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Harnessing resources for industrialisation SADC talks energy infrastructure investment

by Joseph Ngwawi

SOUTHERN AFRICAN leaders are expected to discuss measures to mobilise resources for developing energy infrastructure as a key enabler for the region's industrialisation thrust as well as discuss other pertinent regional issues when they gather for their annual summit in Swaziland from 30-31 August.

The 36th Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government comes at a time when southern Africa is vigorously pursuing an initiative to industrialize the economies of the 15 Member States.

Industrial development has been identified as one of the main drivers of the integration agenda in southern Africa as the region moves away from an economic path built on consumption and commodity exports onto a sustainable developmental path based on value-addition and beneficiation.

SADC Member States acknowledge that industrial development is central to the diversification of their economies; development of productive capacity; and the creation of employment in order to reduce poverty and set

their economies on a more sustainable growth path.

The challenge facing most countries in the SADC region is to transform their economies from being raw resource-dependent to ones that enjoy beneficiated products and are knowledge-driven, dynamic and diversified.

To address this situation, a special Summit of SADC leaders last year approved the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063 and has since started the process of developing a costed action plan for the strategy.

The strategy and its roadmap aim to allow the region to harness the full potential of its vast and diverse natural resources.

To encourage creation of regional value chains and participation in global processes, the region has identified five priority areas where value chains can be established and for which regional strategies should be developed by 2020.

These are in the areas of agro-processing, minerals beneficiation, consumer goods, capital goods, and services.

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Harnessing resources for industrialisation SADC talks energy infrastructure investment

One of the issues that SADC leaders are expected to discuss when they meet in Mbabane, Swaziland at the end of August is the need to reduce structural impediments to industrialisation.

Running under the theme "Resource Mobilisation for Investment in Sustainable Energy Infrastructure for an Inclusive SADC Industrialisation for the Prosperity of the Region", the 36th SADC Summit is expected to discuss measures to improve power generation capacity and facilitate an increase in the development and use of renewable sources of energy as well as ensure adequate water supply.

The SADC region has faced power shortages since 2007 due to a combination of factors that have contributed to a diminishing generation surplus capacity against increasing growth in demand. The prevailing instability in the sector is compounded by many other factors that include tariff levels that are not cost-reflective and caught between the viability and access conundrum; capacity issues at both national and regional levels; and energy sector reforms that are generally perceived to be moving at a sluggish pace.

Current available operating capacity stands at 46,910MW against demand of 55,093MW, which includes peak demand and suppressed demand as well as reserves. This gives a generation capacity shortfall of more than 8,000MW, which includes a shortfall in reserves for emergencies and system stability.

According to the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP) of 2012, assuming an average economic growth rate of eight percent per annum, the forecast peak load is expected to rise to more than 77,000MW by 2020 and to over 115,000MW in 2030.

With total peak demand plus reserves of more than 55,000MW as of September 2015 (the figure drops to about 52,000MW when only Southern African Power Pool operating member countries are considered), the region will have to invest in new generation capacity of up to 25,000MW by 2020 to meet rising demand.

The precarious electricity supply situation calls for urgent action to promote investment in the energy sector in order to support the industrialisation drive by the region.

The RIDMP's Energy Sector Plan estimates the total cost of additional electricity generation capacity up to 2027 to be in the range of US\$114 billion to US\$233 billion.

Related transmission investment costs to support new generation capacity are estimated at about US\$540 million. This transmission investment does not include planned transmission interconnectors and national backbone lines.

Another key enabler for the industrialisation agenda is investment in the water sector where a number of water supply and sanitation projects are ongoing. These include the Kunene Transboundary Water Supply, the Lesotho Highlands Phase II Project, the Sengwa River Basin Project and the Lomahasha-Namaacha Transboundary Water Supply.

Several investment and financing options are available to the region for funding infrastructure to support its industrialisation.

The conventional source of funding for infrastructure in SADC Member States is public funding in the form of national budgets and this is considered important in delivering the needed energy infrastructure.

Private sector participation in various forms is a feasible method of financing large infrastructure projects. This participation may take different

forms such as Build-Operate-Transfer, Build-Own-Operate, Build-Own-Operate-and-Transfer, or public-private partnerships.

Infrastructure bonds and pension funds are another source that can be mobilised to finance infrastructure projects or leverage more financing from other sources, including from commercial banks or multilateral banks such as the African Development Bank.

International Cooperating Partners have been a major source of financing for "soft" projects such as studies, formulation of policy/regulatory frameworks, planning and capacity-building. Their resources can also be used to leverage financing from banks. Close cooperation with the emerging economies of China, India and Brazil will yield new financial resources.

Following the SADC China Infrastructure Investment Seminar held in Beijing in July 2015, Chinese investors and financiers expressed interest in various SADC infrastructure projects in the areas of power generation, transmission and interconnectors; and water infrastructure development relating to water supply and hydro-generation as well as irrigation and related projects.

Other issues to be discussed during the 36th SADC Summit include the food security situation in the region. Southern Africa experienced a devastating drought episode associated with the 2015/16 El Nino event that led to drier-than-normal conditions.

This has resulted in a significant reduction in agricultural production in most Member States, particularly since 2015/16 was the second successive season where drought was experienced in many parts of the region.

The regional vulnerability assessment indicates that over

40 million people within SADC will require humanitarian assistance.

To address these challenges, a Regional Logistics Team was established at the SADC Secretariat in April to coordinate a regional response.

The SADC Secretariat with the support from United Nations agencies issued a regional humanitarian appeal, launched by SADC Chairperson, President Seretse Khama Ian Khama of Botswana, on 26 July.

The Summit is also expected to discuss a costed Regional Agriculture Investment Plan (2017-2022) that was approved by the Ministers Responsible for Agriculture and Food Security in Swaziland in July.

The investment plan is part of measures to implement the Regional Agriculture Policy and aims to promote sustainable agricultural production, productivity and competitiveness; improve regional and international trade and access to markets of agricultural products; and reduce social and economic vulnerability of the region's population in the context of food and nutrition security and the changing economic and climatic environment.

Another issue for Council and Summit will be the review of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development to align it to global processes and emerging issues, following recommendations by Ministers responsible for Gender and Women Affairs who met in Gaborone, Botswana in June.

The security situation in the region will also be discussed during the Summit, mainly the political challenges in the Kingdom of Lesotho. □



Regional investment policy framework on the cards

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

has been made to develop a regional investment policy framework aimed at strengthening the investment environment in southern Africa.

According to the SADC Secretariat, development of the Investment Policy Framework (IPF) was finalised and cleared by the Sub-Committee on Investment in February and approved by the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration in June.

The IPF will now be submitted for consideration by the Council of Ministers and approval by the 36th SADC Summit set for late August in Mbabane, the Kingdom of Swaziland.

Development of the IPF has been ongoing for some time and focuses on the four pillars of –

- ❖ Tax incentives;
- ❖ Infrastructure investment;

- ❖ Foreign direct investment restrictions; and,
- ❖ Legal protection.

The IPF is being developed under the Regional Economic Integration Support Programme funded by the European Union.

The SADC Secretariat has facilitated the development process of the IPF, which has included the following activities:

- Taking stock of Member State investment policy programmes using diagnostic questionnaires;
- Member State input through questionnaire responses and the drafting of analytical reports that offered practical recommendations for implementation; and
- Development of common guidelines, together with analytical reports, on the four identified pillars.

Development of the IPF is one of the recommendations of the SADC Protocol on Finance and Investment approved by SADC leaders during their 26th Summit held in Lesotho in 2006.

The protocol aims to harmonize financial and investment policies of Member States and ensure that changes in policies in one country do not affect other countries.

Key elements of the protocol include the creation of a favourable investment climate within SADC; attainment of macroeconomic stability and convergence; co-operation in taxation matters; and coordination and cooperation on exchange control policies.

The protocol provides for the setting up of a peer review panel, which will act as a regional macroeconomic

monitoring and surveillance body. The panel will comprise the ministers of finance from Member States as well as all governors of central banks from the region.

The SADC region has huge investment opportunities ranging from sectors such as mining and tourism to energy infrastructure development and agriculture.

The mineral sector alone contributes about 55 percent of the world's diamond production while the platinum group of metals contributes more than 70 percent of global output.

The region also has an abundance of arable land and vast water watercourses such as the Congo and Zambezi, with the Inga Dam situated on the Congo River, and Kariba and Cahora Bassa on the Zambezi. □

A call for action on wildlife poaching

SADC MEMBER States have agreed to step up efforts to domesticate and implement various regional instruments targeted at curbing wildlife poaching.

A SADC Ministerial Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade held in Gaborone, Botswana in July agreed that governments should intensify efforts to implement the commitments they made under the Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement as well as various policies, programmes and strategies on curbing wildlife poaching.

The protocol, which was signed in August 1999 but entered into force in November 2003, commits Member States to institute measures to protect wildlife from poachers.

Other regional instruments include the SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy developed in November 2015, which aims to improve dialogue among relevant national, regional and international stakeholders to detect poaching and illegal wildlife trade.

The strategy also calls for the establishment of a Regional Anti-Poaching Monitoring Centre to monitor poaching and illegal wildlife trade activities in SADC.

SADC efforts to combat poaching of wildlife are in line with international treaties such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

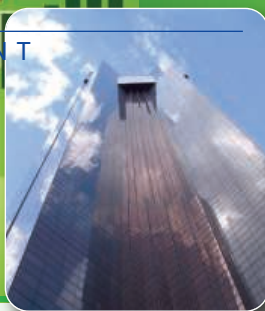
CITES is an international agreement that aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. The 17th CITES is scheduled for 24 September-5 October in Johannesburg, South Africa.

One of the topical issues at the 17th CITES is the need to lift an international ban on trade in ivory, which has seriously eroded the revenue from animal conservation in most countries, and led to an increase in poaching as communities no longer benefit from ivory trade proceeds.

The special SADC Ministerial Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade held on 6 July was one of the three workshops convened by SADC to find innovative ways of managing the competing environmental, social and economic dimensions of development in southern Africa.

A similar meeting on food security and poverty eradication was convened in May, while another was held in June, on water and energy. □





Regional payment system reaches another milestone

SOUTHERN AFRICA'S cross-border payment system has achieved another milestone after transactions surpassed the R2 trillion mark three years after the launch of the platform.

According to the SADC Secretariat, the volume of transactions on the SADC Integrated Regional Electronic Settlement System (SIRESS) reached about R2.1 trillion in April 2016, representing US\$137.7 billion or €120.8 billion at the going exchange rates at that time.

At its inception in July 2013, trade on the SIRESS platform was R10.2 billion, before rising to R87.6 billion in December 2014 and R1 trillion by April 2015. The increase highlights confidence in the regional payment system.

SIRESS is an electronic payment system developed by SADC in 2013 to settle regional transactions among banks in Member States.

The system, which is aimed at ensuring a secure and harmonised settlement of cross-border payment transactions, now covers nine countries, six central banks and 67 commercial banks, with one retail clearing operator participating.

The countries participating are Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Malawi, Mauritius, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

SIRESS was first piloted in four countries – Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland – before the other five countries joined.

The SIRESS project implementation team is working with SADC Banking Association to bring the remaining six

Member States on board.

Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique and Seychelles have indicated their willingness to be part of SIRESS by the end of the year.

Work on the currency of settlement on the basis of a multi-currency regime as well as issues relating to ownership, operations and hosting of the system is ongoing.

At present the settlement currency is the South African Rand, and the payment system is housed at the South African Reserve Bank. However, as the system grows to include other countries, a permanent location will soon be identified.

The payment system has since its inception significantly improved the ease of doing business in SADC. Where

transactions previously took two to three days to clear, they are now cleared within 24 hours and fees previously paid to non-SADC clearing banks are saved.

The main benefits of the system are its efficiency and the reduction in costs because previously the transactions would go through correspondent banks that were usually located outside the region.

Therefore, the cutting out of intermediaries – often United States or European correspondent banks – means that money stays in the region and transactions take less time to process.

The establishment of the SIRESS has thus facilitated the cross-border transactions that are essential for boosting intra-regional trade among the SADC Member States.

The development of the SIRESS is in line with the SADC Protocol on Finance and Investment, which aims to improve the regional investment climate through enhanced cooperation among Member States on payment, clearing and settlement systems to facilitate economic integration.

SADC Integrated Regional Electronic Settlement System (SIRESS) is a SADC Success Story □



SADC, AfDB cooperation to focus on industrialisation

ECONOMIC GROWTH in southern Africa is expected to increase by an average of 3.5 percent in 2016, according to the SADC Secretariat.

This growth is similar to that recorded in 2015, and none of the 15 SADC Member States is expected to achieve the regional target of seven percent growth in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) this year.

Only Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania are expected to attain economic growth close to the regional target.

Total investment the region is expected to record a slight improvement from 21.5 percent of GDP in 2015 to 22.7 per-

cent of GDP in 2016, with only Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles and Tanzania forecast to register total investments above 30 percent of GDP.

Average inflation is projected to increase to 7.5 percent in 2016 compared to 5.7 percent last year. All Member States, except for Angola, Madagascar, Malawi and Zambia, are expected to achieve the regional inflation target range of between three and seven percent in 2016.

The medium-term economic prospects are shaped by a number of factors taking centre stage globally and regionally.

These include the slowdown in emerging economies

such as China; declining commodity prices, especially for oil; slowdown in investment and trade; and declining capital flows to emerging markets and developing economies.

Non-economic factors such as geopolitical tensions and political discords are also generating substantial uncertainty and negatively affecting the performance of SADC economies.

The effect of climate change is expected to see the regional food deficit deteriorating further over the next five consecutive years. As a result, prospects for the short- to medium-term are subdued and risks of much weaker growth are high. □



Towards infrastructure development

A TOTAL of three infrastructure projects have been approved by the SADC Project Preparation and Development Fund (PPDF) as the region makes steady progress towards infrastructure development.

According to the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP) adopted in 2012, the region aims to create an efficient and cost-effective infrastructure network by 2027.

To facilitate the successful development of bankable projects for market presentation as well as create a conducive environment for investment through financing the preparation of infrastructure projects, SADC established the PPDF.

Since its establishment the PPDF has approved three projects while four more are undergoing due diligence.

The first infrastructure project to be approved by the PPDF was the power transmission line linking Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Commonly referred to as the Mozambique-Zimbabwe-South Africa (MoZiSa) transmission project, the venture is expected to improve access to power through the regional grid, allowing the smooth transfer of electricity between and among SADC Member States.

The PPDF approved US\$3.5 million towards the development of the MoZiSa transmission project, and the funds will, among other things, be used to carry out a scoping study for the preparation of the project.

Other projects approved by the PPDF are the North West Rail Project Phase 2 that will

pave way for the development of a railway line from the copper mines of Chingola to Kalumbola and further to Jimbe (within Zambia) to connect with the Benguela railway line at Luacano in Angola.

With the regards to the four projects that are undergoing due diligence, two are in the energy sector while the other two are in the transport sector. The names of the projects were not provided.

In terms of new resources to fund regional infrastructure development, the SADC Sec-

retariat is currently in the process of finalising the draft text of an agreement with Germany, which will provide for the re-programming of €6 million to the PPDF under SADC-German Cooperation

Member States have agreed in principle to contribute to the PPDF in the context of the operationalization of the SADC Regional Development Fund.

In order to receive more bankable projects from Mem-

ber States, the PPDF Secretariat has launched an online application process. To date, it has received five new applications that are undergoing initial screening by both the SADC Secretariat and the Development Bank of Southern Africa. □

SADC Regional Development Fund

THE SADC Regional Development Fund is a financial mechanism intended to mobilize resources from member states, the private sector and development partners to finance programmes and projects to deepen regional integration.

Work on the operationalisation of the fund has reached an advanced stage following the completion of a study commissioned by the African Development Bank to establish the governance structure and operation modalities for the fund.

The study recommendations were considered by the Ministers responsible for Finance and Investment in the SADC region during their meeting in Gaborone, Botswana in March and an Agreement on the Operationalisation of the SADC Regional Development Fund has been developed.

The agreement is expected to be tabled for consideration by the Council of Ministers and 36th Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in Swaziland in August 2016 for adoption.

It is estimated that more than 70 percent of the SADC budget comes from International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) – a situation that compromises the ownership and sustainability of regional programmes.

Establishment of the fund is crucial at a time the region is trying to take charge of its development agenda by committing its own resources to deal with integration issues while support from ICPs will only be sought to complement the region's own efforts.

This financing model approach is echoed in this's year summit theme, which is "Resource Mobilisation for Investment in Sustainable Energy Infrastructure for an Inclusive SADC Industrialisation for the Prosperity of the Region."

The operationalization of the fund was expected to be done through a two-phased approach, with phase one focusing on project preparation and development, and phase two dealing with the infrastructure development, industrial development, integration and economic adjustment and social development windows. Each window will focus on the following:

- ❖ The infrastructure window will provide financial support for implementation of regional infrastructure projects mainly emanating from the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan;
- ❖ The integration and economic adjustment window will support and facilitate efforts by Member States to implement the SADC economic integration agenda
- ❖ The industrial development window will support the industrialisation process in the region; and
- ❖ The social development window will support the human and social aspects of the regional agenda and incorporate all other related funds such as the SADC Regional HIV and AIDS Fund. □



SADC, EU sign EPA agreement

COOPERATION BETWEEN SADC and the European Union has strengthened following the signing in June of an economic agreement aimed at strengthening trade between the two blocs.

Six SADC Member States – Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland – signed an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), the first of its kind between the EU and an African region pursuing the objective of economic integration.

The six were negotiating for the EPAs under the SADC Group. Angola is expected to join this SADC Group later.

The EU negotiated an EPA with the other mainland SADC countries under the Eastern and Southern Africa banner, while the island nations are negotiating under the Pacific Group.

EPAs are trade and development agreements that the EU is negotiating to open up its markets to the Caribbean region; Central Africa; Eastern and Southern Africa; Pacific, Southern Africa (the SADC Group), and West Africa.

Other negotiating groups are still concluding the negotiations or undergoing legal vetting before signature, ratification and implementation.

The EPAs will replace the trade chapters of the Cotonou Agreement reached in 2000 between the EU and the ACP countries, and will also replace the one-way trade preferences under the Cotonou Agreement with reciprocal trade arrangements between the ACP states and the EU.

The SADC-EU EPA takes account of the different levels of development of each partner. It guarantees Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Swaziland duty-free, quota-free access to the European market.

These countries, except for Mozambique, have a long-time

customs agreement with South Africa under the Southern African Customs Union (SACU).

South Africa will also benefit from enhanced market access, going beyond its existing bilateral arrangement with EU.

The EPA increases the flexibility of southern African producers to put together products made from components originating in various countries, without the risk of losing their free access to the EU market. It also provides for a number of protective measures for nascent, fragile industries or for food security reasons.

The southern African markets will open gradually and partially to EU exports, in an asymmetric way.

In the process of diversifying their economies and broadening production, imports of certain goods are important for southern African countries – such as industrial parts, seeds and machinery.

Under the SADC-EU EPA, import duties on many of these items, called intermediary goods, will be significantly reduced, making the products more easily accessible to southern African entrepreneurs.

For the South African market specifically, particular advantage has been granted to EU producers of traditional quality products with a worldwide reputation – for example wines and food products – that will now get the exclusive right to use their traditional names, or “geographical indications”, in South Africa.

Reciprocally, several South African “geographical indications” will, from now on, be protected on the EU market, such as different types of South African wine, along with Rooibos tea and other products.

By signing the agreement, all participants commit themselves to act towards sustainable development, including by

upholding social and environmental standards.

The EPA also establishes a consultation procedure for environmental or labour issues and defines a comprehensive list of areas in which the partners will cooperate to foster sustainable development.

In addition, a detailed chapter on development cooperation identifies trade-related areas that could benefit from EU financial support.

The EPA creates joint institutions to support dialogue, smooth handling of all trade issues, and monitoring of the impact of the trade deal. Civil society including private sector will have a special role in monitoring the impact of the agreement.

The EU will work with its SADC partners to ensure smooth implementation of the agreement, together with regional and national development cooperation bodies. □

Cementing SADC-China relations

SADC HAS begun consultations with China to establish a more structured platform to strengthen cooperation.

Previously, engagement between China and Africa has largely remained a bilateral affair, hence the need to define a structured engagement with African sub-regional groupings.

The African Union is made up of eight regional economic communities, which are the essential building blocks of the proposed African Economic Community envisaged to be in place by 2028.

These are, in addition to SADC, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Community of Sahel-Saharan States, and the Arab Maghreb Union.

As one of the African sub-regional groupings, SADC is in consultations with China to negotiate a Framework Agreement on economy, trade, investment and technical cooperation, with the objective of establishing a joint committee to operationalize agreements made at the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China Africa

Cooperation (FOCAC) held in December 2015 in South Africa.

At the Johannesburg Summit, China and Africa agreed to deepen cooperation and take it to higher levels, including a new US\$60 billion Chinese fund to support development on the African continent.

The Johannesburg Action Plan (2016-2018) adopted at FOCAC outlines cooperation in a wide range of areas including political cooperation; economic cooperation; social and development cooperation; cultural cooperation and security cooperation.

Economic cooperation includes areas such as industry partnering and industrial development capacity; infrastructure development; energy and natural resources; investment and economic cooperation; trade; agriculture and food security; ocean economy and tourism.

These areas of cooperation are in line with the SADC priorities for 2015-2020 as outlined in the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063 and the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015-2020. □



Nine SADC countries sign Tripartite FTA Agreement

A TOTAL of nine SADC countries have signed an agreement to launch the largest integrated market on the African continent.

Zambia became the latest country to sign the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) Agreement on 17 June, making it the ninth SADC Member State to do so.

Since a historic agreement was signed in June 2015 by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and SADC to make the "Grand" FTA a reality, a total of 17 countries have so far signed the pact.

Other SADC countries to append their signatures to the TFTA Agreement are Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, United Republic of Tanzania, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

All members of the East African Community have signed the TFTA – Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda (as well as Tanzania which is also a member of SADC). Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, and Sudan have also signed.

The TFTA covers a total of total 27 countries in eastern and southern Africa – more than half of the member states of the African Union.

The remaining Tripartite-countries are expected to sign the agreement soon after requesting for some time to complete their internal processes before appending their signature to the document. These are Botswana, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Libya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, South Sudan and Zambia.

However, none of the 17 countries that have signed the

agreement have so far ratified the instrument. At least two-thirds of the Tripartite member states (18 countries) are required to ratify the agreement for it to enter into force.

The process of approval of a regional legal instrument requires, first, signing, and then ratification, a process that differs from country to country. Some require the approval of Parliament.

The TFTA aims to promote the smooth movement of goods and services across borders, as well as allowing parties to the agreement to harmonize regional trade policies to promote equal competition.

The harmonization 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.

Tripartite member states have continued with negotiations to conclude the outstanding Phase 1 issues on tariff offers, rules of origin and trade remedies.

The resolution of outstanding Phase 1 issues is envisaged

to facilitate the signing of the Agreement by more Member/Partner States and its ratification for the TFTA to become operational.

An assessment of all outstanding work on Phase 1 issues as well as efforts to facilitate Tripartite member states to resolve these are ongoing with a view to develop a draft roadmap that would enable the completion of this work. □



Preparations for CFTA negotiations on course

PREPARATORY WORK has begun on negotiations for the establishment of a continent-wide market that will promote the smooth movement of goods, services and people across Africa.

Since the official launch of negotiations for the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) by the African Union (AU) Summit in South Africa in June 2015, the AU Commission has been facilitating preparatory work ahead of the commencement of the negotiations.

This work has included studies and consultations on issues for negotiations, institutional frameworks for the negotiations and their terms of reference, draft rules of procedures, draft work plans and schedule of negotiations.

When operational, the CFTA will bring together all the 54 African countries, creating a combined population of more than one billion people and a combined Gross Domestic Product of more than US\$3.4 trillion.

According to an agreed roadmap, the CFTA negotiations are expected to be concluded by the indicative date of 2017.

It is expected to enhance intra-African trade and deepen market integration that should contribute significantly to sustainable economic growth, employment generation, poverty reduction, inflow of foreign direct investment, industrial development and better integration of the continent into the global economy.

The AU has agreed on a four-step roadmap to prepare for the launch of the CFTA.

The first step is to finalize the Tripartite Agreement among the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and SADC. The initial target was to finalise this initiative by 2014.

The second is to urge other African trade blocs to follow the experience of the Tripartite Agreement and reach a similar agreements by 2014.

The third is to consolidate the Tripartite and other regional free trade areas into the CFTA initiative between 2015 and 2016.

The final stage is establishment of the CFTA by 2017, with the option to review the target date according to progress made. □

SADC Energy Monitor

Baseline study of the SADC energy sector

ENERGY PLAYS a pivotal enabling role in the overall development agenda of any region, including southern Africa. Without access to modern energy services, vulnerable members of society spend most of their time on basic tasks that are time consuming, non-remunerative and highly laborious, such as collecting biomass fuels.

Recognizing the fundamental role of energy in accomplishing these goals, SADC has put in place various comprehensive policy frameworks to ensure the availability of sufficient, reliable and least costly energy services. However, the successful implementation of these policies depends on the commitment of member states and other stakeholders.

To presents a picture of the progress made towards implementation of various SADC energy policies, the SADC Energy Unit in partnership with the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) and with support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) produced the *SADC Energy Monitor*, which provides a baseline study of the SADC energy sector.

The *SADC Energy Monitor* to be launched at the 36th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government set for 30-31 August in Mbabane, Swaziland aims to ensure that progress made towards the implementation of the SADC energy commitments is documented and tracked, in line with the SADC Protocol on Energy and other regional strategies and policies. This edition of *Southern Africa Today*, especially for the 36th SADC Summit, presents some of the highlights of the *SADC Energy Monitor*. □

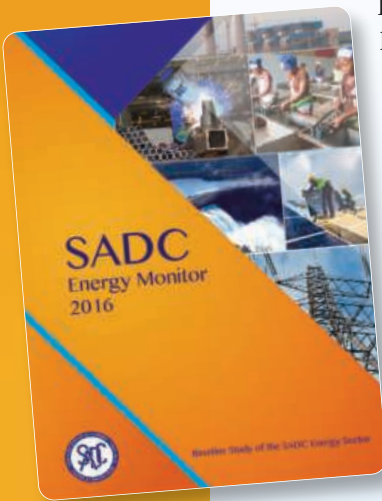
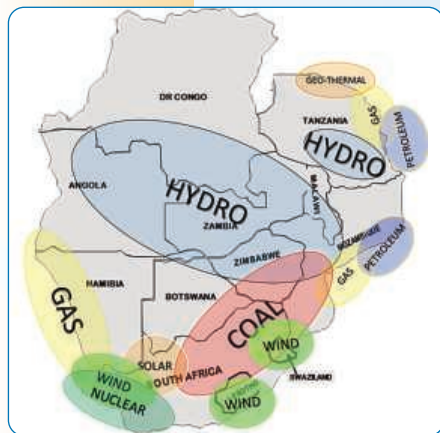


Figure 1 Energy Resources, Mainland Countries



Source SAPP Presentation at RISDP Review Researchers Workshop, May 2013

SADC well-endowed with energy resources

A GENERAL overview of the entire energy situation in SADC reveals that the region is well-endowed with energy resources ranging from solar, wind, nuclear, hydro, thermal, gas and petroleum. Figure 1 illustrates the various energy resources available in southern Africa. However, various challenges including lack of finance and investment in the energy sector as well as low tariffs and poor project preparation, is hampering efforts by SADC to fully utilize or explore its energy resources. □

Strong institutional, policy frameworks key to regional energy self-sufficiency

TO ENSURE the availability of sufficient, reliable, least-cost energy services that will assist in the attainment of economic efficiency and the eradication of poverty, SADC has put in place a number of legal documents, policies and institutional frameworks through the adoption of various instruments such as protocols, strategic guidelines and regulatory frameworks.

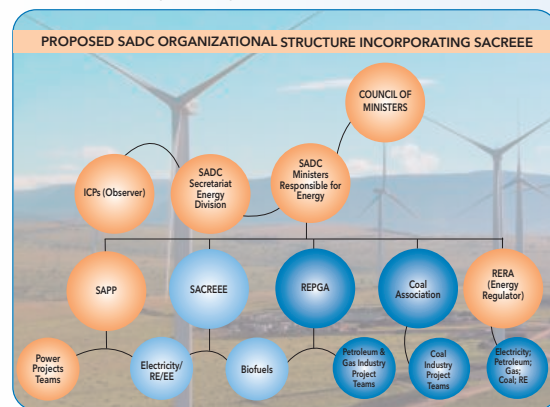
Figure 2 depicts the proposed new structure incorporating the Southern African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) which will soon be operational.

The main legal document on energy development is the SADC Protocol on Energy of 1996, which entered into force in April 1998 after ratification by two-thirds of Member States. Other key supporting governance instruments, which are all premised on the SADC Treaty are as follows:

- Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP);
- SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap;
- Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan: Energy Sector Plan (ESP);
- Regional Energy Access Strategy and Action Plan; and
- SADC Energy Sector Cooperation Policy and Strategy and the Activity Plan.

While these policy documents together with other national strategies have been instrumental in promoting developments in the energy sector, it should be noted that most of them are now outdated and need to be reviewed in line with the changing environment for them to remain relevant and useful. □

Figure 2 Proposed SADC Organisational Structure incorporating SACREEE



Source SACREEE background booklet, 2014

Energy demand outstrips supply

THE SADC region has enjoyed a surplus electricity-generation capacity for many years until 2003. From 2007, however, the region has seen electricity demand outstripping supply due to a combination of factors including population growth and limited investment in the energy sector. According to the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), regional average electricity demand growth is estimated at around three percent per annum against a low off-take of projects to boost power generation. It was once pegged at 4.6 percent ahead of the 2010 FIFA World Cup hosted by South Africa.

To alleviate the situation, SAPP has during the last decade implemented a number of projects to boost electricity generation and transmission. A total of 13,200 Megawatts (MW) was commissioned between 2004 and 2014 against a target of 19,600MW that was planned over the period. By 2019, the region aims to have commissioned a massive 23,580 MW. □



Towards renewable energy

SADC IS making steady progress towards embracing Renewable Energy (RE) sources such as solar, hydro and wind. This concerted drive towards cleaner and alternative sources of energy is due to the fact that traditional sources of energy such as coal are fast running out and/or causing environmental damage. Furthermore, the region is well-endowed with RE resources, hence the need to fully harness RE in order to meet energy demand. Table 1 shows the RE instruments that have been developed in SADC Member States to exploit such sources.

The long-term target set by SADC is to achieve a renewable energy mix in the regional grid of at least 32 percent by 2020 and 35 percent by 2030. Currently, SADC generates about 74 percent of its electricity from thermal stations. Although SADC has great potential to harness renewable energy and diversify its energy mix, a number of challenges remain. Renewable technologies in SADC are still nascent with the exception of hydro, and often costly. However, the will to embrace the technologies is present as evidenced by the increasing uptake of renewable energy sources.

SADC energy sector open for investment, funding

THE ENERGY sector in the SADC region still faces a number of problems with respect to investment and funding of energy, and the major challenges encountered are as follows:

- Countries' commitment to support regional initiatives and to allocate resources for that purpose;
- Capacity for project preparation and implementation at the level of national utilities and Member States;
- Demand for energy services to sustain growth in the energy sector;
- Financial sustainability for continued sectoral development;
- Strength of SADC institutions to co-ordinate the energy sector activities in the region; and
- Updating of the plans to ensure that the ESP remains relevant to the circumstances of the time.

Investment and financing are hampered by a number of barriers, which include low tariffs, poor project preparation, no off-takers that can sign PPAs under single buyer models, and other required policy/regulatory frameworks. To address the challenges, the need to create an enabling environment for investment is essential at both the regional and national levels as potential investors look for stability, sustainability and returns; as well as to promote private sector participation in renewable energy projects, considering the drop in cost of renewable energy technologies.

The *SADC Energy Monitor* concludes by providing recommendations on how the region can attain energy self-sustenance, including policy considerations for SADC countries and the community as a whole. Crosscutting issues such as gender, and climate change, are mainstreamed throughout the publication. □

Renewable Energy Instruments in SADC

Table 1

| Country | National Energy Policy | Energy Master Plan | Renewable Energy Policy | Renewable Energy Strategy | Renewable Energy Master Plan/Action Plan | Integration of Renewable Energy into Rural Electrification |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| Angola | ✓ | | | | | |
| Botswana | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| DRC | ✓ | | | | | |
| Lesotho | ✓ | | | | | |
| Madagascar | ✓ | | | | | |
| Malawi | ✓ | | | | | |
| Mauritius | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Mozambique | ✓ | | | | | |
| Namibia | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| Seychelles | ✓ | | | | | |
| South Africa | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| Swaziland | ✓ | | | | | |
| Tanzania | ✓ | | | | | ✓ |
| Zambia | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Zimbabwe | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ |

SADC Directorate of Infrastructure and Services, Energy Division, SADC/SADC 2012b

Efforts and Benefits of Mainstreaming Gender in the SADC Renewable Energy Sector

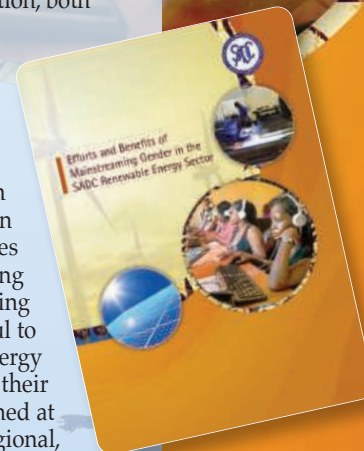
ACCESS TO energy can be seen as a liberating factor for women, and a key enabling factor for women to play an equal role in development.

In all SADC Member States, women and girls are largely responsible for household and community activities including energy provision, generally in rural and peri-urban areas, and women are thus the primary energy producers as well as the end users at household level.

The limited participation of women in designing home energy systems, resource access, and decision-making at national and regional levels is a major challenge within the gender and energy nexus. The regional trend at the critical decision-making level is more inclined towards men, with women occupying less than 10 percent of most governance structures in this regard.

Women are disproportionately affected by challenges associated with access to modern sources of energy compared to men. This has affected development processes, including energy, as sustainable development cannot be achieved without full and equal rights for half of the population, both in law and practice. There is need for the region to develop mechanisms focused on addressing inequalities in the energy sector as well as to expand the role of women in developing as well as implementing energy solutions.

This publication documents some of the experiences and effective practices drawn from existing initiatives by SADC Member States, and in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The objective is to build a strong evidence base on the benefits of mainstreaming gender in the sector. The publication will be useful to SADC Member States and other players in the energy sector as they move towards implementing their commitments to ensure that gender is mainstreamed at all levels and in all programming in line with regional, continental and global targets. □





SADC monitoring political situation in Lesotho

SADC REMAINS seized with finding a lasting solution to the political stalemate in the Kingdom of Lesotho.

An Extraordinary Summit of the SADC Double Troika held in Gaborone, Botswana in June approved to set up a team of experts to support Lesotho in preparing and holding a technical workshop on security sector reforms.

The workshop is aimed at rebuilding trust among stakeholders in the security sector, thereby promoting cooperation.

In respect of the implementation of other recommendations by the Commission of Inquiry established by the region after the June 2015 death of former army chief General Maaparankoe Mahao, the summit called on Lesotho to develop a comprehensive roadmap with clear actions and a timeframe to address issues highlighted by the commission.

"Summit reiterated that the Government of Lesotho, with the assistance of the SADC Double Troika members develops and presents a comprehensive roadmap with clear timeframes on the implementation of all SADC decisions, in particular Security and Constitutional reforms and submit report with tangible progress to Summit in August 2016," reads part of a communique issued by the Double Troika Summit.

One of the recommendations by the SADC Commission of Inquiry is that incumbent army chief Lieutenant-General Tlali Kamoli be relieved of his duties, and that Lesotho should carry out constitutional, public sector and security reforms.

At the Double Troika Summit, the leaders approved the terms of reference for an Oversight Committee that will serve as an early warning mechanism and provide assistance in the implementation of the constitutional, security and public sector reforms.

The committee will be headed by Mozambique in its capacity as chair of the Organ on

Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

The Double Troika consists of the SADC Summit Troika and the SADC Troika of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

The Summit Troika is made up of President Seretse Khama Ian Khama of Botswana (SADC Chair), King Mswati III of Swaziland (Deputy Chair) and

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe (immediate past Chair).

The SADC Troika of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation consists of President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi of Mozambique as chairperson, deputized by President John Magufuli of the United Republic of Tanzania, and South African President Jacob Zuma. □

Towards peace, stability in the DRC

SOUTHERN AFRICA is part of a support group of the African Union-led Inter-Congolese National Dialogue that is seeking to find a lasting solution to the political instability in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Inter-Congolese Dialogue was established in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in October 2001, under the facilitation of Sir Ketumile Masire, the former President of Botswana.

The support group includes the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), SADC and the AU; At a recent meeting in Ethiopia,

- Reaffirmed the commitment to the crucial importance of holding a successful national dialogue with all Congolese stakeholders preferably by the end of July 2016 and agreed to undertake consultations aimed at encouraging all stakeholders to participate in the dialogue;
- called on all stakeholders to create a conducive environment for the holding of the national dialogue;



- Underlined the objectives of the Support Group which will include providing political and advisory support to the AU Facilitator; garner and maintain the support of local and international actors, including the mobilization of the necessary resources for the successful holding of the national dialogue; and contribute to the preservation of peace and security in the DRC;
- Welcomed the ongoing efforts by the Congolese authorities and especially by the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI), with the support of various partners to undertake the required revision of the voters' register; and
- Called on international partners to provide the neces-

sary support that will contribute to help overcome the challenges being experienced with regard to the voters' registration, as well as the economic challenges currently facing the DRC.

The DRC is expected to hold its presidential and legislative elections this year although a date is yet to be set.

It is also not clear if incumbent President Joseph Kabila will stand for re-election as he is serving his second and last term in office as per the country's Constitution.

However, there are discussions in parliament to amend the Constitution amid some resistance from the opposition, which fears this could delay the holding of the elections as scheduled for this year. □



SADC sets up drought response team

SADC HAS set up a regional logistics team to coordinate the response by southern Africa to food shortages caused by the El Nino-induced drought that has affected most Member States this year.

Southern Africa is experiencing a devastating drought associated with the 2015/16 El Nino cycle that leads to drier-than-normal conditions in the region.

This has resulted in a significant reduction in agricultural production in most Member States, particularly since 2015/16 was the second successive season where drought was experienced in many parts of the region.

The regional vulnerability assessment indicates that more than 40 million people within SADC will require humanitarian assistance.

To address these challenges, a regional logistics team was established at the SADC Secretariat in April to coordinate the response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the food shortages.

The SADC Secretariat with the support from United Nations agencies issued a regional humanitarian appeal, which was launched by SADC Chairperson, President Seretse Khama Ian Khama of Botswana, on 26 July.

The SADC Secretariat said in its Vulnerability Assessment Results report released at the 10th SADC Meeting of Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis held in Pretoria, South Africa on 16 June that about 2.7 million

children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition, and this figure is expected to rise significantly if support to the vulnerable population is not immediately provided.

"We are deeply concerned about the scale of food insecurity in the region. We are experiencing the worst drought in the last 35 years. I call upon member states and our development partners to act now, to avoid a further deterioration of the situation. People continue to lose their means of survival and we can lose lives if we do not act now," said Margaret Nyirenda, head of the Food, Agriculture and

Natural Resources Directorate at the SADC Secretariat.

The severe drought conditions have already taken a toll on lives and livelihoods, and almost half a million drought-related livestock deaths have been reported in Botswana, Swaziland, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Water sources and reservoirs are severely depleted, forcing communities and their livestock to use untreated water sources.

The drought conditions have resulted in widespread crop failure and a decrease in cultivated area.

South Africa, which is usually the main producer of

maize in the region due to its vast irrigation infrastructure, is facing an estimated 2.6 million metric tons of deficit.

Zambia is the only country forecasting a cereal surplus (556,000 tonnes) during the 2016/17 marketing year.

There is an above 70 percent chance of a La Niña phenomenon during the 2016/17 agricultural season, which is the opposite of El Nino and is expected to assist the recovery of the agricultural sector.

La Niña conditions are usually associated with heavy rains in southern Africa. □

Ministers approve agriculture investment plan

MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE for agriculture and food security in SADC have approved an agriculture investment plan that outlines measures to improve agricultural productivity in southern Africa.

The SADC Regional Agriculture Investment Plan (RAIP) was approved by the ministers during their annual meeting held in Swaziland in July and is part of measures to implement the Regional Agriculture Policy (RAP).

The RAIP aims, among others, to promote sustainable agricultural production, productivity and competitiveness; improve regional and international trade and access to markets of agricultural products; as well as reducing social and economic

vulnerability of the region's population in the context of food and nutrition security and the changing economic and climatic environment.

The investment plan is one of a range of success factors identified in the RAP as essential for regional agricultural policy implementation.

It envisages the establishment of an Agricultural Development Fund as one of the initiatives to promote productivity in the sector.

Other initiatives include promotion of cross-border partnerships and investments; development of common guidelines on subsidies to agricultural production and investment; and promotion of contract farming as well as investment

in storage and related infrastructure.

The measures proposed in the RAIP are in line with commitments made by SADC leaders in the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security of 2004. These include investing more in irrigation and improved agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizer, as well as targeted subsidy programmes for farmers.

The declaration reflects Member States target to allocate at least 10 percent of their annual budgets to agriculture.

The ministers recommended to the Council of Ministers the creation of a Ministerial Sub-Committee to oversee the implementation of the RAIP. □

SADC reviews gender protocol to align with global processes, emerging issues

by Nyarai Kampilipili

SADC IS reviewing its main instrument for advancing gender equality and equity as the region seeks to align its processes to global targets and emerging issues.

SADC Ministers responsible for Gender and Women Affairs adopted the Draft Revised Protocol on Gender and Development at their annual meeting held in Gaborone, Botswana in June, after resolving at their previous meeting in 2015 to align the instrument to the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

SDG Goal 5 deals with Promotion of Gender Equality and Empowerment of all Women and Girls and sets nine targets to be met by the global community by 2030.

These include ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls; elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation; elimination of all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation; and ensuring the full and effective participation of women and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

Other SDG Goal 5 targets include ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the

Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences; and a committee to undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

The promotion of gender equality is one of the main pillars of the AU's Agenda 2063, featuring prominently in all the seven aspirations for the continent over the next 47 years.

For example, Africa aspires for a continent that is free from gender-based violence and where women and the youth shall play an important role as drivers of change.

The African continent continues to face challenges in addressing the rights of women as women continue to experience human rights violations in the areas of employment, marriage, sexual and reproductive health, education, and in the context of conflict.

The review process involved consultations between the SADC Secretariat and Member States, leading to a technical meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa in October 2015 to discuss issues to be reviewed or included in the revised protocol.

The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development contained several targets that to be met by the end of 2015, aligned to the previous UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

These included ensuring that, by 2015, at least 50 percent of decision-making positions in the public and private sectors are held by women; enshrining gender equality and equity in national constitutions and ensuring that these rights are not compromised by any provisions, laws or practices; and the introduction of measures to ensure that women benefit equally from economic opportunities.

The Protocol was signed in 2008 and entered into force on 22 February 2013.

Major achievements in the implementation of the Protocol include an increased proportion of women in Parliament and Cabinet in SADC Member States.

According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, SADC was ranked number three among regions with the highest percentage of women in the Lower House of Assembly (See table).

The draft revised Protocol captures emerging issues such

as climate change and child marriages. Child marriages are one of the contributing factors to the slow progress in the reduction of maternal mortality, but the definition of a child by age remains controversial.

The review also sought to align the Protocol with provisions of other SADC instruments such as those relating to sustainable management of the environment, and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap.

The revised Protocol is expected to be considered by the SADC Council of Ministers meeting in Mbabane, Swaziland in August for referral to the Summit of Heads of State and Government. □



| Ranking | Average Proportion of Women in Parliament (Single/Lower House) by Region | |
|---------------------------------|--|------|
| 1 | Nordic countries | 41.1 |
| 2 | Americas | 27.4 |
| 3 | Southern African Development Community (SADC) | 26.2 |
| 4 | Europe-OSCE member countries (including Nordic countries) | 25.7 |
| 5 | Europe-OSCE member countries (excluding Nordic countries) | 24.3 |
| 6 | Sub-Saharan Africa | 23.3 |
| 7 | Asia | 19.2 |
| 8 | Arab States | 18.4 |
| 9 | Pacific | 13.5 |
| Global % of Women in Parliament | | 22.8 |

Source Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), May 2016

KAZA Visa Towards smooth movement of tourists in SADC

THE TREND is encouraging: The number of tourists visiting the SADC region increased from 12.6 million tourists in 2000 to about 23.2 million in 2013, according to the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA).

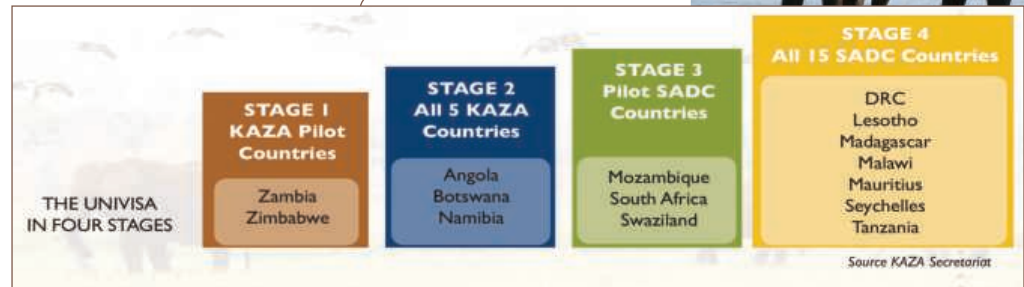
Travel to the region is promoted by the SADC Protocol on the Development of Tourism. Ratified in 2002, it seeks to improve the quality of tourism services, safety standards and physical infrastructure to attract tourists and investment into the region.

The Protocol states that travelling in the region can be made easier by abolishing visa requirements for visitors. It calls on SADC's Member States to create a "tourism Univisa which will facilitate movement of international tourists in the region in order to increase the market and revenue of the region in world tourism."

The launch of the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) Visa between Zambia and Zimbabwe in November 2014 is the first step towards introducing a Univisa in the SADC region. During the initial phase, the KAZA Visa allows tourists from 40 countries to combine travel to the two SADC neighbours without applying for travel documents separately.

Valid for 60 days, the US\$50 visa gives tourists access to both countries and allows entry to Botswana through the Kazungula border post which serves all three countries.

"About 7,000 KAZA visas were issued during the first three months of the pilot phase," says KAZA Secretariat



Programme Manager Mbiganyi Frederick Dipotso, noting that the project exceeded expectations. Despite being introduced in the low season, not enough visas could – for technical reasons – be issued to completely satisfy demand.

After assessment of the pilot phase, the next step would extend the visa to fully cover Botswana as well as the other countries that share the KAZA Transfrontier Conservation Area, which are Angola and Namibia. While this is a small step, it is a critical move in the right direction.

The aim is to eventually extend this arrangement to all 15 SADC countries, thereby implementing a Univisa that allows tourists and others to move effortlessly across the region.

"A Univisa encourages free movement of tourists but it also enhances the appetite for investment," says Kwakye Donkor, Marketing and Communications Director for RETOSA.

"It means we encourage people to stay in the region longer as they have access to more than one country. Longer stays create more jobs and the local community then stands to benefit."

The SADC Univisa is one of the targets in the SADC Protocol on the Development of Tourism (1998), which is intended to improve the quality of tourism services, safety standards, and physical infrastructure to attract tourists and investment into the region.

The Protocol encourages cooperation between governments and private developers through a favourable investment climate that promotes sustainable tourism, preserving the region's natural and cultural resources. Its approval led to the establishment of the Regional Tourism Organization of Southern Africa (RETOSA) whose role is to promote the SADC region as a preferred tourism destination.

The Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area

THE SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement defines a transfrontier conservation area as a large ecological region that straddles the boundaries of two or more countries encompassing one or more protected areas as well as multiple resources.

The Kavango Zambezi (KAZA) is the world's largest transfrontier conservation area, spanning some 520,000 sq km (similar in size to France), and is situated in the Okavango and Zambezi River Basins where the boundaries of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe converge.

KAZA includes 36 national parks, game reserves, community conservancies and game management areas,

notably the Zambezi region of Namibia (formerly Caprivi); Chobe National Park; the Okavango Delta, which is the largest Ramsar Site in the World and a UNESCO World Heritage Site; and the Victoria Falls, also a World Heritage Site, which is the largest curtain of falling water in the world.

Kavango Zambezi promises to be southern Africa's premier tourist destination as it opens animal migration corridors, offering the largest contiguous population of African elephants on the continent, about 250,000.

KAZA is now legally constituted after ratification of the KAZA TFCA treaty by three of the five member states. □





THE 27th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU) was held on 17-18 July in Kigali, Rwanda to chart the development agenda for the continent. Below are some of the key issues discussed and agreed at the summit.

Polls for AU Commission chair deferred to January 2017

ELECTIONS TO choose a new African Union Commission chairperson were postponed to January 2017 after none of the candidates garnered the requisite two-thirds of the votes in polls held during the AU Summit in Rwanda in July.

Three candidates were vying for the position of Africa's top civil servant. These were the Foreign Affairs Minister of Botswana, who is the SADC candidate, Dr Pelonomi Venson-Moitoi; Dr Specioza Kazibwe of Uganda and Agapito Mba Mokuy of Equatorial Guinea.

Dr Kazibwe is the preferred candidate for the East African Community while Mokuy is backed by the Economic Com-

munity of Central African States.

Dr Venson-Moitoi won two rounds of the polls but failed to get two-thirds of the votes as stipulated in the AU Constitutive Act.

The elections to choose a new chair are now scheduled for the next AU summit set for January 2017, with the tenure of the incumbent, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, being extended for another six months.

Dlamini-Zuma, who was a SADC sponsored candidate when she etched her name in history on becoming the first southern African to head the AU Commission in 2012, was not seeking re-election when

her first term of office came to an end in June.

As per the AU Commission Constitution, a chairperson can serve for two four-year terms.

In the elections for the position in 2012, Dr Dlamini-Zuma defeated Dr Jean Ping from Gabon after a closely contested poll that saw several rounds of voting failing to provide an outright winner.

Dr Dlamini-Zuma became the first southern African, and first woman, to head the AU Commission since the formation of the Organisation of African Unity – predecessor to the AU – in 1963. Other regions in Africa have previously had their candidates occupying the top AU post. ▢

Towards gender equality

AFRICAN LEADERS have committed to intensify efforts to promote gender parity, equality and empowerment on the continent.

In line with the decision to declare 2016 as the African Year of Human Rights with Particular Focus on the Rights of Women, the 27th AU Summit agreed to accelerate efforts to promote gender equality at all levels.

"Our commitment to develop the continent and make it independent must continue. As we go forward, we should learn from one another and accelerate efforts to promote gender equality at all levels," the AU chairperson, President Idriss Deby Itno of Chad said, adding low representation of women impacts on the general development agenda of the continent.

The AU theme for this year is pertinent as it comes following the adoption in 2015 of two major global and regional agendas – the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the AU's Agenda 2063.

The African continent continues to face challenges in addressing women's rights, as women continue to experience human rights violations in the areas of employment, marriage, sexual and reproductive health, education, and in the context of conflict.

Women's voices go unheard or are absent during formal peace negotiations; peace building and peace keeping, disarmament as well as during rehabilitation. ▢

Pan-African passport launched

THE AFRICAN Union has launched an electronic passport aimed at promoting the smooth movement of people across the continent.

This is regarded as a first step towards the establishment of a unified travel document for the continent.

The first group of recipients of the e-passport are AU heads of state and government, foreign affairs ministers and permanent representatives of member states based at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa.

The e-passport is expected to pave the way for Member

States to adopt and ratify the necessary protocols and legislation with the view to begin issuing the much expected African passport.

It is envisaged that AU member states will start issuing the African passport by 2020. ▢

Towards financial independence

AFRICAN LEADERS approved measures aimed at ensuring that the AU is self-sufficient to take charge of its developmental agenda.

It is estimated that more than 70 percent of the AU's budget comes from international partners, a major concern among the African leaders who believe that such a sce-

nario is not sustainable.

This is particularly worrisome due to the fact that some development partners have been using their financial muscle to dictate policies to the AU, a scenario not beneficial to efforts by Africa to deepen continental integration.

Some of the measures approved by the African leaders

include levying taxes on plane tickets, hotels and text messages as alternative sources of financing for the AU.

It is hoped that these measures will raise about US\$600 million a year, and over five years, it is expected that the AU will be able to pay the bulk percent of its costs using its own funds. ▢

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August
3, South Africa**Local Government Elections**

Municipal elections in South Africa held to elect councillors for the next five years. South Africa's local government is made up of eight metropolitan municipalities, 44 district municipalities, and 207 local municipalities.

10-11, South Africa

REEESAP Consultative Workshop

The workshop will bring together stakeholders in the energy sector in southern Africa so that they have an input into the ongoing process to develop the SADC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan.

11, Zambia

General Elections

Zambians go to the polls to choose their leadership for the next five years, including President, Members of Parliament and local councillors. After a constitutional amendment adopted in January, the winning candidate for President must secure at least 50 percent-plus-one vote, unlike previously when the candidate with the highest number of votes was elected, even if they scored less than 50 percent of the valid votes cast.

22-31, Swaziland

36th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government

SADC leaders will meet on 30-31 August for their annual Summit to discuss issues aimed at promoting regional integration and development. The Summit is preceded by meetings of senior officials from 22-24 August and Council of Ministers on 26-27 August. King Mswati III of Swaziland will assume leadership of SADC from President Seretse Khama Ian Khama of Botswana. The theme of the Summit is "Resource Mobilisation for Investment in Sustainable Energy Infrastructure for an Inclusive SADC Industrialisation for the Prosperity of the Region".

21-26, Swaziland

SADC Industrialisation Week

This is a week-long exhibition aligned to the SADC Summit in Swaziland. The SADC Secretariat and the Host country will work with the private sector and strategic partners to showcase and popularize existing and potential value chains for industrialisation.

23-26, DRC

47th SAPP Management Committee

The meeting is held annually to bring together leaders of power utilities and government representatives in the 12 member states of the Southern African Power Pool to discuss key management issues related to the regional electricity grid and regional power supply.

TBA

Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum

Climate experts from SADC Member States meet to review the regional climate outlook, using indicators of seasonal rainfall to produce a regional forecast for the 2016/17 rainfall season.

September
24 Sept-5 Oct
South Africa**17th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES**

This will be the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) held on the African continent since CITES came into force on 1 July 1975. Parties will take decisions on additional measures needed to end illicit wildlife trafficking as well as consider a number of proposals to bring additional species under CITES trade controls – or to change the status of existing CITES listings.

27, Botswana

SADC Energy Thematic Group Meeting

The Energy Thematic Group is a coordination meeting of SADC and subsidiary organizations with cooperating partners and experts to review the energy situation in the region.

October
13-14, South Africa**SADC River Basin Organisations Workshop**

Representatives of river basin organisations in SADC will meet in Johannesburg to discuss pertinent issues such as climate change as well as to share experiences about responses to the challenges.

King Sobhuza II of Swaziland (1899 - 1982)



The National Flag symbolizing Swaziland's royal heritage and long history was officially adopted in 1968 when Swaziland gained independence from Britain. The blue colour of the flag stands for peace, while the tassel symbolizes the monarchy, and the yellow colour represents the mineral wealth of the country. Red symbolizes the battles of the past.

THE LATE King Sobhuza II, father to King Mswati III, was iconic in many ways, as the founding father of the modern Kingdom of Swaziland.

He was born in Zombodze on 22 July 1899, a date now commemorated as a public holiday in Swaziland, as the eldest son of King Bhunu and Queen Lomawa Ndwandwe. When his father died shortly after his birth, he was proclaimed by the royal council as king and given the name Ngwenyama Sobhuza II, with his grandmother, Queen Mother Labotsibeni, as regent.

The young monarch received his primary education in Swaziland and in 1916 he was sent to Lovedale College in South Africa to complete his secondary education.

He assumed the throne in 1921, at age 22, as King Ngwenyama Sobhuza II at Zombodze Royal Residence, and he reigned until the end of his life in 1982. Sobhuza II's reign spanned most of the key events and milestones that laid the foundation of modern Africa in the 20th century.

As Paramount Chief from 1921 and King from 1967, he led his country to independence on 6 September 1968, and ruled until his death on 21 August 1982 at the age of 83.

By then, his reign was the longest for any recorded modern African ruler and he was one of the world's longest serving monarchs.

At the height of colonial rule, when the struggle for African liberation was starting to gain momentum, he emphasised education and unity above all else, knowing that the time would come when the people of Swaziland would have to take over the duties of self-government and the responsibilities of independence.

He promulgated government with a "Swazi flavour", and he worked to reclaim lands granted to white settlers by the colonial authority. Sobhuza II maintained good relations with his neighbours, especially Mozambique, through which goods and people were able to access the sea and trade routes.

King Sobhuza II was awarded posthumously the highest honour of post-apartheid South Africa, The Order of the Companions of OR Tambo in Gold, for

exceptional contribution to the struggle against apartheid through supporting the liberation movement in times of need.

When indeed the winds of change began to sweep the continent, Sobhuza II fully supported the movement for change and independence. He supported the liberation movements in South Africa, both morally and materially, and his country incurred military attacks by the apartheid regime as a result.

He led his country into the Organisation of African Unity, prior to the African Union, and the Non-Aligned Movement, while preaching peaceful change and the importance of unity on the continent.

Yet, believing in the inherent goodness of mankind, this dignified man of patience and dialogue, continued to engage in discussions with the South African regime to impress upon them the need for change.

Ngwenyama Sobhuza II helped to create a nation that prides itself on its culture, stability and peaceful disposition. His astute efforts towards a middle road allowed his country to negotiate the difficulties of adjusting to a rapidly modernising world while continuing to draw on the strength and wisdom of African belief systems and pride in Swazi heritage and culture. □

UMHLANGA, THE

Reed Dance is Swaziland's best known cultural event, an eight-day ceremony in which young girls cut reeds and present them to the Queen Mother (Indlovukazi) to repair the shelter around her royal residence – and then dance in celebration. Up to 40,000 girls take part, dressed up in brightly coloured attire, making this one of the biggest and most spectacular cultural events in Africa.

The proper festivities kick off on day six, when dancing gets under way in the afternoon. Each group drops their reeds outside the Queen Mother's quarters then moves to the main arena, where they dance and sing their songs. The dancing continues on day seven, when the King is present. Each regiment dances before him in turn. Little can prepare a visitor for the sheer scale of the pageantry across the parade grounds of Ludzidzini, an overwhelming immersion in noise and colour, as the girls stamp, sing and sway in step, anklets rattling, and dazzling costumes blurring into a living, chanting kaleidoscope.



PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

August – October 2016

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 August | Parents' Day | DRC |
| | Farmers' Day | Zambia |
| 3 August | Public Holiday | South Africa |
| 8 August | Nane Nane Peasant Day | Tanzania |
| | Heroes' Day | Zimbabwe |
| 9 August | Defence Forces Day | Zimbabwe |
| | National Women's Day | South Africa |
| 15 August | Assumption Day | Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles |
| 17 August | SADC Day* | All |
| 26 August | Heroes' Day | Namibia |
| 29 August | Umhlanga Reed Dance | Swaziland |
| 6 September | Somhlolo Independence Day | Swaziland |
| | Ganesh Chaturthi | Mauritius |
| 7 September | Lusaka Peace Agreement Day | Mozambique |
| 17 September | National Heroes Day | Angola |
| 24 September | Heritage Day | South Africa |
| 25 September | Armed Forces Day | Mozambique |
| 30 September | Botswana Day | Botswana |
| 1 October | Public Holiday | Botswana |
| 4 October | Independence Day | Lesotho |
| | Peace and National Reconciliation Day | Mozambique |
| 14 October | Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Day | Tanzania |
| 15 October | Mothers' Day | Malawi |
| 24 October | Independence Day | Zambia |
| 30 October | Diwali | Mauritius |

*SADC Day is not a public holiday but a commemoration of signing the SADC Treaty on 17 August 1992