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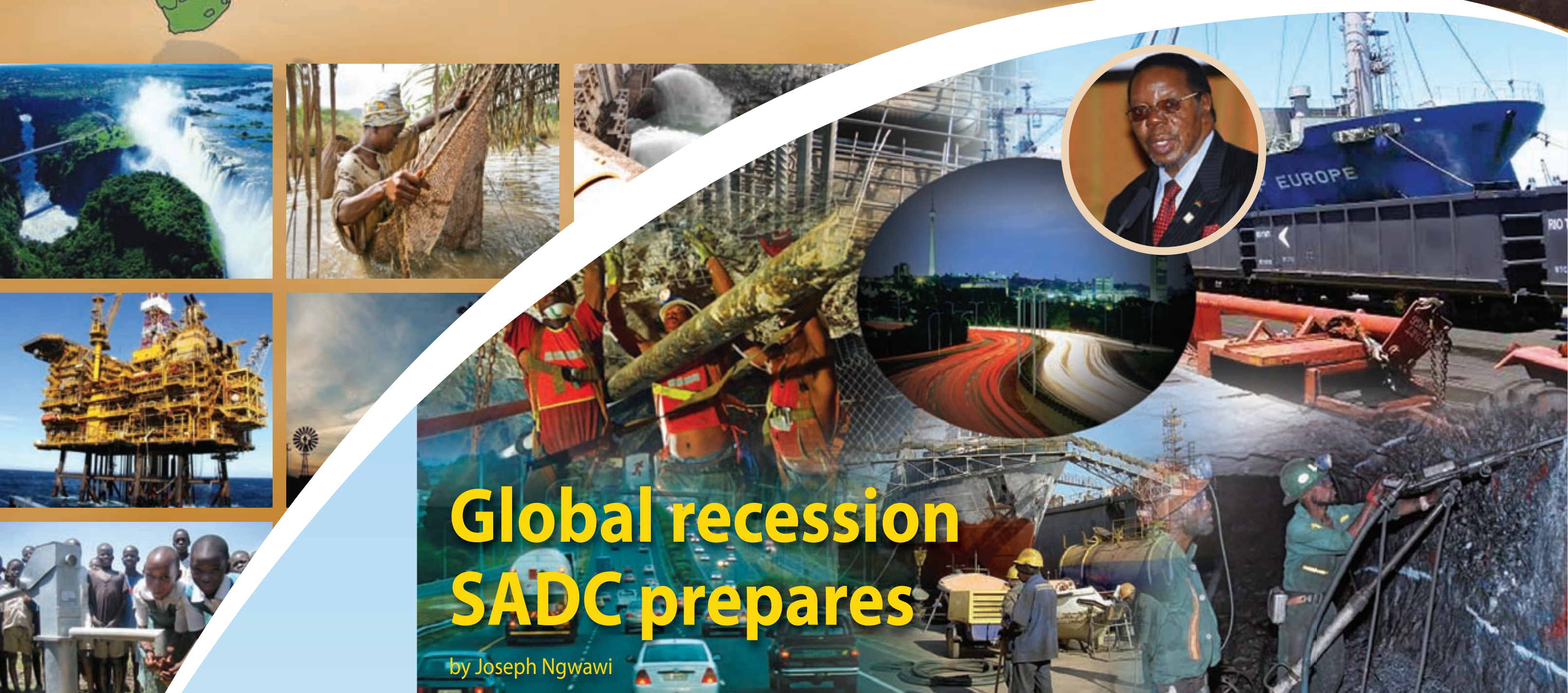


Global recession SADC prepares

by Joseph Ngwawi

SOUTHERN AFRICA is taking steps to ensure that national economies are better prepared to withstand the potential impact of shocks from a global recession amid warnings of a worsening economic outlook for Europe and America, which are yet to fully recover from the financial crisis of four years ago.

Not leaving anything to chance after the 2008/09 financial crisis inflicted serious damage to the regional economy four years ago, and SADC is moving to cushion its Member States from the vagaries of the present unstable global economy.

Global economic activity is expected to stall in 2012 and the medium-term in the face of intensified downward risks.

Among the main downward risks are chronic fiscal imbalances and failure to redress excessive debt obligations to the European Union, and extreme volatility in energy and agriculture prices.

The Eurozone economy is expected to go into a mild recession in 2012 as most economies in the region report contractions in output and suffer from the effects of additional fiscal consolidation.

Growth in emerging and developing economies such as China, Brazil and Russia is also expected to slow due to the weakening external environment and reduced internal demand.

According to a report by the SADC Directorate of Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (TIFI), the regional economy slowed only marginally in 2011, expanding by an average 4.7 percent compared to 5.5 percent the previous year.

The SADC economy is forecast to grow by 5.1 percent in 2012 although its medium-term prospects may be overshadowed by the recession worries and the prospect of rising food prices.

One of the strategies being pursued by SADC to counter the threat of external shocks and uncertainties is the promotion of diversification of regional economies.

Member States are being encouraged to shift from reliance on commodities towards activities that exploit their comparative advantages such as manufacturing and services.

This strategy is premised on the understanding that narrow-based economies that rely on a few sectors are particularly vulnerable to the vagaries of global financial shocks compared to more diversified economies.

continued on page 2...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Global recession, SADC prepares

Most southern African economies rely on one or two sectors, mostly natural resource industries, and are therefore vulnerable in the event of sharp fluctuations in prices of those commodities.

The structure of production of SADC countries is characteristic of a developing region where large shares of GDP originate in primary sectors of production such as agriculture and mining, whose total contribution is on average over 50 percent of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

According to TIFI, statistics on SADC show that only Mauritius and South Africa have sizeable manufacturing sectors at approximately 25 percent of GDP. The share of manufacturing sector to GDP in the rest of member states averages less than 15 percent.

In addition to having a small manufacturing sector, SADC economies do not produce a diversified range of manufactured products. SADC Member States produce a similar range of products such as foodstuffs, beverages, tobacco, textiles, clothing and footwear, which are predominantly agricultural-resource based.

As a result, SADC economies are susceptible to volatilities emanating from developments in the international markets.

"Regional economic performance for 2012 and the medium-term will also largely depend on the food situation as this influences macroeconomic fundamentals such as inflation; and both internal and external balances," TIFI said in the report titled "Economic Performance 2011 and Medium-Term Prospects".

Regionally, the food security situation has remained relatively stable, with the majority of staple foods readily available in local markets and at household level.

This scenario is projected to continue in the foreseeable future, with Malawi, South Africa and Zambia projected to hold sufficient stocks at the close of the 2011/12 marketing season that should cushion shortages in food deficits in some Member States.

"However the downside risk is that due to low global stocks of maize, South African white maize will continue to be in high demand and that could push prices up which could be at the detriment of net-importing countries in the region," the report said. ❒

FDI inflows decline

THE ANTICIPATED economic downturn in Europe may affect Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows into SADC, given that Europe is a major source of FDI into the region.

Latest data from the Committee of Central Bank Governors in SADC shows that FDI inflows into the region declined from US$21.6 billion in 2009 to US$18.4 billion in 2010, representing an average decline of almost 20 percent, although this average masks some dramatic highs and lows for individual countries.

The decline was attributed to the adverse effects of the global financial crisis of 2008/09.

No final FDI figure has been compiled for 2011 although the committee said preliminary reports pointed to an increase in inflows as the region benefited from the temporary recovery of the global economy.

Individual country updates however show commendable growth in FDI inflows into southern Africa during the past year.

FDI to Zambia in the first 11 months of 2011 stood at US$4.6 billion with a potential for 31,000 new jobs, according to the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) which is a government body in charge of investment promotion.

Zimbabwe approved projects worth US$6.63 billion in 2011, with more than 55 percent of these in the mining sector at US$3.68 billion.

Disaggregated data from the Zimbabwe Investment Authority shows that the tourism sector was the second largest recipient of FDI in 2011, attracting a total US$1.58 billion. It was followed by agriculture (US$444.77 million), construction (US$120.9 million), services (US$128.1 million) and manufacturing (US$670 million).

China remains the biggest source of FDI in the SADC region. By the end of 2011, China's investments in SADC amounted to US$9.9 billion, including about US$5 billion in non-financial investments.

Chinese investments in mining include significant partnerships with the Zambian government in the extensive Copperbelt, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s state-owned Gécamines in cobalt and heavy earth minerals, and Zimbabwe in diamonds.

Chinese companies have also entered the retail sector, mainly through cheaper textiles in most SADC Member States.

"While there are still many uncertainties with the global economic recovery, China and the Southern African Development Community should strengthen their economic cooperation to help both achieve stable growth and advance the global economy," Chinese Vice Premier, Wang Qishan, observed at the recent China-SADC Investment and Business Forum.

There are significant opportunities in southern Africa in mining, agriculture, manufacturing, financial services, information and communication technologies, tourism and infrastructural development. ❒

FDI Inflows 2009 and 2010 (US$m)

Country	2009	2010	% Change
Angola	11,673.1	9,941.6	-14.8
Botswana	576.0	-	-
DRC	629.4	2,932.1	365.9
Lesotho	47.6	54.6	14.7
Malawi	55.5	55.8	0.5
Mauritius	257.4	430.0	67.1
Mozambique	892.5	788.9	-11.6
Namibia	518.7	864.0	66.6
Seychelles	113.1	156.8	38.6
South Africa	5,389.0	1,553.0	-71.2
Swaziland	66.0	130.7	98.0
Tanzania	414.5	433.4	4.6
Zambia	694.8	1,041.4	49.9
Zimbabwe	105.0	165.9	58.0
SADC Average	21,564.3	18,391.4	-19.6

Source: Committee of Central Bank Governors in SADC
Note that Madagascar figures are not included, and no data available for Botswana 2010.

SADC completes initial assessment of 15-year blueprint

THE SADC Secretariat has completed a desk assessment of the first five years of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) that will form the basis of an independent review of the 15-year plan.

The aim of the desk assessment was to analyse performance as well as to identify the challenges encountered so far and lessons learnt during implementation of the RISDP from 2005 to 2010.

The review provides an overview of the implementation status of the different sectors outlined in the RISDP.

According to SADC Executive Secretary Tomaz Salomao, a broader assessment that involves all key stakeholders in the Member States is the next step and is expected to provide a more comprehensive analysis, showcasing the impact of the interventions to date in order to chart the way forward for the next 10 years of implementing the RISDP.

"Therefore, as envisaged, an independent review covering all the stakeholders of SADC will now be done starting in 2012 to enable Member States and external stakeholders from civil society, private sector and others to reflect on the key issues that should become priorities in the next phase of implementation," he said.

Such an approach builds on in-depth analysis from internal and external perspectives and should encourage and clarify political steering and leadership.

The desk assessment has revealed that all sectors were able to either fully or partially reach most of the different outputs and targets within the stated timeframes.

"The consultative process in the Secretariat has revealed very satisfactory levels of RISDP implementation over the past five years," said Salomao.

SADC has developed or approved critical policies, protocols and frameworks, and has established implementing institutions, thus increasing its visibility since implementation started in 2005.

Human resource constraints were cited as a major impediment to improving the organisation's performance.

Issues identified by the review include the need to:

- accelerate implementation at Member State level;
- ensure effective structures for Secretariat and Member State cooperation;
- deepen consultation at Member State level;
- ensure realistic targets and ongoing RISDP evaluation; and,
- tackle human, financial and technical resource constraints at the SADC Secretariat.

The review also identified some of the main challenges to be addressed in the next 10 years of implementing the RISDP, as follows:

- strengthen monitoring and evaluation;
- ensure the mainstreaming of RISDP cross-cutting issues such as gender and climate change;
- improve the think-tank capacity of the Secretariat;
- maintain SADC as a platform for common pan-African and global positions; and,
- ensure more effective and efficient stakeholder participation.

THE RISDP review indicated some significant progress by sector.

- **Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (TIFI).** 65 percent of the targets have been fully achieved, 29 percent partially achieved and six percent not achieved.
- **Infrastructure and Services (I&S).** 60 percent of outputs have been fully achieved while the remainder were partially achieved.
- **Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR).** 64 percent of the output targets were fully achieved, 28 percent partially achieved and eight percent have not been achieved.
- **Social and Human Development and Special Programmes (SHD&SP).** 38 percent of targets fully achieved, 46 percent partially achieved while 15 percent were not achieved.
- **Cross-cutting Issues.** Out of 46 targets under cross-cutting issues, 14 percent were fully achieved, 68 percent partially achieved while the remaining 18 percent of outputs were not achieved. ❒

The Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government last August directed the Ministerial Taskforce on Regional Economic Integration to review the RISDP to identify priorities and reorient the region's integration agenda.

The RISDP review is expected to result in the development of a focussed work programme for implementation of high-impact programmes to enhance developmental regional integration.

The review also helps to prioritise SADC's work programme to achieve optimum impact from limited resources.

The RISDP contains time-bound targets that are considered as beacons leading toward continental and international goals, in particular the continental African Economic Community and the UN Millennium Development Goals.

The overriding target is to attain annual economic growth rates of at least seven percent, necessary to halve the proportion of people living in poverty by 2015.

The proposed review of the RISDP and reorientation of SADC's priorities comes in the wake of current Tripartite negotiations between SADC, the East African Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

The negotiations are expected to result in the establishment of the Tripartite Free Trade Area to strengthen intra-regional trade by creating a wider market, increased investment flows, enhanced competitiveness and the development of cross-regional infrastructure. ❒

Wa Mutharika's death a blow to Africa's integration agenda

THE DEATH of President Bingu wa Mutharika early this month has not only robbed Malawi of its leader but also deprived Africa of a fearless campaigner for deeper regional integration and agrarian revolution.

Mutharika, who died on 5 April due to a heart failure, played an instrumental role in southern Africa's efforts to transform the region from a food-deficit area to one producing surplus grain.

Doubling as Malawi's Agriculture Minister, Mutharika introduced a grain subsidy programme in 2005 to increase the provision of maize seed and fertilizer to smallholder farmers by more than 75 percent.

As a result, Malawi's maize production trebled from about 1.2 million metric tonnes in the 2004/5 agricultural season to 3.4 million metric tonnes in 2007/08.

In addition, the average farmer's yield increased to two metric tonnes per hectare from 0.8 metric tonnes in 2005 as government provided vouchers to farmers to buy appropriate inputs.

Despite widespread criticism by economists and multilateral agencies who argued that the expansion of subsidies would worsen Malawi's budget deficit and create distortions in the market, wa Mutharika stood by his programme to ensure that low-income farmers are empowered.

Recent successes in turning around the agricultural sector and ensuring food security for the country have confounded critics. In fact, the significant increase in production has saved Malawi more than US$120 million annually that it could otherwise have spent on food imports.

As chair of the African Union in 2010, Mutharika urged member states to invest heavily in the construction of infrastructure such as food storage facilities, roads and railway to support their food security programmes.

He proposed a road map for Africa to achieve sustainability in food security, which essentially advocated for a new partnership among African nations.

His strategy involved improving agriculture and food security on the continent through interventions such as subsidies to smallholder farmers, improvements in irrigation, increased budgetary allocations, private sector investment and affordable information and communications technology.

A former World Bank economist, wa Mutharika is also credited with adopting wide-ranging measures that significantly improved Malawi's economic performance during his first term in office.

These included a zero-tolerance policy on corruption and fiscal indiscipline, resulting in the country experiencing economic growth each year and keeping its inflation rate within the single digit mark.

However, wa Mutharika's good track record during his first term in office was quickly forgotten in 2010 when he refused to be bullied by Britain and invited the wrath of Malawi's former colonial ruler by expelling the British high commissioner.

For routinely standing his ground against Western powers, wa Mutharika was labelled an intolerant and autocratic leader whose government became a target of external regime change agents.

Late President Bingu wa Mutharika

Donors responded by withdrawing their support to the country and making governance rather difficult.

Newly appointed Malawi President Joyce Banda is faced with a daunting task to restore stability in the country.

Banda – the first women president in southern Africa and the continent's second after President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia – needs to improve Malawi's economic performance by improving the availability of basic commodities and restoring relations with development partners.

Other challenges facing Banda in her new post include how to deal with outside interference, particularly from the West and some of the multilateral financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The IMF has for example, recommended that Malawi first devalues its currency, the Kwacha, before the institution could resume its programme in the country. However, history has shown that the devaluation of currencies does not usually benefit the poor and instead pushes them deeper into poverty.

She will also be expected to deal with pressure from development partners who have linked their assistance to alleged respect for human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and the right to freedom of the press.

In her acceptance speech during her inauguration, Banda called on all Malawians to work together in rebuilding the country, especially during this difficult time as it mourns its leader.

"I want all of us to move into the future with hope and with that spirit of oneness and unity. I just sincerely hope that there is no room for revenge and that we shall stand united," she said.

Under the Malawian constitution, the vice president takes over when the sitting president can no longer govern due to death or illness. Under the Constitution, the vice president will assume the office of president for the remainder of the term and appoint another person to serve as vice president for the same period.

She is Malawi's fourth president since the country's independence in 1964. Her predecessors are Kamuzu Banda, Bakili Muluzi and wa Mutharika.

She is the founder and leader of the People's Party which was formed in 2011. *sardc.net* ❒

SADC, Japan agree on infrastructure development

Investment in water infrastructure is key to regional development

SADC AND Japan have agreed to set up a project identification and follow-up mechanism as part of measures to strengthen the implementation of infrastructure projects in southern Africa.

In an effort to scale up infrastructure development in the region, the Group of SADC Ambassadors in Japan in collaboration with the SADC Secretariat and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs convened the "SADC-Japan Infrastructure Investment Seminar" from 14-15 March.

The seminar engaged the Japanese government and business community and showcased the SADC infrastructure portfolio of projects, particularly in the priority areas of energy, transport, information and communication technology, and water.

It was agreed, among other issues, that a project identification and follow-up mechanism consisting of representatives from the SADC Group of Ambassadors (assisted by the SADC Secretariat) and the Japanese government working with its private sector should be instituted.

In this regard, both sides agreed that a follow-up mechanism should be developed and incorporated into the annual planning cycle of the SADC Secretariat in order to ensure continuity of projects.

The Japanese government reaffirmed its support to SADC infrastructure within the framework of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) IV and the Yokohama Declaration and Action Plan of 2008.

Angolan Minister of Transport, Augusto Da Silva Tomas praised the role Japan has played to date in the development of Africa and highlighted the vast opportunities SADC offers to Japanese public and private sector investors in terms of trade, investment and infrastructure development.

Tomas is the current chairperson of the SADC Cluster of Ministers responsible for Infrastructure.

The meeting agreed that projects will be presented to the upcoming TICAD Ministerial Follow-up Meeting to be held in May in Senegal as well as to the next SADC Council of Ministers meeting to be held in Mozambique in August.

It was also agreed to engage the Japanese private sector in the development of SADC infrastructure hence the importance of developing strategic partnerships with Japanese investors under the auspices of the TICAD framework.

SADC has created a conducive environment for investment, by among other things, implementation of the Protocol on Finance and Investment and the recent establishment of a Project Preparation and Development Facility (PPDF) that aims to facilitate preparation of bankable projects.

The long-awaited launch of the SADC Regional Infrastructure Master Plan later this year is expected to guide development in key infrastructure such as road, rail and ports.

The master plan should allow the region to develop an efficient, seamless and cost-effective transboundary infrastructure network that would promote socio-economic growth in Member States as a thriving economy depends on a reliable infrastructure both at the national and regional levels.

The proposed creation of a Tripartite Free Trade Area (FTA) involving SADC, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC) also enhances the opportunities for infrastructure investment in southern Africa.

Progress is already evident in the plans by the Tripartite grouping to strengthen the North-South transport corridor between Dar es Salaam in the United Republic of Tanzania and the South African coastal city of Durban.

The investment conference was attended by some 250 delegates drawn from the Japanese government and business community, the SADC Secretariat and representatives of COMESA and the EAC.

It was sponsored by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). ❒

SADC priority infrastructure projects

SADC DEPUTY Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, João Samuel Caholo, identified the region's priority projects requiring investment partners as:

- energy generation and transmission projects aimed at addressing current challenges relating to regional and national energy security;
- rehabilitation, expansion and modernisation of road, rail and port infrastructure;
- development of ICT broadband networks as part of implementation of the SADC Regional Information Infrastructure; and
- water projects within the SADC Strategic Water Infrastructure Development Programme relating to water supply and sanitation, irrigation and hydro-power development. ❒

Countdown to RIO+20

by Kizito Sikuka

THE UNITED Nations Conference on Sustainable Development set for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June provides an opportunity for the global community to renew its commitment to promote sustainable development, and address new and emerging challenges such as climate change.

The Rio+20 conference comes 20 years after the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, where adopted Agenda 21 was adopted as a comprehensive blueprint of action that was to be taken globally, nationally and locally by UN organisations, governments and major groups in every area in which humans directly affect the environment.

The global community will meet again in Brazil from 20-22 June to agree on measures to reduce poverty while promoting sustainable and fair use of resources.

> The Rio +20 conference will have two themes:
> - Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication
> - Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development.

The aim of the conference is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess progress in the implementation of agreed multilateral environmental agreements, and how to respond to emerging challenges facing the global community.

At least seven key areas have been identified for discussion – energy, water, food, jobs, cities, oceans and disasters. These are the areas considered critical towards poverty reduction and sustainable development.

With regard to energy, the global community seeks to find ways of promoting the uptake of cleaner energy sources such as wind, hydro and solar energy that are less polluting to the environment.

On food, methods are being sought on how to grow, share and consume food without degrading the environment, due to the added pressure of climate change on agriculture.

In respect to water, the conference will seek solutions to improve and increase access to cleaner and safe water. According to a UN report, there is sufficient freshwater to achieve this goal. However, bad economies and poor infrastructure are hindering the world from providing its population with clean and safe water.

With regard to jobs, Rio+20 will aim to offer action plans and policies that create employment, particularly for the youths. Emphasis will be put on "green jobs" in agriculture, industry, services and administration as these contribute to preserving and restoring the quality of the environment.

On cities, oceans and disasters, the conference will seek ways that make cities more habitable, as well as protecting the oceans from over-fishing and destruction as they are vital conduits for trade and transportation.

In preparation for Rio+20, southern Africa is guided by the "Africa Consensus Statement to Rio+20" that was adopted in October 2011 by African ministers responsible for the environment and approved by the African Union summit early this year.

The African common position calls for developed countries to fulfil previous commitments and pledges to help Africa's efforts in achieving sustainable development.

Other proposals are for Rio+20 to explore the possibility of reactivating and reinvigorating the National Councils for Sustainable Development to enable them to coordinate, consolidate and ensure the mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues in the highest decision-making bodies.

Meeting in Luanda, Angola for their recent SADC Council of Ministers meeting, SADC said a technical consultation seminar for Member States would be held in Angola prior to Rio+20.

"The meeting is specifically aiming at affording the region an opportunity to have a common understanding of the environmental issues that will be discussed at the summit," the ministers said in a statement. ❒

Tree planting is essential to preserving the natural environment

Africa's position on RIO+20

AFRICAN MINISTERS, meeting in October 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, adopted a common African position for Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The position includes:

- A call for the conference to adopt concrete measures, supported by adequate means of implementation that would ensure accelerated implementation of sustainable development commitments;
- A request to industrialized countries to fulfil previous commitments and pledges to support Africa's efforts in achieving sustainable development;
- Developed countries should commit to a second period under the Kyoto Protocol from 2013-2017, and reduce their emissions by 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2017, and provide appropriate additional and long-term financing, technology and capacity-building support to enable developing nations to face the adverse effects of climate change;
- Need to define the green economy as a tool for achieving sustainable development, and to assess the opportunities and challenges related to this concept, as well as the means for implementation needed to achieve a smooth transition to a green economy in African countries;
- Strongly urge the international community to support African countries to benefit fully from the sectors in which there is a comparative advantage. ❒

New power generation projects to add 1,770 MW in 2012

SOUTHERN AFRICA expects to commission new power projects between 2012 and 2016 that will add 14,300MW of electricity to the regional grid, allowing the region to match supply and demand, according to the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

Part of this capacity will be initiated in 2012 through commissioning new and rehabilitated energy generation projects that will add about 1,770 megawatts (MW) of electricity,

The power will come from Botswana, which is expected to commission 600MW this year, the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa, contributing a total of 430MW and 300MW respectively.

Angola will contribute an additional 315MW, followed by the United Republic of Tanzania and Namibia with 160MW and 90MW. Zambia and Zimbabwe are expected to contribute 56 MW and 30MW in additional power generation.

However, the additional power generated in Angola will not be enjoyed by the rest of the region since the country is not yet linked to the SADC grid. This leaves 1,460MW as the addition to the regional power grid.

Last year, southern Africa managed to commission at least eight energy generation projects that added about 1,230MW of electricity to the regional grid, slightly above the 1,110MW of additional electricity commissioned the previous year.

The SADC region has been experiencing power shortages dating as far back as 2006 due to a combination of factors including the diminishing generation surplus capacity against increasing growth in demand. ❐

New Energy Projects 2012 - 2016

		New Ceneration Capacity, MW					
No	Country	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
1	Angola	315	0	80	0	700	1,095
2	Botswana	600	0	0	300	0	900
3	DRC	120	8	0	580	0	708
4	Lesotho	0	25	40	110	0	175
5	Malawi	0	64	0	0	0	64
6	Mozambique	100	0	265	300	-	665
7	Namibia	92	60	0	0	0	152
8	RSA	303	722	3,591	2,244	1,522	8,328
9	Swaziland	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Tanzania	160	0	0	0	0	160
11	Zambia	56	180	915	40	339	1 530
12	Zimbabwe	30	0	140	0	300	470
Total		1,776	1,059	5,039	3,574	2,861	14,301

Source: SAPP

Region sets clean energy targets

SOUTHERN AFRICA will in the next few years experience a gradual increase in the uptake of cleaner energy sources that result in reduced carbon emission.

This follows the adoption of a wide-range of strategies aimed at aligning the region with new trends in the global energy sector, which now favours renewable energy as opposed to fossil fuels.

Renewable energy sources such as solar, hydro and wind are less polluting to the environment, and unlike fossil fuels such as coal will last forever.

Meeting in Gaborone, Botswana, for their 2nd SADC workshop on Renewable Energy Strategy and Action Plan (RESAP), energy experts from the region said it was time southern Africa increased its uptake of cleaner energy sources to ensure sustainable development, and agreed on the following:

- Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) must achieve a renewable energy mix in the regional grid of at least 32 percent by 2020 and 35 percent by 2030;
- Member States must identify all renewable energy projects that can be connected to the regional grid;
- SAPP must develop a Renewable Energy Development Plan that lists projects according to priority and should be linked to the proposed SADC Infrastructure Master Plan;
- SADC to showcase projects at an investors' roundtable;
- By 2015 all SADC Member States should have updated and consolidated their renewable energy resource maps;
- By 2015 all SADC Member States and SAPP should have assessed their grid capacity for renewable energy and identified requirements for grid upgrades, if any;
- By 2015 all Member States should have undertaken Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) for the various renewable energy types in their countries;
- By 2020 at least one of the renewable energy technologies should be manufactured in the SADC region. ❐

Energy ministers meeting set for Lesotho

SADC MINISTERS responsible for energy are scheduled to meet in Lesotho to review the energy situation in the region and address obstacles in an effort to ensure demand and supply are evenly matched. Other issues on the agenda will include the status of implementation of ongoing rehabilitation and new power projects as well as measures to address structural, operational and institutional challenges hindering development in the energy sector. ❐

Southern Africa – the world's next

SOUTHERN AFRICA is a treasure of opportunities for the international oil industry and is now widely regarded as the new frontier of growth for ambitious explorers.

Global oil prices have risen steadily since mid-2010, rising from around US$70 a barrel in May of that year to US$123 a barrel for Brent crude oil by the end of the first quarter of 2012.

With annual growth in Africa's oil production expected to average four percent over the next five years and oil prices likely to continue rising, southern Africa is fast becoming an attractive region for ambitious explorers, seeking to tap the vast unexplored reserves available in the region.

Following the disruption to Libyan oil supplies, the importance of southern Africa as the new frontier for the international oil industry cannot be overemphasised. SADC's vast and largely untapped hydrocarbon resources are seen as filling the gap and taking up a more prominent place among the world's biggest oil producers.

Gas discoveries by international oil companies in Mozambique, Namibia and the United Republic of Tanzania during the past few years have reignited investor interest in this previously under-explored region.

This article highlights the opportunities available in southern Africa's nascent oil industry, looking at prospects in selected countries.

ANGOLA

Angola overtook Nigeria in 2008 as Africa's largest – and the world's eighth largest – oil producer. The SADC Member State presently produces over 1.9 million barrels per day (bpd) of high-quality crude oil from onshore and near-shore fields, up from 900,000 bpd in 2002 and from 500,000 bpd in 1993.

Nigeria's output has declined from 2.5 million barrels bpd in 2006 to around 1.7 million bpd as its production has been hit by rebel attacks, primarily the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND).

The oil sector produces more than half of Angola's GDP and 95 percent of its exports, and the government is seeking to expand this by developing the country's ultra-deep offshore oilfields, at a depth of 1,500 to 3,000 metres. It expected that this will add an estimated 500,000 bpd to the current output level.

Global energy consultants currently predict an unconstrained peak for Angolan oil production of between 2.2 million and 2.3 million bpd within five years.

The country is estimated to have crude reserves of 13 billion barrels, constituting a significant percentage of SADC's total estimated proven crude reserves.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The Democratic Republic of Congo began exploring for oil in the 1960s and started offshore production in 1975, reaching a peak of 27,000 bpd in 1984. Onshore production began in 1980, peaking in 1986 with eight fields in production.

The largest oil producer in the DRC is Perenco, a United Kingdom-based independent exploration and production company. Perenco operates four concessions, both onshore and offshore, in the southwest Bas-Congo province, which is located between neighbouring Angola and Congo-Brazzaville. In 2007, the company produced an average 25,000 bpd.

In terms of exploration, Tullow Oil signed a production sharing agreement with the DRC government in July 2006 for a 48.5 percent operating interest in Blocks 1 and 2 on the Congolese side of the Lake Albert Basin on the border with Uganda in the northwest of the DRC.

According to Tullow estimates, the region could be sitting on about two billion barrels of oil.

Parallel exploration activities are also taking place in Block 5 of the Lake Albert region where London-based Dominion Petroleum has partnered another UK oil and gas exploration and production company, Soco International and DRC oil firm, COHYDRO, to search for oil.

Brazil's High Resolution Technology (HRT) Oil and Gas is surveying the Cuvette Centrale Basin in central DRC, which it says could hold one of Africa's largest reserves of light oil and gas accumulations.

NAMIBIA

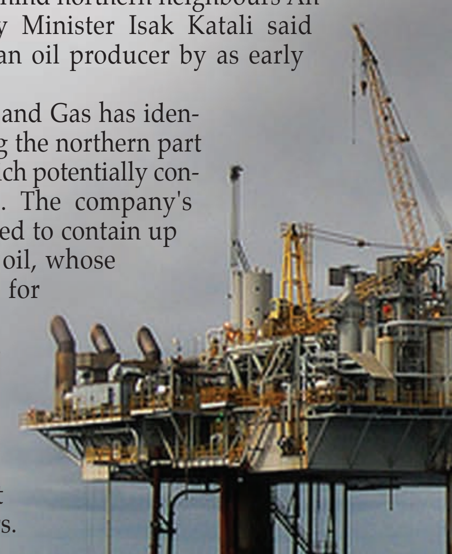
Namibia is being regarded as the next big player in Africa's oil industry, expected to fight for honours against continental petroleum powerhouses Angola and Nigeria by 2015.

Namibia presently has about 10,000 sq km of vast oil reserves along the country's west coast.

With an estimated 11 billion barrels of oil reserves, Namibia is marginally behind northern neighbours Angola. Mines and Energy Minister Isak Katali said Namibia could become an oil producer by as early 2015.

UK-based Enigma Oil and Gas has identified five prospects along the northern part of the country's coast, which potentially contain 500 million barrels. The company's southern block is estimated to contain up to four billion barrels of oil, whose production is planned for 2015/16.

HRT Oil and Gas has also unveiled a N$5 billion (about US$656 million) investment to explore for oil off Namibia's Atlantic coast over the coming few years.



oil frontier

This has been billed as the biggest investment by a foreign investor in the Namibian oil and gas sector yet.

HRT's blocks are believed to contain up to 5.2 billion barrels of hydrocarbon resources, which would be drillable by 2013, according to Katali.

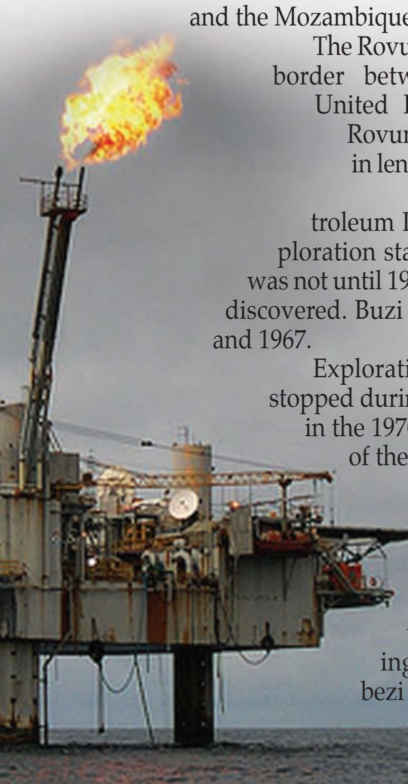
Other exploration activities are being undertaken by Arcadia Expro Namibia and Tower Resources Plc, which have identified reserves with a potential for two billion barrels at blocks located between Walvis and Namibe basins.

MOZAMBIQUE

A string of significant offshore gas and oil discoveries in the north-east of Mozambique has substantially increased exploration activity in the country.

Mozambique lies at the southern tip of a fault line running along the east African coast to Somalia, forming a geologically inviting region for oil and natural gas.

The country has two main sedimentary basins – the Rovuma Basin in the north-east where most of the discoveries have occurred, and the Mozambique basin further south.



The Rovuma Basin is located close to the border between Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania at the Rovuma Delta, and measures 400 km in length and about 160 km in width.

According to the National Petroleum Institute (INP), oil and gas exploration started in the early 1900s, but it was not until 1961 that the Pande gas field was discovered. Buzi and Temane followed in 1962 and 1967.

Exploration activity temporarily stopped during the country's liberation war in the 1970s and during the civil conflict of the 1980s.

Mozambique launched its first offshore licensing round in March 2000. This bidding round offered 14 blocks mainly in the Mozambique Basin covering the shallow and deep Zambezi delta area.

The INP launched the second licensing round in 2005 for the concession of exploration acreage over the Rovuma Basin in northern Mozambique. It signed three offshore exploration and concession contracts with Anadarko, ENI, Petronas and one onshore with Artumas.

Recent discoveries by Italian oil and gas company, ENI and Anadarko Petroleum of the United States have sparked tremendous interest from international gas and oil companies to start exploring offshore Mozambique.

MADAGASCAR

International oil conglomerates are scrambling for a share of Madagascar's oil sector amid projections that the Indian Ocean island has offshore reserves as high as five billion barrels.

Initial projections indicate that Madagascar could produce 60,000 bpd in three to four years, with revenue of several billion dollars, which would quickly make the oil industry the main contributor to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The government has started auctioning oil-drilling rights and among the global oil giants scrambling for a share of Madagascar's resources are those from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Norway, China and South Korea.

Southern Africa is experiencing an oil boom.

REFINERY AND STORAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

The region's refineries are concentrated in South Africa, with additional refining capacity located in Angola, Madagascar, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

South Africa is the region's largest oil consumer (using about 68 percent of SADC's total), and the second largest oil consumer in Africa after Egypt.

An infrastructure challenge for SADC is the absence of adequate storage facilities and pipelines to transport oil between countries. Fuel destined for Botswana and Zimbabwe, for example, is ferried by trucks and trains from South Africa or Mozambique, a mode of transport that has proved uneconomical and unsafe. ❐

Diversification of the economy key to sustainable development

Workers sorting out daimonds

by Kizito Sikuka

SOUTHERN AFRICA could achieve sustainable development if countries in the region do more to broaden their economic bases that rely heavily on single sectors, mainly agriculture and mining.

Strengthening other sectors such as tourism, manufacturing and energy will serve as a buffer against external financial shocks such as the global financial downturn that affected the world in 2008, and looks set to return this year.

A 2010 report by the SADC Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration shows that those countries that diversified into other economic sectors such as fisheries and manufacturing were not as badly affected by the global financial crisis as those that solely depended on one sector for development.

To minimize the impact of global economic turbulence on SADC Member States and achieve sustainable development, the SADC Trade Industry Finance and Investment (TIFI) Directorate is urging countries in the region to consider diversifying their economies.

"The effects of the recent global economic crisis have demonstrated that no economy is safe from destabilizing external events," TIFI said a recent report, titled "Regional Economic Performance in 2011 and Medium-term Prospects for SADC".

"Diversifying economies is one way of countering these shocks and uncertainties," TIFI said adding that "economies which are narrow-based, including resource-dependent countries which most SADC Member States have vulnerabilities stemming from a lack of diversification in one or more economic dimensions."

TIFI said most SADC countries are aware that their economies are undiversified and hence vulnerable to external shocks.

"The countries recognize that having a diverse economy – that is, one based on a wide range of profitable sectors, not just a few – play a key role in sustainable economy."

President Seretse Khama Ian Khama has already stated publicly that Botswana will do more to broaden its economic base and diversify into agriculture and tourism.

"We have long recognized that the diversification of the economy both within the minerals sector and beyond is a key strategy for our future survival," he said, adding that the "combined effect of our investments in the various sectors will be job creation as well as poverty alleviation."

TIFI proposed a wide-range of diversification options that SADC countries could pursue in making their economies more resilient and stable.

One such avenue is horizontal diversification, which is more applicable to agriculture as an economy migrates into alternative crops. In this case, Member States would strive to broaden the range of agricultural products they produce so that they do not rely on just one crop.

An alternative route is vertical diversification, which is a strategy whereby new products or services are added that are complementary to the existing product or service line.

Most SADC Member States could benefit from product beneficiation, particularly in the extractive industries.

A third option available to SADC Member States is diversification into non-natural-based activities that exploit comparative advantage such as manufacturing and services. This is the preferred solution for SADC in the long run and should, therefore, be a long-term objective of most countries' development strategies, according to TIFI.

Diversification could also follow the route of trade preferences signed between trading blocks as in some cases preferences encourage export diversification by providing tariff exemptions to certain markets.

However, the preferences have at times stifled diversification by making commodity dependence profitable. For example, if the preferences come to an end, so goes the sectors and products developed to benefit from them.

As such, there is need for SADC countries to come up with vibrant measures that ensure that their diversification programmes are a success.

Brazil offers one of the best examples of successful diversification. The South American country has been for many years the world's largest producer of coffee.

However, since the 1990s coffee is no longer central to the Brazilian economy. The country diversified into other areas including manufactured goods and "green" fuel products, propelling its economy to become the tenth largest in the world. ❐

SADC production structure

THE STRUCTURE of production in SADC Member States is characteristic of a developing region where large shares of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) originate in primary sectors of production such as agriculture and mining whose total contribution is on average more than 50 percent of total GDP.

Statistics on SADC show that only Mauritius and South Africa have sizeable manufacturing sectors at approximately 25 percent of GDP. The share of manufacturing sector to GDP in the rest of Member States average less than 15 percent.

In addition to having a small manufacturing sector, SADC economies do not produce a diversified range of manufactured products. They produce a similar range of products such as foodstuffs, beverages, tobacco, textiles, clothing and footwear, which are agricultural-resource based.

As a result SADC economies are susceptible to volatilities emanating from developments in the international markets. The sustainability and ability of the economies to offer their populations the opportunity of jobs and creation of wealth are therefore limited. *TIFI Directorate* ❐

50:50 by 2015

Mauritius gender quota law – another step forward

by Kizito Sikuka

A NEW gender law in Mauritius that requires one-third of candidates in local elections to be women represents another step towards parity in decision-making.

The gender quota is contained in the new Local Government Act that entered into force on 1 January 2012 and compels all political parties to field more women to contest in local elections due by April this year.

Under Mauritian law, the town and village councillors are elected every five years and their main role is to ensure the smooth running of five towns and 108 villages, overseeing the provision of services such as garbage collection and road maintenance.

They are also tasked with taking care of the environment and organizing cultural, leisure and sporting activities. Just 6.4 percent of all village and town councillors are women at present.

The quota system is expected to enable at least 1,300 women to participate as candidates in the forthcoming local elections.

The new law falls far short of the 50-percent target for women's participation in political decision-making by 2015 set by the African Union and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) of which Mauritius is a member. The fact that the quota system applies only to local elections means that the representation of women in positions of authority in Mauritius remains low.

Mauritius is one of the lowest in SADC in terms of the number of women in decision-making positions such as parliament and cabinet, and is one of two member states yet to append its signature to the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. The other is Botswana.

Only 10 women were elected into the 70-seat unicameral House of Assembly in the 2010 general elections, while three more were appointed among the eight "best losers", a total of 13 women and just 19 percent of the seats in parliament.

A total of 62 parliamentarians are elected by direct popular vote under a block system where each voter casts three ballots for three candidates from each of the 21 constituencies, including the island of Rodrigues off the south-east coast of Mauritius, which elects two deputies.

The remaining eight candidates are drawn from a list of "best losers" to ensure a fair representation of various communities of the country. This voting method is not used to address the gender imbalance, yet women make up the largest number of voters as well as just over half of the population of Mauritius.

Only three women serve as ministers in the 25-member Mauritian cabinet, representing just 12 percent. Prime Minister Navichandra Ramgoolam said the new quota system is expected to see a significant increase in participation by women in the socio-political process of the island nation, adding that more should be done to elevate women to positions of authority.

"We must ensure that the number of women candidates rises considerably," Prime Minister Ramgoolam said. On the need to extend the gender quota system to national elections, he said the government would wait for the outcome of a study by a team of constitutional experts before taking a decision to review the system.

Mauritius is scheduled to hold national elections in 2015 and expectations are that the necessary changes to the laws would have been made to ensure that more women are elected to parliament and appointed to Cabinet.

In the 15 members' states of SADC, South Africa has the highest representation of women in parliament at 45 percent, followed by Mozambique at 39.2 percent and Angola at 38.6 percent.

These countries have electoral systems based on proportional representation that encourage participation by women, as well as voluntary political party quotas. A minimum 30 percent representation is a constitutional requirement in the United Republic of Tanzania which has guaranteed seats for women. *sardc.net* ❐

Zambia appoints first woman police commissioner

ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT Michael Sata has appointed Stella Libongani as Inspector-General of Police, making her the first woman to occupy such a position. Libongani becomes the first woman in southern Africa to head the police force. Until her appointment, she was the deputy head of the police. She joined the police service as a cadet assistant superintendent and was deployed to Kitwe East police station as officer-in-charge in 1998 and has risen through the ranks to become head of the police. ❐

SADC has made progress in promotion of women rights

SADC IS committed to developing more innovative programmes necessary to empower girls and women, particularly in rural areas, SADC Executive Secretary, Tomaz Salomão said in a message to mark International Women Day.

International Women's Day is held on 8 March each year and this year's commemorations took place under the theme "Connecting Girls, Inspiring Futures".

"It is quite pleasing to note that over the years SADC has made notable progress in the promotion and protection of women and girl's rights," Salomão said.

However, there is "a lot that still needs to be done for women and girls to enjoy the full fundamental rights, freedom and dignity." ❐

The world's largest transfrontier park

by Kizito Sikuka

THE WORLD'S largest transfrontier park, the Kavango-Zambezi, was launched in March by five southern African countries.

Environment ministers from Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe launched the Kavango-Zambezi Trans Frontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) at a ceremony in Katima Mulilo, Namibia.

The historic launch followed signing of the treaty by the Heads of State and Government of the respective countries in August 2011.

Situated in the Okavango and Zambezi river basins where the borders of the five countries converge, the KAZA TFCA covers an area of about 444,000 square kilometers consisting of 36 national parks, game reserves, community conservancies and game management areas.

The conservation area boasts of numerous tourist attractions such as the Victoria Falls between Zambia and Zimbabwe, San Rock paintings in Botswana, whitewater rafting and other water sports, and the absorbing wildlife population in the region.

This high concentration of attractions is expected to create an entirely new assortment of tourism opportunities in southern Africa, presenting new opportunities for socio-economic development in SADC, thus strengthening socio-economic development and integration.

The opportunities include the joint marketing of attractions, presenting prospective tourists with a wide range of opportunities and experiences.

A joint report by the Peace Parks Foundation and the Development Bank of Southern Africa predicts that the conservation area could attract as many as eight million tourists to the region annually as well as creating employment for thousands of people.

Speaking at the launch, the representatives of partner countries reaffirmed their commitment to regional economic integration through sustainable management of transboundary natural resources and tourism development, adding that implementation should be accelerated.

They said that tangible results should be delivered to the local communities since they are the owners of the natural resources and bear huge opportunity costs associated with biodiversity conservation such as human-wildlife conflicts.

Namibian Minister of Environment and Tourism, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah said it is the responsibility of all the five countries to ensure that KAZA TFCA is developed as a sustainable conservation and tourism development programme.

"Harmonizing natural resource management approaches and tourism development across our international boundaries will enhance the ecosystem's integrity and natural ecological processes," she said.

The establishment of the KAZA TFCA is founded on the SADC ideals articulated in the Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement of 1999, that commits Member States to "promote the conservation of shared wildlife resources through the establishment of transfrontier conservation areas."

The transfrontier conservation areas concept is based on the principle that the flow of nature, including rivers, wind, vegetation and animals, is not bound by political boundaries.

Existing TFCAs in the SADC region include, among others, the Greater Limpopo TFCA made up of conservation areas in Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe; and the Lubombo TFCA shared by Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland. *Sardc.net* ❐

Zambia, Zimbabwe intensify preparations for international tourism summit

ZAMBIA AND Zimbabwe are preparing to co-host a major global tourism conference next year at Victoria Falls, and have initiated various projects to ensure that the meeting is a major success.

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) General Assembly is to be held at Victoria Falls/*Mosi oa Tunya* in 2013, the second time for Africa to host the assembly after Senegal in 2005.

Zambia and Zimbabwe won the bid to co-host the 20th Session of the UNWTO General Assembly over other competitors Russia, Turkey, Jordan and Qatar.

Zimbabwe plans to build a new conference centre in the resort town of Victoria Falls to accommodate delegates to the General Assembly. The conference centre is expected to have a seating capacity of up to 5,000 delegates, with committee rooms, golf course, three-star and five-star hotels.

Both countries are refur-bish-ing local airports in anticipation of the influx of visitors.

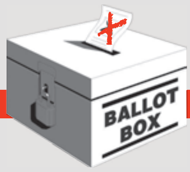
The UNWTO general assembly, which meets every two years to discuss and give direction to global tourism, is expected to boost tourism in the two countries as well as across the region. ❐

President Michel appointed global tourism ambassador

SEYCHELLOIS PRESIDENT James Michel has been appointed a global ambassador for tourism by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), becoming the first serving head of state to be accorded such an honour.

Michel received the "Global leaders for tourism campaign open letter" from UNWTO secretary general Taleb Rifai in March during the official opening of the Carnaval International de Victoria in Seychelles.

Rifai said it is the first time that such a letter is presented to heads of state and government. He added that by accepting the letter, Michel automatically becomes a world ambassador for tourism. *Seychelles Nation* ❐



Lesotho general elections set for 26 May

by Joseph Ngwawi

THE KING of Lesotho has set 26 May as the date for eagerly awaited general elections following a successful dialogue that ended the deadlock among the main political players.

Agreement was reached one year ago by political parties in Lesotho after lengthy negotiations mediated by SADC aimed at finding a lasting solution to the political challenges in the country.

"King Letsie III, in accordance with section 37 (1) of the 2011 National Assembly Election Act, and acting in accordance with the advice of the Council of State, proclaims that May 26 will be Election Day," said a statement released by Prime Minister Mosisili Pakalitha in March.

King Letsie III dissolved the Lesotho Parliament on 15 March to pave way for campaigning by the country's 10 political parties.

Post-electoral dissatisfaction emerged in Lesotho after the 2007 elections as the opposition party refused to accept the results, plunging the country into a crisis.

This resulted in a negotiating team comprising heads of churches in Lesotho and facilitators from the SADC Troika being put in place by southern African leaders to address the situation.

Stakeholders to the meditation process included the Independent Electoral Commission of Lesotho, the former ruling Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD), opposition parties and the government.

The agreement led to the amendment of the Lesotho Electoral Law and the constitution in preparation for the forthcoming elections. The ultimate result of this was the presentation of the National Assembly Electoral Bill 2011 and the 6th Amendment to the Constitution to the Parliament in March last year.

The run-up to the elections saw Mosisili's defection from the LCD to form a new party called Democratic Congress. In office since May 1998, Mosisili remained prime minister while the LCD became the main opposition party.

Mosisili's departure was said to be the result of a fallout with the LCD national executive committee, after prolonged factional squabbles since 2008.

The new party formed on 25 February gained a slim majority after garnering support from 45 Members of Parliament from 80 constituencies in Lesotho's 120-member parliament.

It was the second time Mosisili has crossed the floor, having defected from the Basutoland Congress Party under leader Ntsu Mokhehle in 1997 to form the LCD.

The LCD won 62 seats or 52 percent of the 120-seat National Assembly in the last elections held in February 2007, followed by National Independent Party with 21 seats and the All Basotho Convention with 17 seats.

Under Lesotho law, the leader of the majority party in the National Assembly becomes prime minister.

Lesotho has a bicameral Parliament consisting of the Senate with 33 seats and the National Assembly with 120 seats.

The monarchy is hereditary and under traditional law only the college of chiefs has the power to depose and/or invest a monarch.

In the Senate, 22 members are hereditary while the remaining 11 members are nominated by the monarch. They are both expected to serve five-year terms.

National Assembly members are elected by direct popular vote using the mixed member proportional system. Under this system, 80 parliamentarians in single-member constituencies are chosen using the first-past-the-post system while the remaining 40 are elected from one national constituency using party-list proportional representation.

The latter is used to determine the number of seats each party would receive if the system was fully proportional. The total number of votes cast on the party ballot is divided by the 120 seats at stake in the National Assembly to determine how many seats each party deserves to receive.

This number is then compared to the seats a party won in constituency list to determine how many seats it should be awarded in the party list. For example, if a party is determined to deserve 20 seats but has won only 10 in the constituency elections, it will be given an additional 10 seats. ❐

Malawi prepares for 2014 elections

MALAWI IS expected to hold general elections by May 2014, allowing the country's new President Joyce Banda to serve the remainder of the current term following the sudden death of former President Bingu wa Mutharika in April.

Under the Malawi Constitution, the president is elected jointly with a first vice president but the president may appoint a second vice president if he or she considers this desirable in the national interest. The second vice president cannot be appointed from the party of the president

The 2014 elections are expected to be a five-way race between Banda's People's Party; the Democratic Progressive Party of Mutharika; the Malawi Congress Party led by veteran politician John Tembo; the United Democratic Front; and the Alliance for Democracy. There are more than 35 other smaller registered political parties.

The Malawian parliament is discussing a constitutional amendment that will harmonise local government, parliamentary and presidential elections in 2014.

The last House of Assembly and presidential elections in Malawi were held in May 2009. ❐

Zambian players lift the AFCON trophy

Zambia wins AFCON 2012, makes southern Africa proud

ZAMBIA HAS etched its name in the history books after becoming only the third southern African country to lift the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) trophy in the tournament's 55-year history.

The Chipolopolo, as the Zambian national team is affectionately known by its fans, beat tournament favourites Ivory Coast 8-7 in a penalty shootout to win the AFCON for the first time.

Zambia became the third SADC country to win the biennial continental championship since the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1968 and 1974, and South Africa in 1996.

Spurred on by a strong belief that destiny had brought them to Gabon, the Zambians dedicated their victory to their heroes who perished in a plane crash in Gabon while on their way to play Senegal in a World Cup qualifier in 1993.

The victory came 19 years after 18 members of the Zambian team died in a plane crash close to where the final was played in the Gabonese capital.

Zambia is one of the most successful football teams in SADC, participating in most AFCON finals. Zambia has been to the finals for a record 15 times.

Zambia's previous best moments in the continental tournament came in 1974 and 1994 when the country was losing finalist.

Against all odds, the Zambian Football Association managed to assemble a strong team for the 1994 finals following the loss of the entire team. Zambian Football Association chairperson Kalusha Bwalya captained the trailblazing 1994 team.

The first AFCON took place in Khartoum, Sudan in 1957 and the inaugural tournament was won by Egypt.

Egypt has gone on to win the trophy six times, leading North Africa to a record 10 wins.

West Africa is the most successful region having won the trophy seven times, with Ghana being crowned champions four times since 1957.

Following Zambia's victory, southern Africa has now won the tournament four times while Central Africa has also taken the trophy four times through Cameroon victories. The only East African side to ever win the AFCON was Ethiopia in 1962. *sardc.net* ❒

South Africa to host 2013 AFCON

SOUTH AFRICA will host the finals of the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations, the second time the tournament is being held in a southern African country since 2010. The last SADC Member State to host the AFCON finals was Angola two years ago. South Africa had hosted the event in 1996. A total of 47 countries have entered the competition, including South Africa, which automatically qualifies as hosts. The remaining 46 teams will compete in the qualifiers over three rounds. ❒

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EVENTS DIARY April-June 2012

April 3-4, Ghana	**Africa Investment Forum** The multi-stakeholder forum will discuss how Africa can attract investment inflows into the continent and consider emerging investment-related challenges.
23-24 April, South Africa	**SADC 50:50 Strategy Workshop** The workshop will determine strategies to reach the 50:50 target for women and men in politics and decision-making positions by 2015, set by Heads of State and Government of the African Union and SADC. Discussion based on the SADC Framework for Achieving Gender Parity.
27-28, South Africa	**Wind Power World Africa** The meeting will deliberate on ways to increase the uptake of wind energy.
May 3-4, South Africa	**MDG Review Summit** The summit will provide African governments with an opportunity to review progress towards the attainment of MDGs by 2015. The theme for the summit is “The Power of Business as One of the Solutions to the MDG Challenges.”
8-9 May, Zambia	**Zambezi Basin Flood Forecasting** Environment experts from the eight SADC countries in the Zambezi River Basin will meet to develop a flood forecasting and early warning strategy for the Basin.
9-11, Ethiopia	**World Economic Forum Africa** Bringing together global and pan-African leaders, the forum offers an opportunity for consultation.
TBA, Lesotho	**SADC Energy Ministers** SADC Ministers responsible for Energy meet to review the regional energy planning programme for implementation of the energy recovery roadmap established to address the power shortages facing the region.
June 20-22, Brazil	**UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)** The conference provides an opportunity for the global community to renew its commitments to promote sustainable development and address new and emerging challenges such as climate change. The conference will review progress since the first Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992.
21-22, South Africa	**Africa Tourism Investment Summit** The summit brings together investors and projects promoters and city planning officials to facilitate discussions on tourism investment opportunities in Africa and build on the tourism and country branding policy dialogue.
26-28, Germany	**African Energy Forum** Energy experts will explore ways of how Africa, as one of the fastest emerging markets in the world, can meet the increased demand for energy to ensure sustainable development.
TBA, Malawi	**19th African Union Summit** Heads of State and Government will gather for the 19th Ordinary Session of the African Union, preceded by conferences on “Boosting Intra-Africa Trade” and “2012 year of shared values”.

4 May 1978

Casssinga

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

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, it was primarily in defence of the civilian refugees who were present and who were ultimately massacred.

Every year on May 4, 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 in March 1990. It is a reminder for 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.

April

Zimbabwe History Month

THE MONTH of April traces a century of resistance in Zimbabwe, and contains several significant dates including Independence on 18 April 1980.

One hundred and fourteen years ago, on 27 April 1898, the architects of the first resistance *(chimurenga)*, Mbuya Chahwe, the medium of the Nehanda spirit, and Sekuru Gumboreshumba, the medium of the Kaguvi spirit, were hanged by the settler regime for daring to challenge the colonial dispossession. It is from Kaguvi, also known as Murenga (meaning war spirit), that the name Chimurenga was derived, originally to describe the first resistance.

They were arraigned in the High Court in Salisbury in a case called: "The [British] Queen against Nehanda".

The execution was authorized by the British High Commissioner for Southern Africa, and endorsed by the British Imperial Secretary.

"Her cries and resistance, when she was taken up the ladder, the screaming and yelling disturbed my conversation with Kaguvi very much," wrote a Roman Catholic priest who was present, "till the noisy opening of the trap door upon which she stood, followed by the heavy thud of her body as it fell, made an end to the interruption."

Her cries of resistance included a threat that echoed through the next decades until her children's children heeded her prediction that "my bones will surely rise" and took up arms to liberate her country.

Sixty-eight years later, on 28 April 1966, the first battle of the second *chimurenga* took place at Chinhoyi. April was also the month that Robert Mugabe left the country on foot to Mozambique in 1975 to lead the liberation struggle following his release from prison. *Adapted from C Zvayi, The Herald*

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

April – June 2012

4 April	Day of Peace & Reconciliation	Angola
	Heroes Day	Lesotho
6 April	Good Friday	Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
7 April	Holy Saturday	Zambia
	Women's Day	Mozambique
9 April	Easter Monday	Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
18 April	Independence Day	Zimbabwe
25 April	National Flag Day	Swaziland
27 April	Freedom Day	South Africa
30 April	Youth Day	DRC
1 May	Workers Day	DRC, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
	Labour Day	Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Swaziland
4 May	Cassinga Day	Namibia
14 May	Kamuzu Day	Malawi
17 May	Liberation Day	DRC
	Ascension Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Namibia, Swaziland
25 May	Africa Day	Angola, Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe
	Africa Freedom Day	Zambia
1 June	International Children's Day	Angola
5 June	Liberation Day	Seychelles
3 June	Whit Sunday	Madagascar
4 June	Whit Monday	Madagascar
16 June	Youth Day	South Africa
18 June	National Day	Seychelles
25 June	Independence Day	Mozambique
26 June	Independence Day	Madagascar
29 June	Independence Day	Seychelles
30 June	Independence Day	DRC