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2015 Regional Integration Towards a Common Future

by Kizito Sikuka

THE YEAR 2015 promises to be an exciting period for southern Africa, with crucial regional processes to be concluded and deadlines for regional and global milestones beckoning during the next 12 months.

The region is expected to define its industrialisation strategy when leaders of the 15 Member States converge in Zimbabwe this year for an Extraordinary Summit that will shape the overall integration agenda for the region.

The summit, which is tentatively set for April/May, will discuss ways in which the region could improve its industrial capacity as it aims to move away from an economic path built on consumption and commodity exports onto a sustainable developmental path based on value-addition and beneficiation.

At the Summit held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, in August 2014, SADC Heads of State and Government mandated the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration to meet by March 2015 and develop a strategy and roadmap for industrialisation of the region.

The leaders directed that the ministerial task force, which comprises the ministers responsible for trade and industry, finance, economic planning and infrastructure development, be supported by a technical team on industrialisation.

Summit also considered the draft revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015-2020 and endorsed the Council decision that the Committee of Ministers of Trade, assisted by the Secretariat, should review Priority A in the revised RISDP, particularly the sequencing of targeted outputs on industrial development and trade liberalisation to ensure that industrialisation is prioritized.

Summit felt that the implementation of the pillar on industrial development and market integration was skewed in favour of trade issues, with little progress made on the industrialisation component.

The Secretariat has engaged a team of prominent experts/organisations to support Member States in developing a practical, effective, and implementable strategy and roadmap for industrialisation in the region.

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2015 Regional Integration Towards a Common Future



The importance of industrialisation was acknowledged by the SADC leaders as far back as 2003 when they adopted the RISDP, which among others, advocated for the diversification of the industrial structure and exports with more emphasis on value-addition across all sectors by 2015.

The SADC Protocol on Trade further recognises the importance of industrialisation in the context of the implementation of the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA).

Article 4(2) of the SADC Protocol on Trade states that the elimination of import duties under the SADC FTA "should be accompanied by an industrialisation strategy to improve the competitiveness of Member States".

Given the importance attached to industrialisation, a number of initiatives have been put in place.

The most comprehensive initiative relates to the Industrial Upgrading and Modernization Programme (IUMP), adopted by the Committee of Ministers of Trade in 2009 to implement the RISDP component on industrialisation.

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

With regard to gender equality, 2015 is regarded as a watershed year for SADC as it is the year set as the deadline for the attainment of the target of equal representation of women and men in all key decision-making positions.

Although significant progress has been made towards attainment of the target of 50:50 gender representation in decision-making positions, a

lot more still needs to be done to ensure that this is achieved by the end of 2015.

According to the *SADC Gender Monitor 2013* produced by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre for the SADC Gender Unit, 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) and Angola (34.1 percent). Zimbabwe (31.5 percent) joined this list in the 31 July 2013 elections while a number of other SADC countries are still below the 20 percent mark.

The African Union has declared 2015 as the year of "Women's Empowerment and Development Towards Africa's Agenda 2063", to encourage countries to speed up the implementation of protocols and instruments aimed at promoting gender equality and parity.

On the political scene, three countries – Zambia, Lesotho and the United Republic of Tanzania – will go to the polls during the year to elect new leadership.

Zambia went to the polls on 20-21 January to choose a new leader following the death of President Michael Sata in October 2014.

Former Justice and Defence Minister, Edgar Lungu was elected president. He becomes Zambia's sixth president since independence on 24 October 1964.

Lungu will be in office until the next general elections scheduled for 2016.

Lesotho is set to go to the polls on 28 February to elect a

SADC assumes AU leadership

SADC HAS assumed leadership of the African Union following the election of its candidate, the Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe as chairperson of the Assembly of AU Heads of State and Government. Mugabe, who is the current SADC chairperson, will lead the AU for the next year, and takes over from Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz. He will be deputized by presidents Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo as the first vice chair; and Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger and Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya as second and third vice chairs, respectively. □

new government. This follows a SADC-mediated agreement to bring forward the elections from 2017 to ensure that stability returns to the Kingdom following an alleged attempted coup in August 2014.

SADC facilitator, South African Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, has led the regional effort to create peace and stability in Lesotho after disturbances in the country last year.

Tanzania is yet to set the date for its presidential and parliamentary elections. The country has always held its elections in the last quarter of the year.

In accordance with the Tanzanian constitution, incumbent President Jakaya Kikwete will not take part in the elections as he is serving his second and final term.

Tanzania is also expected to hold a referendum on a new constitution on 30 April. If adopted, the new constitution will replace the one approved in 1977.

SADC will also be seized during the year with the security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo where rebel activity continues despite a peace agreement.

Infrastructure and energy development will remain key intervention areas in 2015, as an efficient and cost-effective transport network and stable energy supplies are critical to a thriving economy at both national and regional levels.

With respect to energy development, southern Africa is expected to make progress towards increasing the use of clean and alternative energy through the establishment of the SADC Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

A total of five countries -- Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe -- have expressed interest in hosting the centre, which would spearhead the promotion of renewable energy development in the region.

Another important milestone for SADC and the rest of the global community is achieving targets set out in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The global community has agreed to develop Sustainable Development Goals to ensure that the momentum achieved in implementing MDGs is maintained. □

RISDP task force to discuss revised RISDP

SADC WILL this month host the 4th meeting of the multi-stakeholder task force on the review of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan.

The meeting, scheduled for Harare, Zimbabwe on, 22-23 February, is expected to validate the contents of the updated Draft Revised RISDP 2015-2020 and the Draft Implementation Framework for the blueprint.

The last meeting of the task force was held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in August 2014, following which the Draft Revised RISDP was presented to the Council of Ministers for approval.

Council did not, however, approve the Draft Revised RISDP and directed the SADC Secretariat to finalise the document by frontloading industrialisation and its implementation strategy for consideration in March 2015.

The draft Revised RISDP 2015-2020 has been updated and a Draft Implementation Framework has been developed.

Both documents are subject to further consultations with the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration to ensure that industrialisation is accorded centrestage at this stage of integration in the SADC region.

The Revised RISDP identifies four main priorities to be pursued by the region from 2015-2020.

Priority A seeks to promote industrial development and market integration through, among other things, strengthening the productive competitiveness and supply

side capacity of Member States as well as improving movement of goods and facilitating financial market integration and monetary cooperation.

Priority B is on provision and improvement of infrastructure support for regional integration.

Priority D is on promotion of special programmes of regional dimension under clusters such as education and human resource development; health, HIV and AIDS and other communicable diseases; food security and trans-boundary natural

resources; environment; statistics; gender equality; and science, technology and innovation and research and development.

The above three priorities will be underpinned by Priority C on promotion of peace and security cooperation as a pre-requisite for achieving the regional integration agenda.

The RISDP is a 15-year strategic plan approved by SADC leaders in 2003 as a blueprint for regional integration and development.

The plan has been under review since 2010 as part of ef-

forts to realign the region's development agenda in line with new realities and emerging global dynamics.

The first review was a desk assessment by the SADC Secretariat in 2010, followed by an independent mid-term review in 2013, and another assessment done by a multi-stakeholder task force as directed by the 2013 SADC Summit held in Lilongwe, Malawi.

Once the Revised RISDP is adopted, the plan is set to provide the impetus for deeper integration among SADC Member States. □

SADC to develop guidelines for extractive industry

SOUTHERN AFRICA is in the process of developing guidelines for the extractive industry aimed at assisting the region to fully harness and exploit its natural resources such as minerals in reserves or protected area.

This is in realization of the fact that SADC continues to be among the poorest in the world despite the abundant natural resources in the region.

For example, southern Africa is home to a variety of natural resources including minerals such as diamonds, gold and platinum.

Furthermore, roughly half of the world's vanadium, platinum, and diamonds originate in the region, along with an estimated 36 percent of gold and 20 percent of cobalt.

In this regard, the SADC Secretariat, with support International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Biodiversity and Protected Area Management Programme, is in the process of engaging experts to develop the content for the Regional Extractive Industry and biodiversity guidelines.

The regional guideline will be based on the outline and inputs suggested by a September 2014 extractive industry workshop organized by SADC.

The workshop, which brought together government, private sector and civil society representatives of the extractive industry and biodiversity sector, discussed, among other things, how these two sectors can better work together to reduce the impacts of mineral and hydrocarbon exploitation on biodiversity and related ecosystems in the SADC region.

A draft framework for the regional guidelines was developed to guide governments and the private sector to

proactively consider and mainstream biodiversity to mitigate degradation of key ecosystem services and biodiversity areas.

The development of the guidelines will include a review of relevant international, regional and local guidelines in the context of extractive industries and biodiversity, with the view of identifying key content and references for the SADC regional guideline within the existing outline.

Some of the specific documents to be review include the following:

- SADC Biodiversity Action Plan;
- SADC biodiversity Strategy;
- SADC Guidelines for strengthening River Basin Organisations;
- EI Workshop Report;
- South Africa: Mining and Biodiversity Guideline; and
- Other international best practice. □





Filipe Nyusi sworn in as President of Mozambique

“Mozambican people my only and exclusive boss”

NEWLY ELECTED Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi was sworn into office on 15 January during a ceremony witnessed by several other SADC leaders.

He pledged to continue with the work of his predecessors in developing the country.

“My pledge is to serve the Mozambican people as my only and exclusive boss. My pledge is to respect, and ensure that others respect, the constitution and the laws of Mozambique. I am ready. I am confident that together we will build a bright future for our children,” Nyusi said at his inauguration held at Independence Square in Maputo.

He said the new government “will be practical and pragmatic” and will be “guided by the objectives of cutting costs and fighting against unnecessary expenditure”.

He promised to address crime and corruption, adding that he will consolidate the “fundamental gains” of the Mozambican people, namely independence, national unity and peace.

“I will do all I can to ensure that brother no longer fights against brother, no matter what the pretext,” he said.

Nyusi said Mozambique will be “a strategic partner in the affirmation of a broader and more robust business class.”

The inauguration ceremony was attended by several regional leaders, including King Letsie III of Lesotho, Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba, President Jacob Zuma of South

Africa and President Jakaya Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as Vice-President Phelekazela Mphoko representing President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, who is the current SADC chairperson.

The ceremony was also witnessed by the Portuguese President, Anibal Cavaco Silva.

Nyusi takes over from President Armando Guebuza, after winning presidential elections last October with more than a two-thirds majority against the main opposition leader, Afonso Dhlakama of Renamo, and Daviz Simango of the Mozambique Democratic Movement.

He becomes the fourth president of Mozambique since the country gained inde-

pendence from Portugal in 1975, and the first president to originate from the north of the vast country that stretches 2,470 kilometres along the south-east coast of Africa between Tanzania and South Africa, although President Armando Guebuza, from the south, grew up in the north.

Nyusi, a former Defence Minister, was born at Mueda in the northernmost province of Cabo Delgado, which borders on southern Tanzania.

Cabo Delgado was the heart and headquarters of the war of liberation in Mozambique (1964-1975), supported by Tanzania.

Both countries have recently identified significant reserves of natural gas offshore in the border area, and many

strategic minerals are located in the area.

Nyusi, 56, was brought up in the national liberation movement that won independence from colonial rule.

Both of Nyusi's parents were veterans of the war, which was just starting at the time he was taken across the nearby Ruvuma River, the boundary with Tanzania, to the Frelimo primary school at Tunduru just across the border.

Nyusi is from the Makonde ethnic group, and the Makonde African National Union (later Mozambique African National Union) was one of the first movements formed to demand independence, and one of three parties that came together to form Frelimo in 1962. □

Lesotho ready for elections

THE INDEPENDENT Electoral Commission of Lesotho has said the country is ready to hold credible elections in February.

Commissioner Makase Nyapisi said despite concerns over the state of the voters roll and limited budget, the electoral commission is “determined to deliver a credible election.”

“Basotho should know that we are more than ready to deliver credible elections,” Nyapisi said in an interview with the *Sunday Express* newspaper.

Lesotho will go to the polls on 28 February to choose new Members of Parliament after

the country's political stakeholders agreed to hold early elections ahead of the original date of 2017 in a bid to end instability that has affected the country since August last year.

There are 21 political parties and 15 independent candidates who have registered with the Independent Electoral Commission to participate in the elections.

These include the All Basotho Convention led by Prime Minister Thomas Thabane, the main opposition Democratic Congress headed by ex-premier Pakalitha Mosisili, the Lesotho Congress for Democracy led by Deputy Prime Minister Mothetjoa



Metsing, and the Basotho National Party headed by Morena Maseribane.

Thabane, Metsing and Maseribane have been in an uneasy coalition government since the last elections in 2012.

The South African Deputy President, Cyril Ramaphosa, is leading mediation efforts in the kingdom following a political crisis allegedly triggered when Thabane, facing a vote of no-confidence, suspended Parliament in June 2014. □



Priority to stabilize the economy

Edgar Lungu wins Zambian presidential by-election

NEWLY ELECTED Zambian President Edgar Lungu has said one of his main priorities is addressing unemployment and service delivery.

"Our main task in the next few months will be to stabilize our economy and work towards completing what we started," Lungu said at his inauguration ceremony witnessed by several leaders including the SADC chairperson President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

"We want to employ more people, reduce further the fuel prices, ensure farmers are supported with what they need to have a bountiful harvest this season; allow universities to offer highest standard of education; ensure hospitals being built are completed, complete structural development programmes, strategize on servicing our debts, create more jobs and weather for the people, manage our resources more re-

sponsibly and empower more young people to participate in our economy."

Lungu is Zambia's sixth president since independence from colonial rule on 24 October 1964. He extended an invitation to his opponents to set aside their political differences and actively participate in the process of nation-building after a bruising election campaign.

"I have learned a lot of things during this campaign

and I will be seeking audience with some of my progressive counterparts in the opposition," he said, adding that the same olive branch will be extended to disgruntled members of his ruling Patriotic Front (PF).

Following the death of President Michael Sata in October 2014, PF members disagreed over who should be the party's preferred candidate for the presidential elections.



SADC hails conduct of Zambian elections

SADC HAS hailed the recent presidential by-elections held in Zambia, saying they conformed to regional and international guidelines governing the conduct of democratic polls.

Head of the SADC Election Observer Mission (SEOM), Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, said that despite some isolated incidents, there was general adherence to the relevant national legal instruments as well as the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.

"Based on its observations, the SADC Electoral Observation Mission concludes that the

2015 Presidential Election in Zambia was peaceful, transparent, credible, free, and fair, thus reflecting the will of the people of Zambia in accordance with the national laws and the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections," said Nkoana-Mashabane, who is South African Minister for International Relations and Cooperation.

The SEOM, which deployed 67 observers, urged all candidates, political parties and other stakeholders to respect the will of the people and uphold the laws of Zambia by accepting the outcome of the

election, adding that any challenges to the election results should be done in accordance with the laws of the country.

"Zambia is known to be a peaceful country and we appeal to all political parties to behave in a manner that promotes peace, security and stability of the country and her citizens."

Other observer missions, including the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the African Union, also hailed the conduct of the elections. □

"I am extending a hand of peace to all party members of the PF who did not join us in this vision," he said. However, he said that those who wanted to leave the party may do so "and leave us who want to work."

With regard to the new constitution, he said it will be ready in time for the next general elections. "My government will give you the constitution you want before the next general elections in 2016," he said.

Lungu won the presidential by-election after getting 807,925 votes against 780,168 for his closest rival Hakainde Hichilema of the main opposition United Party for National Development.

Edith Nawakwi of the Forum for Democracy and Development was in third place with 15,321 votes, followed by Nevers Mumba of the Movement for Multi-party Democracy with 14,609 votes.

Tilyenji Kaunda of the United National Independence Party, and son of Zambia's first president Kenneth Kaunda got 9,737 votes, Eric Chanda of the Fourth Revolution Party (8,054 votes), National Restoration Party candidate Elias Chipimo (6,002 votes), and Godfrey Miyanda of Heritage Party (5,757 votes).

Christian Democratic Party leader Dan Pule garnered 3,293 votes, followed by Ludwig Sondashi (2,073 votes) and Peter Sinkamba of Green Party (1,410 votes).

A total of 5,166,088 people were registered to vote in the landmark election, according to the ECZ. However, the total votes cast were 1,671,662, representing a voter turnout of 32.36 percent. □





SADC prepares to host AMANI II

SOUTHERN AFRICA will this year host a continental military exercise, which is expected to pave the way for the operationalization of the African Standby Force.

AMANI AFRICA II is scheduled for April in a

SADC country, although the host nation is yet to be named. Lesotho was expected to host the event, before postponement last year.

The name of the exercise means "peace in Africa," in

Kiswahili, a language widely spoken in several African countries.

This exercise is organized by the African Union (AU) Commission to validate its capacity to mandate and employ a Rapid Deployment Capability of the African Standby Force (ASF) as a start-up operation, and to run a full multidimensional peace support operation.

The AU aims to launch the ASF in 2015. When operational, the ASF will consist of standby arrangements within Africa's five sub-regions, composed of multidimensional capabilities, including military, police and civilian, on standby in their countries of origin and ready for rapid deployment.

AMANI AFRICA II is critical in evaluating the readiness of the ASF to respond swiftly to ensuing conflicts unhampered by any heavy political and instrumental burdens.

A training session for AMANI AFRICA II was held in Harare, Zimbabwe in November 2014 and commandant of the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC), Christopher Chellah, said SADC was ready to host the event.

"We are greatly humbled to have been accorded the great honour to host this exercise, on behalf of our continent, and also to host two pre-exercise courses at our regional centre of excellence," he said.

"This for us goes to show the immense trust that the AU holds for our region. For this, we are sincerely grateful and pledge to do the very best in our strength to ensure that both courses that we host, and indeed the final exercise itself are a great success."

The first continental exercise of this kind was conducted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in October 2010 with the aim of evaluating the operational readiness of the ASF.

The exercise, AMANI AFRICA I, provided the highlight to a two-year training and capacity building cycle designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the AU Commission, through its Peace Support Operations Division, to employ the ASF for an AU-mandated peace support operation.

The AMANI AFRICA cycle is a collaborative effort between the AU and the European Union as part of the implementation of an ongoing strategic partnership between the two organisations. □



SADC continues to monitor situation in eastern DRC

SADC WILL continue to monitor the situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to ensure that total peace and stability returns to the country.

Eastern DRC is still experiencing instability as some rebel groups, notably the Forces for Democratic Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), are yet to disarm despite an agreement reached last year for total disarmament.

More than 3,000 FDLR are reported to be in DRC, and only 300, mainly old and non-essential combatants, had surrendered by December 2014. The deadline of 2 January 2015 set by SADC and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) for total disarmament has now elapsed.

South African President Jacob Zuma, who is chairperson of the SADC Troika of the Organ on Politics, Defence and

Security Cooperation, said the region may now be forced to take military action to address the situation.

"The South African Government has taken note of the United Nations Security Council Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2015/1) of 8 January 2015 concerning the disarmament of the FDLR," he said in a statement.

"South Africa reiterates that the FDLR has failed to comply with the 2 January 2015 deadline set by the Heads of State and Government of Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region for the FDLR to disarm voluntarily or face military action, and has therefore rendered military option inevitable."

The ICGLR is an inter-governmental organization of the countries in the African Great

Lakes region, comprising of 12 member states. Four of these countries – Angola, DRC, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia – are also part of SADC

President Zuma said South Africa will continue, individually and as part of the continent and the international community, to work for lasting peace in the DRC and the entire Great Lakes region.

Neighbouring Rwanda and Uganda are allegedly fighting alongside the rebels in eastern DRC, as noted previously by SADC, and there is growing international pressure for the neighbouring countries to back off.

SADC regards peace as a prerequisite for development as there can be no peace without development. As a result, the region is actively engaged in restoring the situation in DRC. □

SADC aims for an integrated energy system

by Kizito Sikuka

SOUTHERN AFRICA is engaged in a number of projects to ensure that all countries are connected to the regional power grid that allows Member States to share surplus electricity.

Power utilities in mainland SADC, with the exception of Angola, Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania, are fully integrated to the power grid through the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

SAPP is a regional body that coordinates the planning, generation, transmission and marketing of electricity in southern Africa on behalf of member state utilities.

Non-participation of Angola, Malawi and Tanzania in the regional power grid means that any new generation capacity installed in any of the three countries is not enjoyed by the nine other SAPP members, namely Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In the same light, surplus power in the nine inter-connected countries cannot be exported to the three non-participation member states.

This situation has created challenges for most countries, particularly when they shut down some of their power generation plants for rehabilitation and cannot import power from neighbouring countries to meet their own local demand.

As a result, the utilities are forced to loadshed, affecting socio-economic activities since access to adequate power supply is a critical factor for development.

SAPP Coordination Centre Manager, Dr. Lawrence Musaba said in an interview to document SADC Success Stories that

plans are now underway to connect the three countries to the regional power grid to enable all mainland SADC Member States to benefit from any new generation capacity installed in these countries.

"In the case of Angola, we are looking at the Angola-Namibia interconnector which is an interconnector that is specifically to interconnect Angola to the SAPP grid," he said, adding that another option is to construct the Angola-DRC interconnector.

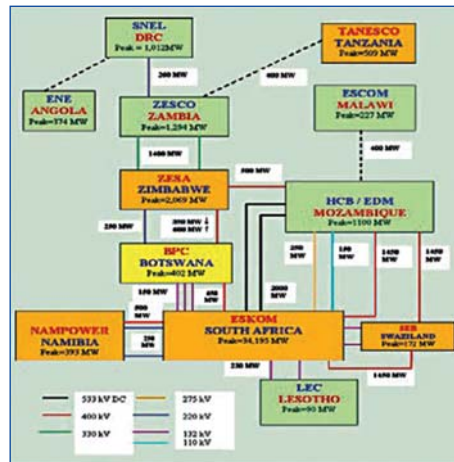
The Angola-Namibia interconnector involves the construction of power transmission lines from the proposed Baynes hydropower plant in Lower Kunene, Namibia to link to the national power grid of Angola.

The Angola-DRC interconnector is part of the Inga-Cabinda-Pointe Noire interconnector, linking the power system of DRC to Angola. The project involves the construction of a section in Angola from the DRC border to Cabinda.

With regard to Malawi, SAPP is considering two options – a transmission line linking Malawi to Zambia or a line connecting Mozambique to Malawi.

Construction of the Malawi-Zambia interconnector will involve construction of a transmission line from Penuelo in Zambia to Lilongwe in Malawi.

The Mozambique-Malawi interconnector will entail the construction of a power line from Matambo substation in Mozambique to Phombeya, north of Malawi's commercial capital, Blantyre.



Musaba said the only viable option for Tanzania is a new transmission line commonly known as Zambia-Kenya-Tanzania.

The proposed line will link Tanzania to the SAPP grid, and also connect the Eastern African Power Pool (EAPP) to SAPP, allowing countries in East Africa to share surplus electricity with those in southern Africa.

According to SAPP, construction of the interconnectors is expected to commence soon.

In fact, Zambia, Kenya and Tanzania signed an agreement in December 2014 under which they committed to start their interconnector project in December 2015 and ensure that it is completed by December 2018.

Musaba said the various countries had shown commitment to make sure all planned projects are successful, adding that "we are hoping that everybody

remains committed and is co-ordinating."

Once completed, the new interconnectors are expected to promote regional electricity trade, enhance security of electricity supply as well as foster regional trade.

Furthermore, the interconnectors will decongest existing transmission corridors, and provide another wheeling path that will fully integrate all mainland SADC countries to the regional power grid. □

SAPP secures World Bank funding

THE SOUTHERN African Power Pool (SAPP) has secured a US\$20 million grant from the Programme for Accelerating Transformational Energy Projects in Africa.

The programme, supported by World Bank, plans to identify priority generation and associated transmission investments that can provide adequate electricity supply in the region in an efficient and sustainable manner and support integration and power trade in the region.

SAPP intends to apply part of the proceeds for the preparation of a new regional generation and transmission

expansion plan covering the period up to 2040.

The power pool is currently in the market searching for a consultant to prepare an environmental and social management framework for the programme.

The World Bank said the funds, which were approved in November last year, will support preparation of technical, economic and financial feasibility studies, environmental assessments, legal documentation and financial transaction advisory work but would not finance any infrastructure or physical activities. □



Towards African unity, prosperity, stability

Year of "Women Empowerment and Development towards

THE 24TH Session of the Assembly of the African Union Summit held on 30-31 January in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, concluded with closing remarks from the newly elected AU Chairperson, H.E. Robert Mugabe, who is President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and current Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The AU Chairperson expressed satisfaction on the adoption of the AU framework for Agenda 2063, saying "we have rededicated ourselves to the Pan-African ideals of our founding fathers for the Africa we want".

African Union

AGENDA 2063

OUR ASPIRATIONS FOR THE AFRICA WE WANT

1. A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development
2. An integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance
3. An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law
4. A peaceful and secure Africa
5. An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics
6. An Africa where development is people-driven, unleashing the potential of its women and youth
7. Africa as a strong, united and influential global player and partner.

He called on the AU Members States to implement all the decisions adopted during the summit "as that is the only way for African states to leverage their resources for the benefits of their people," and he urged Member States to contribute fully, following the decision on alternative sources of financing for the AU activities. "During my tenure as chair, I will deliberately provoke your thoughts to pay special attention to issues of infrastructure, value addition and beneficiation, agriculture and climate change in the context of Africa's development." The Summit

adopted decisions aimed at deepening continental integration and promoting socio-economic development. □

AU needs to be self-sufficient, seeks alternative sources of financing

THE AFRICAN Union has agreed to put in place measures to ensure financial independence and self-sufficiency. A ministerial

working group has proposed a non-exhaustive and non-binding basket of options at national, regional and continental levels such as levying taxes on plane tickets, hotels and text messages; and devising an accountability mechanism to ensure "sound, effective and efficient financial management."

This is expected to raise about US\$600 million a year, and over five years the AU would then be able to pay 100 percent of its costs using its own funds. "It is important that we do what we want to do and not what other governments pay us money to do," the AU Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma said in recommending action in this regard. All Member States who have not paid their contribution were urged to do so.

Summit agreed to determine an appropriate scale of assessment for contribution so that the AU can take charge of its budget in line with the following principles. Member States to fund:

- a) Operational budget at 100%;
- b) Programme budget at 75%;
- c) Peace support operations budget at 25%. □

African leaders speak on the Ebola outbreak...

THE AFRICAN Union has acknowledged the role of African volunteers in the fight against Ebola, recommended the extension of the mandate of the AU Support to the Ebola Outbreak in West Africa, and requested international financial institutions and partners to cancel the debt of the three affected countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone). African leaders urged the AU Commission to mobilize funds for the establishment of the African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (African CDC) by mid-2015. □

SADC candidate elected AU chair

President Mugabe to lead African Union

A VOTE of confidence for SADC marked the AU Summit when President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, was elected chairperson of the continental body, and he will be deputized by President Joseph Kabila of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as the first vice chair.

Presidents Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger and Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya are second and third vice chairs.

In his inaugural address, Mugabe called for deeper cooperation among member states.

"We call for renewed boundless zeal, commitment and dedication, in implementing programmes and projects that we have set for ourselves in the various political, social, economic and security sectors."

He recalled that, "More than five decades ago, I had the unique privilege, as a representative of ZANU, a liberation movement then, to attend the historic occasion of the founding of the Organisation of Africa Unity in 1963, here in Addis Ababa. It was indeed a

momentous occasion at which Africa decisively took destiny into its own hands.

"I still recall, quite vividly, the palpable, collective resolve, dedication and commitment of our forebears, to unite and free out continent from the twin scourges of colonialism and poverty. Our freedom and socio-economic progress, we have thus far attained, are ample testimonies of the correctness of our forebears' vision. Africa has come a long way since then..." □

"Resources lost must be returned"

Special Declaration on Illicit Financial Flows

AFRICAN HEADS of State and Government have expressed concern with the "increasing scale and extent of illicit financial flows from Africa, particularly from our extractive industries and natural resources", saying this constitutes a "huge hindrance to sustainable social and economic development." The African Union estimates that the continent has lost "up to US\$1.8 trillion between 1970 and 2008 and continues to lose extensive finances estimated up to US\$150 billion annually" through illicit capital flight, mainly through tax evasion and mispricing of trade and services by multi-national companies, saying this is caused by weak institutions, especially for tax administration and monitoring, as well as corruption in government agencies, and political instability and conflicts. Summit declared its commitment to end the chronic illicit financial flows, and resolved to ensure that all financial resources lost through illicit capital flight and illicit financial flows are identified and returned to Africa. □



Peace and Security

The state of peace and security in Africa

THE PEACE and Security Council reported to the 24th session of the AU Assembly that the political situation in Africa is improving, in general, however the instability in some areas is derailing development. "The Assembly welcomed the progress that continues to be made in terms of peace-building and

post-conflict reconstruction," a concluding statement said, adding that "Africa continues to face serious challenges in the field of peace and security, which undermine socio-economic development efforts, cause catastrophic humanitarian consequences and contribute to project a negative image."

The leaders noted the worsening of terrorism and violent extremism in some parts of Africa, as demonstrated by attacks perpetrated by different terrorist groups, including Al Shabaab, the Lord's Resistant Army, Boko Haram, Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, and the Ansar al-Sharia groups." In this

regard, the Summit called on "all Member States to render every possible assistance towards defeating" terrorist groups. □

On the deployment of the African capacity for immediate response to crises and the African standby force rapid deployment capability

The AU Assembly decided to delegate its authority under Article 4 (h) of the Constitutive Act to the Peace and Security Council (PSC) to authorize the deployment in a rapid manner, with the following provisions:

"The Peace and Security Council of the African Union shall immediately report such deployment within 90 days or to the next meeting of the Assembly for rectification; and

"Member States which are Volunteering Nations (VNs) or contributing resources to an Intervention Force shall be represented and participate in the deliberations of the Peace and Security Council on a possible ACIRC/ASF-RDC intervention mission." □

Africa united on climate change and sanitation and water goals

Africa aims for continent-wide free trade area

AFRICAN LEADERS have reaffirmed their commitment to launch a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) by 2017 to promote the smooth movement of goods, services and people across the continent.

At the 24th Assembly of the African Union, the leaders agreed to begin negotiations for the CFTA in June this year, and mandated the chair of the High-level African Trade Committee and the AU Commission chairperson to engage in high-level consultations.

The CFTA is expected to evolve from the existing free trade areas in sub-regional economic blocs, creating a combined market of more than 50 African countries, with a population in excess of one billion people and a combined Gross Domestic Product of more than US\$3.4 trillion.

AU Member States also re-committed themselves to implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision Towards the Establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market by 2017. □

Africa honours Mwalimu Julius Nyerere

AFRICA WILL honour Julius Kambarage Nyerere, the late President of the United Republic of Tanzania, by giving his name to the new Peace and Security Building at AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Tanzania hosted the Liberation Committee for the continental organization from its inception in 1963 until its mission was accomplished in 1994 with the independence of African countries from colonial rule and the end of apartheid in South Africa.

Mwalimu Nyerere chaired the Front Line States that supported the liberation movements in southern Africa and his country contributed significantly through accommodating liberation fighters and providing them with logistical as well as military support and training.

In a speech to the Legislative Council in 1959, before his own country attained independence, Nyerere dedicated his people and country to the liberation of the continent.

"We, the people of Tanganyika, would like to light a candle and put it on top of Mount Kilimanjaro which would shine beyond our borders giving hope where there was despair, love where there was hate, and dignity where before there was only humiliation."

He is regarded as the father of African liberation, "he carried the torch that liberated Africa." □

AFRICAN LEADERS have tasked the AU Commission to report regularly to Summit on the implementation of programmes and projects on climate change. Summit also decided to fast-track the implementation of commitments for the achievement of water and sanitation goals, and requested the AU Commission to coordinate implementation of the Action Plan.

South Africa to host next AU Summit

SOUTH AFRICA will host the next AU Summit in mid-2015 after last holding the event in 2002 when the Organization of African Unity was transformed to the African Union. The summit is held twice a year, with the first at the AU headquarters in Ethiopia while the second is hosted by another member state. □

Pan African University

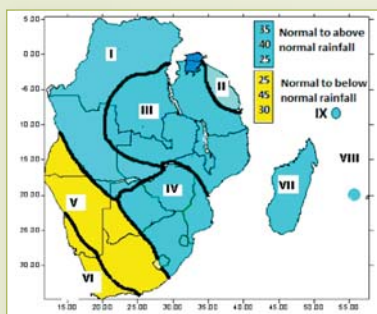
THE 24TH ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union has appointed the President and Vice President of Council for the Pan African University (PAU) for a three-year term, and both of these top academic officials are drawn from SADC Member States – Professor Tolly S. Mbvette from the United Republic of Tanzania and Professor Paulo Horácio de Sequeira e Carvalho of Angola, respectively. The Assembly designated the Republic of Cameroon as host country of the PAU rectorate. □



Good rainfall conditions to persist until end of season

THE GENERAL rainfall pattern in southern Africa is expected to remain stable until April, providing optimal conditions for the region to register a good agricultural season, however the disaster risk remains high.

According to a recent rainfall outlook report released by the SADC Climate Services Centre for the period February to April 2015, the bulk of southern Africa is expected to receive normal to above-normal rainfall while south-western parts of the region are forecast to experience normal to below-normal rainfall conditions. (See map)



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 lies within the driest third of rainfall amounts, and normal is the middle third.

Areas that have increased chances to receive normal to above-normal rainfall are the bulk of Angola, Madagascar, United Republic of Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Others areas are Mauritius, Zimbabwe, Seychelles, Lesotho, Swaziland, eastern Botswana, and northern and eastern parts of South Africa.

Increased chances of normal to below-normal rainfall

will be confined to the western fringes of Namibia and South Africa.

Since climate conditions constantly change, the SADC Climate Services Centre urged users to contact their national meteorological offices for latest interpretation of the outlook, and finer details, updates and additional guidance.

Excessive rainfall during the period November 2014 to February 2015 caused floods in some parts of the region.

"The southern Africa summer monsoon brought significant wet conditions with several areas in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar experiencing persistent and flood-inducing rains," the SADC Climate Services Centre said in a statement.

"This led to extensive flooding, with thousands of displaced populations, damage to

crops, livestock, infrastructure, and fatalities, during December 2014 and early January 2015."

The floods have killed more than 200 people in Malawi while at least 500,000 others were displaced, according to media reports from that country.

More than 100 people have died during similar flooding in neighbouring Mozambique.

The climate centre said on three-monthly averages, most countries in the region experienced normal rainfall conditions.

However, western parts of the DRC and Angola, northern Namibia and some parts of South Africa received below-normal rainfall conditions. The below-normal conditions persisted since the beginning of the season.

Furthermore, two tropical cyclones developed over west-

ern Indian Ocean, inducing heavy rains in the vicinity, especially in Madagascar and Mauritius.

The active tropical cyclone season over the central Indian Ocean has also diverted moisture away from mostly south-western parts of region.

On the El Niño Southern Oscillation, the centre said overall atmospheric circulation continued to show only limited coupling with the anomalously warm water.

The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) remained slightly negative, but the Equatorial SOI was near zero. SOI gives an indication of the development and intensity of El Niño or La Niña events in the Pacific Ocean, which are usually associated with drought and flood conditions in southern Africa, respectively. □

Madagascar requires funds to avoid resurgence of locust plague

MADAGASCAR REQUIRES an additional US\$10 million to adequately deal with locusts that are threatening food security in the island nation.

At least US\$28.8 million has so far been mobilized by Madagascar government in partnership with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations to deal with the plague.

However, an additional US\$10.6 million is needed to complete the fight against the locusts, including monitoring and spraying operations until the end of the rainy season in May.

Madagascar declared a national emergency in 2013 as locusts threatened the food security of nearly 60 percent of its 22 million people.



FAO reported at the time that about half the country was as of April infested by swarms of grasshoppers, each made up of millions of plant-devouring insects.

Rice is the main staple in Madagascar.

The locust plague was successfully halted last year but the risks of relapse are high during the rainy season, which provides ideal breeding conditions for the pests.

"Taking action now is critical to ensure the significant efforts made so far, financially

and technically, are built upon rather than lost," FAO's director for emergency and rehabilitation Dominique Burgeon said.

"The current campaign is essential to reinforce the decline of the current plague, avoiding any relapse, and then continue towards a full-fledged locust recession."

Biologically, even a short two-month interruption in monitoring and spraying operations could significantly erase much of the progress made so far. □



Mutharika: never happened before on this scale in the history of our country

Widespread flooding put SADC preparedness to the test

by Admire Ndhlovu

RECENT FLOODS that affected parts of southern Africa have once again put the regional disaster management strategies to the test.

Each time floods occur in the region, there is loss of life, and destruction of property and infrastructure such as houses, schools, roads and rail.

Floods have increased health hazards as water sources are contaminated and water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea and malaria spread easily.

Tens of thousands of people in Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Madagascar have been severely affected by floods caused by Tropical Storm Chedza, which started in December and is expected to continue through out February.

Malawi has been hardest hit by the current floods. More than 200 people have died and 500,000 more displaced, according to media reports from that country.

Extensive damage to crops, livestock and infrastructure has occurred in the southern districts of Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe and Zomba.

As a response measure, President Peter Mutharika declared a state of disaster in 15 districts.

"I am deeply concerned with the situation at hand, houses have collapsed, other people have lost their lives due to these floods that have affected fifteen districts in our country, a situation that has

never happened before in the history of our country," he said after visiting affected people in the Lake Malawi district of Mangochi.

The Malawian government has urged people living in flood-prone areas to urgently relocate to upland areas to avoid more loss of life. South African military helicopters were assisting in the rescue and relocation of people in affected areas.

Mozambique is facing similar challenges.

"The floods have killed 117 people, an increase from the last balance of at least 84 dead a week ago," the Mozambican deputy health minister, Mouzinho Saide, said.

The majority of the deaths occurred in the central coastal region of Zambezia, he said. More than 150,000 people have been affected.

In the Licungo basin, bridges were destroyed and the transmission line carrying power from the Cahora Bassa Dam to the northern provinces of Nampula, Niassa and Cabo Delgado were destroyed.

As for agriculture, 27,838 households have suffered crop losses over an area of 33,648 hectares.

The Council of Ministers in Mozambique declared an institutional red alert on 12 January for the central and northern parts of the country after heavy rains resulted in severe flooding.

Zimbabwe also experienced flooding, with the worst af-

fecting provinces including Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West and Midlands.

According to preliminary assessments, approximately 6,000 people were affected, of which 2,500 people are in urgent need of assistance. The flood-affected population moved to higher ground, with some seeking refuge in schools.

The Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) Secretariat is closely monitoring the flood situation in Malawi and Mozambique using aerial surveillance to offer early warning information to these countries.

"This is being done through the use of the Water Observation and Information System (WOIS) where free radar satellite images from the Copernicus Sentinel-1 mission are being converted into maps showing the development and current extent of the floods," ZAMCOM said in a statement.

"The information gathered is important to better assess the flood situation in Malawi and the development of an operational flood forecasting tool for ZAMCOM. With this system, ZAMCOM will be able to demonstrate the extent of floods and water levels through state-of-the-art modeling tools."

The increasing intensity and frequency of floods in SADC is linked to climate change.

According to the 5th Intergovernmental Panel on Cli-

mate Change report released in March 2014, land surface temperatures across the Zambezi basin and the rest of southern Africa increased by 0.5°C or more during the last 50 to 100 years, while global sea level rose by 19 centimetres between 1901 and 2010. Such weather conditions are ideal for tropical storms.

Although Africa contributes relatively little to global warming, the region is suffering from its effects.

With increasing impacts of climate change, there is need to deepen response efforts at national and regional level.

Mozambique, for example, has put in place a vibrant response mechanism since the devastating floods of 2000 that claimed about 700 lives.

The government, through the National Institute for Disaster Management, set aside an estimated US\$275 million towards disaster risk reduction, including risks of flooding.

At regional level, the SADC Secretariat and the United Nations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2014 to establish a framework for cooperation to strengthen regional disaster response mechanisms in southern Africa.

The MoU seeks to improve the capabilities of SADC and Member States in disaster risk management, as well as advocate for the rights of poor people affected by social conflicts and natural disasters. □

Little progress on climate change negotiations

by Egline Tauya

THE ON-GOING global climate negotiations have shown little urgency, despite increasing evidence that the window to reverse climate change is closing.

Although the 20th Conference of the Parties (COP20) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Lima, Peru in December 2014 ended with a deal that forms the basis for a global agreement on addressing climate change, the question is whether that deal will prevent catastrophic climate change for most developing countries which are already experiencing the impacts with little capacity to cope.

According to the 5th Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, land surface temperatures across southern Africa have, for example, increased by 0.5°C or more during the last 50-100 years, while the global sea level rose by 19 cm between 1901 and 2010.

The changes in temperature, rainfall and rise in sea level have increased incidence of malaria in some parts of southern Africa and driven a shift in farming practices.

Most developing countries are concerned that the deal reached in Peru, dubbed the "Lima Accord", lacks specific actions to address pre-2020 emissions necessary to limit warming to below 2°C, the level considered by scientists as safe.

The Lima Accord states that all countries will be asked to submit plans for curbing greenhouse gas emissions, known as "Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)," to the UN by an informal deadline of 31 March 2015.

The accord, however, did not provide a structure, assessment needs or information requirements for reporting INDCs.

What it means for Africa is that there is no guarantee that INDCs from developed countries, which are responsible for the past and present major emissions, would be sufficient to keep temperature rise below 2°C.

In the 1992 climate change agreement only developed nations were obliged to reduce emissions according to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

While INDCs are good, they are likely to open a possibility for every country to decide its own climate action in future, with no reference to what science, people and justice demand, and without a clear regulatory framework.

This provides for voluntary commitments as opposed to legally binding commitments as was the case with the Kyoto Protocol.

More so, INDCs will likely weaken moral and legal obligations by developed countries to transfer finance and technology.

The INDCs open an avenue for further expansion of the

failed experiment on carbon markets, including possibly carbon credits from forests and soil, which undermine land rights for communities and would be devastating to farmers and forest communities in southern Africa whilst preventing the transformation needed.

While developed countries pressed for INDCs to be on mitigation only, developing countries contended that INDCs should include adaptation, financial, technology transfer and capacity building support from rich nations who caused the problem.

Developed countries failed to provide guarantees for specific and predictable financial support. Instead, they called on countries in "a position to do so" to offer support. Otherwise, vulnerable countries should make do with donor aid.

The Lima conference reiterated the demand for developed nations to mobilise US\$100 billion in climate change aid for developing nations by 2020. However southern Africa and the rest of the continent wanted developed nations to set a clear timetable for scaling up funds year-by-year.

The text in the Lima Accord merely "requested" that developed nations "enhance the available quantitative and qualitative elements of a pathway" towards 2020.

This does not provide a clear roadmap for immediate action by developed countries, nor was there a commitment to urgently revisit, revise, or review commitments previously made.



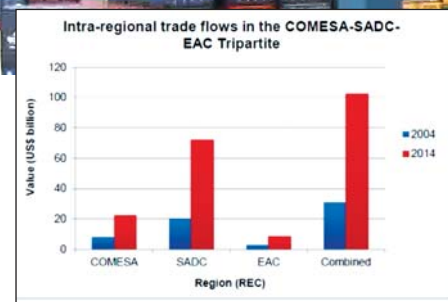
Another let down for Africa was on the issue of loss and damage from climate change impacts. Since negotiations in Warsaw in 2013, Africa has requested to specifically include loss and damage from climate change impacts that cannot be addressed by adaptation as a stand-alone item.

Developed countries, however, prefer to include loss and damage under adaptation.

They fear that allowing negotiations on loss and damage would lead to them being legally required to pay compensation to developing countries for their past greenhouse gas emissions.

The Lima Accord includes conflicting statements such as "Provision for loss and damage for cases where mitigation and adaptation will not be sufficient" as one of the options and "no reference to loss and damage" as the other option to be considered in the final agreement.

With such conflicting text in the Lima outcome, what is clear is that prospects for a new agreement are unlikely to favour Africa, and developed countries will eventually succeed in neglecting historical responsibility in the final agreement expected to be adopted in December 2015. □



Intra-regional trade on the increase

INTRA-REGIONAL trade in eastern and southern Africa is on a steady increase and has grown threefold over the 10-year period spanning 2004 to 2014.

Chairperson of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Taskforce, Sindiso Ngwenya said this in his presentation to the 24th African Union Summit on the progress towards the launch of

the Tripartite Free Trade Area (FTA).

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)-East African Community (EAC)-SADC are targeting the establishment of the largest integrated market in Africa, covering 26 countries in eastern and southern Africa by 2016.

This integrated arrangement will create a combined

population of some 625 million people covering half of the member states of the AU and a Gross Domestic Product of about US\$1.2 trillion.

Ngwenya, who is also the secretary general of the COMESA, said growth in eastern and southern Africa has taken place on the basis of the individual FTAs of the three Re-

gional Economic Communities (RECs), adding more is expected once the Tripartite FTA becomes operational.

He said the combined intra-trade of the three RECs for the period 2004 to 2014 grew from US\$30.6 billion to US\$102.6 billion, with intra-SADC trade rising from US\$20 billion to US\$72 billion over the same period. (See table)

COMESA recorded intra-regional trade growth from US\$8 billion to US\$22 billion, while the EAC registered growth from US\$2.6 billion to US\$8.6 billion.

"I am confident that the establishment of the COMESA-EAC-SADC FTA would follow the same growth path, however at an accelerated growth pace and, supported by infrastructure and industrialization programmes," he said. □

More countries join the regional electronic settlement system

A TOTAL of nine countries are now participating in a regional electronic settlement system established by SADC about two years ago, up from only four at the launch in July 2013.

The SADC Integrated Regional Electronic Settlement System (SIRESS) aims to facilitate electronic transfers in the region by replacing the paper-based instruments such as bank drafts and cheques.

For example, SIRESS enables participating countries to make money clearance across borders on the same day, and at a lower cost. Previously, money clearance with paper-based systems took between seven and 21 working days.

"We started with four countries Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland," the SADC senior programme

officer for investment, Thembi Langa said, adding that five more have since joined SIRESS – Malawi, Mauritius, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Democratic Republic of Congo is expected to join soon, while all the SADC Member States should be participating in the system by 2016. □

SADC trade facility now operational

SADC HAS established a support unit to facilitate implementation of the SADC Trade Related Facility, which became operational in January.

The unit falls under the Directorate for Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment.

The Trade Related Facility (TRF) aims to strengthen implementation of the SADC Trade Protocol and the European Union-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) to increase intra-regional trade flows among the concerned SADC Member States.

The SADC EPA Group comprises Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland.

The other SADC members are negotiating the EPAs as part of other regional groups

such as Central Africa or East-ern and Southern Africa.

The TRF Facility Support Unit was established through a contribution agreement between the EU and SADC and will, among other things, provide technical support to countries in implementing their commitments made under the SADC Protocol on Trade and under the EPA with the EU.

The TRF, which is a €32 million project is funded under the 10th European Development Fund, consists of two financing windows:

- A SADC Trade Protocol window to ensure higher levels of compliance and implementation of commitments made by SADC countries under the Protocol on Trade; and
- An EPA window that facil-

itates effective implementation and monitoring of the SADC-EU EPA, with a view to strengthening its potential benefits, particularly in terms of improved market access.

Areas of intervention include customs cooperation and trade facilitation, addressing of technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phytosanitary measures, industrial development, facilitation of trade in services, trade promotion and development, and support on trade-related adjustments.

The TRF will aim to address implementation challenges faced by SADC Member States in their trade and industrial development programmes so as to increase intra-SADC trade.

It will complement other regional integration pro-

grammes such as the Project Preparation and Development Facility (PPDF) and the Regional Economic Integration Support (REIS).

The PPDF aims to bridge gaps in infrastructure provision to improve competitiveness and facilitate regional and international trade, while REIS targets the improvement of capacity to strengthen regional economic integration.

The TRF is specifically targeted at national-level implementation challenges and constraints, which are identified by countries themselves through their national indicative programmes.

The projects and programmes should be consistent with SADC's integration strategy and national development plans of Member States. □

Time to curb illicit flows out of Africa

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES are losing money through illicit channels at twice the rate at which their economies are growing, according to new estimates.

Further, the total volume of these lost funds appears to be rapidly expanding. Findings from Global Financial Integrity (GFI), a re-confirm previous estimates that developing countries are losing almost a trillion dollars a year through tax evasion, corruption and other financial crimes by mainly foreign investors.

The report, which covers the decade through 2012 show that the rate of illicit outflows has risen significantly.

In 2003, for example, the cumulative illicit capital leaving developing countries was pegged at US\$297 billion compared to US\$991 billion in 2012.

One of the most common mechanisms for moving this money has been the falsification of trade invoices.

Potential avenues include illegal skimmming from or shifting of profits in developing countries, carried out by criminal entities, corrupt officials and dishonest corporations. □



Towards intra-African trade

SOUTH AFRICA President Jacob Zuma has said African countries are working together to remove barriers that are hindering intra-African trade.

"We realise that if you are in Africa it is difficult to move and we are saying it should be quick to move if we are to implement our belief that intra-Africa is important and therefore once we have the infrastructure, it should not be blocked by the different countries," Zuma said at the recent World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland.

"I know that regulations are the biggest problems for investors. These are matters we are dealing with to try and make it easy [for investors to invest]. We are also looking at how investors can do business easily without dealing with complicated bureaucracies. These are matters we are addressing," he said.

He said while Africa was blessed with skilled industrialists, it was sad that these have relocated to countries outside the continent because there were no industries in their respective countries to use those skills.

"We believe that once we have the infrastructure, we have energy, those skills are going to come back to the country and they are not going

to leave the continent. So therefore the shortage of skills is not going to be an issue and these are the matters we are working on." *SAnews.gov.za* □

Namibia aims to be regional hub for SADC

NAMIBIA HAS released a master plan that aims to transform the country into a regional hub for SADC countries.

Commissioned by the Government of Namibia and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the plan says good infrastructure and Namibia's geographical position give the country huge potential to become an international logistics and distribution centre in southern Africa.

It also recommends that Namibia must present its strong selling points that makes it favourable in comparison with the other well established gateways.

"The prices must not be higher than one-third of the price in Cape Town or Durban. This is the single-most impor-

tant factor for attracting logistics business; relatively high land prices will undermine any of the other pull-factors," reads part of the plan.

Namibia is already progress towards establishing itself as are regional hub. For example, a new container terminal at the Walvis Bay Port is expected to be fully operational by 2018.

The target is to increase the handling capacity of the port. Cargo flow is expected to increase over the next few years, according a recent assessment.

For example, TransNamib and JICA estimate that future cargo volume transported by railway could be 4.8 million tonnes by 2020 compared to 4.9 million tons in 2025 based on forecasting of future cargo flow and the current modal split ratio. *The Namibian* □

Zambia, Zimbabwe to rehabilitate Kariba dam

ZAMBIA AND Zimbabwe have secured US\$275 million in loans and grants to rehabilitate the gigantic power-generating Kariba Dam on the border between the two countries.

The grant comes after warnings that the wall standing 128 metres is aging and needs repair.

The European Union is expected to provide the largest chunk of US\$100 million, while the World Bank and the African Development Bank will each chip in with US\$75 million in loans. Sweden will grant US\$25 million.

Rehabilitation of the dam is expected to cost US\$300 million, and the two countries have agreed to pay the difference.

Kariba Dam is one of the world's largest, generating more than 1,300 megawatts of hydropower for the two countries. □

Events February-April 2015



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February
17,
South Africa

Ministerial Committee of the Organ

The meeting will deliberate on a number of issues aimed at promoting peace and security in the SADC region. The committee is made up of the ministers responsible for foreign affairs, defence, public security and state security from the countries that make up the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

22-23,
Zimbabwe

SADC RISDP Review Task Force Meeting

The multi-stakeholder task force will meet to validate the contents of the updated Draft RISDP 2015-2020 and the Draft Implementation Framework. The task force comprises representatives from the Member States, the SADC Secretariat, SADC subsidiary and affiliated institutions, policy research institutions and independent experts.

24-24,
Zimbabwe

Meeting of SADC Experts on Industry and Trade

Experts from SADC Member State governments will converge in Harare to finalise a roadmap and strategy on industrialisation of the region. The outcome of the meeting will feed into a meeting of the SADC Ministerial Task Force on Regional Integration scheduled for March, also in Zimbabwe.

26-27,
Botswana

SADC Energy Thematic Group Meetings

The Energy Thematic Group is a coordination meeting of cooperating partners, experts, SADC and its subsidiary organizations to discuss ways of assisting the region in tackling its energy challenges.

28, Lesotho

Lesotho General Elections

Basotho will cast their votes in general elections to choose 80 members of the 120-member National Assembly. The other 40 parliamentarians are elected from one national constituency using party-list proportional representation. The elections were brought forward from the originally set 2017 following an agreement by the country's political stakeholders.

March
5, Zimbabwe

Ministerial Task Force on Regional Integration

Ministers responsible for trade and industry, finance, economic planning and infrastructure development in the SADC region will meet to discuss a strategy and roadmap for industrialisation of the region. This follows the decision of the 34th SADC Summit held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe which directed the Secretariat to develop a practical and implementable strategy and roadmap for industrialisation in the region.

6, Zimbabwe

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.

26,
South Africa

38th SAPP Executive Committee Meeting and 20th Anniversary of the SAPP

The meeting will be attended by chief executive officers and managing directors of the 12 SAPP member utilities and will chart the way forward towards the attainment of the goal of integrating the regional power generation and distribution networks. It will review the current electricity situation in the region.

April
15-16,
Mozambique

Southern Africa ICT 2015

The summit will gather policymakers, regulators and industry leaders to share knowledge, network and develop strategies on best practices. The meeting will focus on the deployment of ICT solutions to improve the quality of life for southern African citizens and empower them to showcase their knowledge and skills.

30,
Zimbabwe

SADC Extraordinary Summit on Industrialisation

Following the call by SADC leaders at their Summit in 2014 to prioritise industrialisation in regional economic integration agenda, the region will hold a special summit to discuss a framework for strengthening industrial capacity in southern Africa.

30,
Tanzania

Tanzania constitutional referendum

Tanzanians will vote in a referendum to decide on a new constitution which will replace the one passed in 1977. Among other provisions, the new constitution sets a limit on how many cabinet ministers can be appointed by the president, introduces the principle of parity in gender representation in parliament, and gives women equal land ownership rights with men.

3 February, 4 February

Dates to remember and reflect

Mozambique commemorates Heroes Day

3 FEBRUARY is Heroes Day in Mozambique to commemorate the death of the founder and first president of the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo), Eduardo Mondlane.

Mondlane was assassinated on 3 February 1969 by 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 holiday has expanded to honour the lives of fallen soldiers, men and women who fought bravely for the country's independence in 1975 and those who have contributed to the development of post-independence Mozambique.

The day is a public holiday celebrated with parades and with speeches from various political groups aiming to support equality for all Mozambique's citizens.

The main celebration is held at the Heroes' Square near the international airport 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.

The 2015 celebrations are the first to be officiated by newly elected President, Filipe Nyusi, born three years before Frelimo was formed from three other movements in 1962, and he was brought up in the national liberation movement that won independence from Portuguese colonial rule.

Tanzania provided shelter for Mozambican refugees and a rear base for Frelimo guerrillas, including training and equipment as well as hosting the Liberation Committee of the Organization of African Unity.

Nyusi called on all Mozambicans to value the legacy of Mondlane and others who sacrificed their lives for an independent and sovereign Mozambique. □



Samora Machel, Eduardo Mondlane



Angola remembers start of the armed struggle

4 FEBRUARY is an important date in Angola's history, and is commemorated as the start of the armed struggle for national liberation from Portugal. This was a landmark in the African struggle against colonization that eventually brought independence to Angola on 11 November 1975.



Agostinho Neto

At dawn on 4 February 1961, a group of men and women armed with sticks, machetes and other weapons attacked the São Paulo and Casa da Reclusão prisons in Luanda to free prisoners who had been threatened with death by the colonial regime.

The response was crude with repressive action throughout the country. The arrests, tortures and murders of this period led some nationalists, such as Angola's founding President Dr Agostinho Neto, to organise for the liberation struggle.

His party, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), had been established in 1956 with the objective of freeing Angola from repression.

The MPLA called for resistance against colonial rule and independence for the country, and worked towards this for the next 20 years.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

February – April 2015

1 February	Abolition of Slavery Day	Mauritius
3 February	Thaipoozam Cavadee	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes Day	Mozambique
4 February	National Armed Struggle Day	Angola
16 February	Carnival	Angola
17 February	Maha Shivaratree	Mauritius
19 February	Chinese Spring Festival	Mauritius
3 March	Martyrs Day	Malawi
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
	Ougadi	Mauritius
29 March	Martyrs Day	Madagascar
3 April	Good Friday	Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
4 April	Easter/Holy Saturday	Seychelles, Zambia
4 April	Peace and Reconciliation Day	Angola
6 April	Women's Day	Mozambique
	Easter Monday	Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
7 April	Sheik Abeid Karume Day	Tanzania
18 April	Independence Day	Zimbabwe
19 April	King's Birthday	Swaziland
25 April	National Flag Day	Swaziland
26 April	Union Day	Tanzania
27 April	Freedom Day	South Africa

A shared future within a regional community