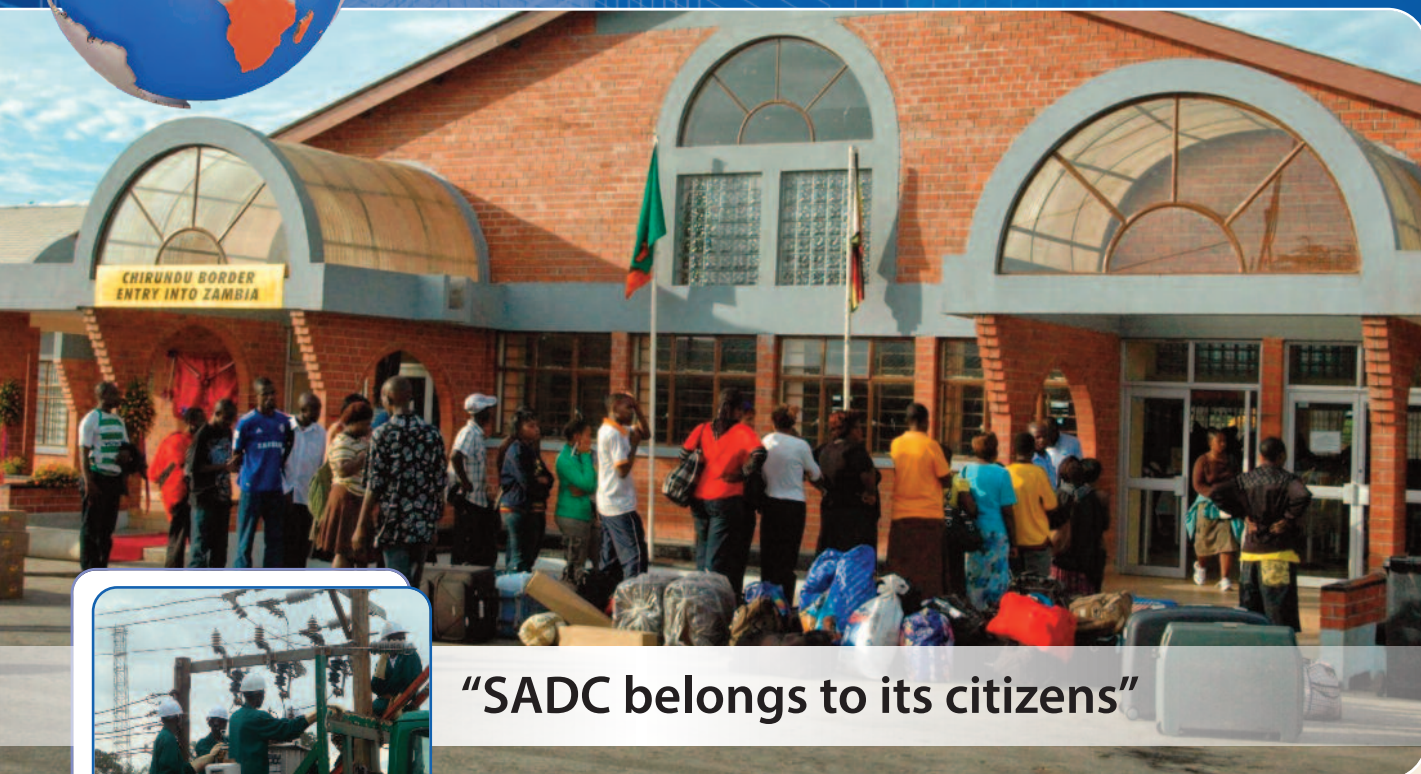


# SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY



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## "SADC belongs to its citizens"

by Joseph Ngwawi

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** has agreed on a number of measures aimed at strengthening the implementation of the integration agenda and promoting inclusive participation by citizens in regional programmes.

Among the measures agreed by the SADC Strategic Ministerial Retreat on the "SADC We Want" held in Ezulwini, Swaziland in March is the need to develop a mechanism for tracking progress in the implementation of the regional integration agenda.

The ministerial retreat directed the SADC Secretariat to develop effective compliance, monitoring and assurance mechanisms to track progress in implementation of SADC programmes as well as compliance to protocols and legal instruments.

The aspirations of southern Africa are clearly spelt out in the Declaration and Treaty that established the shared community of SADC.

The aspirations are a united, prosperous and integrated region.

In pursuit of these targets, SADC has 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.

Since the transformation of SADC in 1992 from the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, a total of 33 protocols have been signed by Member States to push forward the regional integration agenda.

Twenty-six protocols have been ratified and have entered into force, but domestication into national laws to facilitate implementation is very slow.

According to SADC legal statutes, any signed regional protocol should be ratified by member countries for it to enter into force at national level in the 15 member states. At least two-thirds of the member states (10 countries) are required to ratify a protocol 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, with some requiring approval of parliament.



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## “SADC belongs to its citizens”

The slow implementation of strategic documents by SADC countries has affected regional integration, resulting in most people in the region failing to fully realize maximum benefits of belonging to a shared community in southern Africa.

The retreat called on the SADC Secretariat to prioritise programmes by focusing on infrastructure development, industrialisation and market integration, with peace and security as a prerequisite for economic development.

In so doing, it recommended that the prioritisation of regional programmes should “observe the principles of subsidiarity and additionality”. (See box)

It was agreed that the SADC Secretariat should focus on co-ordination of programmes while Member States should focus on implementation.

The ministers noted that the main challenge for SADC is lack of prioritisation that will have impact and that there is, therefore, need to devise more effective means to achieve the SADC aspirations, and to ensure that there is an equitable distribution of regional integration benefits across Member States.

The prioritisation should also include a review of the SADC Infrastructure Project Portfolio to determine priorities that need to be focused on at regional vis-à-vis Member State levels.

The SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan, adopted in 2012, identifies a total of 418 infrastructure projects to be implemented by 2027.

The master plan is a 15-year blueprint that will guide the implementation of cross-border infrastructure projects between 2013 and 2027, covering the six priority sectors of information communication technology, energy, meteorology, tourism, transport and water.

The projects are being implemented over three five-year intervals – short term (2012-2017),

medium term (2017-2022) and long term (2022-2027).

The ministerial retreat noted that in prioritising SADC programmes, cognisance must be given to the need to align legal instruments with the new thrust towards industrialisation.

It was felt that there is need for coordination across existing protocols so that they respond to the demands of the industrialisation agenda. These include the SADC Protocol on Energy, Protocol of Trade, Protocol on Finance and Investment, Protocol on Trade in Services, and the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons.

A number of protocols came into effect when the industrialisation thrust was not part of the agenda.

Another major recommendation of the ministerial retreat was the need for the Secretariat to undertake a comprehensive review of SADC organs, including the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, in order to rationalise and streamline decision-making and enhance effectiveness and efficiency.

It was noted that the review should also propose delegation

of decision-making to lower levels. For example, only key decisions should be taken to the Council of Ministers and the Summit of Heads of State and Government while other decision-making should be delegated to lower organs when it is cost-effective.

There is also need to strengthen SADC National Committees (SNCs) so that they become functional and more effective in coordinating the implementation of key SADC decisions at national level.

SADC National Committees were established to provide inputs at national level in the formulation of regional policies and strategies, as well as co-ordinate and oversee the implementation of programmes at national level.

The committees are also responsible for the initiation of SADC projects and issue papers as an input into the preparation of regional strategies.

They comprise key stakeholders from government, private sector and civil society in each member state.

There has, however, been concern about the effectiveness of the committees amid indica-

tions that they are only working well in a few SADC countries.

The retreat observed that strengthened SNCs would provide a link to national civil society organisations, which usually struggle to engage with SADC.

The retreat recommended that the SADC Secretariat should develop an effective engagement mechanism to strengthen participation of the private sector at all levels.

It was noted that the lack of direct involvement by the private sector is a barrier to economic development.

The development of an engagement mechanism will, therefore, be crucial in facilitating input by the business community into SADC processes and providing regular feedback.

The ministerial retreat called upon the SADC Secretariat to submit recommendations on sustainable financing for regional integration to Ministers of Finance to be considered during the finalisation of the ongoing work on the SADC Resource Mobilisation Framework.

At least six options for innovative sources of financing regional integration in SADC were identified during the ministerial retreat. These are the introduction of an export and import tax; a tourism levy; a financial transaction tax; a lottery system; philanthropy; and regional events.

These alternative funding sources have the potential of mobilising more than US\$1.2 billion per year for financing SADC programmes and projects and could go a long way in weaning the region from over-reliance on donor support.

The Secretariat was tasked with working with the African Development Bank to develop the necessary instruments and frameworks such as infrastructure bonds, partial risk guarantees, insurance guarantees and partial credit guarantees for use in Member States. □



**THE PRINCIPLE** of subsidiarity was adopted by SADC member states as one of the Community's core principles essential for facilitating delivery on SADC's Common Agenda.

By definition, the adoption of the principle of subsidiarity means that "... all programmes and activities should be undertaken at levels where they can best be handled based on consultations between governments and relevant stakeholders. The involvement of institutions, authorities, and agencies outside SADC structures to initiate and implement regional programmes using their own generated resources should be promoted and encouraged."

This will ensure that the available capacity of the Secretariat is most efficiently utilised for policy development and harmonisation, as well as programme coordination and management.

The principle of additionality requires that only programmes that add value to regional integration or enhance the capacity to achieve SADC objectives be implemented as priorities.

This principle is essential in the sense that Member States will respect the SADC programmes only to the extent that they are seen to be adding value or generating solutions to common problems faced by the region. □

## SADC to harmonize educational system

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** has taken a huge step towards the harmonization of its education system by approving the Regional Qualifications Framework.

The Regional Qualifications Framework (RQF) seeks, among other things, to enable SADC Member States to harmonize qualifications obtained in the region.

In the long run, the establishment of a standardized educational system should promote deeper regional integration as it would help facilitate the movement of students and professionals in southern Africa.

Meeting in mid-April in Johannesburg, South Africa, the Technical Committee on Certification and Accreditation (TCCA) approved the SADC-RQF – marking the beginning of greater cooperation and easier access for learners and workers across the region.

The TCCA was established by SADC to make sure that the SADC-RQF is a reality.

The TCCA is a group of experts drawn from the 15 SADC Member States and is supported by the SADC Secretariat.

The RQF is a regional framework consisting of 10 levels, which are based on learning outcomes and as they increase, their level of complexity also increases.

It is aimed at promoting the smooth movement of learners and workers across the SADC region.

Chairperson of the TCCA, Joe Samuels said the framework would allow Member

States to reference their National Qualifications Frameworks (NQFs) or national education system, in countries where NQFs are still being developed, against the agreed-upon regional framework, which means that the SADC countries are able to benchmark their qualifications against the SADC-QF.

The TCCA has agreed on a way of implementing the framework.

“This includes the adoption of ten alignment criteria to ensure consistency in the way SADC member states align their NQFs or national education systems to the SADC-RQF,” Samuels said.

Six SADC Member States have agreed to pilot the

alignment process and the outcome of this pilot will guide the roll-out of the alignment for the other nine SADC states.

“Regional alignment enables individuals to make comparisons of their learning and competence and also reduces unnecessary duplication of learning and effort when moving through SADC for study or work purposes,” he added.

He said implementation of the framework will also include Quality Assurance (QA) and Verification of Qualifications.

SADC has created a set of 16 regional QA guidelines that set QA standards at a regional level. Member States must align their quality assurance

mechanisms with the regional guidelines.

To facilitate the Verification of Qualifications in the region, member states decided to create a regional qualifications verification network known as the SADC Qualifications Verifications Network (SADC-QVN).

The SADC-QVN is a tool for SADC Member States to verify qualifications used in SADC.

The approval of the RQF is in line with the SADC Protocol on Education and Training adopted in 1997, which seeks to establish a legal and institutional framework to promote regional integration in specific priority areas of education, training, research and development. □

## Region develops new disaster risk strategy

**PLANS ARE** underway for southern Africa to develop a new regional strategy aimed at mitigating against risks associated with disasters.

SADC is among some of the regions worst affected by disasters such as droughts and floods mainly caused by climate change.

The proposed SADC Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strategic Plan is expected to cover the period 2016-2030, and builds on the previous strategy that ran from 2010-2015.

The SADC DRR Strategic Plan focuses on capacity enhancement interventions for Member States; assisting them to develop and implement the

national DRR strategies that are harmonized with the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan and Revised Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ.

The Strategic Plan has five main objectives. These are:

- strengthen governance, legal and institutional framework at all levels in the region;
- facilitate the identification, assessment and monitoring of disaster risks and support the enhancement of early warning systems at all levels;
- promote the usage and management of information and knowledge, inno-

vation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels in the SADC region;

- ensure that DRR becomes a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation; and
- Integration of preparedness and emergency response into national and regional DRR interventions.

The SADC Secretariat is in the process of engaging a consultant to develop the strategy. The consultant is expected among other things to take into account the lessons drawn from implementing the 2010-2015 strategy. □





# Environmental management is key to achieving sustainable development

**THE ACHIEVEMENT** of sustainable development goals is considered as inextricably linked to the way the environment is managed.

This is because all the identified Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations have direct or indirect linkages with the environment since all forms of development depend on the availability of health ecosystem services. (See box for more information on SDGs)

For example, the environment is critical in achieving SDG 1 on ending poverty as it provides the ecosystem goods and services that contribute to employment creation and provision of safety nets as well as reducing inequalities in the society.

The achievement of SDG 2 on ending hunger and achieving food security and nutrition is directly linked to the well-being of the environment as agriculture production is dependent on healthy soils.

SDG 3 seeks to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. To achieve this goal, there is need to ensure that communities get access to a clean environment including water which is fundamental in promoting human health and well-being.

The *Zambezi Environment Outlook 2015\** highlights the low levels of access to both safe water and sanitation in some SADC Member States and the adverse impact this has on livelihoods, health and productivity.

One of the challenges cited is that water resources in the region are becoming increasingly polluted due to large effluent discharges from urban areas, mining activities

and agro-industries as countries become more industrialised.

Further, to achieve SDG 5 on gender equality, the need for countries in southern Africa to appreciate strong linkages that exist between gender inequality and environmental degradation is critical.

Women are the primary users of the environmental resources in the region, therefore ensuring that equal access for both men and women has the potential to increase yields per hectare in southern Africa.

Another critical SDG that is directly linked to the sustainability of the environment and is urgent for southern Africa is Goal 7 on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

SADC has vast renewable energy sources, ranging from wind, solar and gas to hydro and biofuels.

According to the African Development Bank, the overall hydropower potential in SADC countries is estimated at about 1,080 terawatt hours per year (TWh/year) but capacity being utilised at present is just under 31 TWh/year. A terawatt is equal to one million megawatts.

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

As southern Africa moves towards the implementation of its industrialisation strategy, it is critical to consider other environmental issues such as the management of natural

and marine resources, science and technology, infrastructure development and climate change management through inclusive strategies and programmes.

For example, if environmental sustainability is not considered, efforts to reduce climate change impacts will not yield any positive result.

The burning of fossil fuels and use of agricultural and industrial chemicals lead to the build-up of greenhouse gases which cause climate change hence the need to reduce such activities.

It is also fundamental to note that achieving Goal 16 on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies cannot happen unless environmental integrity is prioritised first.

In particular, the interconnectedness that exists between environment and human security is vital for effective conflict prevention, post-conflict reconstruction and promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies. □

*\*Zambezi Environment Outlook 2015 is now available in Portuguese as well as English.*

## Towards a better world

**THE 17 SUSTAINABLE** Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at a historic UN Summit and officially began in January 2016.

Over the next 15 years (2015-2030), the goals that universally apply to all, will see countries mobilizing their efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

The SDGs, also known as Global Goals, build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and aim to go further to end all forms of poverty.

The new goals are unique in that they call for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle-income to promote prosperity while protecting the planet.

They recognise that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and addresses a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

While the SDGs are not legally binding, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the 17 Goals.

Countries have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review of the progress made in implementing the Goals, which will require quality, accessible and timely data collection.

Regional follow-up and review will be based on national-level analyses and contribute to follow-up and review at the global level. [www.un.org](http://www.un.org) □



## Food security prospects brighten for southern Africa

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** is set to record a bumper harvest after receiving good rainfall in the 2016/17 agricultural season, according to the latest crop assessments reports.

The SADC Food Security Quarterly Update released in March 2017 shows that countries such as Malawi and South Africa have published their preliminary production estimates indicating high chances of bumper harvests.

In Malawi, the first round crop production estimates show an increase in most crops, including the staple food, maize.

Maize production in the country is estimated at 3.2 million tonnes, up by 36 percent from 2.4 million tonnes last season.

In South Africa, crop production estimates show an increase of most crops. Maize production is estimated at 13.9 million tonnes, up by 79 percent from 7.8 million tonnes last season.

The two countries alone are looking at producing a total of 17 million tonnes, which is more than half of the region's average annual maize production of about 30 million tonnes.

Agricultural production in Zambia is expected to increase from last season, when the country recorded an average of 2.7 million tonnes of maize de-

spite the occurrence of drought.

Early projections in Zimbabwe show that the country is likely to get a bumper harvest this season and is estimated to produce over 2.8 million tonnes of cereals and other crops.

An improvement in crop production in southern Africa is coming at a time when an estimated 40 million people in the region were left food-insecure due to the severe drought that occurred in the 2015/16 agricultural season.

One of the challenges the region still needs to address is the outbreak of crop diseases due to pests.

Cases of fall armyworm outbreak during the 2016/17 agricultural season were reported in Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

This is the first time that the region has been affected by fall armyworm, which is common in the Americas.

The pest mainly affects maize, millet, sorghum, rice, wheat, sugarcane, cowpea, groundnuts, potatoes and soya beans. It eats the leaves of the plants as well as their reproductive parts.

To address challenges, the recent Extra Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government held in Swaziland, agreed on a number of meas-

ures aimed at improving the overall food security situation in the region.

Among others, the summit tasked member states to address, as a matter of urgency, the outbreak of fall armyworm in the region.

Summit agreed to improve the coordination and collaboration of efforts in promoting a harmonised approach in the management of the fall armyworm in southern Africa.

Member States agreed to make concerted efforts in mobilising resources to implement management and control strategies for fall armyworm and other plant and livestock pests in the region.

Efforts to control the pest have been compromised by heavy rains experienced in some parts of southern Africa.

The heavy rains caused flooding in countries such as Mozambique, Botswana, Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

On floods, the Extra Ordinary Summit reaffirmed the commitment by the region to assist people affected by cyclones Dineo and Enawo.

The cyclones caused serious damages to infrastructure and destroyed crops in some member states in the region.

In Mozambique alone, the government estimates an overall funding requirement of about US\$16.5 million to ad-

dress the damages caused by Cyclone Dineo, of which US\$6.7 million is needed as a matter of urgency.

The support is needed to rebuild damaged infrastructure as well as support agriculture production and for humanitarian assistance.

Mozambique News Agency reports showed that the torrential rain flooded farmlands resulting in an estimated loss of more than 29,000 hectares of crops including maize, groundnuts, cassava and beans.

In Madagascar, food production was compromised by the tropical cyclones that have devastated the country, especially Cyclone Enawo that caused floods leaving 328,972 people homeless and caused more than 50 deaths.

In this regard, the recent summit encouraged member states to consider providing relief support to the affected countries in the region.

The summit directed the SADC Secretariat, with support from member states, to urgently finalise and operationalise the regional disaster preparedness and response mechanism as well as make the Regional Disaster Preparedness and Response Fund functional. The fund will help to build resilience of member states against future disasters. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net) □

## Trade related facility extended to Seychelles, Madagascar

**THE SADC** Trade Related Facility has been extended to the two Member States of Seychelles and Madagascar following successful discussions held with the SADC Secretariat.

The Trade Related Facility (TRF) is a mechanism to provide financial and technical support to eligible SADC Member States to effectively implement their commitments under the Protocol on Trade and the SADC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

The meeting with the two island states adopted project concepts to be developed into project applications by consultants to be engaged by SADC.

The two countries were added to the list of TRF beneficiary countries through an Addendum to the TRF Contribution Agreement in February.

The project applications being developed are to be submitted to the SADC Secretariat in April. Projects proposals from Seychelles will cover trade facilitation, trade remedies and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade.

Those from Madagascar will range from industrial development, quality infrastructure, trade facilitation, trade in services, trade promotion and trade facilitation.

The TRF is supported under the SADC-European Union (EU) Contribution Agreement. The Programme Facility Support Unit has been supporting beneficiary Member States with the development of project applications for funding under the programme.

The support entailed technical discussions with the

TRF Focal Points in Member States to agree on intervention areas to be developed into project applications, preparation of Terms of Reference for the engagement

of Consultants to support Member States with the preparation of applications and development of detailed project proposals in the identified priority areas.

As of 28 February 2017, the Euro20 million had been subscribed to and all projects submitted by Member States had been approved by the TRF Steering Committee. □

## SADC committed to the Tripartite FTA

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** is committed to the success of the establishment of the largest integrated market involving more than half of the countries in Africa.

The proposed Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) commonly known as the Grand FTA covers a total of total 27 countries in eastern and southern Africa that consist of three Regional Economic Communities (RECs) namely the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and SADC.

Since an agreement was signed by COMESA-EAC-SADC to launch the largest integrated markets on the African continent in June 2015, a total of 17 countries have so far signed the pact.

Of these nine are from the SADC region -- Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, the United Republic of Tanzania, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Non-SADC countries that have signed the agreement are Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda.

The remaining 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 18 countries or two-thirds of the tripartite member states 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.

To ensure the establishment of the Grand FTA is a success, SADC has urged its members to implement all outstanding items.

The SADC Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration that met ahead of the recent SADC Extraordinary Summit held in Swaziland in March reviewed the status of implementation of the TFTA agreement.

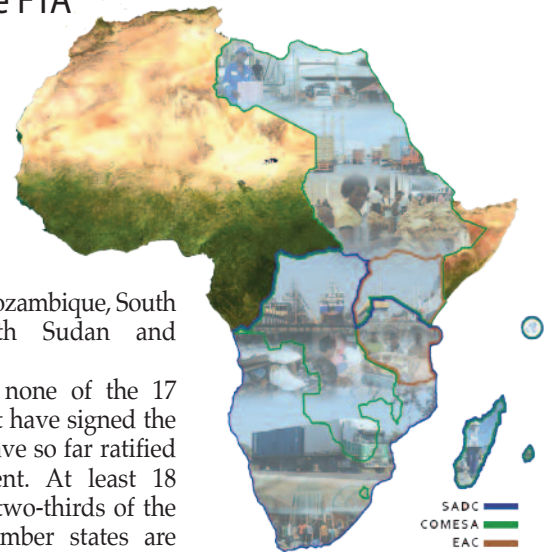
The SADC Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration also further “directed the Secretariat to collaborate with the Tripartite Task Force to expedite implementation of outstanding

activities of the Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement and report on the status of implementation of outstanding activities at its next meeting”

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

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

The Grand FTA is a part of a bigger plan to launch a continent-wide market by the African Union aimed at boasting trade among African countries. □





## SADC has huge potential for funding own programmes

by Joseph Ngwawi

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** has the potential to mobilise more than US\$1.2 billion from alternative and innovative sources as part of efforts to reduce the reliance on donor support.

According to a series of studies commissioned by the SADC Secretariat, it could access a huge pool of resources available in the region if it adopts some or all of the six options on alternative and innovative sources of funding being proposed.

The six options for innovative sources of financing regional integration in SADC are the introduction of an export and import tax; a tourism levy; a financial transaction tax; a lottery system; philanthropy; and regional events.

The study on the Export and Import Levy found that a regional tax on exports and/or imports was a common practice for raising revenues by national governments or Regional Economic Communities (RECs) worldwide.

It noted that the use of an import tax is the most commonly pursued form of raising funds for other African RECs such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

The African Union (AU) is in the process of introducing a similar tax. The AU Summit in 2016 approved a 0.2 percent levy on eligible imports, with each AU region contributing about US\$65 million per year.

The study said a simulation on a potential SADC import tax showed that, based on 2014 trade figures, imposition of a 0.2 percent levy on all SADC member states imports from outside the region could generate at least US\$331.3 million revenue annually.

It said there is need for a dedicated legal instrument in the form of a protocol or agreement to strengthen the legal and policy framework provided by the SADC Treaty.

It will also be necessary that each member put in place national legislation to enable revenue authorities to collect the import tax. However the existing collection infrastructure makes it easy for national collection of the levy once adopted.

The study on the tourism revealed that a Regional Tourism Levy can be introduced in a number of ways but two options – tax on international travel tickets and a tourism levy – are most viable and recommended to start with.

The proposed Regional Tourism Levy is in line with continental and international best practices.

The AU Assembly has approved a tourism levy on tickets amounting to US\$2 for short trips and US\$5 for long trips. It also approved a 0.5 percent tourism tax on income from tourism activities by member states.

Based on the study, it is recommended that SADC considers adopting a 5-10 percent levy on tourism activities by SADC member States. It is estimated that US\$123 million per annum could be raised through levies on air tickets alone.

A study on Regional Financial Transaction Taxes showed that such taxes are and can be a viable source of resource mobilization. They have considerable potential for SADC to harness in order to fund its development programmes.

The study recommended that SADC focuses on remittances sent through money transfer agencies.

It is projected that a 0.1 percent levy on these transactions has a potential of raising US\$691 million per annum,

enough to fund the implementation of the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP).

Philanthropic initiatives are fast emerging as another innovative way of mobilizing resources for development.

These are in the rise in Africa as new sources of innovative financing. Several studies show that there are huge amounts of money from high net worth individuals, foundations and private sector that flows from and to Africa. It is estimated that Africa gets between US\$1.25 billion and US\$3 billion from philanthropic activities.

According to a Global Gambling and Consultants Report of 2002, SADC has the potential to raise over US\$30 million per annum from lottery games.

A legal framework is required to provide for a lottery-based revenue sharing formula amongst member states. The institutional arrangements for collections at national and regional levels as well as format of the lottery governance would need to be worked out.

A separate study on the possibility of raising resources through regional events showed that a number of events that can be undertaken at regional level to generate funding for regional integration development projects.

Other long run sources of funding that the SADC region can consider for funding its regional integration agenda are introduction of a carbon levy, blended finance, transport levy, venture capital and curbing illicit financial flows. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net) □





# Summit approves costed industrialisation

**THE SADC** vision of becoming an industrialised zone is taking shape following the approval of an action plan to cost the implementing of an industrialisation strategy adopted by the region two years ago.

The SADC Extraordinary Summit held in Mbabane, Swaziland in March approved the Costed Action Plan for the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063.

"In approving the Action Plan, the Summit underscored high impact activities, effective monitoring and reporting, and the role of the private sector as a key player in the implementation of the SADC industrialisation agenda," read a communique issued at the end of the Extraordinary Summit.

The implementation of the action plan is estimated to cost US\$103 million at regional level over the first 15 years of the strategy timeframe.

Member States are expected to come up with their own implementation cost estimates by the end of June 2017.

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.

It 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.

The SADC Industrialisation 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 proposed under the action plan for each of these pillars are proposed.

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 industrialisation strategy and roadmap.

Member States will be required to develop national Industrial Upgrading and Modernisation Programmes (IUMPs) 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.

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.

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 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 specialisation for priority sectors.

## Summit approves minist

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN** leaders have tasked the SADC Secretariat with the development of a roadmap to guide the implementation of recommendations of a ministerial retreat that assessed the success of the regional integration agenda.

Meeting in Mbabane, Swaziland for the SADC Extraordinary Summit in March, heads of state and government from the region approved the resolutions of the Strategic Ministerial Retreat on Regional Integration that was held under the theme "The SADC We Want".

The retreat took stock of what SADC has achieved since its establishment in 1980, the challenges it was facing and what needed to be done to accelerate the pace and level of the SADC regional integration agenda. (See page 1-2)

"Summit noted the recommendations of the Ministerial Retreat and directed the Secretariat to develop an implementation plan and roadmap of the Conclusions of the Strategic Ministerial Retreat for its consideration in August 2017," the leaders said in a communique.

Southern Africa is in the process of assessing and redefining its regional integration agenda with a view to creating a region in which all citizens share in and benefit from the vision of a Shared Community.

Faced with changing regional, continental and global dynamics, including the approval



## Secretariat restructuring almost complete

**THE SADC Secretariat** has finalised its revised organisational structure that is meant to improve its capacity to coordinate implementation of regional programmes.

SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax said revised structure includes a newly formed Directorate of Industrial Development and Trade.

Speaking during the Council of Ministers meeting held in Mbabane, Swaziland ahead of the SADC Extraordinary Summit in March, Dr Tax said the proposed directorate "should be able to coordinate effective implementation of the SADC industrialisation agenda."

"Following the finalisation of the proposed SADC Organisational Structure, I am confident that, upon its consideration and approval by Council, the Secretariat will speedily move towards its operationalization," Dr Tax said.

It would be remiss of me not to commend the Committee of Senior Officials and the Finance Sub-Committee for having worked diligently to finalise the SADC Secretariat Organisational Structure

The Executive Secretary revealed that Secretariat has so far recruited three new directors to replace those who left at the end of 2016 following the expiry of their contracts.

"I am pleased to inform you that following the end of tour of duty of the directors in various directorates, three director positions were filled in the last two months, namely Director of Policy, Planning and Resource Mobilisation (Zambia), Director of Budget and Finance (Namibia), and Director of Human Resources and Administration (Botswana)," she said.

Other SADC directors who retired at the end of 2016 were those responsible for Infrastructure and Services; Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation; Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (TIFI); Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources; Social and Human Development and Special Programmes.

The TIFI directorate has now been split into two to include the newly formed Directorate of Industrial Development and Trade.

The Executive Secretary did not, however, reveal the other proposed changes to the Secretariat organisational structure.

"We cannot overemphasize the importance of an appropriate, right-sized and skilled staff complement at the SADC Secretariat in coordinating the implementation of the agreed priority programmes," she said. □

2015-2020 and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063).

The three-day retreat, held from 12-14 March in Ezulwini, Swaziland, discussed what needs to be done to create the "SADC We Want" and came up with scenarios about the possible trajectory that SADC could take.

The ministers interrogated existing institutional arrangements to drive regional integration, especially for industrialisation in the region, as well as explored alternative options of financial resources for implementing SADC programmes or projects.

The retreat also assessed the effectiveness of the existing SADC governance and

institutional structure to see if it is meeting the aspirations of the founding fathers of the organisations who believed in a united region where all the citizens enjoyed high living standards and peace.

The Summit of Heads of State and Government is responsible for the overall policy direction and control of functions of the community as the supreme policy-making institution of SADC.

Political and policy decisions on regional development and integration are taken by the SADC Summit or Summit Troika, or by the Troika of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

SADC operations are centralised at a Secretariat based in Gaborone, Botswana.

The Secretariat is the principal executive institution of SADC, responsible for strategic planning, facilitation, coordination and management of all regional programmes.

It is headed by an Executive Secretary and is made up of eight directorates and eight stand-alone units responsible for cross-cutting issues. □

## action plan

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; liberalisation 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. □

## erial retreat resolutions

of the African Union Agenda 2063, the formation of the BRICS grouping by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa and adoption of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, SADC has decided to take stock of its regional integration agenda with a view to making its programmes responsive to the emerging imperatives.

SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax said the decision to hold the ministerial retreat was informed by the directive of the Council of Ministers in March 2016 for a special strategic session to deliberate on the implementation of SADC programmes and projects under the auspices of the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP)







## Preparations for proposed SADC university gather pace

**SADC LEADERS** have expressed satisfaction with preparations for the establishment of a regional university that will promote innovation.

The SADC Extraordinary Summit noted progress made on the preparations for the establishment of the proposed SADC University of Transformation.

Summit "directed the relevant SADC structures to finalise its implementation and to report back to Summit in August 2017."

As part of the preparations towards the establishment of the university, the SADC Secretariat has embarked on a regional scoping and skills needs assessment to guide the programmes of tertiary institution to be hosted by the Kingdom of Swaziland.

The Secretariat commenced the process of identifying skills gaps and needs "to facilitate the transformation of the region taking into account the SADC policy and strategic frameworks, including the agreed priorities set out in the SADC Industrialisation Strategy Roadmap."

The study will also assess the institutional set up, infrastructure and legal requirements of the university.

The needs assessment is meant to support the establishment of the SADC University of Transformation – an institution to train citizens in innovation and entrepreneurship as the region intensifies efforts to transform itself into an industrialised region.

The university is one of initiatives proposed by SADC chairperson, King Mswati III of Swaziland during the 36th SADC Summit in 2016 as part of measures to improve industrial productivity.

The proposed university will be a timely intervention that is expected to complement the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063).

The strategy and its roadmap is being implemented in three phases, covering the three main pillars of industrialisation, competitiveness and regional integration.

The first phase covers the period between 2015 and 2020. The second phase, which is expected to cover 30 years, would consist of a period 2021-2050 while the final phase is proposed to run between 2051 and 2063, building up for the convergence with the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The first phase of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap will involve im-

plementation of measures to transform the production base of the region as well as to raise the quality of human capital and labour productivity.

It is envisaged that the SADC economy would move from factor-driven to efficiency-driven during the second phase where measures will focus on diversification and productivity of sectors as well as increasing competitiveness of the region.

This will involve the introduction of policies targeting agro-food processing industries; introduction of value-chains involving the agricultural sector; mineral beneficiation;

pharmaceuticals; and transformation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Proposed specific interventions during this phase will include introduction of advanced technology in agro-food processing projects; development of agro-industrial clusters; promotion of regional value chains; prioritization of mineral beneficiation; development of mineral industrial clusters; support for mining SMEs; and access to finance.

During the third and final phase, the regional economy is envisaged to further transform, based on high levels of innovation and business sophistication. □

## Contracts for SADC executive secretary, deputy renewed

**SUMMIT EXTENDED** the contracts of the SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax and the Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration Dr Theminkosi Mhlongo by another four years as a show of confidence in the top leadership at the Secretariat.

The SADC Extra Ordinary Summit held in Swaziland in March expressed satisfaction at the way the Secretariat is coordinating and implementing regional programmes aimed at promoting socio-economic development.

"Summit commended the Executive Secretary Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax and the Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, Dr. Theminkosi Mhlongo for their outstanding performance and approved extension of their contracts for another term of four years," reads part of the communique issued at the end of the summit.

Dr Tax from the United Republic of Tanzania was first appointed and sworn-in as executive secretary during the 33rd SADC Summit held in Malawi in August 2013, replacing Dr Tomaz Augusto Salomão of Mozambique who had served his maximum two four-year terms.

Dr Tax is no stranger to regional integration, which is the cornerstone of the development agenda for the SADC. Prior to



her appointment as SADC executive secretary, she was permanent secretary in the Tanzanian Ministry of East African Cooperation since 2008.

Dr Mhlongo of South Africa was appointed deputy executive secretary responsible for regional integration during an Extra Ordinary Meeting of the SADC Council of Ministers held in October 2013 in Lilongwe, Malawi.

He replaced Angolan engineer João Caholo whose term ended that same month after serving at the SADC Secretariat for the maximum eight years.

Dr Mhlongo previously worked at the SADC Secretariat as chief director responsible for strategic planning, gender, and policy harmonization up to 2006.

From 2007 to 2013, he was with South African-based Southern Africa Trust where he served on various capacities, including being head of programmes between 2009 and 2013.

The other top leader at the secretariat is Emilie Ayaza Mushobekwa of the Democratic Republic of Congo who has been with the SADC Secretariat since 2010 when she was appointed deputy executive secretary responsible for finance and administration at the 30th Summit of Heads of State and Government in Windhoek, Namibia. □



## Towards the eradication of human trafficking

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** is making significant progress towards criminalising trafficking in persons.

Trafficking in persons is a criminal activity that has become a public security concern in southern Africa, as it has around the world, where it is believed to be a lucrative business for traffickers who thrive on the exploitation of fellow human beings.

Having either signed, ratified and/or acceded to international legislative frameworks such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its supplementing Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, efforts have been geared towards their domestication through legislation development.

To date, 13 of the 15 SADC member countries have standalone legislation on the crime, evidence that the region is concerned by the increasing incidences of trafficking in persons' cases.

The Democratic Republic of Congo and Namibia are the remaining countries that are yet to enact trafficking in persons-specific legislation, although the wheels are already in motion to enact such legislation.

In its efforts to support Member States in preventing and combating this complex crime, the SADC Secretariat is implementing a four year programme that seeks to raise awareness, co-operation and action against trafficking in persons in the region.

This is in line with the implementation of the 10 Year SADC Strategic Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (2009-2019).



The Strategic Plan of Action, adopted in 2009, underwent a mid-term review in order to recast the strategic direction taken by the regional bloc in preventing and combating trafficking in persons.

It is anticipated that the Revised Strategic Plan of Action will be adopted by the Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation by the end of 2017.

Through its Regional Political Cooperation (RPC) Programme, the SADC Secretariat has supported several member states in developing principal and subordinate legislation on trafficking in persons, and in implementing awareness raising, research, and data management activities on the crime.

Training of key stakeholders that include law enforcement agencies, social service organisations and the media has also been conducted both at the regional and national levels in order to strengthen the capacity of Member States to respond to trafficking in persons effectively.

In addition, awareness raising campaigns on the crime have been conducted in Member States largely supported by, among others, SADC Secretariat, United Nations Office on

Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

The need for awareness raising was also recognised by the United Nations General Assembly who, in 2013, proclaimed the 30 July every year as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons with the main purpose of raising "awareness of the situation of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights."

Research and information sharing on trafficking in persons was also identified as a strategic intervention in the Strategic Plan of Action adopted in 2009, as it informs appropriate policy development and implementation.

In response, the SADC Secretariat commissioned a research in 2014 to understand "the nature, extent and impacts of trafficking in persons in the SADC region."

The research unearthed significant data gaps on trafficking in persons. However, it was generally acknowledged that women and girls are the most vulnerable groups to trafficking in persons in the SADC region, while poverty, unemployment and lack of income-generating opportunities are the significant push factors driving the crime in the region.

The publication, titled Trafficking in Persons in the SADC Region: a baseline report, recommended that more in-depth national and regional researches and situational assessments on trafficking in persons should be conducted. The baseline report was launched in August 2016 at the 36th SADC Summit held in Swaziland.

While SADC has made significant progress in criminalising trafficking in persons, there still remains a lot that needs to be done for the region to be safe from such transnational organised crime.

The remaining years of implementation of the 10 Year SADC Strategic Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (2009-2019) are, therefore, critical towards ensuring successful response to the crime in the region. In addition, while legislation on the crime is in existence in 13 of the 15 Member States, it is important that such legislation is effectively enforced.

SADC Member States, therefore, have a huge task to ensure legislation enforcement, as well as improving the capacity of law enforcement agencies and other key stakeholders on trafficking in persons, and the Secretariat's role in this cannot be emphasised more. [sadc.int](http://sadc.int) □



**SOUTHERN AFRICA** will convene a special conference in July to present its multi-billion-dollar energy infrastructure development plan to potential funders.

The High Level Ministerial Workshop and Regional Investors Conference on Regional Energy Projects is one of the issues approved by the SADC Extraordinary Summit in Mbabane held in March.

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax said the workshop and conference are expected to open up opportunities for investment in the energy sector "as well as leverage additional resources, focusing on specific flagship projects."

"To this end, we have secured funding to support a proposed High-Level Ministerial Workshop and a Regional Investors Conference on Regional Energy Projects to be officially launched by His Majesty King Mswati III in his capacity as SADC chairperson," Dr Tax said.

Most of the energy projects to be presented are contained in the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP) approved by regional leaders at their 32nd Ordinary Summit held in August 2012 in Maputo.

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

The related transmission investment costs to support new generation capacity are about US\$540 million. This transmission investment does not, however, include planned transmission interconnectors and national backbone lines.

The Energy Sector Plan identifies 89 energy infrastructure projects, some of which will be showcased during the planned High-Level Ministerial Workshop and Regional Investors' Conference on Regional Energy Projects.

According to the Energy Sector Plan, flagship projects in the electricity sub-sector include Inga III Hydropower Project in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Mphanda Nkuwa Hydropower Project in Mozambique.

Inga Dam situated on the Congo River has the potential to produce about 40,000 megawatts of electricity, according to the Southern African Power Pool.

Dr Tax said special attention will be placed on the finalization of the SADC Resource Mobilisation Framework (Alternative Sources

# SADC seeks investment in

of Funding SADC Regional Programmes) during the ministerial workshop.

The framework will explore six different but co-related alternative sources of funding to determine how fiscal space could be created to enable SADC member states to finance regional programmes, projects and activities.

The six options for innovative sources of financing regional integration in SADC are the introduction of an export and import tax; a tourism levy; a financial transaction tax; a lottery system; philanthropy; and regional events.

It is estimated that SADC has potential to earn in excess of US\$1.2 billion annually from these alternative sources of funding, a development expected to wean the region of dependency on International Cooperating Partners (ICPs).

The ministerial workshop and investors' conference come against the backdrop of efforts by SADC to improve its power generation and transmission capacity in the face of shortages of electricity in the region.

A number of long-planned projects have failed to take off as the private sector appears reluctant to engage in partnerships with governments due to various challenges.

Private players often cite the poor returns, a function of tariff regimes that are not cost reflective, inappropriate financing formulas and poor governance as key factors in limiting their participation.

This situation has prompted most member states to resort to various coping mechanisms that include load shedding and other demand side management measures while longer term solutions are being sought to remedy the situation through improved supply. □

## SACREEE host agreement nears finalisation

**THE SADC** Secretariat is finalising an interim agreement with Namibia that will facilitate the regularisation of the legal status of a regional renewable energy centre based in Windhoek.

According to a report presented at the SADC Energy Thematic Group (ETG) meeting held in Gaborone in March, the formalisation of the legal status of the newly formed SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) is expected to be slightly delayed following proposed changes to the Inter-Governmental Memorandum of Understanding (IGMoU) between the centre and the Namibian government.

The report revealed that energy officials from SADC Member States who met in

Johannesburg, South Africa in December 2016 recommended that the IGMoU be turned into an Inter-Governmental Memorandum of Agreement (IGMoA) to ensure it becomes legally binding.

However, considering that the IGMoA needed to be signed by at least 10 Member States – which is usually a lengthy process – the officials mandated the SADC Secretariat to enter into an interim-agreement with the host country, based on which Namibia and the Secretariat could sign the host country agreement.

The report said the interim agreement was in the process of being screened by the Namibian authorities. □





# RGY ERN AFRICA



## energy

### Energy cooperation paying off ... SADC records power surplus

by Joseph Ngwawi

**COUNTRIES IN** southern Africa are experiencing surplus electricity generation capacity for the first time in a decade, thanks to the success of regional cooperation in energy planning during the past few years.

Figures released by the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) show that the 12-member pool is sitting on surplus peak period generation capacity of 919 megawatts (MW).

"The excess is much higher if we look at off-peak periods," Acting SAPP Coordination Centre Manager Alison Chikova told the SADC Energy Thematic Group (ETG) during its biannual meeting in Gaborone, Botswana on 27 March.

He said the excess was partly because of the slowdown in the South African economy but also due to the impact of a coordinated approach in implementation of the SADC energy programme.

South Africa's economy contracted to 0.3 percent in the last quarter of 2016, due to a fall in mining and manufacturing production.

According to Statistics South Africa (StatsSA), the decline in performance of the two key sectors pulled the overall economic growth into negative territory.

StatsSA figures show that production in the mining industry declined by 11.5 percent as a result of falls in the output of coal, gold and other metal ores such as platinum and iron.

Manufacturing production dropped by 3.1 percent between October and December 2016.

Chikova said South Africa has excess capacity of 5,797MW, largely due to the economic slowdown and the commissioning of 2,550MW of additional generation capacity from six new projects in 2016.

The six projects include the 999MW Ingula power station owned by state enterprise Eskom as well as five others involving power generation through wind, gas and solar photovoltaic technologies that were commissioned by Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

According to the SAPP figures, the increased regional generation capacity was strengthened through the commissioning of new projects in other SAPP member countries.

Angola had largest number of projects commissioned in 2016, contributing 780MW or about 19 percent of the 4,180MW of the new capacity commissioned in the region last year.

Other significant contributions were from Zambia and Zimbabwe where new IPP projects added 300MW and 200MW of power to the regional grid, respectively.

The 300MW Mwaamba coal-fired power project and the 200MW Dema diesel power plant were commissioned in 2016 as part of regional efforts to improve generation capacity in southern Africa.

Chikova revealed that SAPP member countries plan to commission more than 30,000MW of new generation capacity

between 2017 and 2022, about half of which would come from South Africa.

However, the increased generation capacity in Angola, Malawi and United Republic of Tanzania is only available domestically as the three countries are yet to be interconnected to the rest of the SAPP grid.

New generation capacity installed in any of the three non-participating countries is not accessible to the nine other members of SAPP – Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

There are plans to tap into the installed capacity of these three SAPP members through the implementation of several interconnector projects.

These include the Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya interconnector project that is expected to connect the SAPP grid to the one operated by the Eastern Africa Power Pool – in addition to linking the Tanzanian power network to other SAPP member countries.

The Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya interconnector is expected to be ready by the end of 2019, according to Chikova.

Other interconnector projects are expected between Mozambique and Malawi as well as between Namibian and Angola. The target dates for commissioning these are in 2020.

Gas is increasingly becoming a major source of electricity in the region, accounting for 995MW or almost 24 percent of all power generated in 2016 – from two projects in Mozambique and one each in South Africa and Tanzania.

Unlike in the past where coal-fired plants contributed the largest share of new generation capacity, 2016 saw only one new coal project in Zambia coming on board with a capacity of 300MW.

The move towards renewable energy follows a resolution made in 2012 by southern African countries to increase the uptake of cleaner and alternative energy sources that result in reduced carbon emission that increase climate warming and cause environmental damage.

In addition to being affordable, secure and reliable, renewable energy such as hydro, solar and wind will not be depleted and are also in abundance in the SADC region.

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. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net) □



## Lesotho prepares for elections scheduled for June

**KING LETSIE III** has announced that Lesotho will go for general elections on 3 June 2017 to choose a new government following a vote of no-confidence passed on Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili in February this year.

Mosisili of the Democratic Congress had led a coalition government since the ouster of former Prime Minister Thomas Thabane in early 2015.

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.

"The office of His Majesty has confirmed the date for General Elections as 03 June 2017 in Lesotho," Mosisili's office said in a statement.

The vote of no-confidence on Mosisili comes nearly two years after his party ousted the All Basotho Congress (ABC) by uniting with smaller opposition parties.

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.

The forthcoming elections are expected to test democratic processes and SADC mediation efforts in Lesotho.

SADC through the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation has committed to ensuring political stability in the country that has been facing power struggles since the alleged coup plot by renegade members of the Lesotho military in August 2014.

The coup was allegedly triggered when then Prime Minister Thabane, facing a vote of no-confidence, suspended Parliament in June 2014 after challenges in the coalition government that he had formed in 2012.

The SADC Facilitator, South African Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, has led the regional effort to create peace and stability in Lesotho.

The mediation efforts saw the return of these opposition leaders 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.

The peaceful return was in line of the Maseru Facilitation Declaration and the Maseru Security Accord signed in October and November 2014 respectively.

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

To ensure continued monitoring of the peace



situation in the country, SADC also deployed an Oversight Committee in November 2016 to help the country consolidate peace and security.

The committee, led by retired judge Frederick Werema from the United Republic of Tanzania, 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. □

## Angolan President Dos Santos bids farewell

**PRESIDENT JOSÉ** Eduardo dos Santos of Angola has bid farewell to fellow SADC leaders as he announced his retirement ahead of general elections set for August.

In a communique at the end of the Extraordinary Summit

held in Swaziland in March, SADC leaders commended dos Santos for his contribution towards the furtherance of the regional political and economic agenda, and to the socio-economic development of Angola.

The ruling People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) has nominated João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, the current Minister of Defence, as the presidential candidate for the August 2017 general elections.

Dos Santos will, however, remain the leader of MPLA. □



## SADC remain seized with political situation in DRC

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** remains committed to finding lasting solutions to the political challenges facing the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The SADC Extraordinary Summit held in Swaziland in March called upon the international community to support DRC in the electoral processes that are expected to facilitate peaceful and successful elections.

SADC leaders commended the National Episcopal Conference of Congo (CENCO)

for the renewed mediation efforts in the country.

CENCO, an official assembly of bishops of the Catholic Church in DRC, has been mediating between the government and representatives of the opposition in an effort to come up with a political solution and an electoral calendar.

The SADC Extraordinary Summit urged the government of DRC and key stakeholders to finalize the agreements for the implementation of the 31 December 2016 Political

Agreement which calls for elections to be held before the end of 2017.

The summit also called for the nomination of the chairperson of the National Monitoring Committee and encouraged the opposition to expeditiously submit the nominees for the position of the Prime Minister.

The National Monitoring Committee is tasked with the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the December political agreement. □





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April  
17, Lesotho**Entrepreneurship Support Facility in SADC**

The meeting, organised by the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE), will mark the inception of the Entrepreneurship Support Facility in SADC and map the way forward for implementation of the programme.

24-25, Namibia

**Review of Renewable Energy Zones in SAPP**

The three-day workshop is jointly organized by SACREEE and the International Renewable Energy Agency. It will bring together senior officials from energy ministries, utilities and research centres from the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) region. The workshop will review identified solar and wind zones under the Africa Clean Energy Corridor and incorporate any new developments on the ground.

24-28, Senegal

**Environment and Security in Africa Monitoring Forum**

Decision and policy makers, planners, earth observation data users and experts from across the continent will meet under the theme "From Earth Observation to Policy Making" to discuss environment and climate change-related policy, planning and decision-making at the national, regional and continental levels.

25-28,  
South Africa**Association of Power Utilities of Africa Meetings**

The Association of Power Utilities of Africa brings together power utilities and development partners to discuss key developments in the energy sector in Africa.

May  
3-5,  
South Africa**World Economic Forum on Africa**

The forum will convene regional and global leaders from business, government and civil society to explore solutions that create economic opportunities and explore measures to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth.

15-17, Lesotho

**7th SADC River Basin Organizations Workshop**

The workshop, running under the theme "Improved Regional Integration through River Health and Nexus Approaches," will focus on river water quality issues and the water-energy-food nexus by looking at the anticipated benefits as well as sustainability of interventions aimed at improving the lives of SADC citizens.

16-18,  
South Africa**Africa Utility Week**

Africa Utility Week will bring together professionals from the water and power utilities to discuss best practices for effective management and supply, and other emerging issues.

17-19, Ethiopia

**Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**

Themed "Ensuring Inclusive and Sustainable Growth and Prosperity for All," the forum will facilitate learning through sharing of experiences and lessons learned to advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

June  
3, Lesotho**General Elections in Kingdom of Lesotho**

Basotho citizens will go to the polls to select a new government following a vote of no-confidence in the current leadership of Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili. SADC through the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation has led a regional initiative to support Lesotho in achieving political stability.

5, Global

**World Environment Day**

World Environment Day raises awareness of unique environment challenges and successes, including climate change, waste management, unsustainable consumption, degradation of natural resources, and extreme natural disasters.

7-9, Denmark

**Africa Energy Forum 2017**

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



# 4

MAY 1978

## CASSINGA

*With the exception of the genocide against Namibians by the German colonisers at the beginning of the last century, no other colonial massacre has claimed the lives of so many Namibians. (The Namibian)*

**MORE THAN** 600 Namibians perished during a raid by apartheid South African forces at a South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) refugee camp at Cassinga in southern Angola on 4 May 1978.

The day is commemorated by the two countries as a shared tragedy in their common history of the struggle for freedom and independence in southern Africa.

South African Defence Force (SADF) jets dropped poison gas, causing the assembled refugees to drop unconscious due to the biological weapon that absorbed the oxygen in the air and made people collapse.

Then waves of jet fighters strafed the refugee settlement dropping bombs, setting the whole refugee centre ablaze. Strafing is the practice of attacking ground targets from low-flying aircraft using aircraft-mounted automatic weapons.

A third attack wave dropped paratroopers who shot at point blank and bayoneted those who were already seriously injured and unconscious from the poison gas and could have otherwise survived.

The SADF later justified the attack by claiming that Cassinga was a SWAPO military base. While there was a military presence, they were primarily in defence of the civilian refugees.

Every year on 4 May, Namibians remember the victims of the Cassinga massacre. Formal ceremonies are held annually at Namibia's National Heroes Acre located just outside the capital, Windhoek.

The Heroes Acre was built on 26 August 2002 to remember the people who died in the war that led to Namibia's independence on 21 March 1990. It is a reminder of the patriotism and bravery of Namibians and serves as a beacon of peace and unity among its people.

According to Namibia's founding president, Sam Nujoma, the holiday commemorates the memory of the courageous victims of the Cassinga massacre, "whose only crime was denying the inhuman system of apartheid".

"We were helped and consoled by many friends around the world, especially the revolutionary people of Cuba," said Nujoma.

Cuban forces stationed nearby at Techamutete in Angola came to the aid of SWAPO fighters during the subsequent battle of Cassinga, forcing the SADF retreat.

The attack lasted only nine hours, but left 624 dead and 611 wounded, including 167 women and 298 teenagers and children.

Cuba welcomed survivors, mostly women and children, to its country for recovery and medical treatment. Many stayed and were enrolled in schools where they received the education they were denied back home. □

# 20

years

17 May 1997



Patrice Lumumba



Laurent Desiré Kabila

## DRC Liberation Day

**17 MAY** is celebrated as Liberation Day in the Democratic Republic of Congo, remembering the removal of Mobutu Sese Seko by liberation forces led by Laurent Desiré Kabila. This marked a new political dispensation following the crisis that began with the assassination of the first Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba soon after the independence on 30 June 1960 of the country then called the Congo.

Laurent Kabila was a Congolese revolutionary and politician who served as the third President of the Democratic Republic of Congo from 17 May 1997 until his assassination by one of his bodyguards on 16 January 2001. He commanded the liberation forces that announced the liberation of the country from Lubumbashi on 17 May and marched into the capital, Kinshasa on 20 May. He was sworn into office on 31 May 1997, officially commencing his term as President. He changed the name of the country from Zaire to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which had been the country's official name from 1964 to 1971.

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

April-June 2017

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
1 May	Workers' Day	Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe
	Labour Day	Angola, Botswana, DRC, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Swaziland
2 May	Public Holiday	Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe
4 May	Cassinga Day	Namibia
14 May	Kamuzu Day	Malawi
15 May	Kamuzu Banda Holiday	Malawi
17 May	Liberation Day	DRC
25 May	Ascension Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Namibia
25 May	Africa Day	Angola, Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe
25 May	Heroes' Day	Lesotho
26 May	Corpus Christi	Seychelles
5 June	Whit Monday	Madagascar
14 June	Freedom Day	Malawi
18 June	National Day	Seychelles
25 June	Independence Day	Mozambique
26 June	Independence Day	Madagascar
29 June	Independence Day	DRC
	Independence Day	Seychelles