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Blue economy Alternative development paradigm for SADC

by Joseph Ngwawi

SADC IS considering strategies to embrace the concept of a “blue economy” that sees oceans as “development spaces” where coordinated planning integrates conservation, sustainable use, oil and mineral wealth extraction, and marine transport.

The blue economy initiative is advanced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) but is also relevant to coastal states with an interest in waters beyond national jurisdiction.

The initiative breaks the mould of the business as usual “brown” development model where oceans have hitherto been perceived as a means of free resource extraction and waste dumping.

The concept emphasises conservation and sustainable management of oceans and complements the “green” economy.

It recognises the productivity of healthy ocean ecosystems as a way to safeguard sustainable ocean-based economies, as well as to ensure that SIDS and other coastal countries benefit from their marine resources.

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax has called upon SADC Member States to develop focused strategies that embrace the attributes of the blue economy.

Speaking at the Blue Economy Summit in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates in January, Dr Tax said it was time that SADC took ad-

vantage of the synergies likely to emerge from the implementation of its own development agenda and the blue economy initiative.

She said the objectives of the blue economy initiative are in line with SADC development priorities and, in this regard, the region should align its programmes and strategies with the ideals of a blue economy.

This will allow the region to maximise benefits from the achievement of a sustainable pattern of development and utilisation of oceanic resources.

“The concept of the blue economy, by focusing on coastal and oceanic states and emphasising sustainable development of oceanic resources, brings about an important dimension in the whole process of conceptualisation, strategy development, planning and monitoring of regional integration and development, in particular when considering our coastal and oceanic Member States,” she said.

Synergies could be strengthened in areas such as the effective utilisation and management of natural and marine resources, science and technology, infrastructure development and tourism as well as environmental and climate change management through inclusive strategies and programmes.



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Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax
SADC Executive Secretary

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The protection and regeneration of marine resources are priority issues for coastal states whose marine resources significantly contribute to the socio-economic welfare of the country.

The concept is appropriate for the SADC region since more than half of its 15 Member States are coastal or oceanic countries.

Eight SADC Member States – Angola, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania – are coastal or oceanic states.

The blue economy development strategy is timely for the SADC region which has witnessed significant discoveries of large reserves of oil and natural gas in Mozambique, Namibia and Tanzania in recent years.

The presence of natural gas reserves in the coastal waters of southern African countries points to a huge potential for exploitation of the resource in a region grappling with a crippling energy deficit.

The east coast of Africa has emerged in the past few years as one of the brightest spots on the global energy landscape, with large natural gas finds in Mozambique and Tanzania.

Exploration has taken place in other SADC Member States although the extent of the reserves is unknown for these countries.

New offshore natural gas finds along the Mozambican coast are expected to be a “game changer” for the country and the southern African region.

The country has estimated recoverable natural gas reserves of between 15 and 30 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of gas, enough to meet one year's gas consumption by the United States.

Tanzania has so far identified natural gas reserves of more than 10 tcf from its deep-water offshore region.

In addition to the oil and gas discoveries, there is great potential for exploration of other oceanic resources in SADC Member States.

Namibia has significant reserves of guano, a highly effective fertiliser made from the excrement of seabirds or bats that contains a high content of nitrogen, phosphate and potassium, three nutrients essential for plant growth.

Exploration of oceanic resources is not exhaustive in southern Africa and there is a lot more to learn about the undiscovered marine resources.

The call to embrace the blue economy initiative comes at a time when SADC is about to finalise the process to recalibrate its integration agenda in line with global dynamics and various emerging issues that influence its development trajectory.

The region has embarked on the final stages of a process started in 2011 to review the RISDP, its 15-year development blueprint.

Following a recommendation by the Council of Ministers, the SADC Secretariat has established a task force comprising representatives from the Secretariat, all Member States, and relevant key stakeholders.

The multi-stakeholder task force is expected to implement recommendations of an independent review of the RISDP that was concluded last year.

The task force is required to propose new priorities, main focal areas, milestones, outputs, targets and timeframes for the remainder of the implementation period of the RISDP.

The task force is expected to consider and recommend any other strategies and imple-

mentation frameworks that may enhance the implementation of the RISDP; and suggest new policy, strategy, and institutional innovations for the post-2018 period after completion of the development plan.

The team is expected to prepare a summary of key recommendations and priorities for completion of the RISDP and present these to Council for deliberation and endorsement by August 2014.

The task force is expected to commence work in March and conclude its assignment by June.

Dr Tax commended Seychelles for spearheading the blue economy Initiative.

The Blue Economy Summit, which was attended by

several island and coastal states, was co-organised by Seychelles and United Arab Emirates and held on the sidelines of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week.

It examined the blue economy paradigm that constitutes a sustainable development framework for developing countries, addressing equity in access to, development of and the sharing of benefits from marine resources. □

Michel campaigns for blue economy

THE PRESIDENT of Seychelles, James Michel, says the blue economy concept should be the central theme of global sustainable development, climate mitigation and poverty eradication.

Speaking during the Blue Economy Summit held in the United Arab Emirates in January, Michel said the importance of the blue economy to humankind cannot be under-estimated in that more than 70 percent of the planet is covered by oceans and 90 percent of trade in the world is conducted by sea.

“Oceans transcend states. They connect us all to each other. And we must harness these connections for development, not just enrichment,” Michel said.

He called on countries to “ensure that the benefits from economic activity in our oceans translate into real benefits for our populations.”

“We cannot consider that it is sustainable for certain large industrial fishing fleets to exploit the resources of one sea to the point of exhaustion and then simply move on to other areas,” Michel said.

“Inclusion, ownership and empowerment of coastal populations are core elements of implementing the blue economy.”

The blue economy concept was introduced and debated during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development conference held in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. □



SADC approves industrialisation framework

SOUTHERN AFRICA has taken another bold step to promote industrial development following the approval of a framework that sets out strategies to promote value-addition in the region.

The recently approved SADC Industrial Development Policy Framework recognizes the need to build economic infrastructure; strengthen the technology base, economies of scale and scope, as well as improve the competitiveness of industries.

Approved in 2013, the framework aims to coordinate regional cooperation to build a diversified, innovative and globally competitive industrial base that contributes to sustainable growth and employment creation for the mutual benefit of SADC countries.

It provides a reference point for guiding the coordination of complementary policies, activities and processes that will form part of the regional industrial development framework.

The framework recognises that formulation and implementation of industrial policy is essentially a national prerogative and that there is no "one-size-fits-all" approach for the region's industrialisation process.

Member States are encouraged to continue to implement national policies and strategies for stimulating and enhancing their productive capacities as these policies are important in informing and supporting the regional framework.

The framework, therefore, seeks to leverage and build on the mutually beneficial opportunities available in Member

States as well as addressing the common challenge of industrialisation through development of strategies or activities coordinated at regional level.

It builds on the Industrial Upgrading and Modernisation Programme (IUMP), adopted by the SADC Committee of Ministers of Trade in June 2009.

The objective of the IUMP is to enhance the competitiveness of existing industrial capacity and promote the development of regional value chains in selected sectors across the region.

The structure of production in southern Africa is characteristic of a developing region where large shares of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) originate from primary production sectors such as agriculture and mining.

The contribution of these sectors is relatively high, averaging close to 50 percent of GDP.

Fishing has equally grown to be important in a number of countries.

However, value addition in these primary sectors remains low, on average remaining at 14 percent of GDP in 2009, according to SADC.

With the exception of South Africa and Mauritius, which have sizeable manufacturing sectors, the SADC industrial sector remains relatively undiversified.

In all SADC Member States, the manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP is less than 20 percent and in some cases lower than five percent.

According to the framework, industrialisation intensity is fairly low in the region, with industrial output heavily

concentrated on low-technology products such as food, beverages, textiles, clothing and footwear.

In most countries, the contribution of manufacturing to GDP has remained relatively unchanged over the last decade, despite some small upward and downward movements across countries.

The important role played by industrialisation has been recognised in the various SADC instruments and blueprints.

Both the SADC Treaty and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) provide for a development integration approach in SADC that seeks to address production, infrastructure and efficiency barriers to growth and development.

Industrialisation is prioritized in both SADC policy documents as a major tool for sustainable growth, development and eradication of poverty.

The SADC Protocol on Trade, which came into effect in 2000, specifically calls for an industrialisation strategy to accompany implementation of the SADC Free Trade Area.

The RISDP adopted in 2003 further re-affirmed the commitment of SADC Member States to a number of priority intervention areas, including development of deliberate policies for industrialisation, with a focus on promotion of industrial linkages and efficient utilisation of regional resources through increased value addition.

The Plan further calls for SADC Member States to pursue national industrial policies and strategies in a manner that fosters regional coherence and reduces regional inequalities. □

SADC industrial policy interventions

THE SADC Industrial Policy Framework outlines the following broad cross-cutting and sector-specific interventions for implementation at regional level:

- Developing and exploiting SADC mutually beneficial opportunities;
- Improving standards, technical regulations & quality infrastructure;
- Promoting cooperation on innovation, technology transfer, and research and development activities;
- Developing mechanisms to improve access to finance for manufacturing and related sectors;
- Improving support for small and medium-sized enterprises;
- Integrating infrastructure and services into the regional industrialisation strategy;
- Attracting local regional and foreign direct investment and promoting exports;
- Developing strategies to exploit opportunities emerging in the region's strategic cooperation with global partners; and
- Promoting the alignment of this policy framework with existing complementary policies. □





AfDB to assess impact of SADC Trade Protocol

THE AFRICAN Development Bank plans to commission a study to assess the impact of implementation of the SADC Protocol on Trade.

The bank, through its Southern Africa Regional Resource Centre based in South Africa, is in the process of recruiting consultants to undertake the study starting in March.

The study will involve a desk review of the key reforms and instruments adopted by the region to implement the SADC Protocol on Trade and trends in formal trade flows, as well as a survey-based assessment of the impact of the reforms.

The consultants will be expected to produce a report highlighting their findings, including a stand-alone executive summary.

The report will be presented at two regional stakeholder meetings to be held during the year.

Implementation of the SADC Trade Protocol has been a long and painstaking regional process.

Since 1996 when the Trade Protocol was signed, coming into force in 2000 following a ratification process, 12 SADC Member States have signed up to the protocol and are, therefore, part of the Free Trade Area (FTA), with the exception of Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo who have asked for more time before joining the FTA.

The main instrument of trade liberalisation as provided for in the protocol has been the elimination of customs tariffs and non-tariff barriers on the bulk of intra-SADC trade.

Once the Trade Protocol came into force in 2000, the first major step was for Member States to undertake negotiations for tariff phase-down,

which entails gradual removal of customs duties.

The negotiating process was conducted through the “request-offer approach” under the auspices of the Trade Negotiating Forum, which met regularly as provided for in the Trade Protocol.

Critical to the negotiating process was the principle of asymmetry, which was born out of the realisation that, among other issues, SADC Member States were at varying levels of economic development.

For purposes of implementation of the Trade Protocol, Member States were put into the following categories:

- Developed Countries (mainly South Africa but de facto, Southern African Customs Union - SACU);
- Developing Countries (Mauritius and Zimbabwe); and
- Least Developed Countries - LDCs (being the remainder, i.e. Angola, DRC, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia).

Based on these clusters, SADC pursued a tariff phase-down programme at variable scales of speed in which the developed countries cluster was expected to generally frontload their tariff reductions to achieve the “substantially all trade” threshold by about year-five of implementation, that is by 2005.

The developing countries cluster was expected to generally mid-load their tariff reductions to achieve the same threshold by the eighth year of implementation, that is by 2007/08, while the last category, the LDCs, was expected to backload their tariff reductions to beyond the eight-year threshold but not exceeding 12 years.



The SADC trade protocol provides for the elimination of customs tariffs and non-tariff barriers on intra-SADC trade.

However, for category A and B products (*see box*), tariffs were to reach the zero percent level by 2008 in line with the World Trade Organisation requirement which stipulates that substantially all trade should be free in an FTA.

The “substantially all trade” threshold for SADC is made up of 85 percent of all products, constituting category A and B products but excluding category C products.

A mid-term review commissioned by SADC in 2004 revealed that Member States were implementing the Trade Protocol but progress was generally slow.

One of the key recommendations to ensure compliance was that Member States were to effect tariff phase-downs on the 1st of January every year.

An audit done by the Southern African Trade Hub for the SADC Secretariat indicated that as of February 2008, Mauritius, Mozambique, SACU countries, United Republic of Tanzania,

Zambia and Zimbabwe had gazetted their tariff offers or issued notices effecting the 2008 tariff phase-down.

Malawi would consider further reductions during the 2008/09 budget while Madagascar only acceded to the Protocol in 2006 and is allowed more time to catch up.

In addition to removal of tariffs, Member States have also agreed to several other trade facilitation measures such as the elimination of non-tariff barriers to trade.

Removal of non-tariff barriers involves harmonisation of customs rules and procedures, the harmonisation of sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures as well as adoption and implementation of common rules of origin.

Given that not all products qualify for duty-free under an FTA, a considerable amount of time was spent on negotiating the rules of origin, which were eventually agreed as being product specific. □

Product Categorisation for SADC Tariff Phase-down

Product category	Description
A	Products whose tariffs would move to 0% (or were already 0%) at start of the phase-down process, i.e. in 2000
B	Products subject to tariff phase-down to 0% over an eight-year period to 2008
C	Sensitive products, phase-down over 12-year period to 2012
E	Excluded from preferential trade.





AU, AfDB to strengthen RECs infrastructure capacity

THE AFRICAN Union and African Development Bank (AfDB) have signed a grant to strengthen the capacity of Regional Economic Communities to plan, prepare and coordinate the implementation of regional infrastructure programmes and projects.

The US\$8.6 million three-year capacity building grant is expected to assist the eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa as well as the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency to implement infrastructure programmes necessary for strengthening the continent's physical and economic integration.

The grant will benefit SADC, the Arab Maghreb Union, Community of Sahel-Saharan States, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, East African Community, Economic Community of Central African States, Economic Community of West African States and Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

Specifically, the grant will support the accelerated implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) approved by African Heads of State and Government during the 18th Ordinary Session of AU held in Ethiopia in January 2012.

It will provide the necessary capacity to RECs and the continental bodies to enable them support member states to move PIDA projects to preparation, bankability and financing.

PIDA projects include modernization of ports, railways

and road networks across Africa as well as the interconnection of power grids and completion of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) connectivity on the continent.

PIDA defines priority regional cross-border infrastructure projects in energy, water, transport and ICT intended to interconnect, integrate and transform Africa through modern infrastructure at an investment cost of US\$68 billion up to the year 2020.

It provides the strategic framework for African stakeholders to build the infrastructure necessary for more integrated infrastructure networks to boost trade, spark growth and create jobs as well as to support regional integration and linkages into the global economy.

Successful implementation of PIDA will, therefore, enhance the competitiveness of Africa within itself and in the global economy, while acting as a catalyst for its economic transformation.

The grant agreement was signed by AU Commission Deputy Chairperson, Erastus Mwencha and AfDB Vice President, Charles Boamah on the sidelines of the 22nd Ordinary Session of the AU Heads of State and Government Summit held in Ethiopia in January.

The SADC Regional Infrastructure Master Plan approved at Summit in 2012 is in line with the PIDA and constitutes a key input into the proposed tripartite Free Trade Area made up of SADC, COMESA and the EAC.

The SADC master plan guides implementation of coordinated, integrated, efficient, trans-boundary infrastructure networks in the six priority sectors of energy, transport, tourism, information technology, meteorology and water.

SADC and other development institutions have also endorsed an innovative African fund promoted by the AfDB and expected to facilitate large-scale mobilisation of resources and unlock international private financing for infrastructure projects on the continent.

Heads of the AU Commission, RECs and key economic and financial institutions pledged during a meeting in Tunisia in July last year to work together towards making a success of the Africa50 Fund, promoted by the AfDB to address the infrastructure gap on the continent.

The Africa50 Fund will be innovative in its design and structure, leveraging infrastructure financing resources from African central bank reserves, pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, the African Diaspora, and high net worth individuals on the continent.

This means that African RECs will be able to utilise the resources from national financial institutions and individuals on the continent and in the African Diaspora to finance transboundary infrastructure without worrying about equity issues.

One of the proposals being considered is the introduction of an African Infrastructure Bond to which national central

banks would be asked to contribute a certain percentage of the reserves.

According to the AfDB, African central banks are estimated to collectively hold about US\$500 billion of reserves, some of which are invested in ultra-secure but low yielding instruments.

The benchmark 10-year US Treasury Bills are presently attracting around 1.4 percent interest and the proposed Africa50 Fund will target to offer a better return. □

Swaziland to build six dams



Sand dams are mostly suited to semi-arid areas.

SWAZILAND AIMS to build six sand dams this year as part of a project to harvest water for the country's dry regions.

According to local media, a feasibility study on the six sand dams has been finalised, and construction is expected to begin in June.

A sand dam is a reinforced concrete wall built one to five metres high across a seasonal sand river.

Sand dams are a simple, low-cost and low-maintenance rainwater harvesting technology and provide a clean, local water supply for domestic and farming use and are suited to semi-arid areas. □

2014 – What's in it for southern Africa?

THE YEAR 2014 will see infrastructure development and elections in southern Africa as well as efforts to address the longstanding goals for the target year of 2015, including gender equality targets.

SADC will also address conflict resolution and peace-building with its borders, mainly in Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar.

During this year, SADC will finalise the mid-term review of its 15-year development plan, and Malawi will hand over the chair of the regional development organisation to Zimbabwe.

Infrastructure and energy development will remain key intervention areas in 2014, as an efficient and cost-effective transport network and stable energy supplies are critical to a thriving economy at both national and regional levels.

SADC has adopted an ambitious US\$64 billion programme to develop cross-border infrastructure in six priority areas of energy, transport, tourism, water, information communication technology and meteorology.

Implementation of this programme started in 2013 and will gain momentum in 2014 as the region plans to develop a total of 106 cross-border projects during the first phase, by 2017.

Investment and finance for the regional infrastructure programme will be sought in 2014 following an initial investment conference held in Mozambique last year when a number of potential investors expressed interest in funding some of the projects.

Additional investment conferences are planned for this year in Asia, Europe and the United States.

The infrastructure master plan contains three five-year phases for implementation – short term (2012-2017), medium term (2017-2022) and long term (2022-2027).

SADC will continue to strengthen energy development at regional level to address power shortages that have hindered economic growth and development since 2007, due to diminishing generation capacity and growth in demand.

SADC member states, through the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), have identified priority energy projects to be implemented in the short-term with a target of power self-sufficiency by 2018.

SAPP plans to add 4,670 megawatts of new electricity to the regional grid in 2014, with new generation capacity coming mainly from South Africa and Angola.

With regard to trade, SADC is expected to sign a historic agreement this year with COMESA and EAC to establish an expanded market covering 26 countries.

According to the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Task Force, the agreement will be signed by June, enabling the launch of the so-called "Grand" Free Trade Area (FTA), with a combined population of some 600 million people and a Gross Domestic Product of about US\$1 trillion.

Peace and stability are key ingredients for the success of these development initiatives, and so mechanisms for peace-building and peace-keeping will be strengthened in 2014, particularly with regard to Madagascar following the recent presidential and parliamentary elections, and also DRC.

The DRC government has been confronting rebels in the mineral-rich eastern part of the country bordering on Rwanda and Uganda, with the help of United Nations and SADC peacekeeping forces. A worrying new development is the conflict in the Central African Republic on DRC's northern border.

The SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre will continue to strengthen and expand its training of military, police and civilian peacekeepers for deployment by member states as required.

Voters in five SADC countries will go to the polls this year in national elections to select their President and Members of Parliament for the next five years, and in some cases also provincial assemblies.

South Africa will hold elections in April, Malawi in May, and Botswana in September/October. Mozambique has set the election date for 15 October, and Namibia will hold elections towards the end of the year.

The United Republic of Tanzania is expected to complete the process of drafting a new constitution this year, in preparation for elections in 2015, while Zambia is also completing a constitutional review before elections in 2016.

These constitutions and the various elections will impact on the key regional targets for increasing the number of women in decision-making in SADC Member States.

The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development that entered into force last year contains specific targets to be met by 2015, including 50:50 representation by women and men in decision-making positions.

According to the *SADC Gender Monitor* produced for the SADC Gender Unit by SARDC, only five SADC Member States were close to the target of parity in parliament by mid-2013, having gone above the 30-percent previous threshold set by regional leaders.

These are Seychelles (43.8 percent), South Africa (42.3 percent), Mozambique (39.2 percent), Tanzania (36 percent), Angola (34.1 percent) and Zimbabwe (31.5 percent). A number of other SADC countries are below the 20 percent mark. sardc.net □





Good rains brighten food prospects for SADC

WEATHER EXPERTS have forecast normal to above-normal rainfall in southern Africa for the remainder of the 2013/14 farming season, raising prospects of another good harvest this year.

The SADC Agromet Update for the 2013/2014 Agricultural Season released by the SADC Climate Services Centre (SADC CSC) said normal to above-normal rainfall was expected in most Member States between February and April.

Above-normal rainfall is defined as lying within the wettest third of average recorded rainfall amounts during the 30-year period between 1971 and 2000, while below-normal is within the driest third of rainfall amounts, and normal is the middle third.

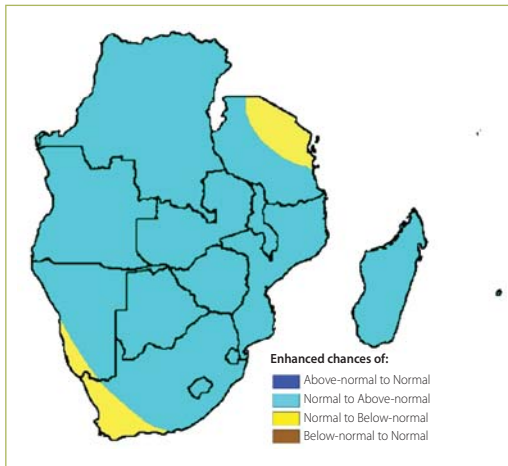
The latest forecast means that the SADC region will continue to receive sufficient rains enough for most crops to reach maturity stage, but also carries the threat of flooding.

Enhanced probability of receiving normal to above-normal rainfall is expected in nearly all parts of the region except north-eastern United Republic of Tanzania and the western fringes of Namibia and South Africa.

The update, however, said there were some delays in the start of the rainfall season in most parts of the region,

which affected planting of crops.

Planting rains were only received in mid-December in central and southern Malawi, eastern Zambia, the central parts of Mozambique and northern Zimbabwe.



Southern Mozambique, parts of southern Zimbabwe and central Tanzania received the rains in late December.

The implication of the delay in rainfall is that there is a high possibility that crops may not reach maturity or perform well in some areas, unless the rains extend slightly longer than usual and are consistent throughout the remainder of the season.

The rainfall update noted that in some areas such as southern Malawi crops are still expected to reach maturity due to the short season maize crop varieties grown there.

The *vuli* or short season rains in Tanzania continued to perform poorly through to

mid-January, with reports of wilting of late-planted crops in some areas.

It is reported that rains in December and early January were generally favourable in central/western parts of the region that have been experiencing long-term drought conditions for the last two seasons.

The northern half of Botswana, northern Namibia, south-eastern Angola, western Zambia and western Zimbabwe received above-normal rains for the period 1 December 2013 to 20 January 2014.

The rains helped to revive pastures and improve water supplies, enabling improvement in livestock conditions.

Widespread outbreak of armyworm was reported in several districts in the Southern Region of Malawi and localised areas of eastern Zambia.

Crop damage ranging from mild to severe was reported, and some areas required replanting.

However, following control measures by farmers and Ministries of Agriculture, the situation is under control and impacts are likely to have been minimized.

The chances for above-normal rainfall observed in most parts of the region raise the likelihood of late-planted crops reaching maturity, espe-

cially if the higher rainfall is associated with a longer season extending well into April.

SADC CSC in conjunction with other partners will continue to closely monitor the status of evolution of El-Niño and updates will be issued from time to time. □



Sorghum grown in Namibia

Namibia to conduct agricultural census

NAMIBIA IS expected to conduct its agricultural census this year - 20 years after the last one in 1994.

The information from the census will produce comprehensive and impartial agricultural data that will provide an integrated picture of the agricultural structure in the country, which is critical in the formulation of agricultural policies.

The last census revealed that among the crops grown on arable land in the country, millet had the highest total harvested area of 194,990 ha, followed by sorghum with 30 526 ha with wheat having the lowest total harvested area of 175 ha. □

SADC HAS for the past few years embarked on a programme to commission new or rehabilitate existing projects to improve its electricity needs.

The target is to generate more electricity so that the region achieves the desired collective 10 percent surplus power generation capacity by 2018.

However, construction of new power projects alone is insufficient to guarantee that the region's power supply matches demand from industry, commercial activity, public institutions and households by the target date. The challenge for the region is that it is chasing a moving target, with demand expanding by between 2,200 and 2,500 megawatts a year.

This calls for more concerted efforts to attract investment in the sector and migration to cost-reflective tariffs is one such action required.

A delicate balancing act is required, however, to ensure that any new viable tariffs introduced do not exclude the vulnerable communities in the region.

In this issue, *Southern Africa Today* focuses on developments within the region with regard to tariffs and efforts to achieve energy self-sufficiency.



Rising electricity tariffs – a threat to regional infl

THE RISING cost of electricity in SADC is likely to have far-reaching effects on southern Africa's regional integration programme.

The cost of electricity has risen during the past few months or is expected to increase this year in several Member States where the power utilities have applied for regulatory approvals to hike tariffs.

Some of the countries include Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Eskom of South Africa announced it will hike electricity tariffs in April if its application is approved by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (Nersa). The regulator was expected to make an announcement in February.

The Energy Regulation Board (ERB) announced in December 2013 that it had approved a 26-percent hike in electricity tariffs following an application by the Zambia Electricity Supply Company (ZESCO).

ERB executive director Langiwe Lungu said average increases for 2014 and 2016 have already been pegged at 31 and 34 percent, respectively.

A 40-percent electricity tariff hike took effect on 1 January in Tanzania, with the cost of power to domestic consumers adjusted upwards by between 39 and 67 percent and that for large-scale commercial users was increased by between 37 and 55 percent.

The Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) attributed the hike to viability problems at the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco).

"The proposed tariff adjustment will enable Tanesco to meet its operational costs and capital investment programme, demonstrate its bankability to donors and increase capacity needed to meet system peak demand," said Felix Ngalamgosi, EWURA director of regulatory economics.

The Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC) has similarly applied to the Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority seeking to review its tariffs this year to boost revenue and improve operational efficiencies.

Other regional power utilities have also increased tariffs during the past nine months.

The Botswana Power Corporation and the Electricity Control Board of Namibia hiked their tariffs by 13 and 10 percent in June and July last year, respectively.

The issue of cost-reflective energy tariffs in southern Africa has created some interesting debates whenever power utilities announce plans to increase their tariffs.

Consumers argue that a rise in electricity tariffs will affect the cost of production and, by extension, the cost of living as business passes on the higher costs.

On the other hand, power utilities argue that raising the electricity tariffs will attract investors to the energy sector.

In terms of the impact of the rising electricity charges on SADC, the biggest impact is expected to come from regional economic powerhouse South Africa, which acts as the manufacturing hub for the region.

South Africa has historically enjoyed low tariffs on the back of an agreement with Mozambique that enabled Pretoria to draw cheap power from Cahora Bassa Dam.

The low South African power tariffs have benefitted the country's manufacturing sector which has been able to produce goods cheaply that it has supplied to the rest of the region.

The rising cost of electricity in South Africa will, therefore, significantly affect the economies of several SADC Member States that import from the country.

This would, among other things, increase pressure on prices of products and services to rise in most countries, especially members of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) whose economies are intricately linked to South Africa.

SACU operates as a customs union of South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland under a renewable agreement, and is governed at present by an agreement negotiated in 2002.

Rising inflation will derail SADC's programme on macroeconomic convergence under which Member States have agreed that in order to achieve and maintain macroeconomic stability, they need to converge on stability-oriented economic policies implemented through a sound institutional structure and framework.

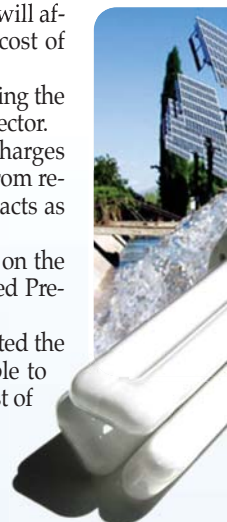
Such policies include, but are not limited to restricting inflation to low and stable levels; maintaining a prudent fiscal stance based on the avoidance of large fiscal deficits; avoidance of large financial imbalances in the economy; and minimising market distortions.

Among other targets, the SADC countries have agreed to have the inflation rate restricted to around three percent by 2018.

This is, however, unlikely to be achieved unless inflationary pressures from such key sectors as energy are contained.

Rising electricity costs will also derail progress towards attaining food security and eradicating poverty in southern Africa.

High electricity charges are expected to negatively impact agriculture and mining, which are some of the largest users of power. □





ENERGY IN AFRICA



Mozambique to build gas-powered plant

MOZAMBIQUE WILL this year begin construction of a new gas-powered plant that is expected to add 100 megawatts (MW) to the regional power grid.

Gas production is set to become a major priority in Mozambique over the next few years following the discovery of large sums of natural gas in the country.

The amount of gas discovered in Mozambique is reported to be

more than enough to meet an entire year's gas consumption by the United States – one of the largest consumers of gas in the world. The US consumes about 30 trillion cubic feet per annum

Mozambique's gas-powered plant to be built in Maputo is due for completion in 2018. Once operational, it is expected to address the energy shortages in the country.

Mozambique requires about 700MW of electricity per year. However, due to other challenges, the country is producing close to 600MW for its local consumption as well as imports.

According to the Southern Africa Power Pool (SAPP), which coordinates the planning, generation, transmission and marketing of electricity on behalf of Member State utilities in the SADC region, Mozambique's energy needs are on the increase and the country will require more than 750MW per year for its socio-economic development by 2018.

Funding for the gas-powered plant will jointly be provided by Mozambique and Japan.

The Japanese government has already pledged US\$167 million for engineering services, as well as the acquisition of equipment, construction work and professional training.

The gas-powered plant will be a combined-cycle power plant. Combined plants are more efficient than conventional power stations using two heat engines in tandem to convert a higher fraction of the heat produced by the fuel into electricity.

Gas-powered electricity plants also produce less carbon dioxide, having a lower impact on gas emissions that cause climate change and damage to the environment.

The project comes at a time when gas is becoming the future of the region's energy matrix, as the global community moves towards cleaner sources of energy.

Through SAPP, SADC aims to construct 16 gas-powered power stations by 2018 across the region with a combined capacity to add more than 4,000MW of electricity to the regional grid. □

Generation targets Kariba Power Station expansion underway

EXPANSION OF the long-awaited Kariba power station in Zimbabwe is now underway after the necessary funding was secured.

"We have secured the funding and the project should take about three years to complete. If everything goes according to schedule, the first unit should be commissioned in 2017," Zimbabwe's energy utility spokesperson Fullard Gwasira said.

The expansion of the Kariba power station will increase generating capacity to 1,050 megawatts (MW) from the current 750 MW.

The project is estimated at US\$500 million, and will see the in-

stallation of an addition two power generating plants of 150MW each.

Currently, the power station has a total of six generating plants that each produces 125MW of electricity.

Zimbabwe secured a loan grant of US\$319 million from China Export and Import Bank to finance the power project.

The loan has a two-percent interest rate and a five-year grace period and 20-year tenure. Zimbabwe is expected to contribute US\$35 million to the project to bring the total cost of the project to US\$354 million.

Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa hailed the deal saying it will help Zimbabwe address its energy needs.

"This should go a long way in reducing power outages that characterise our power generation. For us the energy deficit has hamstrung the growth of our economy," he said.

Zimbabwe has a daily energy peak demand of 2,200MW against supply of 1,200MW. □



Namibia, Zambia sign power sharing deal

NAMIBIA AND Zambia have signed a power sharing deal that will see the later exporting surplus energy to Namibia.

Namibians energy utility, NamPower intends to import additional power from Zambia to combat power shortages in the country.

The power sharing deal involves exporting 100 megawatts (MW) of electricity from Zambia.

Namibia currently receives 50MW of electricity daily from the Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO) and NamPower is negotiating with the ZESCO to increase the supplies by an additional 100MW.

"We have requested for an additional 100MW of electricity daily and with the recent expansion of power stations in Zambia, it could be possible for Zesco to sell us more power," Namibia's utility boss Paulinus Shilamba said.

Namibia has the capacity to produce about 45 percent of its electricity. The rest is imported from neighbouring countries including Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

The power sharing deal between Zambia and Namibia strengthens the regional cooperation in energy. □



SOUTH AFRICA's fourth election since ending apartheid



THE INDEPENDENT Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) set 9 February as the deadline for voters to register for national and provincial elections on 7 May.

According to the IEC, more than 24 million eligible voters had registered by November 2013 out of a total population counted at 52 million in the 2011 census.

South Africa uses a system of Proportional Representation in which the electorate votes for a political party, not individuals. The party gets a share of seats in Parliament in direct proportion to the number of votes won in the election.

Each registered political party submits a list of candidates to the IEC in advance of the election, and the IEC determines the number of seats for each party based on the election results.

The President is elected by the new National Assembly from among its members, usually the leader of the majority party. The candidate resigns from parliament upon election.

South Africa is ranked second in the SADC region for women representation at 42.3 percent, with women occupying 169 of the 400 seats in the National Assembly after the last elections in April 2009, according to the *SADC Gender Monitor 2013*.

The African National Congress (ANC) has won all national elections since democratic elections were introduced in 1994, anchoring its election campaign on employment and economic development.

The ANC led by incumbent President Jacob Zuma will contest the election against several other parties, including the main opposition Democratic Alliance, Agang South Africa, and Economic Freedom Fighters. Opposition parties are promising better service delivery and good governance, with EFF focusing on equitable distribution of land and resources.

Tripartite elections in MALAWI



Malawi will conduct presidential, parliamentary and local government elections on the same day, for the first time since independence in 1963.

More than 7.5 million people have registered to vote in the tripartite elections set for 20 May, according to the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC).

Almost six million voters registered for the previous elections in 2009 from a population of 13 million (2008 census), now estimated at about 15 million.

Malawi uses the constituency electoral system of First Past The Post, in which the candidate with the most votes is declared the winner in each constituency.

Women candidates won 50 of the 193 seats in Parliament (26 percent) in the 2009 elections which were contested by 150 women candidates.

Incumbent President Joyce Banda will contest her first presidential election after succeeding the late Bingu wa Mutharika, who died in 2012. Her nomination papers were presented to the Malawi Electoral Commission in mid-February, among a dozen others, and MEC will rule on eligible candidates.

2014

Election time in SADC... as fi

by Kizito Sikuka

FIVE SADC Member States will hold elections this year – Swaziland 15 October, Mozambique 15 October, and Namibia likely in November. SA usual: the pre-election period, election day and post-election period guided by the provisions of national constitutions and electoral laws. Defence and Security Cooperation, and SADC Principles and C

She is expected to contest against a number of opposition leaders, including the former president's brother, Peter Mutharika, of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP).

Banda is a former member of the DPP, but she formed her own party, the People's Party, after refusing to endorse Mutharika as the successor to the late president.

Unemployment, service delivery and poverty eradication are some of the main issues dominating the election campaigns in Malawi.

BOTSWANA elections in October



The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) has indicated that parliamentary elections are likely to be held in Botswana in October as the norm and has urged citizens to register to vote. The previous elections were held on 16 October 2009.

Voter registration took place last year, with supplementary registration in March and June this year.

The IEC announced last year that just over one million Botswana were eligible to vote. The total population was just over 2 million in 2011 at the time of the last census.

Botswana uses a constituency electoral system of First Past The Post for the election of Members of Parliament, and the newly elected Parliament then meets to elect the President.

There are 57 single-member constituencies, and four special seats appointed by the majority party in Parliament, while the President and Attorney-General are ex-officio members.

The total number of seats is 63 of which only five were women for a percentage of 7.9 after the 2009 elections, rising to 9.5 percent with the appointment of a woman to fill a vacancy in parliament in 2011, but still leaving Botswana at the bottom of the SADC rankings.



ve countries go to the polls

outh Africa on 7 May, Malawi 20 May, Botswana in October, SADC is expected to deploy election observers in three phases as follows. The SADC Election Observer Missions (SEOM) will be deployed in three phases, as well as the SADC Treaty, SADC Protocol on Politics, and SADC Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.

This election is likely to see many new candidates, including a larger proportion of women. With the regional target of 50 percent women by 2015, the government and political parties are encouraging the nomination of women candidates. Women make up 55 percent of the electorate in Botswana.

The ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) led by President Seretse Khama Ian Khama has promised to broaden and diversify the economy through agricultural development and manufacturing.

The BDP will contest the 11th general elections against the Botswana Congress Party, which formed a coalition with the Botswana Alliance Movement for the previous election.

MOZAMBIQUE elections 15 October, late start to registration



The date for general elections in Mozambique was announced well in advance to give the electoral commission and political parties plenty of time to prepare.

However, the Mozambique Resistance Movement (Renamo) demanded a delay in the start of voter registration due 30 January. Voter registration commenced on 14 February to be completed by 29 April, despite a second demand from Renamo to postpone further.

The National Elections Commission and its executive body, the Electoral Administration Technical Secretariat (STAE), will be expanded to include representation from political parties, another Renamo demand, although the enabling legislation is yet to be approved by the National Assembly which resumed sitting on 19 February.

The discussions follow several months of instability in the centre of the country caused by armed attacks on police posts and vehicles, resulting in civilian deaths and loss of property.

Renamo has 51 members in the 250-seat National Assembly from the elections in 2009, against 191 for the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo), but faces a challenge from a new political party, the Mozambique Democratic Movement (MDM), currently holding only eight seats.

The MDM has declared its intention to win a majority in the next parliament, after doing well in municipal elections held in November 2013. Renamo boycotted the municipal elections, but says it has reversed its decision to boycott the national polls.

The MDM, led by the Beira mayor Daviz Simango, broke away from Renamo in 2009. Simango gained 8.6 percent of the votes in the 2009 presidential election, compared to 16.4 percent for the Renamo leader, Afonso Dhlakama, and 75 percent for incumbent President Armando Guebuza, standing for his last term.

Frelimo has yet to announce its presidential candidate as a process underway to choose from three proposed eligible candidates. Guebuza remains president of the party.

Mozambique uses proportional representation by province, and is among the top three countries in the region with a significant number of women in Parliament, at 98 (39.2 percent).

Almost 10 million voters registered in 2009, with a population counted as 25.2 million in the 2012 census.

With more than 80 percent of the population involved in agriculture, a low rate of literacy and high poverty levels, there are many challenges for this mineral-rich country spread along the Indian Ocean coast and a major transit country, now strengthening access to its ports for neighbouring countries.

NAMIBIA awaits third president since Independence



Voter registration has started for national elections in Namibia which are likely to take place in November as the previous elections were held five years ago on 27-28 November 2009.

The elections will provide the country with its third president since Independence in 1990 as incumbent President Hifikepunye Pohamba has served his second and last term as per the constitution.

Nine political parties hold seats in the National Assembly, including the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) which has 54 seats and the Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP) with eight seats, while the other seven parties have just one or two seats each.

Prime Minister Hage Geingob, who is Swapo vice-president, is expected to be the candidate of the ruling party which has won all elections since Independence in 1990.

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) has set 15 January - 2 March 2014 as the period for voter registration with about one million voters expected to register of a national population counted as 2.1 million in the 2011 census.

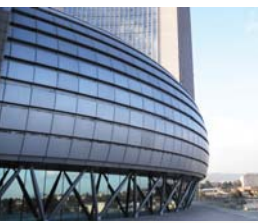
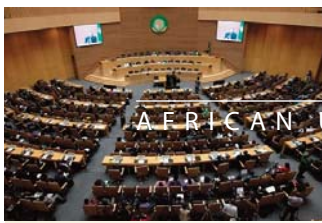
Unemployment and service delivery remains a challenge for the large, arid country.

Namibia uses First Past The Post for presidential elections and the proportional system for legislative elections.

The National Assembly has 72 members elected by party list and six more appointed by the President for a total of 78 MPs.

The proportion of women in Parliament in Namibia was 31 percent after the 2004 elections, dropping to 24.4 percent in 2009 with only 19 women MPs, ranking Namibia as seventh in the SADC region, with the target of 50:50 by 2015.

At its 5th congress held in 2012, Swapo committed to the 50:50 representation of men and women in all party structures, but there has been some disquiet in the party about how to implement this, and how to choose candidates for the national election. □



A glimpse into a future prosperous, assertive Africa

ADVANCED, DEVELOPED, empowered, inspired, independent and united are some of the main qualities Africa will possess in the near future, according to a futuristic letter written by the African Union (AU) Commission chairperson, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and delivered to African leaders at their recent summit in Ethiopia.

In the letter, Dlamini-Zuma presents a remarkable imagery of achievements that can be recorded in Africa by the year 2063 when the continent celebrates the centenary of the Organisation of African Unity, now the African Union.

By 2063, Africa has formed the Confederation of African States (CAS) and a prosperous African Economic Community.

"Africa has indeed transformed herself from an exporter of raw materials with a declining manufacturing sector in 2013, to become a major food exporter, a global manufacturing hub, a knowledge centre, benefiting our natural resources and agricultural products as drivers to industrialisation," she predicts.

"Pan-African companies, from mining to finance, food

and beverages, hospitality and tourism, pharmaceuticals, fashion, fisheries and ICT are driving integration, and are amongst the global leaders in their sectors. We are now the third largest economy in the world."

Most significantly, she says that intra-Africa trade can reach 50 percent by 2045, from less than 12 percent in 2013.

Dlamini-Zuma said this would be achieved through the implementation of Agenda 2063, developed to galvanize and unite all Africans around the common vision of a peaceful, integrated and prosperous Africa.

"Planning fifty years ahead allowed us to dream, think creatively and sometimes crazy as one of the Ministers who hosted the 2014 Ministerial retreat said, to see us leapfrog beyond the immediate challenges."

This tremendous growth for Africa would be possible through various innovative measures, including robust infrastructure and agricultural development, industrialisation and promotion of deeper economic integration among the eight regional economic communities in the continent.

The future should see food security in Africa and the harnessing of the vast natural resources that are in abundance throughout the continent, she said.

Smallholders, who make up the majority of farmers, mainly women, will have unlimited access to markets, financial resources and inputs such as seeds and fertilizer.

"Agronomists consulted women about the qualities of various grains – which ones survived low rainfalls and which thrived in wet weather; what pests threatened crops and how could they be combated without undermining delicate ecological systems," her future scenario continues.

"By the intelligent application of centuries-old indigenous knowledge, acquired and conserved by African women who have tended crops in all seasons, within the first few years bumper harvests were being reported."

In respect to energy development, Dlamini-Zuma says that Africa can provide its citizens with clean and adequate power.

"We lit up Africa, the formerly dark continent, using

hydro, solar, wind, geo-thermal energy, in addition to fossil fuels."

African countries will be interconnected, allowing goods, services and people to move freely across the continent, Dlamini-Zuma predicted.

"The continental rail and road networks that now criss-cross Africa, along with our vibrant airlines, our spectacular landscapes and seductive sunsets, the cultural vibes of our cities, make tourism one of our largest economic sectors."

Dlamini-Zuma said by 2026 Africa will have attained a permanent seat at the UN Security Council to become "a major force for global stability, peace, human rights, progress, tolerance and justice," and would have a single common language – KiSwahili, having done away with colonial languages.

Investment in the youth plays a critical part in her scenario with young people taking a keen interest by forming African Union clubs in schools and universities across the continent. □

Highlights of 22nd African Union Summit held in January 2014 in Ethiopia

- **Panel to assess African Standby force**

AFRICAN LEADERS welcomed the establishment of a panel of independent experts chaired by Professor Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria to assess the status of operationalisation of the African Standby Force and its Rapid Deployment Capability. The ASF is intended to be a continental African military force, with civilian and police components, under the direction of the African Union, for deployment in any member state in times of instability. The ASF was not ready by 2010 as planned, and a new deadline of 2015 has been set, with Summit requesting a comprehensive report at their next summit in June-July this year.



- **Common position on 2015 agenda**

AFRICA HAS adopted a common position on the post-2015 development agenda to ensure that African interests are included in the new global development agenda to be finalised next year, building on the momentum generated by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which end in 2015.

- **Zimbabwe elected deputy AU chair**

ZIMBABWE HAS been elected as deputy chair of the African Union and will head the continental body next year. Democratic Republic of Congo was elected as second deputy, with responsibility of rapporteur. The five-member Bureau of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government is the AU's supreme organ, tasked with steering its agenda. □



Slow but steady progress towards African integration

AFRICA IS making slow but steady progress towards achieving its longstanding vision to have an integrated continent, according to a recent Status of Integration in Africa report by the African Union.

The Status of Integration in Africa (SIA) report says the vision of an amalgamated continent is slowly becoming a reality, albeit with challenges, and that Regional Economic Communities (RECs) have made significant progress in implementing the Abuja Treaty – the legal framework that outlines the African integration agenda.

However, there are some challenges as the “RECs are moving towards implementing the Abuja Treaty at different rhythms.”

A total of eight RECs are recognised by the AU, including SADC.

The East African Community (EAC) is the most advanced REC, having launched its Common Market in 2010.

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) launched its Customs Union on June 2009 while SADC and the Economic Community for West African States have made

progress in building Free Trade Areas (FTAs) and are working towards establishing Customs Unions.

The report cited the tripartite arrangement involving COMESA-EAC-SADC as a model of “best practice that the other RECs are encouraged to emulate in order to accelerate the harmonisation of their programmes and activities.”

The COMESA-EAC-SADC partnership started in 2005

when leaders from the three RECs agreed to harmonise the programmes in the areas of trade and infrastructure development.

Since then, significant progress has been recorded towards promoting the smooth movement of goods and services across the 26 countries of eastern and southern Africa.

An example is the first one-stop border post in Africa, at Chirundu between Zambia

and Zimbabwe, launched by COMESA-EAC-SADC in 2009.

Under the one-stop border post agreement, travellers are cleared just once for passage into another country in contrast with the current situation where travellers have to be cleared on both sides of the border.

This development hugely addressed issues of delays, promoting the smooth flow of goods through the removal of often perceived “restrictive” operational procedures at borders.

Under its North-South Corridor initiative, the three RECs have raised more than US\$1.2 billion to implement cross-border infrastructure projects.

Planned programmes include the construction of more than 8,000 km of road, rehabilitation of 600 km of rail track and upgrading of the Dar es Salaam port in Tanzania – one of the biggest and busiest ports in Africa.

The three RECs have also partnered in various other programmes including climate change.

Similar horizontal relationship among other RECs would help Africa achieve its longstanding vision of a united and integrated continent. □

Abuja Treaty milestones

The African Economic Community was founded through the Abuja Treaty signed in 1991 and entered into force in 1994, to be created in six stages:

- Stage 1** Create Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in all regions of Africa *completed 1999*
- Stage 2** Strengthen intra-REC integration and inter-REC harmonisation *completed 2007*
- Stage 3** Establish a free trade area and customs union in each regional bloc *to be completed 2017*
- Stage 4** Coordinate and harmonise tariff and non-tariff system among RECs to establish a free trade area and a continent-wide customs union *to be completed 2019*
- Stage 5** Establish a continent-wide African Common Market *to be completed 2023*
- Stage 6** Establish a continent-wide economic and monetary union and a Parliament. *to be completed in 2028*

All transition periods are expected to end in 2034 at the latest. □

Status of Implementation of the Abuja Treaty per REC

	Stage 1 1994-1999	Stage 2 2000-2007		Stage 3 2008-2017		Stage 4 2018-2019	Stage 5 2020-2023	Stage 6 2024-2028 latest 2034
RECs	Strengthen existing RECs and create new RECs where not exist	Coordinate and harmonise activities	Eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers	Free Trade Area	Customs Union	Continental Customs Union	African Common Market	Monetary and Economic Union
UMA	✓	✓	In Progress	Not yet	Not yet	This stage will be achieved when all RECs have achieved Customs Union and harmonised their respective common external tariff (CET), with a view of creating one single continental CET.	This stage will be achieved when all RECs have achieved continental customs union as well as free movement of labour and capital.	This stage will be achieved when all RECs have achieved African Common Market at which time there will be a common currency, issued by the African Central Bank.
IGAD	✓	✓	In Progress	Not yet	Not yet			
SADC	✓	✓	✓	✓	2013			
CENSAD	✓	✓	Not yet	Not yet	Not yet			
ECOWAS	✓	✓	✓	✓	2015			
COMESA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
ECCAS	✓	✓	✓	✓	No date fixed			
EAC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			



SADC lifts suspension on Madagascar

MADAGASCAR HAS had its suspension lifted by regional organisations following the restoration of constitutional order.

An Extra-Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government held on the sidelines of the just ended 22nd African Union Ordinary Session in Ethiopia lifted the suspension, paving the way for Madagascar to resume its participation in all SADC activities.

Madagascar was suspended from SADC in 2009 when the country slid into a political turmoil after opposition leader Andry Rajoelina seized power from then President Marc Ravalomanana in a public demonstration backed by the military, similar to the method used by Ravalomanana when he seized power a few years earlier from his predecessor, Didier Ratsiraka.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has been at the forefront of mediation efforts to facilitate the return of constitutional order in Madagascar.

Former Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano was appointed as the lead negotiator.

The appointment of Chissano in June 2009 came a week after the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN) suspended their mediation efforts, citing lack of political will by the two parties.

The other two organisations vowed not to recognise the Rajoelina regime and at one point even suggested military intervention to save Malagasy citizens affected by the political situation in their country.

SADC mediation finally paid off at the end of 2013 when Madagascar success-



Hery Rajaonarimampianina takes oath as new president of Madagascar

fully held presidential elections won by the former finance minister, Hery Rajaonarimampianina.

He defeated his main rival, Jean Louis Robinson, by 53.49 percent to 46.51 percent of the total votes.

Rajaonarimampianina, who won a run-off after coming second in the first-round presidential election in October, was sworn in as the democratically elected president on 25 January.

The Madagascar Electoral Court declared him the president-elect following an initial protest by Robinson who claimed that the December run-off vote was rigged.

Robinson accepted the court ruling and attended the inauguration ceremony in the spirit of nation-building.

The elections were praised as peaceful and in conformity with regional standards and principles by the election observers from SADC and the AU.

The 252-member SADC mission was headed by the Namibian Foreign Minister, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.

"The peaceful and calm environment created by the people and government for the success of the elections; professionalism of the CENIT staff,

prompt accreditation of observers; readiness of CENIT to assist observers despite a heavy workload, political tolerance as well as freedom of association and expression during the electoral campaigns, use of information education and communication in voter and civic education use of translucent ballot boxes and assistance of voters with special needs, best democratic practices observed by SADC from the elections in Madagascar," the SADC report said.

Southern African leaders expressed satisfaction at political developments in Madagascar that led to the successful holding of elections.

In a communiqué released after a SADC Extraordinary Summit in Ethiopia on 30 January, the SADC leaders congratulated Rajaonarimampianina and welcomed his pledge towards national reconciliation and socio-economic recovery.

Noting the progress in resolving constitutional order in Madagascar, they invited the country to rejoin SADC and resume its participation in all SADC activities.

"Summit, in view of the restoration of constitutional

order in the country, lifted the suspension on Madagascar and invited the country to immediately resume its participation in all SADC activities," read part of the communiqué.

The lifting of the sanctions on Madagascar is a significant development for the country after several years in isolation. The AU also lifted its sanctions on Madagascar in January.

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax said the 15-member group was satisfied with the democratic processes.

"SADC appeals to the African Union, the United Nations and other similar bodies to welcome the positive steps that Madagascar has made through the recent peaceful, transparent and fair elections and to spare no effort at ensuring that democracy and the rule of law are enhanced in the southern Africa," Tax told the AU Peace and Security Council.

With the return of Madagascar to SADC, the country is expected to benefit from a number of projects being implemented by the region.

These include an ambitious US\$64 billion programme to develop cross-border infrastructure in six priority areas of energy, transport, tourism, water, information communication technology and meteorology.

Other joint programmes are in the tourism sector where the region is targeting the establishment of a single visa for all Member States.

Tourism is the backbone of the Malagasy economy, and such a regional initiative will help to attract more tourists to the Indian Ocean Island. sardc.net □

Events February-April 2014

February 18-20, South Africa	Africa Energy Indaba The conference will bring together international and continental experts to share their insights and solutions to Africa's energy crisis, while simultaneously exploring the vast energy development opportunities on offer in Africa.
18-20, DRC	Ad-Hoc Experts Group Meeting on: "Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) and National Champions" Many developing countries, including African member states, have entered into investment treaties to boost FDI flows. The meeting therefore will gather experts to look into the current status of the various BITs and investment treaties; analyse how they can affect the creation of national champions and recommend as a way forward towards the type of agreements that should be signed between host and home countries that are win-win for both parties.
19-21, South Africa	Gender, Water and Development Conference 2014 This conference will bring together experts and policy makers to discuss how to address gender, poverty and water challenges across Africa under the theme of 'Gender, Water and Development: The Untapped Connection'. Among other things the conference will also consider formulating and implementing gender in water policy; mobilising human and financial resources; mainstreaming gender in human and institutional capacity development; promoting cooperation and coordination to mainstream gender in the water sector; and supporting gender equality in the water sector through monitoring and evaluation
27, Botswana	SADC Energy Thematic Group meeting The Energy Thematic Group is a coordination meeting of cooperating partners, experts, SADC and its subsidiary organisations to discuss ways of assisting the region in tackling its energy challenges.
March TBA	SADC Council of Ministers The SADC Council of Ministers is responsible for supervising and monitoring the functions and development of SADC, and ensuring that policies are properly implemented to advance regional integration.
5-7, Zambia	20th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Southern Africa Eleven SADC and COMESA Member States are expected to participate in the meeting which convenes yearly to discuss topical economic and social developments in the region. The meeting will be held under the theme "Making natural resources work for inclusive growth and sustainable development in Southern Africa".
8, Global	International Women's Day This is the day designated by the United Nations to commemorate issues of equality of women with men, and coincides with the 57th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women held every year in early March. The main CSW theme this year is "The Elimination and the Prevention of all Forms of Violence against Women and Girls" and a subsidiary theme "The Sharing of Responsibilities between Women and Men, including in Care Giving in the Contexts of HIV and AIDS".
13, Botswana	SADC RISDP Review Task Force Meeting The multi-stakeholder task force will implement recommendations of an independent review of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan that was concluded in 2013. It comprises representatives from the Member States, the SADC Secretariat, SADC subsidiary and affiliated institutions, policy research institutions and independent experts.
April 2-3, Belgium	4th Africa-EU Energy Partnership The summit will provide an opportunity to look back at the successes and failures of the strategic partnership between both continents, and to look ahead for ways to fundamentally rebuild the nature, ambition and scope of Africa-Europe relations.



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45 years

Mozambique remembers Mondlane

FORTY FIVE years have passed since the death of the founder and first president of the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo), Eduardo Mondlane, who was assassinated on 3 February 1969 with a parcel bomb sent by the Portuguese security police and delivered to him in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The date is commemorated each year in Mozambique as Heroes Day.

The ceremony to commemorate Heroes Day this year also marked the re-inauguration of Heroes' Square in Maputo.

At the centre of the square stands a star-shaped monument of white marble where Mondlane is interred, as well as the country's first President, Samora Machel and other heroes of the liberation struggle.

To commemorate 45 years since the assassination of Mondlane, the Mozambican President Armando Guebuza decorated more than 100 people, many of them posthumously, as well as some institutions, for their contributions to the country.

Posthumous honours for "Hero of the Republic of Mozambique" were awarded to 24 people.

This is the highest honour given to people who have contributed to the independence and development of Mozambique.

The only person who had previously received this title was the first President of Mozambique, Samora Machel, in 1983.

Heading the current honours list was Mondlane himself whose award was received, on behalf of the family, by his oldest son, Eduardo Mondlane Junior.

Others decorated as Heroes of the Republic included the first commander of the Frelimo guerrilla army, Filipe Samuel Magaia; Josina Machel, who was one of the founding members of the Frelimo Women's Detachment; as well as prominent guerrilla commanders such as Paulo Samuel Kankhomba, Osvaldo Tazama, Bonifacio Gruveta, and Sebastiao Mabote.

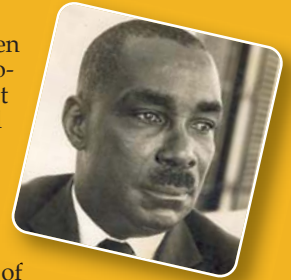
Non-military figures decorated as Heroes of the Republic included Jose Craveirinha, widely regarded as Mozambique's greatest poet, and the composer Justino Chemane.

Persons closely connected to the negotiations that led to the general peace agreement signed on 4 October 1992 between the government and Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo) rebels were also decorated with the "4th October Order". □



Golden jubilee of Zanzibar Revolution

THIS YEAR marks the golden jubilee of the Zanzibar Revolution, an uprising against the Omani Sultans who had maintained a 150-year control of Zanzibar as their key trading post off the African mainland.



The Zanzibar Revolution saw the 1964 overthrow of the Sultan of Zanzibar and his mainly Arab government by local Africans.

Zanzibar had been granted independence by Britain in 1963 but with a structure that enabled the Arab minority to retain the power inherited from Zanzibar's former existence as an overseas territory of Oman.

Frustrated by under-representation in parliament despite winning 54 percent of the vote in elections held in July 1963, the Afro-Shirazi Party (ASP), made up mainly of Africans, joined forces with the Umma Party and early on the morning of 12 January 1964, ASP member John Okello mobilised hundreds of people on the main island of Unguja.

Having overrun the country's police force and take their weapons, the revolutionaries proceeded to Zanzibar Town where they overthrew the Sultan and his government.

The new government, led by Abeid Amani Karume, turned Zanzibar into a short-lived People's Republic of Zanzibar before forming a union with mainland Tanganyika on 26 April 1964 to become the United Republic of Tanzania, with Julius Nyerere as head of state.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

February-April 2014

1 February	Abolition of Slavery Day	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes Day	Mozambique
4 February	National Armed Struggle Day	Angola
27 February	Maha Shivaratree	Mauritius
3 March	Martyrs Day	Malawi
4 March	Carnival	Angola
8 March	Women's Day	Angola, Zambia
11 March	Moshoeshoe's Day	Lesotho
12 March	National Day	Mauritius
	Youth Day	Zambia
21 March	Independence Day	Namibia
	Human Rights Day	South Africa
29 March	Martyrs Day	Madagascar
31 March	Ougadi	Mauritius
4 April	Peace and Reconciliation Day	Angola
7 April	Sheikh Abeid Karume Day	Tanzania
	Women's Day	Mozambique
18 April	Independence Day	Zimbabwe
	Good Friday	Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
19 April	Easter/Holy Saturday	Seychelles, Zambia
19 April	King's Birthday	Swaziland
21 April	Easter Monday	Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
25 April	National Flag Day	Swaziland
26 April	Union Day	Tanzania
27 April	Freedom Day	South Africa
28 April	Public Holiday	South Africa