RISDP Mid-Term Review to facilitate the input of regional researchers in early May in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The objective of the consultative workshop was to enable researchers from research institutions in Member States to use their expertise and knowledge to make a direct input into the RISDP review process and contribute to the results.

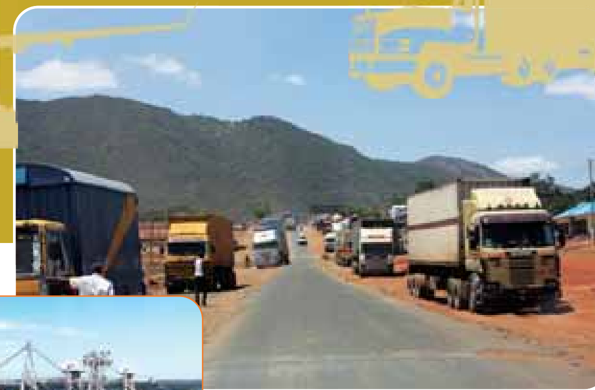
The workshop report is expected to enrich the scope and depth of issues around the implementation of the RISDP gathered from Member States which will be complimentary to the findings of the SADC Secretariat desk study of 2011 and the ongoing independent review undertaken by the RISDP review team of consultants. r

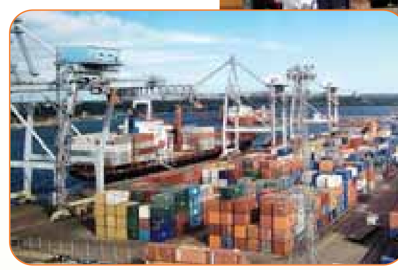
Key policy recommendations from researchers workshop

The RISDP review should consider the following:

- Establish a mechanism that guarantees adequate funding of the RISDP and ensures an active role by Member States in the financing of programmes and projects;
- Establish a mechanism for citizen involvement in SADC programmes and policy implementation and formulation;
- Review of SADC Secretariat governance structure to improve decision-making and implementation of programmes and projects;
- Mainstream gender issues throughout all policies, programmes and projects;
- Review of macroeconomic convergence targets in line with regional and continental dynamics, including alignment of market integration targets with COMESA-EAC targets;
- Revisit and energise the transport corridor concept and ensure that there is enhanced investment in regional communication infrastructure;
- Introduce incentives to promote investment in new power projects, including creation of an enabling environment for renewable energy projects and development of regional policy on energy efficiency;
- Strengthen the collection and compilation of statistics, including gender-disaggregated data for all sectors;
- Revisit commitments on budgetary allocations to health and education;
- Align the RISDP with SIPO and other regional policies and programmes;
- Reaffirm commitment towards improving agricultural production, including implementation of commitments on budgetary allocations to farming; and,
- Consider a regional policy on land reform.

EU sets EPA negotiations deadline





by Joseph Ngwawi

SADC MEMBER States negotiating economic cooperation agreements with the European Union have just over a year to conclude discussions after Brussels set October 2014 as the deadline for negotiations.

Namibian Minister of Trade and Industry, Calle Schlettwein said the International Trade Committee of the EU Parliament has set a 1 October 2014 deadline for negotiations with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries that have not yet signed EPAs with the EU.

"This proposed date is the date on which duty free quota free market access will be withdrawn for those who have not yet signed or ratified an EPA with the EU," he said in a statement to the Namibian Parliament in April.

This means that "any EPA would have to be concluded far in advance of 1 October 2014 in order for trade to continue."

Discussions are still ongoing between the EU and seven SADC countries to produce a comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the two regions.

Various issues have stalled negotiations, including how to navigate the complex and numerous trade arrangements in southern Africa while maintaining coherence within the region.

Other challenges are how to deal with services, investment and other trade-related issues such as rules of origin, as well as some textual provisions of the interim EPA text that seem to favour one party over another.

The SADC negotiating group comprises Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and the United Republic of Tanzania.

South Africa participates in the SADC group but only as an observer as the country already has a trade agreement with Europe.

The other SADC countries – Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Zambia and Zimbabwe – negotiated under the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) group, while the Democratic Republic of Congo is in the Economic Community of Central African States (CEMAC).

Members of the ESA group have already reached an interim EPA with the EU that came into force in 2012.

The agreement provides access to the EU market free of import duties and quotes for exports from the four countries, which will, in turn, be required to gradually open their markets to European exports over a 15-year period, with exceptions for certain products the countries consider sensitive.

The fragmented approach to the EPAs negotiations, where SADC and other African regions are negotiating under different groups, is seen as one of the major stumbling blocks to the negotiation process.

Pilot customs connectivity project for Botswana, Namibia

CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES in Botswana and Namibia have partnered with the Southern African Trade Hub to develop an automated system that reduces delays in customs clearances and facilitates the sharing of customs information between countries in southern Africa.

Although much of the same data is required to prepare export documentation in one country and import documentation in another country for cross-border shipments, the current system requires manual re-entry of all information.

This can result in human error, delays in preparing and processing clearance documents, bottlenecks in clearance of goods due to data errors and an increase in trade costs.

To reduce these trade costs, the Botswana Unified Revenue Service and the Namibia Customs have partnered with the Southern African Trade Hub to establish a pilot customs connectivity between the two countries.

The Trade Hub said the system will enable clearing agents to exchange declaration data for shipments electronically, securely and instantly.

"Based on the success of the pilot, it will be rolled out to other countries in southern Africa."

Under the system, clearing agents will use a new online portal to transfer export declaration data across borders and retrieve import declaration data through the existing ASYCUDA++ user interface.

Customs officials can access trade and performance statistics via an online platform. The automated system is expected to improve the collection of standardized trade statistics and allow greater visibility of the cross-border trade processes.

WTO reference centre inaugurated

SADC HAS inaugurated a centre to improve the capacity of Member States in implementation and negotiation of global trade issues.

Head of the Directorate on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment, Boitumelo Gofhamodimo, inaugurated the World Trade Organization (WTO) Reference Centre at the SADC Secretariat in April.

Establishment of the centre follows an official request made to the WTO last year to open a reference centre at the Secretariat to serve as a channel through which SADC can receive information, technical and training assistance to improve the capacity of staff on WTO issues.

This will provide the SADC Secretariat, government agencies, academic, research and training institutions, businesses and other stakeholders with a facility where relevant information on the WTO can be accessed.

SACU to develop new revenue sharing agreement

THE SOUTHERN African Customs Union (SACU) has embarked on a review of its revenue-sharing agreement in a development that could have important lessons for a future SADC Customs Union.

According to a statement issued after the 4th SACU Summit held in Botswana, the review would also investigate financing mechanisms to support industrial and infrastructure development in the SACU region.

A proposal on the new revenue-sharing arrangement is expected to be ready by December when it will be presented to the SACU Council of Ministers for consideration.

SACU operates as a customs union of five countries that form a single customs territory in which tariffs and other barriers are eliminated on substantially all the trade between the member states for products originating in these countries; and there is a common external tariff that applies to non-members of SACU.

The main provisions of a renewable agreement negotiated in 2002 are that the tariff regime in force in South Africa applies to the other countries, serving as a common external tariff; and that customs and excise revenue collected in member states is paid into a common pool and distributed according to a formula weighted in favour of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (the BLNS countries).

This weighting is intended to compensate the smaller SACU countries for the price-raising effects of being drawn behind South Africa's protective tariff regime, and for the loss of sovereignty over tariff and trade policy issues.

The BLNS countries have complained over the years that the revenue-sharing formula does not fully compensate them even for the price-raising effects, and there is a lack of consultation by South Africa with its SACU partners. There have been allegations of non-tariff barriers preventing their access into the South African market.

South Africa has complained in turn that the weighted allocation of excise as well as customs duties to the BLNS has become an increasing burden on the South African fiscus, and that SACU has become unaffordable.

SACU executive secretary, Tswelelopele Moremi, said it was important to ensure that the new revenue-sharing arrangement is based on sound principles and technical analysis so that is sustainable and appealing to all.

The customs union collects duty on local production as well as customs duty on imports from outside SACU. The taxes collected are put into a Common Revenue Pool (CRP).

The revenue from the common pool is allocated to member countries in quarterly instalments utilizing the revenue-sharing formula.

According to the SACU agreement of 2002, the revenue-sharing formula uses three components to calculate revenue shares for member states. These are a customs component, an excise component and a development component.

Using the customs component, revenue is allocated on the basis of each country's share of intra-SACU imports while the excise element allocates the funds on the basis of each country's share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Revenue allocations using the development component are fixed at 15 percent of total excise revenue and distributed according to the inverse of each country's per capita GDP.

Under the present arrangement, South Africa is the custodian of CRP and all customs and excise duty collected in the common customs area are paid into the South African national revenue fund. The revenue is then shared among member states according to a revenue-sharing formula as described in the agreement.

Moremi said it was critical that the review considers other factors, including what would happen to the formula in the event of the expansion of the SACU membership.

The comprehensive review of the SACU revenue-sharing agreement should thus provide some important lessons for SADC to adopt when the regional body finally launches its own Customs Union.

SADC has a target to establish a Customs Union after its initial plan to launch one was shelved in 2010 to allow countries enough time to implement the Free Trade Area established in 2008.

In addition, the SACU summit agreed on the principle that allocations should be developmental in focus and not simply distributive.

The leaders noted the progress in the establishment of SACU institutions as mandated by the SACU Agreement in 2002, that is, the SACU Tribunal, National Bodies and the SACU Tariff Board, as well as the Common Negotiating Mechanism.

The Summit noted with satisfaction that the construction of the SACU Headquarters building in Windhoek, Namibia, has commenced and is to be completed by November 2013.

SACU was established in 1910, making it the world's oldest Customs Union. Historically SACU was administered by South Africa, through the 1910 and 1969 Agreements. r

The 4th SACU Summit endorsed five priority areas for a new SACU Work Programme.

- Regional Industrial Development Policy
- Review of the Revenue Sharing Arrangement
- Trade Facilitation
- Development of SACU Institutions
- Unified Engagement in Trade Negotiations.

SADC forecasts higher cereal output despite changing rainfall patterns

by Egline Tauya

SADC EXPECTS a relatively higher output of cereals and other crops during the 2012/13 season amid indications that some countries in the region are poised for a good harvest this year despite disruptions caused by erratic rains and flooding.

Statistics released by the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET) show that overall cereal production in the region is projected at 33.7 metric tonnes for the 2012/13 season, marginally up from the 32.6 million tonnes recorded in the previous year.

This is despite a two-percent decline in cereal output in the region's largest producer, South Africa, which is expected to harvest just 14.2 million tonnes this year compared to 14.6 million tonnes in 2011/12.

Cereal output in other SADC Member States is projected to have increased by eight percent to 19.5 million tonnes this year, thanks to an anticipated significant rise in production in Mozambique.

These figures exclude estimates for the Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar.

In terms of maize production, which is a staple food in most SADC countries, the region's largest harvest is expected from South Africa, where estimates indicate a commercial maize crop of 11.4 million tonnes, down three percent from the 11.8 million tonnes recorded during the 2011/12 season.

An additional 675,000 tonnes is projected to come from the subsistence sector, bringing South Africa's maize total supply to 12.12 million tonnes.

The rest of the region's maize is expected to come from Malawi, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Crop estimates issued by Zambia in May indicate that maize production was 11 percent below last year, but is still six percent above its five-year average.

Qualitative estimates from Tanzania suggest that maize production levels could be well above the average for the past five years, while in Mozambique, estimates are at five-year average levels.

In Zimbabwe where official estimates are yet to be released, qualitative analysis suggests national cereal harvests could drop by as much as three percent below last year's levels on account of reduced crop yields, and in some areas crop failure, due to changing rainfall patterns and a mid-season dry spell in the southern and southwestern parts of the country.

The just-ended 2012/13 rainfall season was generally characterized by below average rainfall in much of the southern and western areas of the region, with average to above-average rainfall in northern and eastern areas.

Parts of Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe experienced a delayed and erratic start to the season and below-normal rainfall performance during the first half of the season from October-December 2012. This resulted in some famers not planting.

An early dry spell in November caused early season crop failure in parts of southern Mozambique and southern Zimbabwe, followed by large-scale replanting during rains in December.

A region-wide armyworm outbreak began in the first half of the season, and affected crops in several countries, including Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, although the infestation was contained in most areas.

Prolonged dry spells and widespread torrential rains were some of the major events that affected crops during the second half of the season.

SADC Preliminary Production Forecasts
2012/13 compared to 2011/12

	Maize (000)				All Cereals (000)			
	5-year Average	2011/12	2012/13	% Change	5-year Average	2011/12	2012/13	% Change
South Africa	12 600	12 468	12 115	-2	14 725	14 548	14 240	-2
Other SADC	14 100	14 535	15 507	7	17 842	18 012	19 491	8
TOTAL	**26 700**	**27 003**	**27 622**	**2**	**32 567**	**32 560**	**33 730**	**4**
Malawi	3 497	3 624	3 680	2	3 710	3 838	3 928	2
Mozambique	1 776	1 178	1 776	51	2 371	1 458	2 371	63
Zambia	2 401	2 853	2 533	-11	2 699	3 197	2 862	-10
Zimbabwe	1 092	968	800	-17	1 307	1 123	949	-16

Source *SADC National Early Warning Units and Central Statistics Offices*
[1] Excludes South Africa, DRC, and Madagascar.
[2] Mozambique – Based on qualitative assessments by MINAG/DNSA/DCAP and FEWS NET

Tanzania aims for regional food basket

THE UNITED Republic of Tanzania aims to turn 350,000 hectares into productive farmland to produce food crops for both domestic and regional use. President Jakaya Kikwete said the government has created the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) as a focal point for the transformation of agriculture in the country.

Tanzania has more than 44 million hectares of arable land with climatic conditions that are favourable for a variety of crops. Only six million hectares are currently being used.

"This corridor is well endowed with land, good weather and water. We want to increase the production of rice, maize, sugar, fruits, vegetables, pulses, cut flowers and livestock keeping," he said. *East African Business Week*

SADC woos investors for its infrastructure programme

SADC WILL take its multi-billion-dollar infrastructure development plan to potential funders when the region hosts an investment conference at the end of June in Mozambique.

The conference, scheduled for Maputo from 27-28 June, is expected to bring together SADC heads of state and government, ministers responsible for Infrastructure, international cooperating partners, prospective investors including multilateral financial institutions such as the African Development Bank and World Bank, as well as representatives of the African Union.

SADC leaders expected to attend the conference are the current chair, President Armando Guebuza of Mozambique, deputy SADC chair and Malawian President Joyce Banda, Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos, and President Jacob Zuma of South Africa.

Guebuza is expected to deliver a keynote address before delegates hold a high-level roundtable discussion on various thematic issues including investment opportunities in the SADC region based on the master plan, participation by the private sector and development finance institutions, the transport corridor concept and border post operations as well as the streamlining of gender issues in infrastructure projects.

Another topical issue to be discussed at the conference will be the inclusion of island states such as the Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles in the SADC regional infrastructure development through specific projects targeting these countries.

"SADC needs to be at the forefront of the development of the blue economy, and it is only through investments in maritime networks that we will truly be able to boost trade and development to its full potential in this region," said Seychelles Foreign Affairs Minister, Jean-Paul Adam.

The conference will seek funding for a total of 418 infrastructure projects identified by SADC for development by 2027 in the six priority areas of energy, transport, telecommunications, tourism, meteorology and water.

"The purpose of the SADC Infrastructure Conference is to lure potential investors into the rolling-out of the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan Vision 2027, a 15-year blueprint that will guide the implementation of cross-border infrastructure projects between 2013 and 2027," the SADC Secretariat said in a statement.

The SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan was approved by the Heads of State and Government at their 32nd Ordinary Summit in August 2012 in Maputo, Mozambique.

So far, priority infrastructure projects at a cost of about US$500 billion have been identified and will be showcased at the Maputo conference to mobilise resources for their implementation.

The regional infrastructure master plan is expected to guide implementation of coordinated, integrated, efficient, transboundary infrastructure network in the six priority areas.

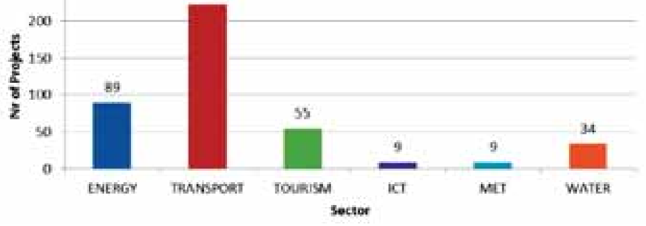
For example, the target for the energy sector is to address the four key areas of energy security, improving access to modern energy services, tapping the abundant energy resources in the continent and up-scaling financial investment whilst enhancing environmental sustainability.

Regarding the water sector, the plan prioritises strengthening institutions, preparation of bankable strategic water infrastructure development projects, increased water storage to prepare for resilience against climate change, increasing access to safe drinking water; and enhancing sanitation services for SADC citizens.

With respect to the sub-sectors of road, rail, ports, inland waterways and air transport networks, the transport sector plan focuses on effective regulation of transport services, liberalization of transport markets, development of corridors and facilitation of cross-border movement, construction of missing regional transport links, and harmonization of road safety data systems. r

SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan Projects per Sector

Graph showing projects in the SADC RIDMP database per sector
Total 418 projects



Southern Africa to harmonize railway standards

SOUTHERN AFRICA is planning to harmonize its railway services by setting a regional railway common standard to improve the transportation of goods and passengers across Member States.

The Southern Africa Railway Association (SARA) said harmonized transportation will promote the smooth movement of goods and passengers, particularly from Dar es Salaam in the United Republic of Tanzania using the Tanzania-Zambia Railway (TAZARA) to the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

TAZARA deputy managing director, Damas Ndumbaro, said a common railway gauge will improve railway interconnectivity in southern Africa.

At present, some rail lines use different gauges, affecting the smooth movement of goods and services across Member States.

"It is our hope that after all the recommendations have been passed by SARA, they will then be forwarded to the SADC Heads of State and Government for approval," Ndumbaro said at a recent SARA meeting held in Dar es Salaam.

The initiative to harmonize railway service standards is in line with the SADC Protocol on Transport that requires Member States to integrate their railway services and establish corridor management groups with the objective of providing seamless, predictable, efficient and cost-effective rail transport for the SADC economy. r

Towards the sustainable use of wate

SADC MINISTERS responsible for the Water Sector met in Luanda on 30 May, hosted by the Angolan Minister of Energy and Water, João Baptista Borges.

Borges emphasized the importance of cooperation in the management and development of water resources for the SADC region to realize regional economic integration and poverty alleviation, noting that his government was happy to host the meeting at a time when the country is rehabilitating various infrastructure.

The Ministers met to review progress on implementation of the third phase of the Regional Strategic Action Plan on Integrated Water Resources Management and Development (RSAP III) 2011-2015, which is the framework to achieve the sustainable development of water resources through the development of water infrastructure on the basis of sound water management and governance.

The management of water resources in SADC is based on the management of 15 shared watercourses, and the ministers reviewed the status of implementation of projects in various river basins including the Okavango, Limpopo, Orange-Senqu, Buzi, Save, Ruvuma, Zambezi, Kunene, Cuvelai, Incomati/Maputo and Pungwe, commending the state parties of the basins for progress in implementation of plans and projects.

The Ministers noted progress especially in setting up and commissioning of pilot projects for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Member States that share the Orange-Senqu, Limpopo, Buzi, Save and Ruvuma river basins.

On the overall RSAP III implementation, the Ministers noted that remarkable progress was registered under Water Governance with the establishment of the Zambezi Water Commission (ZAMCOM) and Limpopo Water Commission (LIMCOM) organs.

The Ministers noted the establishment of the Regional Water and Sanitation Fund by the SADC Secretariat to facilitate implementation of priority regional and cross-border water infrastructure projects included in the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan and urged Member States to utilize the funds accordingly.

The SADC Secretariat delegation was headed by Freddie Motlhatlhedi, the Senior Programme Officer for Energy in the Directorate of Infrastructure and Services, who highlighted progress made by the Water Sector in implementing the RSAP III in the areas of water governance, infrastructure and management.

He said that river basin institutions are being established and strengthened, and priority water infrastructure development programmes are nearing completion, adding that the SADC needs a Water Sector Plan that mainstreams gender issues and is responsive to the needs of the people.

The Ministers noted the commendable work performed by the staff from the SADC Secretariat and urged them to continue with the same spirit.

SADC water ministers approved priority activities for the financial year 2014/15 as the basis for development of the Sector's annual plan and budget, and directed that implementation should take cognizance of the recommendations of the Mid-Term Review of the Regional Indicative Strategic Plan (RISDP) currently underway.

The RISDP is a 15-year plan for regional integration and development approved by SADC Member States in 2003 and implemented in five-year phases that commenced in 2005.

The Ministers noted that the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan 2013-2027 was approved by Summit in August 2012 and urged Member States to facilitate the implementation of the strategic water infrastructure projects in the master plan.

The water sector is one of the six critical sectors in the master plan, with a total of 34 projects to be implemented.

On the SADC Hydrological Cycle Observing System, the ministers stressed that Member States have "the responsibility to maintain the SADC HYCOS stations as an integral part of their national hydrological network by ensuring that adequate budget is made available to operate the equipment."

This is a regional component of a World Meteorological Organisation programme to provide management tools for sustainable and cost-effective water resources development, management and environmental protection.

The meeting was attended by 10 SADC Member States, with the exception of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mauritius and Seychelles. Madagascar is suspended from SADC. *www.sadc.int* r

ZAMCOM Council of Ministers constituted

THE ZAMCOM Council of Ministers was constituted and held its first meeting on 29 May in Luanda, chaired by Angola, and agreed that Zimbabwe should host the permanent Secretariat of the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM).

ZAMCOM is a river basin organization set up by countries that share the Zambezi river basin to promote the equitable and reasonable utilization of the water resources of the Zambezi watercourse.

Zambia, the only country that has not yet signed the ZAMCOM Agreement, told the meeting that it is ready to append its signature and accede to the agreement. The other seven basin states have signed the agreement, although Malawi has not yet ratified.

The Zambezi basin stretches across part of eight SADC Member States – Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. r

r resources

Focus on the Zambezi River Basin

ZAMCOM launches logo

ZAMCOM

ZAMBEZI WATERCOURSE COMMISSION

THE ZAMBEZI Watercourse Commission launched its logo in Luanda, Angola, at an event attended by SADC Water Ministers, including those of the newly constituted ZAMCOM Council of Ministers.

The logo outline represents a traditional clay pot, a vessel that signifies African heritage and the spirit of sharing.

The concept of the pot denotes a basin from a typical African perspective, as a container used for various community purposes. The logo, shaped in that manner, thus befits the multi-purpose use of the Zambezi river basin among the riparian states.

The contentsof the pot signify the essence of contemporary transboundary management driven by multi-stakeholders.

The water outflow from the vessel illustrates the common shared resource that the Riparian States aspire to manage equitably.

The droplet also indicates the fullness of the Zambezi river basin, with the water portraying the abundant occurrence of the resource which, if well managed, would continue filling up the pot to ensure a sustainable availability to citizens and the environment.

The black colour represents the African continent; blue is for water; green represents the vegetation and environment; and shade of brown represent the basin's geographical diversity.

Zambezi Environment Outlook

ZAMBEZI BASIN states have commenced a process to produce a Zambezi Environment Outlook that is expected to provide an integrated analysis of the environment, water resources and socio-economic issues in the basin, and introduce new and emerging issues.

Experts from the eight countries that share the basin met in Windhoek, Namibia, in mid-May for a consultative conference to discuss the content of the next Outlook report, following the widely acknowledged State of Environment Zambezi Basin 2000 published in English and Portuguese.

This was the first environmental assessment of a single ecosystem in southern Africa.

Officially opening the conference, the Namibian Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, John Mutorwa, said climate change and variability have brought drastic changes to the environment in the Zambezi River basin during the past decade.

"We, thus, need to urgently find appropriate strategies, individually and collectively, to sustain and protect these resources so that they continue to meet the current needs as well as those of generations to come," Mutorwa said.

The consultative conference agreed on the outline of the report to be published in 2015, including chapters on water resources; land and agriculture; biodiversity and forests; climate change and variability; energy and infrastructure; urbanization and human settlements; tourism; and industrial development.

The report will contain possible scenarios for the Zambezi basin environment, projecting possible future trends and impact on resources, and possible interventions.

The Executive Secretary of the Interim Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), Michael Mutale, said, "This is a momentous occasion since it is the beginning of a consultative process that will lead to the production of a report that will at the end of the day be owned by all."

Stretching across part of eight SADC Member States, the basin is a source of livelihood for many of the people in those countries who depend on basin for socio-economic activities ranging from agriculture and forestry, mining, to conservation and tourism.

Human pressure on natural resources coupled with climate change has resulted in inevitable impact in the basin, affecting socio-economic development.

The conference was organized by the I. Musokotwane Environment Resource Centre for Southern Africa (IMERCSA), which is the environment institute of the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC). The Zambezi Environment Outlook is an initiative of the ZAMCOM and the SADC Water Division, with support from GIZ, Australian Aid and UK Aid.

The Zambezi River Basin Atlas of the Changing Environment

***THE ZAMBEZI** River Basin Atlas of the Changing Environment* – the first of its kind in southern Africa – was launched in Luanda at the meeting of SADC ministers responsible for water.

Speaking at the launch, the Director General in the Angolan Ministry of Energy and Water, Manual Quintino, said decision-makers and other stakeholders in the Zambezi basin states will find the Atlas useful in helping them to craft and develop policies that are sustainable and protect ecosystem services.

"The production of the Atlas is based on the principle that informed action is rooted in the use of sound knowledge," he said.

The Atlas uses satellite images, high resolution photographs, illustrative text and graphics to present various socio-economic issues in the Zambezi basin, and provides striking evidence that can be used as a basis for intervention at local, national, regional and basin levels.

Satellite images show that the basin has undergone major environmental changes in the past 20 years, including land degradation, loss of forests, expansion of urban and mining areas as well as the spread of alien plant species.

The Atlas is a collaborative initiative produced for the SADC Water Division, the Interim Secretariat of the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) and Zambezi River basin stakeholders by the I. Musokotwane Environment Resource Centre for Southern Africa (IMERCSA), which is the environment institute of the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), and UNEP GRID-Arendal.

SADC Renewable Energy S

Key to ensuring sustainable ener

by Kizito Sikuka

SOUTHERN AFRICA has the potential to achieve universal access to modern energy services if the region puts in place a sound and vibrant strategy to properly harness its renewable energy resources.

The SADC Energy Ministers meeting in Maseru, Lesotho, said the development of a renewable energy strategy will ensure that the SADC region is able to effectively manage and exploit its abundant natural resources.

Member states should thus advance the process of finalizing the SADC Renewable Energy Strategy and Action Plan (RESAP) that was discussed a few years ago.

"We note that renewable energy is an integral part of the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All Initiative and urge member states, assisted by the SADC Secretariat, to mobilize resources to finalize the SADC Renewable Energy Strategy and Action," the energy ministers said in a statement released after their meeting.

The objective of RESAP, initiated by the SADC secretariat with the government of Finland, is to explore options to increase the use of renewable energy in southern Africa, and to ensure that the regional energy strategy is aligned with global trends towards clean and alternative energy sources.

Renewable energy sources, including solar, hydro and wind, are less polluting to the environment compared to fossil fuels such as coal.

Furthermore, fossil fuels will not last forever, hence the need for southern Africa to prepare for the future and intensify efforts to harness its huge renewable energy resources.

SADC has an abundance of renewable energy sources, which if fully harnessed, will see the region being able to meet most of its energy needs.

For example, the overall hydropower potential in SADC countries is estimated at about 1,080 terawatt hours per year (TWh / year) but capacity being utiliz-ed at present is just under 31 TWh / year. A terawatt is equal to one million megawatts.

According to the SADC Secretariat, most countries have harnessed only a small fraction of their hydropower resources, and less than three percent of the total regional potential has been harnessed.

With regard to geothermal, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Environment Facility estimate that about 4,000MW of electricity is available along the Rift Valley in the United Republic of Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique.

An increase in the uptake of renewable energy would ensure that SADC is able to achieve a sustainable renewable energy mix in the regional energy grid.

The Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) – which coordinates the planning, generation and transmission of electricity on behalf of member state utilities in SADC – expects to achieve a renewable energy mix in the regional energy grid of at least 32 percent of the total energy produced by 2020, which should rise to 35 percent by 2030.

Southern Africa currently generates about 74 percent of its electricity from coal-powered stations. Except for hydropower that accounts for about 20 percent of SADC's total energy generation, other renewables such as wind and solar are not considered as major contributors to the region's electricity needs.

The SADC Energy Ministers urged member states and the Secretariat to complete a feasibility study of establishing a centre of excellence for renewable energy and energy efficiency in the region.

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

The ministers resolved to fast track implementation of all interconnector and regional transmission projects to relieve congestion on the regional grid to facilitate electricity trading.

These projects include the Zimbabwe-Zambia-Botswana-Namibia (ZiZaBoNa) transmission project, and the Mozambique / Malawi Interconnector.

Others are the Zambia / Tanzania / Kenya and the Namibia / Angola interconnectors.

The ministers noted that a total of 11 of the 15 SADC countries have introduced regulatory bodies in the form of energy or electricity regulatory agencies while the remaining member states are at different stages of the process.

The meeting also hailed the approval of the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP), saying it will help to attract key investment into the energy sector, which is one of the six priority areas of the plan.

The Energy Sector Plan seeks to address four key energy security areas – improving access to modern energy services, tapping the abundant energy resources, increasing financial investment, and enhancing environmental sustainability.

The 33rd SADC Energy Ministers meeting was attended by the acting Prime Minister of Lesotho, Thesele Maseribane, the SADC Director of infrastructure and services, Remigious Makumbe, and other energy experts from the region. *sardc.net* r

trategy and Action Plan

gy for all

Malawi, Mozambique sign power interconnection agreement

MALAWI AND Mozambique have signed a power interconnection agreement to enable Malawi to draw electricity from the massive Cahora Bassa dam in Mozambique.

Under the agreement, signed by Mozambican President Armando Guebuza and Malawian President Joyce Banda, the interconnection will be done in two phases.

The first phase will involve constructing system and transmitters that will take electricity from Matambo Substation in Tete, Mozambique, to Phombeya in Balaka, Malawi. The second and last phase will include systems to extend the connection back to Nampula and Nacala provinces in Mozambique through Malawi.

Mozambique is expected to finance the 200 km power connection from Tete to Balaka while Malawi will finance the 800 km extension of the connection from Balaka to Nacala. r

Six firms shortlisted for Batoka power project

THE ZAMBEZI River Authority has shortlisted six international companies for the construction of the Batoka Gorge hydropower station.

The ZRA, a statutory body owned jointly by Zambia and Zimbabwe and responsible for managing the Zambezi River, invited applications in December 2012 from experienced companies to bid for the construction of the hydropower station. The deadline for bids was 8 February this year.

"Initially, the authority shortlisted 26 international investors, but they have been whittled down to six," said Patson Mbiriri, permanent secretary in the Zimbabwean Ministry of Energy and Power Development, during the Zimbabwe-South Africa Investment and Trade Conference held in April.

Mbiriri said the contract would be awarded on a Build, Operate and Transfer basis but gave no timeframe for the awarding the contract.

Located on the Zambezi River, about 54 km downstream of Victoria Falls between Zambia and Zimbabwe, the proposed power station is expected to produce up to 1,600 megawatts (MW), which would make a significant contribution towards meeting energy needs in both countries and the SADC region.

Zambia and Zimbabwe will share the power equally, but as the two countries are members of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), much of the electricity would be fed into the regional power grid.

This would allow the installed capacity at the planned station to be realized across the SADC region. All mainland SADC Member States with the exception of Angola, Malawi and Tanzania, are interconnected through SAPP. r

Region targets energy adequacy by 2017

SADC HAS revised to 2017 the target for eradication of an electricity deficit that has affected the region since 2007.

SADC energy ministers meeting in Lesotho in May noted that about 17,000 megawatts (MW) of new generation is expected to be commissioned between 2013 and 2016.

At least three percent of the planned generation capacity between 2013 and 2016 should be renewable energy from wind and solar.

The ministers expressed confidence that the region will have sufficient generation capacity reserves after 2016.

They noted that the region plans to commission some 2,000MW of power in 2013 and "that it will have sufficient generation capacity reserves after 2016 if all projects are commissioned as planned, while energy adequacy will be achieved by 2017."

The previous energy adequacy target was 2014 but progress has been hampered by the slow implementation of priority energy projects, mainly due to lack of funds.

The ministers resolved to provide necessary government support to accelerate project implementation and press for completion of electricity projects according to the planned timelines to ensure that the stated targets are met.

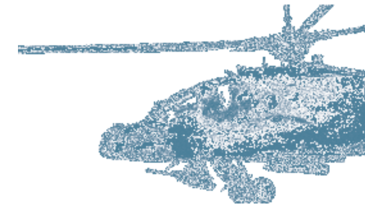
On electricity tariffs, the ministers said the region will not be able to comply with the decision of the SADC Council of Ministers to reach full cost recovery tariffs by the end of 2013.

They "noted that most Member States have embarked on a process to do so and urged Member States that have not taken the necessary steps towards cost recovery tariffs to do so as soon as possible and develop a roadmap by November 2013," the ministers said. r

Committed Generation Capacity (MW)

Country	2013	2014	2015	2016	TOTAL
Angola	–	645	550	2 415	3 610
Botswana	600	–	–	300	900
DRC	55	–	580	–	635
Lesotho	–	25	40	110	175
Malawi	64	–	–	–	64
Mozambique	–	150	300	300	750
Namibia	60	--	–	–	60
South Africa	923	3 105	2 543	1 322	7 893
Swaziland	–	–	–	–	–
Tanzania	60	160	500	1 110	1 830
Zambia	230	315	600	164	1 309
Zimbabwe	–	300	30	300	630
TOTAL	**1 992**	**4 700**	**5 143**	**6 021**	**17 856**

Source Southern African Power Pool



Tanzania deploys troops for DRC intervention brigade

THE UNITED Republic of Tanzania was one of the first countries to contribute soldiers to the United Nations intervention brigade to neutralize armed groups in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

A contingent of Tanzanian soldiers arrived in the eastern DRC city of Goma in May as part of the intervention brigade authorized by the United Nations to help to return stability this volatile part of the country.

In March the Security Council authorized the deployment of an intervention brigade within the existing UN Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) to carry out targeted offensive operations, with or without the Congolese national army, against armed groups that threaten peace in eastern DRC.

The brigade – which will be based in North Kivu province and total 3,069 military personnel – is tasked with neutralizing the armed groups, reducing the threat posed to State authority and civilian security, creating space for stabilization activities.

The UN brigade, commanded by General James Mwakibolwa of Tanzania, is expected to take all necessary measures to protect civilians and monitor implementation of the arms embargo established through various resolutions.

Eight other SADC Member States have pledged personnel to be deployed in DRC.These are Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The DRC slid into political turmoil last year when anti-government rebels calling themselves the March 23 (M23) Movement invaded and captured the city of Goma, causing the displacement of people and loss of lives and property.

The rebels have since threatened to march on Kinshasa, the capital of the vast, mineral-rich country.

SADC has welcomed the adoption of the UN Security Council resolution formalising the launch of intervention brigade in eastern DRC.

"Summit welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2098 of 28 March 2013 which provides the mandate for the deployment of the Intervention Brigade in the Eastern DRC under the auspices of MONUSCO," SADC leaders said following an Extraordinary Summit held on the sidelines of the 21st African Union summit in Ethiopia in May.

The leaders received a progress report on the deployment of the intervention brigade in eastern DRC and commended Member States that have pledged to contribute troops.

SADC leaders meeting at Summit in August 2012 noted that the disturbance in DRC is being perpetrated by rebel groups with assistance of Rwanda and urged that country to cease immediately its interference "that constitutes a threat to peace and stability, not only of the DRC, but also of the SADC region."

AU rapid reaction force approved

THE AFRICAN Union has approved the creation of a military rapid-reaction force to deal with coups, rebellions or wars in a move intended to reduce the continent's reliance on foreign funds and troops for its defence.

The African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) will be set up as an interim measure pending the establishment of an African Standby Force (ASF), expected to be operational by 2015.

The force, proposed by South African President Jacob Zuma, was one of the key outcomes of the 21st Ordinary Session of the AU held in Ethiopia in May.

"The Assembly recalled the challenges encountered in the operationalization of the African Standby Force and its Rapid Deployment Capability and decided in principle to immediately establish, as a transitional arrangement and pending the full operationalization of the ASF and its RDC, an African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises, to provide the AU with a flexible and robust force," reads part of the communiqué from the AU summit.

The initiative will provide African countries with the flexibility to take concrete measures to address challenges in the interim while awaiting the operationalising of the African Standby Force.

The proposal is in response to the ongoing challenges of peace and security that undermine democratically elected governments.

The AU does not have such an immediate response mechanism at present as the process of implementing the African Peace and Security architecture is ongoing.

The AU Assembly decision said the rapid response force would be formed from voluntary contributions of troops, funds and equipment by member states.

According to the AU Peace and Security Commissioner, Ramtane Lamamra, the individual countries supplying troops and equipment would be responsible for paying for the deployment.

"We are not going to take it from the AU budget. We are not going to ask for partners to fund these operations," he said.

South Africa, Uganda and Ethiopia pledged to contribute towards the force while several other countries volunteered support.

The size of the ACIRC will depend upon the contributions.




"Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance"

THE 21ST Ordinary Session of the African Union met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the historic date of the founding of the Organisation of African Unity 50 years ago, to deliberate on current challenges and achievements.

With the theme of "Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance", the Heads of State and Government made a commitment to strengthen efforts to deepen integration and promote socio-economic development.

The leaders pledged to accelerate the development of infrastructure, as a critical component of the African integration and industrialization agenda, and to develop rural economies. They also agreed that the continent should take ownership of, use and develop natural resources for the benefit of the people.

On advancing African identity and Renaissance, Summit pledged to integrate the principles of pan-Africanism "in all our policies and initiatives" and to "promote and harmonize the teaching of African history, values and Pan-Africanism in all schools and educational institutions."

African countries are engaged global negotiations to reconstruct world affairs to ensure a more equitable system, and the leaders pledged to act collectively to promote "our common interests and positions on the international arena."

The AU Summit also agreed to ensure financial sustainability and reduce dependency on external resources by creating a mechanism to ensure that the AU Commission is "provided with adequate and predictable resources to enable it to fund its programmes."

This was the recommended by the report of a High-Level Panel chaired by former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, which was approved by Summit. The report proposes to consider increasing contributions by Member States and setting up a voluntary contribution fund open to the private sector.

The Summit was held on 25-27 May to commemorate the founding of the OAU on 25 May 1963, now Africa Day. *(see page 16)*

The OAU was established to support the liberation of the continent from colonialism and apartheid, a feat which was achieved by 1994. Its successor, the African Union was established in 2002 to focus on economic development and integration.

Key decisions of the AU Summit 2013

- Speedily implement the Continental Free Trade Area to promote the smooth movement of goods, services and people across the continent;
- Harmonize the teaching of African history, values and pan-Africanism in all schools and educational institutions;
- Take ownership of, use and develop our natural resources for the benefit of our people;
- Accelerate Africa's infrastructure development, and develop our rural economies;
- Continue to speak with one voice and act collectively to promote our common interests in the international arena;
- Take ownership of African issues and provide African solutions to African problems;
- Address emerging sources of conflict to promote peace and stability on the continent.

A more positive approach as Africa prepares for post-2015 development agenda

by Kizito Sikuka

AN AFRICAN common position on the post-2015 global development agenda will be developed to ensure that the continent's aspirations are included.

The post-2015 development agenda builds on the momentum generated by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which target 2015 for completion.

Consultations among governments, civil society and private sector are ongoing on the post-2015 agenda, which is expected to reflect new development challenges and emerging issues such as climate change.

The general recommendation from Africa is that the post-2015 development agenda should consider the initial conditions of countries, and recognize national efforts towards meeting the MDGs, rather than measuring how far they fall short.

At their 21st Ordinary Session of the African Union Summit, African leaders agreed to speak with a "one voice" and have tasked the AU Commission to engage member states with a view to developing the African Common Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda "for consideration during the next Summit to be held in January 2014."

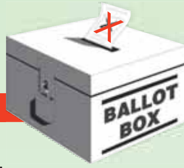
The leaders The AU Commission is expected to set up a technical working group to translate the African priorities for the post-2015 agenda into goals, targets and specific indicators for inclusion in the process towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The leaders established a High-Level Committee of Heads of State and Government to coordinate the activities of members states, and to build regional and inter-continental alliances in this regard.

The Committee, headed by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia, is tasked to report annually on the implementation of the new development agenda by member states.

On the MDGs, the leaders noted some progress towards attaining the goals by 2015, an assessment supported by a recent report saying that Africa is one of the leaders in its efforts to implement the goals. However, due to a variety of factors, including finance and conflict, some countries are still not on track to meet the desired targets, with only two years to go.

Eight MDGs were adopted in 2000 by the global community, ranging from education, health, poverty, and the environment, and seeking to reduce poverty, hunger, disease, maternal and child deaths and other ills by 2015.



Zimbabwe prepares to hold harmonized elections

PRESIDENT ROBERT Mugabe has signed the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (Number 20) Bill into law, paving the way for the holding of harmonized elections this year.

The new Constitution was overwhelmingly approved in a referendum in March 2013 to replace the 1979 Lancaster House Constitution that had been amended 19 times.

Following the historic passing into law of the new Constitution, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) has begun updating its voter registration and preparations for voter education.

The ZEC chairperson, Justice Rita Makarau, said voter registration would take place in every ward and voter educators would be deployed ahead of the registration exercise.

The eagerly awaited elections have been called for 31 July, following a Constitutional Court ruling that elections must be held by that date. If there is no outright winner of the presidential election, a run-off will be held on 11 September.

The nomination court will sit on 28 June to receive nomination papers from prospective candidates.

Mugabe also gazetted amendments to the Electoral Act in line with the new Constitution.

Election observers from the African Union have already been deployed in the country.

A SADC Extraordinary Summit held in Maputo, Mozambique in June has asked the Zimbabwean government to apply to the Constitutional Court for a short extension beyond 31 July of the date for holding the harmonized elections, following concerns by some parties that there is not enough time to implement outstanding issues before the poll date.

The harmonized elections include presidential, parliamentary and local elections.

Under the new Constitution, the National Assembly comprises 270 members, with 210 elected by secret ballot and 60 women elected by proportional representation – six each from the country's 10 administrative provinces.

The senate will have 80 members elected through proportional representation based on party lists, which lists must alternate women and men candidates on a "zebra" system, starting with a woman.

Executive authority remains vested in the President, who is Head of State and Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces.

"Need for peaceful elections in Madagascar"

SOUTHERN AFRICA has expressed concern over the recent political developments in Madagascar in the run-up to the presidential elections set for July.

Madagascar, which slid into a political turmoil in March 2009 when the then opposition leader Andry Rajoelina seized power from President Marc Ravalomanana, is expected to hold landmark elections this year to give the island nation a fresh start after four years of constitutional crisis.

However, recent developments in the country could once again impact on the political healing process following the refusal of key political players to abide by earlier decisions regarding the forthcoming presidential election.

For example, Rajoelina and Ravalomanana – the two main rivals in the Madagascan political landscape – had initially agreed not to stand in the July presidential elections to prevent any repeat of the turmoil that accompanied the 2009 coup.

Rajoelina has since ignored a request by SADC not to run in the upcoming elections, and filed his nomination papers with the Special Electoral Court.

Ravalomanana has backed his wife, Lalao Ravalomanana, to stand in the forthcoming election.

"Summit has expressed its displeasure on the decision of H.E. Rajoelina to renege on his earlier undertaking not to stand in the forthcoming Presidential election as reflected in the SADC Dar es Salaam Declaration of 16 January 2013," the SADC Troika of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation said in a statement.

Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa in early May, the SADC Troika said it was also disappointed with the unwise decision of Ravalomanana to present his wife as a presidential candidate.

The Troika said the Special Electoral Court should not have endorsed illegitimate candidatures for the forthcoming Presidential elections, as this was in violation of the Malagasy Constitution and the Electoral Law.

"Summit urged H.E. Andry Rajoelina, former President Didier Ratsiraka and Madam Lalao Ravalomanana to consider withdrawing their candidatures to ensure peaceful conduct of elections and stability in Madagascar."

Ratsiraka is a former Malagasy president who was ousted from power by Ravalomanana in a similar method to that used by Rajoelina in 2009.

In a bid to address the situation in Madagascar, SADC has led mediation efforts bringing together the key political leaders to agree on a lasting solution to the challenges facing the island nation. Former Mozambican president Joaquim Chissano is the SADC mediator.

The presidential election in Madagascar is scheduled for 24 July, according to the Independent National Election Commission of the Transition. If there is no outright winner, a run-off has been set for 25 September.

As per tradition, a SADC Election Observer Mission will monitor the elections in Madagascar. The mission will monitor the electoral process in three phases through the pre-referendum, the referendum and the post-referendum period.

After the elections, SADC will release a draft report on how the process was conducted. This is in line with the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections, which encourage member states to promote common political values and systems.

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Events June - August 2013

June 1-3, Japan	**5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development** TICAD is a summit on African development co-organized by the Japanese government, United Nations, World Bank, and the African Union Commission. This year's conference is expected to discuss ways to accelerate African economic growth. Other issues include progress towards meeting the 2015 Millennium Development Goals.
10-14, Kenya	**20th Conference of African Ministers of Industry** The conference will bring together African ministers responsible for industrial development, industrialists, academics, UN agencies and non-governmental organisations to brainstorm on key issues for African industrial development within the post-2015 development context.
18-20, Spain	**Africa Energy Forum 2013** The Forum is the annual meeting place for global energy players and African governments, utilities and regulators to engage in dialogue aimed at collectively driving forward the development of power sector on the continent. It is held in a different European city every year, enabling international investors to meet with Africa's key stakeholders.
18-21, Tanzania	**Ministerial Committee of the Organ** The meeting will deliberate on a number of issues aimed at promoting peace and security 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.
24-25, Botswana	**27th Meeting of Water Strategic Reference Group** The Water Strategy Reference Group is responsible for the thematic coordination of key intervention areas in the SADC water sector. It serves as a forum for coordinating water-related activities in the SADC region to avoid overlaps and achieve maximum synergies and complementarities.
26-28, Mozambique	**SADC Infrastructure Investment Summit** The conference will seek to attract potential investors for the SADC regional infrastructure development programme. This will be followed by presentations in Asia, Europe and the United States for the same purpose.
July 18-19, Mauritius	**5th International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts and Responses** The conference seeks to create an interdisciplinary forum for evidence of climate change, the causes, and eco-systemic and human impacts. It will explore the technological, policy, strategic and social responses to climate change.
August 17-18, Malawi	**SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government** SADC leaders meet to discuss issues aimed at promoting regional integration and development. The summit is preceded by meetings of senior officials and the Council of Ministers.
24-29, Zambia/ Zimbabwe	**20th UNWTO General Assembly** The General Assembly is the supreme organ of the United Nations World Tourism Organization and the most important meeting of senior tourism officials and high-level representatives of the private sector from all over the world. Its ordinary sessions are held every two years. This is the second time that the Assembly will be held in Africa, jointly hosted by Zambia and Zimbabwe at Victoria Falls/Mosi oa Tunya, to promote tourism in SADC.
TBA	**Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum** Scientists from the national meteorological services in SADC Member States meet to review the regional climate outlook. They will use indicators of seasonal rainfall to produce a regional forecast for the 2013/14 rainfall season.

AU@50

When Africa is rising…

THE CELEBRATION of Africa Day this year marked a significant date in the history of the continent.

It was 50 years ago, on 25 May 1963, that the few leaders of independent Africa countries – inspired by the ideals of Pan-Africanism to promote common understanding among the peoples of Africa and foster greater co-operation between African countries in a larger unity transcending ethnic and national differences – signed the Charter establishing the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

The OAU was the predecessor to the African Union (AU), which was inaugurated in Durban, South Africa, in 2002, by the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

The official golden jubilee celebration took place at the AU's smart, new headquarters in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, the same city that hosted the inaugural summit in 1963, giving hope to many African countries which at the time were still battling with colonialism and apartheid.

Interspersed with short messages from current and former African leaders, including Zambia's founding President Dr Kenneth Kaunda, AU Commission Chairperson Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn, the audience was treated to a programme of African traditional performances and cultural items.

Kaunda, who was present at the signing of the OAU Charter in 1963 although his country was not yet independent, animated the cultural evening with a message to the new generation and a song in honour of women that aroused a lot of emotion and determination from the crowd.

He challenged African leaders to emulate the vision of the OAU founding leaders to end the continent's dependence on foreign powers.

AU leaders took time to reflect on the need to refocus on the shared values such as self-reliance.

Desalegn, speaking as the current AU chairperson, said Africans should look forward to "create a continent free from poverty and conflict."

"While our founders met for the formation of the OAU at the dawn of the independence period 50 years ago, it is fitting that we are meeting here today at a time when Africa is rising," Desalegn said.

Celebrations were held in many AU member states under the theme "Pan Africanism and African Renaissance", starting on 25 May and are expected to last for a year.

From musical concerts in Australia, South Africa and the United States to arts exhibitions in Ireland, Angola and Zimbabwe, Africans on the continent and in the Diaspora reflected on the road they have travelled towards securing unity, prosperity and peace.

The AU has identified 12 challenges that will be addressed during the next 12 months.These include priority areas such as education, health, food security, empowerment of women, peace and security, and governance and democracy.

"When we, therefore, talk about African solutions to African problems, it is because we know that we can only permanently silence the guns if we act in solidarity and unity," said Dlamini-Zuma.

Activities are planned for the whole year to celebrate the 50th anniversary, lasting until May 2014. These include musical events, debates, media conferences, and competitions in schools and universities, public opinion surveys, sessions in local and national legislatures to raise awareness about the ideas of Pan-Africanism. r

"WE MUST be able to resolve conflicts that occur on our continent and deal with them amicably where they occur. The continent has made some strides but for Africa to prosper, we have to solve our current problems. You are Africa's hope," former Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda said in an address during commemorations to mark 50 years since the formation of the Organisation of African Unity.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

June – August 2013

1 June	International Children's Day	Angola
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	Independence Day	Seychelles
30 June	Independence Day	DRC
1 July	Sir Seretse Khama Day	Botswana
	Heroes Day	Zambia
2 July	Unity Day	Zambia
6 July	Independence Day	Malawi
7 July	Saba Saba Industry Day	Tanzania
15 July	President's Day	Botswana
16 July	Public Holiday	Botswana
17 July	King's Birthday	Lesotho
22 July	Birthday of late King Sobhuza	Swaziland
1 August	Parents Day	DRC
5 August	Farmers Day	Zambia
7 August	Eid Ul Fitri*	Malawi, Mauritius, Tanzania
8 August	Nane Nane Peasant Day	Tanzania
9 August	National Women's Day	South Africa
12 August	Heroes Day	Zimbabwe
13 August	Defence Forces Day	Zimbabwe
15 August	Assumption Day	Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles
17 August	SADC Day**	All
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