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Towards the "SADC We Want"



by Joseph Ngwawi

THE CONTINENTAL vision of the "Africa We Want" defined by the African Union as Agenda 2063 serves as an inspiration for the sub-regions to review their own plans and vision for the future.

Southern Africa is therefore in the process of assessing and redefining its regional integration agenda with a view to creating the "SADC We Want", a region in which all citizens share in and benefit from the vision of a common future.

In March 2016, the SADC Council of Ministers noted the need for a special strategic session at ministerial level to deliberate on the implementation of SADC programmes and projects under the auspices of the revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015-2020 and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063).

In this regard, Council directed the SADC Secretariat to organise a special strategy session to review the pace and level of the implementation of the SADC integration agenda.

This is to take stock of what SADC has achieved since its establishment in 1980, as well

as the challenges the region is facing, and what needs to be done to accelerate the pace and level of the SADC integration agenda.

A SADC Strategic Ministerial Retreat is scheduled for 12-14 March in Mbabane, the Kingdom of Swaziland to determine what needs to be done to create the "SADC We Want" and develop scenarios about the possible trajectory that SADC could take.

The key objectives of the retreat are to:

- Assess the current situation with regard to the implementation of the SADC integration agenda and reflect on whether SADC is realizing its objectives and satisfying the expectations of Members States;
- Interrogate existing institutional arrangements to drive regional integration, especially for industrialisation in the region;
- Explore alternative options of financial resources for implementing SADC programmes or projects; and
- Create scenarios about the future, of possible trajectory that SADC could take and the best options and possibilities for promoting regional development in Southern Africa.

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Towards the “SADC We Want”

The Ministerial Retreat is expected to come up with recommendations for accelerating the SADC regional integration agenda; agree on approaches to successfully implement SADC programmes and projects; and identify alternative sources of financial resources for implementation of the SADC Programme of Action.

The key issues and recommendations of the Ministerial Retreat are expected to be presented to the Council of Ministers and the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government in Swaziland on 18 March.

SADC is an intergovernmental body that has evolved from the Frontline States of Southern Africa to the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference in 1980 and later to the Southern African Development Community underpinned by the Windhoek Treaty of 1992 which transformed the organisation from the status of cooperative development into a Community in pursuit of deepening regional integration.

The mandate of the organisation is defined by the SADC Treaty (as amended), the SADC Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015-2020 as adopted by Summit in Harare, Zimbabwe in April 2015.

The SADC Treaty sets out the main objectives of SADC that would lead to the attainment of the SADC Common

- Agenda which aspires to:
- achieve development and economic growth and alleviate poverty;
 - enhance the standard and quality of life of the peoples of Southern Africa; and
 - support the socially disadvantaged through regional integration.

The Revised RISDP in particular placed industrialisation at the core of the SADC agenda and resolved that other areas

of intervention should be geared to support the industrialisation drive.

To strengthen SADC's capacity to implement its programme, it was directed that a broad-based consultative process be undertaken across all key stakeholders to ensure

2017 another defining year for SADC

THE YEAR 2017 promises to be another defining period for southern Africa in its drive to push forward the regional integration agenda.

SADC is expected to remain seized with the food security situation following heavy rainfall that increased food production in some parts of the region but threatened food production in other areas, while some parts of the region had another drought year.

Last year, the region faced an estimated cereal shortfall of 9.3 million metric tonnes due to a cyclical drought pattern influenced by a strong El Niño weather phenomenon that refers to the warming of the Indian Ocean waters off South America.

To address the food security situation and coordinate a response, SADC established a regional El Niño Response Team and launched a US\$2.7 billion regional humanitarian appeal for assistance.

By November 2016, a total of US\$757 million had been raised, including US\$222 million from Member States and US\$535 million from International Cooperating Partners (ICPs).

With regard to trade, SADC, together with other regional economic communities, are expected to launch a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) in 2017.

When operational, the CFTA will bring together all 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.

With respect to education, SADC is this year expected to establish a university to train citizens in innovation and entrepreneurship as the region intensifies efforts to transform itself into an industrialised region.

The proposed SADC University of Transformation will be based in Swaziland, and SADC chairperson King Mswati III of Swaziland has offered scholarships for 300 students for the initial intake to be drawn from all 15 Member States – which is 20 students per country.

Another major issue to dominate the regional integration agenda in 2017 will be approval of a costed action plan for the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap adopted in 2015.

The approval of the costed action plan for the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap is expected to be made at the forthcoming SADC Extra Ordinary Summit scheduled for Ezulwini, the Kingdom of Swaziland on 18 March.

The action plan seeks to establish a coherent and synergistic implementation scheme containing strategic options and general policies towards the progressive attainment of time-bound targets set out in the strategy and roadmap.

effectiveness of implementation all programmes and usher mutual and collective benefits for all Member States.

SADC has adopted 33 protocols and other attendant statutes as a clear sign of commitment towards collective

implementation of the various facets of its development programme, of which 26 have entered into force.

However, most SADC protocols still need to be domesticated into national law in Member States. □

Energy issues should continue to be priority for SADC including the implementation of the Energy Sector Plan of the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP), which aims to increase power generation capacity from the current 56,000 Megawatts (MW) to a projected demand of 96,000MW within the next 11 years, making the SADC region energy self-sufficient.

SADC will also remain charged with efforts to take full charge of its integration agenda by funding its own developmental plans.

Current estimates show that only nine percent of regional projects are funded by SADC Member States while the balance comes from ICPs. This has compromised the ownership and sustainability of regional programmes.

Another major development for the year will be the commencement of the process to review the organisational structure of the SADC Secretariat to ensure that it adequately responds to new and emerging issues in the region's revised development blueprint.

On the political scene, southern Africa will seek to strengthen its credentials as a relatively stable region with only one country – Angola – going to the polls in August for presidential and parliamentary elections, while some other Member States prepare for elections in 2018. □



SADC adopts strategy to curb poaching of natural resources

THE ADOPTION of a strategy to combat poaching in southern Africa is another step towards preservation of natural resources and socio-economic development.

The SADC region is rich in natural resources such as fisheries, forests and minerals, and is home to the largest populations of wild animals on the continent.

However, these natural resources are threatened by poaching, illegal harvesting, illegal trade, over-exploitation and the impact of climate change. Such challenges can undermine progress that the region is making in food security, job

creation and economic development.

To address this challenge and ensure that the region fully benefits from its natural resources, SADC has adopted the Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching (LEAP) Strategy.

The strategy was adopted in February by Ministers responsible for Environment and Natural Resources and the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation at their joint meeting held in Ezulwini, Kingdom of Swaziland.

The LEAP Strategy aims at reducing the level of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife fauna and flora and strengthening law enforcement capacity in the region.

The target is to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife by 2021. This is to be achieved by focusing on the following:

- Strengthening legislation and judicial processes;
- Reduction of wildlife crime and illegal trade;
- Improvement and strengthening of field protection;
- Integration of people in natural resources management; and
- Ensuring sustainable trade and use of natural resources.

Speaking at the joint meeting of Ministers, Swazi Minister for Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Christopher Gamedze said wildlife is a major contributor to socio-economic growth and there is need to safeguard it.

He said most countries in the region depend on tourism which is one of the major foreign exchange earners employment for local citizens, thus contributing to the growth of national economies.

"If we do not save our already threatened wildlife species, we are likely to witness highly reduced tourism traffic volumes to southern Africa in the near future, thus placing our ecotourism industry in jeopardy," said Gamedze, who was the chairperson of the joint meeting.

Deputy SADC Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, Dr Theminkosi Mhlongo concurred, saying there is need to strengthen efforts to combat poaching and control the illegal trade in wildlife to safeguard the region's fauna and flora.

He said illegal harvesting and wildlife trafficking is a serious challenge in the region as it erodes biodiversity, threatens the survival of endangered species, and undermines the wealth of nations while generating monetary gain for organised crime.

Given the transnational nature of the problem, Dr Mhlongo said there is great need for countries in the region to work together in

addressing the challenge at national and regional levels.

To ensure the effective implementation of the LEAP strategy, the ministers approved the establishment of a Regional Wildlife Crime Prevention and Coordination Unit at the SADC Secretariat that will be supported by national wildlife crime prevention taskforces.

The taskforces will be made up of officials from various institutions such as the police, wildlife management authorities, customs authorities, defence, immigration, intelligence and the judiciary.

The SADC LEAP is one of the various instruments to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife. Other instruments include protocols on Forestry, Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement, and Environmental Management for Sustainable Development, which promote sustainable management and utilization of natural resources and the environment. □

Resource mobilisation framework on cards

SADC IS finalising the development of a framework to guide the process of mobilising resources to fund the implementation of regional programmes and activities.

The SADC Resource Mobilisation Framework (Alternative Sources of Funding SADC Regional Programmes) is expected to enable member states to finance regional activities, programmes and projects.

The SADC Secretariat last year engaged consultants to identify alternative sources of sustainable funding.

The draft framework is expected to be submitted to the Ministers of Finance from the region this year for approval before it is escalated to the Council of Ministers and Summit for endorsement in August in South Africa. □

Online result-based monitoring system

THE SADC Secretariat is developing a results-based online monitoring system that will be used to monitor the implementation of protocols and programmes.

The development of the monitoring system comes at a time when there is concern at the slow pace of domestication of SADC protocols and implementation of programmes.

In pursuit of regional aspirations of "a united, prosperous and integrated region", SADC Member States have signed numerous protocols and other policy documents in various key areas, ranging from trade and investment, peace and security, to transboundary natural resources and the empowerment of women and young people.

A total of 33 protocols have been signed by Member States but only 26 have been ratified and entered into force.

According to SADC legal statutes, any signed regional protocol must be ratified by member states. At least two-thirds of the 15 Member States are required to ratify a protocol for it to enter into force. □



High rainfall to persist over much of southern Africa

MOST PARTS of southern Africa are expected to continue receiving high rainfall through March, according to the latest climatic projects.

Predictions by the SADC Climate Services Centre indicate that there is a greater likelihood of high rainfall referred as “normal to above-normal” over southern parts of Zimbabwe and Mozambique, northern South Africa, Swaziland, eastern Botswana and eastern Lesotho.

The January to March 2017 climatic projections show that the region will receive more rainfall than in the first half of the season, October to December 2016.

Evidence of high rainfall during the month of January was recorded in many parts of the region.

Low rainfall characterised as “normal to below-normal” is expected to occur over the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania, extreme northern Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar.

The update issued is largely consistent with what was projected in August last year by the Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum.

A review of the first three months of the 2016/17 agricultural season show similar trends between what was predicted and the actual amount of rain received in October-November-December 2016 period.

The good rains received so far have brought relief to most parts of southern Africa as the region is set to enhance its food security status after two successive seasons of drought that resulted in crop failure and food shortages.

An estimated 40 million people in southern Africa were left food-insecure due to the severe drought that occurred in the 2015/16 agricultural season.

High rainfall is expected to boost hydro-electricity generation which had suffered a major decline in the last couple of years due to frequent droughts.

The Zambezi Water Authority reported that water levels in Kariba rose to 478.27 metres (19 percent of capacity) of capacity on 20 January 2017, up from 477.22m (12 percent) recorded on the same date last year.

Low rainfall experienced in the 2015/16 rainfall season reduced hydropower generation in Lake Kariba by more than 50 percent, as water levels dropped sharply from 53 percent capacity in February 2015 to 12 percent in February 2016.

The Kariba dam was created and designed to operate between levels 475.50m and 488.50m, with 0.70m freeboard at all times.

While the 2016/17 agricultural season looks brighter in the southern part of the region, the outbreak of armyworm threatens to affect crop production in some countries.

The Famine Early Warning System Network hinted that cases of armyworm outbreak have already been reported in Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia.

The capacity to sufficiently control the outbreak and respond to the situation has been slow at national levels and could result in serious crop damages.

A recent report from the International Red Locust Control Organization for central and southern Africa indicates that

crop damage in Zimbabwe and Zambia have been significant and this could result in substantial crop losses if urgent measures are not taken.

Experts in the region have explained that major outbreaks of armyworms are commonly preceded by extended drought. The current outbreak of armyworms is attributed to the severe drought that occurred in southern Africa in 2014/15 and 2015/26 cropping seasons.

Southern African countries have in the past managed to control armyworm invasion through timely distribution of pesticides in the affected areas. Further, the consistent rainfall in some places is not allowing households the opportunity to weed their crops and this could affect crops if conditions persist.

Excessive rainfall in the region has resulted in several localized floods with increased ground moisture likely to trigger additional floods throughout Zimbabwe, Mozambique,

Malawi, Zambia and the Zambezi Region of Namibia.

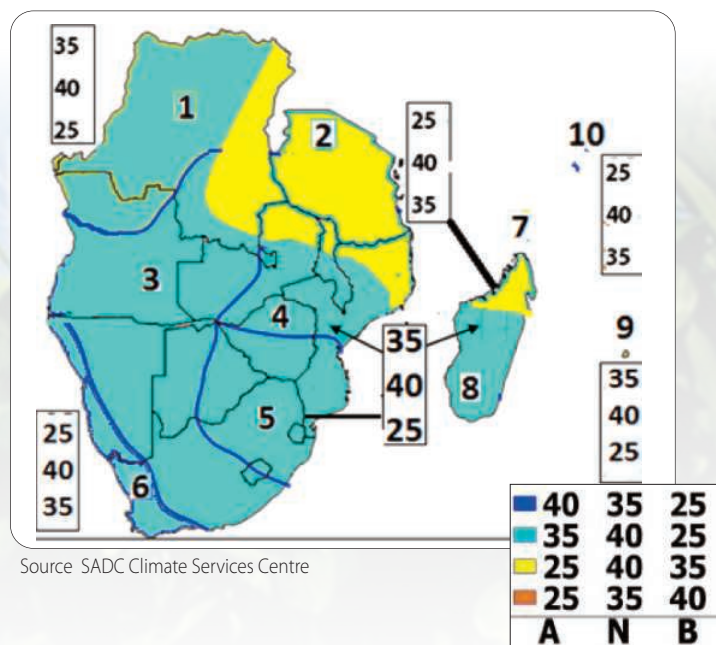
The rapid rise of river levels reported along the Limpopo, Save, Buzi, Pungwe, and Zambezi Rivers due to heavy rains upstream and downstream poses a risk to communities living in the floods plains.

In response to the increased frequency of floods and droughts, Member States are making progress in strengthening capacity to manage hazards so as to save lives and ensure food security.

In 2016, SADC ministers responsible for disaster risk reduction adopted the Regional Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy, which is expected to strengthen coordinated interventions in southern Africa.

The ministers mentioned the need for SADC countries to invest in actions that accelerate the achievement of sustainable resilience to disasters in the face of extreme weather conditions. □

Rainfall Forecast for January-February-March 2017



Source: SADC Climate Services Centre

SADC reviews forestry protocol implementation

SADC HAS begun the process of assessing the status of implementation of the Protocol on Forestry to determine the level at which Member States have benefitted from regional cooperation in the forestry sector.

The SADC Protocol on Forestry was signed in 2002 but entered into force in 2009 after ratification by 10 countries – Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Malawi and Seychelles are yet to accede to the Protocol.

The protocol aims to promote development, conservation, sustainable management and utilization of all types of forests, and trade in forest products.

It provides regional guidance for Member States on forest management, trade, assessments, policies, programmes and laws, as well as spells out the need for harmonisation of regional sustainable management practices and increasing efficiencies of utilization and facilitation of trade, among others.

Since the entry into force of the protocol, SADC Member States have developed, adopted and implemented a number of policy and legislative interventions in forestry management and trade across the region.

Concurrently, the forestry sector has witnessed significant developments across the region over the last decade.

Key developments during the past few years and have necessitated a review of the protocol include the advent of a new era of a strong push to-

wards regional economic integration that has witnessed an increase in the movement of goods and services, including those associated with natural resources.

As a result of this shift towards regional economic integration, the process for formulation, domestication and implementation of regional environmental and natural resources protocols has played a crucial role in addressing pressure points on improving regional forestry governance.

Robust economic growth in some countries has also seen increased demand for forest products, posing challenges on mechanisms to control intra-regional trade and forest governance.

Growth in illegal trade in timber within and across a

number of SADC Member States and beyond the region has necessitated closer collaboration among countries and between SADC and other regional economic communities such as the East African Community.

A number of bilateral agreements have been signed in recent years or are being developed as part of efforts to curb illegal trade in timber and improve forest governance. This presents an opportunity to strengthen collaboration across Member States to improve forest management.

Several mechanisms have been piloted and implemented in SADC to improve forest management. These include the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Pro-

gramme and the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme.

These initiatives have created opportunities for sharing of lessons across the region.

Another significant development over the past few years was the signing in 2015 of the Zanzibar Declaration on Illegal Trade in Timber and other Forest Products. This declaration offers an opportunity to strengthen efforts to build relations within the SADC region and with the EAC Member States to improve forest management and trade.

According to the SADC Secretariat, these developments in the forestry sector in the region signal the need and opportunity for SADC Member States to revisit and harmonize the strategies, policies, and existing transboundary mechanisms.

It is against this background that the assessment on implementation of the SADC Protocol on Forestry takes place.

"The assessment is aimed at establishing the status of implementation of the Protocol on Forestry in light of emerging challenges and opportunities," the SADC Secretariat said.

"This assessment will also highlight the contribution and linkages of the SADC Forest Protocol to forest sector reforms in Member States."

The overall objective of the assessment is to review the results achieved by SADC Member States in reaching the targets set under the Protocol on Forestry, such as development and harmonization of forest-related national laws and policies; as well as monitoring and development of mechanisms to promote forestry trade and cooperation in the region. □

Objective of the Assessment of SADC Protocol on Forestry

- establish the extent to which Member States have implemented the Protocol on Forestry since it entered into force in 2009;
- assess the adequacy and relevance of the protocol in the context of current and emerging trends in forest management and trade;
- recommend areas (or aspects of the Protocol) that may require improvement, strengthening, revision or modification to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency in implementation;
- assess the status and effectiveness of institutional arrangements to implement the Protocol and make recommendations to the Secretariat for improvement;
- identify key constraints affecting implementation of the Protocol on Forestry;
- identify challenges of Member States that have not yet acceded to the Protocol;
- recommend specific actions to address constraints and/or challenges identified; and
- pilot the results-based online monitoring system that is being developed by the SADC Secretariat to monitor the implementation of protocols. □

Africa has potential to influence global decisions, processes

by Nyarai Kampilipili

AFRICA SHOULD continue to speak with one voice to ensure that its views are heard in the formulation and implementation of socio-economic decisions aimed at promoting global development.

The Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, said unity of purpose among African countries has the potential to enable the continent to influence decision-making, including the outcome of other inter-governmental processes which can boost the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as Agenda 2063. Mlambo-Ngcuka was speaking at the Africa Ministerial Pre-Consultative Meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 61 held late January in Addis Ababa.

The CSW 61, scheduled for 13-24 March at the UN Headquarters in New York, is a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) whose mandate is to take a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPfA).

The commission meets annually to review implementation of BDPfA. Each year the commission focuses on a specific priority theme to accelerate the implementation.

This year the CSW 61 will be held under the theme "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work".

Mlambo-Ngcuka said it is essential that Africa takes this strategic role and its place in history very seriously.

"The Commission on the Status of Women is a strategic

meeting which Africa has to take advantage of, as the largest block in the United Nations, to ensure that our agreed position influences the outcome of the global conclusions of the meeting."

She said that the meeting's agreements on issues such as renewing efforts to invest in young women and girls' education is a means to protect the youth from unwanted pregnancies, and from HIV and AIDS, and to protect their reproductive rights.

Ministers for gender and women affairs from African countries have developed an agreed position on the continent's priorities on women with the aim of contributing to the outcome of CSW 61. Key priorities for Africa include:

- Repealing discriminatory laws against women;
- Strengthening youth participation in CSW as one of the platforms to build young women and girls as leaders in their countries and in the world;
- Ensuring an end to trafficking of women on the continent;
- Improvement of rights of women to land;
- Addressing persistent gender inequalities and gaps between women and men in the workplace;
- Giving greater attention to women in the informal sector;
- Ratification of the ILO Convention on Domestic Workers;
- Recognition, reduction and redistribution of women's and girl's disproportionate

burden of unpaid care and domestic work; and

- Introduction of measures to address the exclusion of women from the world of work.

The ministers responsible for gender and women's affairs in Africa meet every year ahead of the CSW to discuss key challenges and solutions to prioritize on accelerating implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, the commission now also contributes to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In addition, the AU Agenda 2063 aligns the global framework in considering achievement of gender equality as a pre-condition and a key objective of continent structural transformation towards the future which African people aspire for "an integrated, peaceful, prosperous, people centred and representing a dynamic force in the global arena".

Former chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said during the pre-consultative meeting that although Agenda 2063 is Africa-specific, it complements the Sustainable Development Goals.

She said Africa's 50-year development plan deals with the roots not just the symptoms of Africa's issues. She urged the UN and others to support both agendas. □

Revised SADC protocol in sync with global dynamics

THE REVISED protocol for advancing gender equality and equity in southern Africa that was approved by the 36th SADC Summit in August 2016 has been re-aligned to global targets and emerging issues.

For example, the Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development 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 revised protocol with provisions of other instruments such as those relating to sustainable management of the environment, and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap. □

SADC experts to strategize on regional energy development

SOUTHERN AFRICA and its energy sector cooperating partners are meeting in Botswana in late March to discuss ways of improving a coordinated approach to addressing the energy situation in the region.

The SADC region has been experiencing a crippling power shortage that was first detected as early as 1999.

This situation has forced most countries in SADC to implement demand-side management policies such as load shedding that have to some extent succeeded in restraining overall electricity demand in the region.

However, load shedding has also had a negative impact on companies by forcing them to scale down production due to limited electricity, thereby affecting socio-economic development.

The SADC Energy Thematic Group (ETG) meeting scheduled for Gaborone, Botswana on 27 March is expected to discuss initiatives being undertaken by the region to ensure that power supplies meet demand.

The SADC ETG consists of representatives of the SADC Secretariat, SADC subsidiary organisations, International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) and the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC). The lead ICP for the SADC energy sector is Austria.

SARDC is tasked with raising regional awareness among stakeholders in southern Africa about key energy issues in the region.

According to a draft agenda, the ETG will discuss some of the key activities, programmes and projects currently underway in SADC.

These include the operationalization of the SADC Cen-

tre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE), which is based in Windhoek, Namibia.

SACREEE is expected to change the "landscape of energy development in SADC" by increasing uptake of alternative and renewable energy in southern Africa, enabling the region to address its energy challenges.

Another key issue to be discussed is the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) programme, which includes strengthening of the power generation and transmission capacity in southern Africa.

SAPP plans to commission about 24,000 megawatts of power between 2015 and 2019 if all proposed projects come on stream. This development will see the region finally meeting its power needs after several years of shortages.

The ETG will also discuss on how ICPs can align their activities and programmes to the Revised the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), and SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap.

Alignment of support to the two regional strategy documents will ensure the smooth implementation of agreed activities and programmes, thereby promoting socio-economic development and deeper integration.

The two regional documents were adopted by a SADC Extra-Ordinary Summit held in April 2015 in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap aims at accelerating the growing momentum towards strengthening the comparative and competitive advantages of the economies of the region, and is anchored on three pillars, indus-

trialization, competitiveness and regional integration. The strategy covers the period 2015-2063.

The Revised RISDP is a five-year plan that guides the implementation of all SADC programmes from 2015 until 2020.

The plan has four priority areas – Industrial Development and Market Integration; Infra-



structure in Support of Regional Integration; Peace and Security Cooperation as a prerequisite for regional integration; and Special Programmes of Regional Dimension.

Energy is a critical area for both the Revised RISDP and SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap. □

SARDC documents investment in SADC energy sector

THE ENERGY sector is an important aspect in the regional integration agenda of southern Africa. For example, access to affordable and reliable energy drives industrialisation, allowing countries to realise socio-economic development.

To document some of the major investments as well as provide alternative financing models, the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) is producing the SADC Energy Investment Yearbook.

The book presents various investments taking place in the energy sector in SADC with a view to highlight progress towards meeting the region's stated objective of ensuring "the availability of sufficient, least-cost, environmentally sustainable energy services."

Produced in consultation with the Energy Division at the SADC Secretariat, the publication takes stock of developments within the SADC region and highlights the main investment activities that have been done at the regional.

The first edition of the yearbook gives a general overview of the entire energy situation in the SADC region.

It covers issues such as the challenges facing the energy sector as well as energy resources available in the region and some international, continental and regional commitments adopted by Member States.

It then presents the legal, policy and institutional framework within the SADC energy sector and highlights investments made in the energy sector over the past decade including available and possible financing mechanisms that can benefit the energy sector in the SADC region. □





Taking the industrialization agenda forward

SOUTHERN AFRICA is expected to make a bold statement on taking forward the integration agenda when it approves a costed action plan for its industrialisation strategy adopted in 2015.

The costed action plan for the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap is expected to be approved at the forthcoming SADC Extra Ordinary Summit scheduled for Ezulwini, the Kingdom of Swaziland on 18 March.

The action plan seeks to establish a coherent and synergistic implementation scheme containing strategic options and general policies towards the progressive attainment of time-bound targets set out in the strategy and roadmap.

The action plan focuses on the first 15 years of the strategy time-frame, and aims to create an enabling environment for sustaining industrial development as a driver of economic transformation; and establish an enduring alliance for industrialisation consisting of the public and private sectors as well as strategic partners.

It was developed as an inclusive long-term plan for modernisation and economic transformation that should enable substantial and sustained economic development to raise living standards.

The strategy and roadmap is anchored on three interdependent strategic pillars: industrialisation, as a champion of economic transformation; enhanced competitiveness; and, deeper regional integration.

Strategic interventions for each of these pillars are proposed in the action plan. These include an improved policy environment for industrial development, increased volume and efficiency of public and private sector investments in the SADC economy, creation of regional value chains and participation in related global processes, as well as increased value addition for agricultural and non-agricultural products and services.

In order to improve the operating environment, there are plans to develop and operationalise a Protocol on Industry by 2020, which should lead to the development of industrialisation policies and strategies at national level.

Where Member States already have such policies and strategies, these should be reviewed and aligned to the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap.

Member States will be required to develop national Industrial Upgrading and Modernization Programmes (IUMPs) by 2018 and implement these by 2020.

These should be in line with the SADC IUMP, which provides the basis for a sector-specific approach to industrialisation in the region, focusing on upgrading existing manufacturing capacities, modernising productive facilities, reinforcing the institutional support infrastructure, and strengthening regional capacity for research and innovation.

There is also a target to progressively increase the share of gross domestic investment to gross domestic product to 25 percent by 2020 and to 30 percent by 2025.

To achieve these targets, there are plans to develop a SADC Investment Promotion Framework as well as a SADC Regional Action Programme on Investment to accompany it.

To encourage the creation of regional value chains and participation in global processes, the region has identified five priority areas in which the 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.

A detailed value chain study is proposed for specific products or services in the priority areas. As part of the process of promoting value-chain participation, there are plans to develop model legislation and regulations for intra-SADC agro-processing, minerals beneficiation and other manufacturing activities and services.

Reduction or removal of structural impediments to industrialisation is another target being pursued by SADC. In this regard, there is need 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.

There is also need to reduce delays at ports and border posts and shorten the duration of movement of goods across borders in the SADC region. This will involve harmonization of border-crossing procedures in SADC by 2020.

The action plan also proposes an active role for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the SADC industrialisation agenda. SMEs are an important variable in SADC development



Forward



plans, representing 90 percent of all businesses and accounting for more than 50 percent of employment.

Interventions under the Competitiveness pillar are aimed at strengthening of both the macroeconomic and microeconomic environments in the region.

Initiatives proposed include the development of industrial investment programmes to support SMEs by 2018; training for skills, entrepreneurial and managerial development; and centres of specialization for priority sectors.

The regional Integration pillar aims to widen the economic space for development and create incentives for industry to expand, thus providing opportunities for economies of scale, clustering and economic linkages.

Specific interventions under this pillar include full implementation of the SADC Free Trade Area to cover all Member States; a common external tariff by 2025; gradual phase-down and abolition of rules of origin by 2025; liberalization of exchange controls to allow free movement of capital within SADC by 2030; and ratification of the SADC Protocol on Trade in Services for implementation by 2020. □

Packed agenda for SADC Extra Ordinary Summit

THE FORTHCOMING SADC Extra Ordinary Summit is expected to chart the continent's development agenda, including the reviewing the organizational structure of the secretariat as well as the food security situation in the region.

The review of the organisational structure of the secretariat based in Botswana is aimed at ensuring that it adequately responds to new and emerging issues in the region's revised development blueprint.

An Extra-Ordinary SADC Summit held in Harare, Zimbabwe in April 2015 endorsed a recommendation by the Ministerial Task Force on Economic Integration that an appropriate institutional framework to support the implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap should be developed and aligned to the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) "within a comprehensive and consolidated organisational structure."



Barbara Lopi new Head of SADC Public Relations Unit

BARBARA LOPI, a well-known communications and media expert from Zambia, is the new head of public relations at the SADC Secretariat.

Lopi 20 years of experience in the field of communications, media and advocacy after working as a journalist, researcher and writer. Prior to her appointment, Lopi was with the Communications and Awareness Expert in the Water Sector at the SADC Secretariat.

She has also worked in various senior positions in a number of organizations elsewhere in the region, including the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre where she was Head of Programme for Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness (WIDSAA), predecessor to SARDC's Beyond Inequalities Gender Institute in tracking progress towards gender equality in the region. □



Another key issues for the summit is a review of the food and security situation in the region which has been threatened by adverse climate and weather patterns, including flooding in some parts of the region and drought in others.

The summit is also expected to deliberate on the political situation in some parts of the region, particularly the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and the Kingdom of Lesotho, as well as the recent wave of xenophobia attacks on SADC citizens in South Africa. □



SADC moves towards a Simplified Trade Regime

by Joseph Ngwawi

STUDIES AND experiences from other parts of the world show that the simplification and streamlining of documentation requirements as well as import and export formalities significantly reduces transaction costs associated with trade.

Such measures are particularly important for small-scale, cross-border traders who often do not have enough financial resources or human capacity to deal with complex administrative requirements.

Moreover, for small or low-value consignments often channelled by such traders, the costs of complying with complex requirements and formalities can be disproportionate relative to the transaction value.

It is against this background that SADC ministers responsible for trade have mandated the SADC Secretariat to develop a Simplified Trade Regime (STR) for intra-SADC trade in accordance with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement and the Kyoto Convention for the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures.

Article VIII of the World Trade Organization's GATT Agreement and provisions of the Revised Kyoto Convention for the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures suggest the development and implementation of simplified trade procedures for eligible small scale traders to overcome these challenges.

The Secretariat started the process of engaging consultants in January who are expected to develop the STR. The draft proposal to be developed by the consultants will be informed by a best practice and scenario analysis.

In addition, the proposal should be accompanied by a background study document that provides information on the potential impact of a SADC STR in terms of benefitting trade volumes, number of traders and the type of traders, such as their socio-economic position and their gender.

It will then be considered by SADC structures for final approval by the ministers later this year.

According to the terms of reference for the exercise, the consultants are expected to undertake a number of activities as part of the process of developing the SADC STR.

These include conducting a desk study to examine best practices and challenges of existing STRs, in particular the one implemented by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

The desk study will also look at available data regarding the volumes of formal and informal small-scale trade in the SADC region and the type of traders likely to be affected by the introduction of the STR.

The consultants are expected to conduct study visits to major border posts in Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe to assess the

needs of stakeholders and their preferences regarding a SADC STR.

The assessment will include data collection on the following:

- The most commonly traded goods and product commonality,
- Affected trade volumes,
- Affected trade values,
- Trade frequency appropriate for the regime on the basis of the other generated data, and
- The profile of affected traders.

In collaboration with the SADC Secretariat, the consultants will conduct a legal assessment on whether the adoption and implementation of a SADC STR will require an amendment to the SADC Trade Protocol, and if so, provide sample legal text based on relevant international and other regional agreements.

On the basis of the desk study and the study visits and related assessments, and in light of the outcome of the legal assessment, the consultants will be expected to develop a negotiation proposal for a SADC STR, including different scenarios.

These shall include numerous options for thresholds (value/volume of trade eligible under the STR), frequency (timeframe in which the value is assessed), product lists, and documentation requirements.

The proposal by the consultants should also provide a roadmap for national implementation, including guidance for Member States on the legislative arrangements and physical and institutional structures that will need to be established in order to implement the STR. □

CFTA negotiations on course

NEGOTIATIONS TO launch the Continental Free Trade Area are progressing well amid optimism that the dream of a unified continental market could become a reality by the target of the end of 2017.

The 5th meeting of the CFTA Negotiating Forum was held from 27 February to 4 March to finalize the draft modalities for negotiations on tariffs and services.

When operational, the CFTA will bring together all 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.

Speaking at the meeting, AUC Commissioner for Trade and Industry, Fatima Haram Acyl said the CFTA presents significant welfare gains, output and employment expansion and intra-African trade growth in the long-run.

"I am very confident that the end of 2017 will usher Africa into a new era where our traditional borders will become less important as a result of establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area", she said. □



Africa aims for deeper integration

THE 28TH Assembly of the African Union was held in late January in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to chart the development agenda for the continent. Below are some of the issues discussed and agreed at the summit.

CFTA negotiations on course

THE SUMMIT appointed a new leadership team for the AU Commission to steer deeper integration in Africa.

The AU Commission based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia is responsible for the running and delivery of the AU agenda aimed at advancing greater continental integration for a more prosperous Africa.

A former Prime Minister of Chad, Dr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, was elected as the new AU Commission chairperson after several ballots, replacing Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma of South Africa, who did not seek re-election after successfully serving her first term of office.

In his acceptance speech, Dr Mahamat pledged to carry forward the hard work of his predecessors, adding that he is "fully dedicated and committed to serving" the AU.

Ghanaian diplomat Thomas Kwesi Quartey was elected as

deputy chairperson of the commission. The summit elected six new commissioners responsible for peace and security; political affairs; trade and industry; infrastructure and energy; social affairs; rural economy and agriculture (See box). □

New leadership of AU Commission

Chairperson	Faki Moussa Mahamat (Chad)
Deputy Chairperson	Thomas Kwesi Quartey (Ghana)
Commissioner - Peace and Security	Smail Chergui (Algeria)
Commissioner - Political Affairs	Minata Cessouma Samate (Burkina Faso)
Commissioner - Infrastructure and Energy	Amani Abou-Zeid (Egypt)
Commissioner - Social Affairs	Amira Mohammed Elfadil (Sudan)
Commissioner - Trade and Industry	Albert M. Muchanga (Zambia)
Commissioner - Rural Economy and Agriculture	Correa Leonel Josefa Sacko (Angola)
Commissioner for Economic Affairs	Undecided. The incumbent, Anthony Mthae Maruping (who is eligible for re-election) will continue to serve in the interim.
Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology	Undecided. The incumbent, Martial De-Paul Ikounga (Congo), will continue to serve in the interim. He is eligible for reappointment.

Silencing the guns by 2020

THE AFRICAN Union is determined to promote peace and stability in the continent to ensure socio-economic development. As part of efforts to achieving this, African leaders have adopted a Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the year 2020.

The roadmap will act as a guideline for all member states to focus on conflict prevention, early warning and early response, in order to prevent the future occurrence of armed conflicts in the continent.

Some parts of the continent still experience instability and violent conflicts, often fanned from outside the continent, which has affected the rate and levels of development.

To ensure human and financial resources are devoted to socio-economic development, African countries have agreed to work together in "silencing the guns" by 2020.

Towards financial independence

A KEY issue discussed by the AU Summit was the need for Africa to finance its own development agenda and not rely too much on foreign support.

Estimates indicate that more than 70 percent of the AU budget comes from international partners, notably the United States and the European Union. This situation has resulted in the partners dictating policies to the AU, which at times are not beneficial to deepening continental integration in Africa.

Therefore, African leaders agreed to put in place measures aimed at ensuring that the AU is self-sufficient. These measures include levying taxes on plane tickets, hotels and text messages as alternative sources of financing for the AU.

These measures are expected to raise

about US\$600 million a year, and over five years, the AU expects to be able to pay the bulk of its costs using its own funds.

A Committee of Ten Finance Ministers was appointed to assume responsibility for oversight of the AU budget and Reserve Fund, and to develop a set of "golden rules", estab-

Morocco re-joins AU

THE SUMMIT welcomed the readmission of Morocco into the AU as it provides an opportunity to reunite the African community of states around the Pan-African core values of solidarity, unity, freedom and equality, in accordance with the Principles and Objectives of the Constitutive Act.

Morocco withdrew from the then Organisation of

Common position on ICC

AFRICAN LEADERS adopted the International Criminal Court (ICC) Withdrawal Strategy, a common position that urges member states to pull out of the court if key reforms are not implemented to make the court more relevant to the needs of the continent.

Africa has expressed concern at the manner in which the ICC has conducted itself in relation to African countries. Most cases investigated by the ICC since its establishment in 2002 are in Africa.

Some of the ICC investigations have been in Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Sudan and Uganda.

This has led to allegations levelled against the ICC for double standards amid claims that the court turns a blind eye to allegations of war of crimes and genocide committed by Northern countries. □

lishing clear financial management and accountability principles.

It also agreed that the current scale of contributions by member states should be revised based on the ability to pay, solidarity, and equitable burden-sharing, to avoid risk concentration. □

African Union – precursor to the AU – 32 years ago in protest at the continental body's support for the Polisario Front and its recognition of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic as an independent state.

The admission of Morocco brings the membership of the AU to 55. □

Towards peace, stability in Lesotho

SADC REMAINS seized with the political situation in the Kingdom of Lesotho and is committed to the process of ensuring a return to stability in the country.

In February, the region oversaw the return of exiled opposition leaders back into the country as part of its mediation efforts to restore stability to Lesotho, which has long been wracked by conflict between political opponents.

The exiled leaders who arrived back in the country were former Prime Minister Thomas Thabane of the All Basotho Convention (ABC), and Thesele Maseribane, leader of the Basotho National Party, as well as Keketso Rantso of the Reformed Congress of Lesotho.

The return of these opposition leaders is in line with SADC decisions, which called upon the Government of Lesotho to facilitate their return, and allow them to actively participate in the reform processes.

SADC Facilitator to Lesotho, Cyril Ramaphosa, who is the South African Deputy President urged the returning leaders to work together in ensuring the country resolves its challenges, adding that it was critical for all stakeholders in Lesotho to welcome this development as a SADC process and accord it the necessary support to ensure its success.

In a bid to also remain seized with the situation in Lesotho, SADC has deployed an Oversight Committee to support the country in consolidating peace and security.

The committee was established by the SADC Summit to serve as an early

warning mechanism, and lend assistance to the implementation of the constitutional, security and public sector reforms.

Led by retired judge Frederick Werema from the United Republic of Tanzania, the Oversight Committee was deployed in November 2016.

Tanzania is the current chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. The Organ is responsible for promoting peace and security in the SADC region, and is mandated to steer and provide Member States with direction regarding matters that threaten peace, security and stability in the region.

However, a worrying new development was the vote of no-confidence passed by the Lesotho Parliament on Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili in late February.

SADC conducts post-election review of Lesotho

TO CONTRIBUTE to the success of future elections in the Kingdom of Lesotho, SADC has undertaken a post-elections review of the National Assembly elections held in the country in 2015.

The review was conducted on 6-10 February by the SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC).

The SEAC organised a stakeholder's dialogue forum on recommendations by the SADC Election Observation Mission (SEOM) to the 2015 Lesotho elections.

The SEOM report recommended a review of the Lesotho constitution as well as legislative and institutional

According to the Constitution of Lesotho, a no-confidence vote means that the Prime Minister should resign or advise the King to call for elections.

Mosisili, leader of the Democratic Congress, has headed the coalition government since the defeat of former Prime Minister, Thabane, in the 2015 elections.

The vote of "no confidence" on Mosisili comes nearly two years after his Democratic Congress ousted the ABC by uniting with smaller opposition parties.



reforms, in particular security sector reforms assisted by SADC.

It also called for a review of laws relating to parliamentary floor crossing, as well as review of the policy and legal framework for coalition governments; and the professionalization of the media.

The SEAC, which serves as SADC's advisory body on elections, democracy and good governance, is mandated under the revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections with post-election reviews in Member States. □

Now it is the ABC that leads a coalition of opposition parties, including the Alliance of Democrats – a group that split from the Democratic Congress last year – in an effort to remove Mosisili. □

Seychelles approves constitutional amendment

THE SEYCHELLES cabinet has approved a proposed amendment to the Constitution that would require new elections if the island nation's President dies, resigns or is removed from office.

The State House said in a statement that an extraordinary cabinet meeting chaired by President Danny Faure agreed in February to the amendment, which states that in the event that the post of President becomes prematurely vacant, the Vice President would assume the Presidency until an election is held. An election should be carried out within 90 days.

Article 51 of Seychelles' Constitution says that the island nation's Vice President assumes power in the event of the President's death, resignation or removal from office.

However, the Constitution previously did not say that new elections must be held, a point that has been challenged on several occasions by the opposition parties as it had allowed two former presidents to hand over power to a successor without an election. □





Towards a regional Univisa

by Kizito Sikuka

IMAGINE IF all tourists to southern Africa are encouraged to visit more than one country in the region.

SADC would be one of the most preferred destinations in the world, allowing countries to realize better proceeds from their numerous tourist attractions such as the Victoria Falls between Zambia and Zimbabwe, San rock paintings in Botswana and the absorbing wildlife population in the region.

This cross-border tourism development will create an entirely new assortment of tourism opportunities in southern Africa and present new opportunities for socio-economic development, as well as deepen integration among member states as countries will jointly market their attractions.

One strategy of achieving cooperation in developing the tourism industry in southern Africa is to create a single visa system for travellers in the region.

A single visa system will not only allow tourists and travellers to the region to move smoothly across borders and between member states, but will also encourage tourists to visit more than one country in SADC.

Currently, travellers to SADC are expected to apply for a visa each time they intend to visit another country in the region, a situation most travellers say is costly, and a barrier to movement within the region.

In this regard, a single visa system for travellers to the SADC region makes economic

sense as it saves time, money, bureaucratic hassles and makes travel easier.

Zambia and Zimbabwe are implementing a similar visa system to encourage tourists to move smoothly between the two countries.

The visa system commonly known as the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) Univisa is the first step towards adopting a Univisa in the SADC region.

The KAZA Univisa was initially launched in November 2014. However, due to various challenges the system briefly stopped in December 2015, and later resumed in December 2016.

Updating stakeholders on the implementation of the KAZA Univisa, the Zimbabwe principal director for immigration, Clemence Masango said a SADC Univisa is critical in promoting tourism in the region, adding that it was time for other countries in SADC to join the KAZA Univisa.

"The KAZA Transfrontier Conservation Areas countries must now take full ownership of and responsibility over this KAZA Univisa programme if it is to be a success and a permanent feature in the facilitation of tourism and marketing of our products and destination," he said.

The implementation of the KAZA Univisa was originally

set to be rolled out in four different stages.

The pilot phase involves Zambia and Zimbabwe, with the next step expected to cover three other countries namely Angola, Botswana and Namibia, who make up the five members of the KAZA Trans-frontier Conservation Area (TFCA).

Thereafter, Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland are scheduled to join the KAZA Univisa system.

The fourth and last stage should see all the other remaining SADC countries -- the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles and the United Republic of Tanzania -- joining the visa system, thereby adopting a Univisa in the SADC region.

Chief executive of the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority, Karikoga Kaseke said the ultimate establishment of a Univisa in SADC will be the "the final answer to multi-destination access" in the region.

He said such a move will also make the region cheaper to access, boosting arrivals and revenue from tourism.

"People plan holidays in a manner that takes them to two or more countries," he said, adding that tourists always strive to avoid any unnecessary or complicated

processes including expensive visa applications.

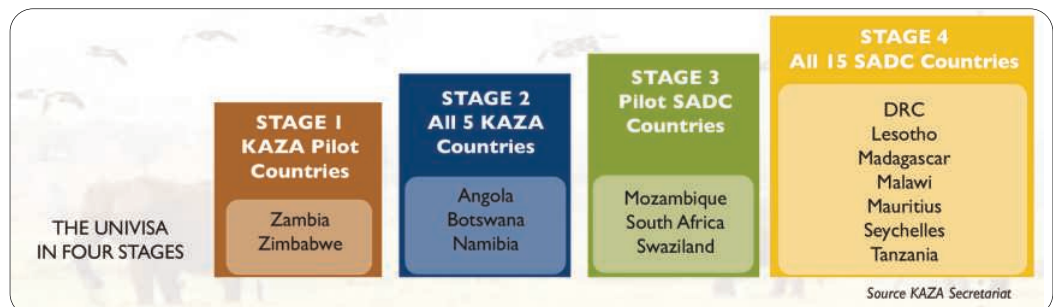
"If travellers get a visa in one country that gives them access to other countries that are on that visa, it will be more appreciated...As such, going forward it would be prudent for us in the region and beyond to seriously consider the promotion of multi-destination access through the establishment of the tourism visa."

The SADC Univisa system is expected to be modelled along the Schengen visa that allows free movement of travellers across the European Union.

When fully implemented a single visa for SADC has the capacity to considerably improve the travel and flow of visitors to and within the region.

Southern Africa has some of the best attractions in the world that range from the Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania to the Great Zimbabwe.

According to a recent Southern African Travel and Tourism Barometer by the Regional Tourism Organization of Southern Africa (RETOSA), tourist arrivals to southern Africa continue to be on the increase. In 2013, for example, arrivals increased from about 23 million to more than 24 million in 2014. sardc.net □



NEPAD approves funding for DRC, Mozambique, Zambia interconnectors

THE NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (IPPF) has approved US\$3.88 million in grants to the governments of DRC, Mozambique and Zambia to finance completion of preparations for regional energy projects.

The Kolwezi-Solwezi Interconnector Project linking Kolwezi in DRC and Solwezi in Zambia received US\$1.98 million while the Zambia-Mozambique Interconnector Project got US\$1.9 million.

The NEPAD IPPF grants are to help fund full feasibility studies, including detailed design and tender documents of the proposed transmission lines within two years. The projects

have already attracted downstream financing interest from donors in the region and other financial institutions.

The two interconnectors are among the key electricity corridors in the Southern Africa Power Pool (SAPP) network architecture within the regional grid, and aim to assure region-

wide provision of quality, reliable and secure electricity to commercial and economic centres in the three countries.

In the long term, they constitute the building blocks to connect the north-south and east-west SADC power grid.

Both interconnectors will increase the transmission

capacity within the SAPP as well as enhance energy security for the respective countries.

In addition to reinforcing and building resilience in the current grid, the interconnectors will help to significantly increase trade flows, deepen power trading markets in the region and in Africa as a whole. *A/DB* □

Lesotho hosts SAPP Executive Committee

THE LESOTHO Electricity Company (LEC) in collaboration with the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) will host the executives of 12 SAPP member utilities for the 42nd SAPP Executive Committee meeting, to take place at the Lesotho National Convention Centre from 22-23 March.

The regional executives, who draw their mandate from SADC

Energy Ministers, will meet with the aim to explore ways to achieve a robust, cost-effective interconnected electricity network, electricity generation, energy efficiency and clean environment adaptation in the region.

The Southern African Power Pool was created with the primary aim to provide reliable and economical electricity

supply to the consumers of each of the SAPP members, consistent with the reasonable utilization of natural resources and the effect on the environment. *www.lec.co.ls* □

Seychelles issues "blue bonds" for sustainable fisheries

THE GOVERNMENT of Seychelles plans to issue a "blue bond" valued at US\$15 million over 10 years with guarantees from the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility to support the transition to sustainable fisheries.

The Seychelles Blue Bond Project has been awarded with the 2017 Ocean Innovation Challenge.

Maximizing the full potential of Seychelles' ocean territory is central to its blue economy agenda. With tourism and fishing the main economic sectors, Seychelles' large ocean provides most of the island nation's jobs.

The blue economy initiatives focus on economic diversification, food security and the protection and sustainable use of marine resources.

Bonds are financial instruments to raise public and private capital for specific activities which can generate a return on investment. Blue bonds often fund the development of sustainable fisheries. *Seychelles News Agency* □

Mauritius constructs new airport access road

MAURITIUS IS constructing a new access road to Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport near the capital Port Louis in the wake of anticipated high traffic volumes as the city expands.

Public Infrastructure and Land Transport Minister Nandcoomar Bodha said the highway project, valued at some Rs602 million (about US\$17 million), was initiated in the wake of the anticipated traffic volumes expected to result from the forthcoming planned development in the airport area as well as the future Air Cargo and Freeport Zone.

The minister pointed out that with the upcoming smart city in the region and other projects, there was need to have a dedicated access to accommodate these developments.

The road, which will offer a bypass to reduce traffic

congestion and enhance road safety in the residential areas of Plaine Magnien, will also serve as an alternative route to the airport in case of emergencies, he said. □

Mozambique discovers oil reserves

MOZAMBIQUE HAS discovered its first oil reserves off the southern coast of the country.

The discovery was made by Sasol, a South African petrochemical firm with vast operations in Mozambique.

"These will be the first oil wells in Mozambique that will go to full development of the country," the Sasol chief executive officer, Stephen Cornell, said.

As required by Mozambican law, Sasol has issued a "notice of discovery" of the oil finds to the government. *AIM* □

Tanzania bans ore exports

THE MINISTRY of Energy and Minerals in the United Republic of Tanzania has issued a directive banning export of gold, copper, nickel and silver concentrates to ensure that mineral value-addition activities are carried out within the country. This will be effective from 2 March 2017.

The Ministry said this was emphasised in the Mineral Policy of 2009 and the Mining Act of 2010.

"Mineral value-addition activities will provide employment opportunities, revenues and technology transfer," the Ministry said, "hence more benefits to the nation."

"All companies and individuals who were exporting concentrates and mineral ores to foreign countries for beneficiation, including processing, smelting or refining, will immediately stop and start doing such activities within the country."

The Ministry said the Government of Tanzania would provide any necessary support to stakeholders involved in mineral beneficiation activities within the country, particularly the smelting and refining of minerals. *www.mining-weekly.com* □

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February
20-22
South Africa

Africa Energy Indaba 2017

The indaba will bring together international and continental experts to share insights into and solutions to Africa's energy challenges while also exploring the vast energy development opportunities on offer on the continent.

20-24,
Zimbabwe

48th SAPP Meetings

Heads of power utilities and energy experts from southern Africa will meet in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe to assess the electricity situation in the region. The meetings will consider the measures being undertaken by Member States to address the power shortage in the region.

23-24, Namibia

SOLTRAIN Conference

The conference will discuss progress of the Southern African Solar Thermal Training and Demonstration Initiative (SOLTRAIN), a regional initiative on capacity building and demonstration of solar water heaters in the SADC region.

23-24,
Mozambique

ZAMCOM Council of Ministers

Focusing on activities of the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) whose Secretariat is based in Zimbabwe, the Council of Ministers will provide policy guidance in promoting the cooperative management and development of the Zambezi River Basin; approve annual work plans and budgets; and consider recommendations from the ZAMCOM Technical Committee.

March
12-14
Swaziland

Ministerial Retreat on The SADC We Want

The SADC Ministerial Retreat, with the theme "The SADC We Want" will take stock of what SADC has achieved since 1980 as well as challenges, and determine what needs to be done to ensure success. The Retreat will examine key issues that are critical to attaining the SADC Common Agenda, and produce a report for presentation to the SADC Council of Ministers and Extraordinary Summit.

15-16,
Swaziland

SADC Council of Ministers

The SADC Council of Ministers is responsible for supervising and monitoring the functions and development of SADC, and ensuring that policies are properly implemented to advance regional integration

18, Swaziland

SADC Extra Ordinary Summit

SADC Heads of State and Government will meet to discuss on a range of issues, including costing of the SADC industrialization action plan. Recommendations from the Ministerial Retreat as well as Council of Ministers will be considered during the Extra Ordinary Summit.

13-24,
UN New York

61st Session of Commission on the Status of Women

This year's session will focus on the theme "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work." The CSW meets annually and is dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, taking a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

29, Botswana

42nd SAPP Executive Committee

The Southern African Power Pool will discuss the energy situation in the region at the 42nd meeting of its Executive Committee, hosted by the Lesotho Electricity Company in Maseru. SAPP is a regional body that coordinates the planning of generation, transmission and marketing of electricity on behalf of 12 utilities of SADC Member States.

22-23, Lesotho

Consultative Conference on the Post-2020 SADC Development Cooperation and Integration Strategy

The consultative conference will serve as input into the formulation of a post-2020 SADC development cooperation and integration strategy. The objectives are to assess implementation of the RISDP and SIPO, examine issues in regional cooperation and integration; identify priorities and propose a framework post-2020.

April
30-31,
South Africa

Water Strategy Reference Group

The 34th WSRG meeting will review implementation of the Regional Strategic Action Plan IV (2016-2020), and give strategic advice and guidance on the implementation and financing. The meeting will discuss gender mainstreaming in transboundary water management as well as the 7th River Basin Organisations workshop set for May 2017; and receive feedback on the SADC institutional review and other activities relevant to the Water Sector.

20 YEARS

4 February 1997

New South African Constitution comes into force

THE NEW Constitution of the Republic of South Africa came into force on 4 February 1997, making this month a special period for the country and the rest of southern Africa.

The Constitution, which has been hailed as one of the most progressive in the world, was approved by the Constitutional Court on 4 December 1996 and signed by President Nelson Mandela in Sharpeville, Gauteng on 10 December 1996.

Among the laws contained by the Constitution is the Bill of Rights, which is the cornerstone of democracy in South Africa. It enshrines the rights of all people in South Africa and affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom.

The Constitution marked the end of institutionalised apartheid in South Africa and paved the way for holding the first democratic elections in the country.

Three years of negotiations led to agreement on an interim Constitution between the minority South African government, led by the National Party, its main opponent, the African National Congress (ANC), and 18 other parties on 18 November 1993.

The interim Constitution was approved by South Africa's last racially defined Parliament on 22 December 1993 but came into force on 27 April 1994. It was superseded by the final Constitution on 4 February 1997 as the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

The Harare Declaration of the Ad Hoc Committee on Southern Africa of the then Organization of African Unity (OAU) in August 1989 set in motion the democratic transition of South Africa.

Among other things, the declaration called for equal rights to human dignity and respect in South Africa, regardless of race, colour, sex or creed.

It demanded the formation of a political system that affords all men and women the right and duty to participate in their own government as equal members of society.

Formal negotiations for a South African transitional Constitution began in December 1991 at the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA).

The negotiations broke down a number of times as the parties haggled over various issues, including the process by which such a Constitution would be drawn up and adopted.

The ANC insisted that it should be drawn up by a democratically-elected Constituent Assembly, while the governing National Party feared that the rights of minorities would not be protected in such a process, and proposed instead that the Constitution be negotiated by consensus between the parties and then put to a referendum.

The parties agreed on a process whereby a negotiated transitional Constitution would provide for an elected Constitutional Assembly to draw up a permanent Constitution.

Another major point of dispute was the size of the majority that would be required for the assembly to adopt the Constitution, with the National Party insisting on a 75-percent requirement that would effectively have given it a veto.

With the endorsement of the new Constitution, South Africa's leaders renounced the racist past and embraced a Bill of Rights promising South Africans freedom of speech, movement and political activity and other liberties that in the past were reserved mainly for whites. □



Dr Asha-Rose Migiro



Dr Gertrude Mongella

Phumzile
Mlambo-Ngcuka

Dr N Dlamini-Zuma

Southern African Women in the World

SOUTHERN AFRICA will join the rest of the continent and world in celebrating International Women's Day on 8 March. The United Nations set aside 8 March as a global day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.

Many women from the SADC region have played a crucial role in the development of Africa and the world. These include Dr Gertrude Mongella of United Republic of Tanzania who was Chairperson of the Fourth UN World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, and later the first President of the Pan African Parliament; Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma who, as Chairperson of the African Union Commission from July 2012-January 2017, initiated a new AU vision, Agenda 2063; Dr Asha-Rose Migiro of Tanzania who was Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations between February 2007 and July 2012; and Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women since August 2013, and a former Deputy President of South Africa (2005-2008).

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

February 2017-April 2017

1 February	Abolition of Slavery	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes' Day	Mozambique
4 February	National Armed Struggle Day	Angola
9 February	Thaipooam Cavadee	Mauritius
24 February	Maha Shivaratri	Mauritius
28 February	Carnival	Angola
3 March	Martyrs Day	Malawi
8 March	Women's Day	Angola, Zambia
11 March	Moshoeshe's Day	Lesotho
12 March	National Day	Mauritius
	Youth Day	Zambia
29 March	Independence Day	Namibia
	Human Rights' Day	South Africa
	Ougadi	Mauritius
29 March	Martyrs Day	Madagascar
4 April	Peace and Reconciliation Day	Angola
7 April	Sheik Abeid Karume Day	Tanzania
	Woman's day	Mozambique
14 April	Good Friday	Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
15 April	Easter/Holy Saturday	Seychelles, Zambia
17 April	Easter Monday	Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
18 April	Independence Day	Zimbabwe
19 April	King's Birthday	Swaziland
25 April	National Flag Day	Swaziland
26 April	Union Day	Tanzania
27 April	Freedom Day	South Africa
30 April	Youth Day	DRC