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Regional Integration SADC develops industrial strategy

by Joseph Ngwawi

SADC IS in the process of finalising a draft Regional Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap that provides the framework for major economic and technological transformations at the national and regional levels within the context of deepening regional integration.

The strategy and roadmap, whose drafting was spearheaded by a team of regional and national consultants appointed by the SADC Secretariat, aims to accelerate the growing momentum towards strengthening the comparative and competitive advantages of the economies of the region.

An interim report by the consultants was presented to the meetings of the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration and the SADC Council of Ministers held in Harare, Zimbabwe in March.

"The development of the industrialization strategy commenced in December 2014, following completion of the preparatory phase which included resource mobilisation, preparations of terms of references and assembling experts," SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax said.

The interim report identifies industrialization, competitiveness and regional integration as three main pillars on which the strategy should be anchored.

The strategy will present concrete and innovative short-, medium- and long-term actions for the attainment of the objectives of the three pillars and will be aligned to the African Union's Agenda 2063.

While there is no one size-fits-all prescription, the interim report proposes a wide range of industrial policy options that are available to the SADC region.

One of the options is the adoption of Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

"These are an attractive option where the logistics are favourable – proximity to markets, ports, modern infrastructure – and where funding is available," the report said.

"They can form the basis for clustering, including value-chain creation, so that firms can exploit the benefits of external spinoffs such as being located close to input suppliers, repair shops and financial institutions."

Industrial parks act as a magnet for new entrants and a base for clusters, while also attracting foreign direct investment.

However, the disadvantage is that firms cannot be forced to locate within SEZs and there will always be risks that incentives, such as tax breaks used to attract investors, will prove costly relative to the benefits obtained.

"Moreover, few SADC economies have the fiscal space to spend lavishly, either on investment in SEZs or capital grants," the report said.



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Regional Integration

SADC develops industrial strategy



The draft strategy also calls for the promotion of domestic, regional and global value chains as one of the interventions that should be pursued by SADC in its efforts to industrialize.

The SADC region could benefit immensely from the experience of the Asian economies in the area of regional and global value chains.

Participation in value chains played a major role in the industrialization of Asian economies and is, therefore, seen as a promising industrialisation path for the southern African region.

Starting with Japan in the late 20th century, Asia has been one of the regions that have exploited Global Value Chains (GVCs) successfully. GVCs can be credited for China's rapid industrialization while also contributing substantially to the Asian region's rapid growth in incomes, output and employment.

The main Asian exporters rank highly in GVC participation because a large proportion of their exports are imported inputs (foreign value-added) and a similarly large number of their exports are intermediate goods that are used in exports for third countries.

Asian exports are, therefore, integrated in GVCs both upstream and downstream.

Promotion of value chains will enable SADC Member States to specialise in those productive processes and activities where they have competitive advantages.

Participation in regional and global value chains also promotes intra-regional trade and opens up access to technology and brand names while also accelerating export diversification and growth.

The report also advocates for a powerful case for SADC governments to invest in the

collection of information and knowledge, and to make it readily available to actual and potential investors.

"This does not involve policymakers in picking winners but merely facilitating access to information to enable firms to diversify, expand or upgrade," it said.

Governments can do this either by setting up their own Research and Development (R&D) institutions or "more likely providing financial support to existing research institutions, including universities and private sector R&D departments."

The type of infrastructure – both hard and soft – required for diversification often changes as economies transform.

It has been noted that while major mining or energy firms may be willing and are able to finance essential infrastructure, this is seldom the case in manufacturing or services where governments will have to play a leading role.

The Secretariat and the consultants were directed by Council to revise the draft strategy and roadmap before its presentation for approval at

an Extraordinary SADC Summit set for Harare on 29 April.

The Council agreed that in view of the primary focus on industrialization at the current stage of development in SADC, the industrialization strategy will be key in finalizing the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP).

As a result, both processes of developing an industrialization strategy and the Revised RISDP should be done simultaneously and presented for approval to the Extraordinary Summit. □

Proposed industrialization strategy phases

THE PROPOSED SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap will be implemented in three phases covering the three main pillars of industrialization, competitiveness and regional integration.

The first phase would cover the remaining period of Regional Indicative Development Plan (RISDP), which is expected to end in 2020. The RISDP is currently under review, and is expected to be approved by the Extraordinary SADC Summit set for Harare on 29 April.

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

The Agenda envisaged that by 2063 African countries will collectively converge into "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena".

All regional economic communities on the continent are expected to orient their strategies and deploy resources towards this end.

The first phase will involve implementation of measures to transform the production base of the region as well as to raise the quality of human capital and labour productivity.

Proposed interventions during this phase will include modernisation of industry and support structures; measures to upgrade science, technology, engineering and research capabilities of Member States; skills development; institutional reforms; and adoption of conducive macroeconomic policies for industrial development.

It is envisaged that the SADC economy would move from factor-driven to efficiency-driven during the second phase.

Measures will focus on diversification and productivity of sectors and increasing competitiveness of the region.

This will involve the introduction of policies targeting agro-food processing industries; introduction of value-chains involving the agricultural sector; mineral beneficiation; pharmaceuticals; and transformation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

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

Other proposed interventions are the prioritization of the pharmaceutical sector, including development of regional value chains in the industry.

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

This will necessitate increased investment in knowledge, development of unique skills, nurturing innovation as well as promoting competitiveness and deepening the entrepreneurial culture. □

SADC aims for deeper integration

THE SADC Council of Ministers met in early March in Harare, Zimbabwe to discuss ways of deepening integration and strengthening socio-economic development in southern Africa. Council is responsible for supervising and monitoring the functions and development of SADC, and ensuring that policies are properly implemented, as well as making recommendations to the Heads of State and Government. This edition of *SADC Today* looks at some of the main issues deliberated by Council, which is made up of ministers responsible for foreign affairs, economic planning or finance from the 15 Member States.

Council approves 2015/16 budget

Council approved the 2015/16 SADC budget of about US\$79.4 million for the implementation of the region's operational plans.

The main focus area for the year will include consolidating regional peace and security, promoting industrial development and market integration, and infrastructure development.

Other focus areas will be on boosting agricultural production, as well as social and human development and gender development;

With regard to annual contributions by Member States to the SADC Secretariat, Council noted with satisfaction the timely remittance of contributions for the fiscal year 2014/15.

Council said this financing model should further be complemented by other home-grown strategies as the current situation where more than 60 per cent of SADC programmes and projects depend on foreign funding is not sustainable.

SADC committed to Agenda 2063

Council urged SADC Member States to start working on the integration of Agenda 2063 into their national and regional development plans and the domestication thereof within their national policies, legal and institutional frameworks.

Agenda 2063 is a continental framework adopted by the African Union in 2013 to ensure the continent is able to

fully exploit and use its resources for the benefits of its people.

This is in realization of the fact that African countries continue to be among the poorest in the world despite having abundant natural resources.

As a result, there is need for Africa to develop vibrant policies that ensure proceeds from natural resources are used finance its development agenda.

Tripartite FTA for launch in 2015

Council noted with satisfaction the ongoing work by COMESA-EAC-SADC to strengthen the tripartite arrangement under the market integration pillar, industrial development pillar and infrastructure pillar to deepen integration in eastern and southern Africa.

The three Secretariats are also in the process of finalising the report for consideration by the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Summit later this year, which will among other things, launch the Tripartite FTA Area and review progress made in implementing other pillars of the tripartite work programme.

Establishment of the enlarged FTA will create a wider market covering 26 countries in eastern and southern Africa with a combined population of approximately 600 million people, spanning from Cape to Cairo.

On the launch of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA), Council tasked relevant SADC policy organs to meet before June to prepare for the launch of the CFTA negotiations.

In addition, the Secretariat was directed to prepare a work programme by April 2015 to input into the CFTA negotiations taking into account the need to simultaneously address the SADC FTA implementation-related challenges and outstanding work under the Tripartite FTA involving the COMESA and the EAC.

Council also requested the ministers responsible for Trade and Industry to prepare a common SADC position on industrialization by April 2015 within the context of the launch of the CFTA negotiations, for presentation to the AU Summit.

Coping with disasters

Following recent floods that affected most parts of southern Africa, Council directed the SADC Secretariat to urgently convene a special meeting of ministers responsible for disaster risk reduction and for finance to discuss the impact of natural disasters in the region,

The special meeting should also look at ways to mobilise funds for humanitarian assistance and to develop regional disaster response and preparedness mechanism.

For example, recent floods that affected parts of southern Africa between December 2014 and February 2015, have caused extensive damage to crops, livestock and infrastructure in countries such as Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

In Malawi, President Peter Mutharika had to declare a state of disaster in 15 districts after more than 200 people died and 500,000 more displaced by floods.

In Mozambique, at least 27,838 households were reported to have suffered crop losses over an area of 33,648 hectares due to floods.

To address the situation, individual SADC countries have raised resources to assist the affected countries, however a regional humanitarian assistance and disaster response is needed to ensure that SADC is prepared for such disasters. □





A clarion call for industrialization

SOUTHERN AFRICA will fully realize maximum benefit from its vast natural resources only if countries in the region develop and strengthen their industries.

Chairperson of the SADC Committee of Senior Officials, Ambassador Joey Bimha said this at a recent Experts Review Workshop on the SADC Industrialization Strategy Framework held in late March in Harare, Zimbabwe.

He said industrialization will allow the region to add value to its natural resources, and get more in return when exporting finished or processed goods.

At present, SADC countries get very little in return since the resources are usually exported in their raw form, with most of the value-addition and beneficiation taking place outside the region.

"We could only derive more benefits from the expanded market by developing and strengthening our own industries," said Bimha, who is Zimbabwe's Senior Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

"Only through value addition and beneficiation could we as a region begin to chart our path towards a solid industrialization strategy."

Bimha said the main challenges faced by most SADC countries are that value-addition is low and primary production makes up the largest share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

"Currently the structure of production in the SADC region is one where large shares of GDP, nearly 50 percent, originate from primary production of goods in the agriculture and mining sectors," he said.

"The majority of southern Africa's mineral-rich states are not only earning the minimum

from their resources via the export of unprocessed ore but are also limiting employment benefits, wealth diversification and leaving themselves vulnerable to fluctuations of the global resource market."

The Norwegian ambassador to Zimbabwe, Bard Hopland, agreed, saying SADC has the potential to develop its economies due to the abundance of natural resources.

However, socio-economic development could only be achieved, he said, if the "raw timber is made into dried planks before being exported."

Sharing his country's industrialization experience, Hopland said there is also need for SADC Member States to diversify their industries and not only depend on agriculture, which is the case with most countries in the region.

"While agriculture is for a vast number of reasons important, and also a foundation for food processing industries, I think it is fair to say that agri-

culture alone will not get you rich. Only manufacturing can do that," he said.

Another topical issue discussed during the workshop was the need to improve access to key enablers such as energy, infrastructure and funding.

The Expert Review Workshop on the SADC Industrialization Strategy Framework was organized by the Regional Economic Development Institute (REDI) of the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) as part of its contribution to the ongoing efforts by SADC to develop a vibrant Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap.

SARDC REDI has developed a paper that articulates some of the key issues that need to be addressed in the proposed SADC industrialization strategy and roadmap.

The paper identifies some of the main challenges imped-

ing efforts by SADC countries to move from being net exporters of natural resources in their raw form to industrialised states.

The analysis focuses on the six inter-related areas of agriculture; manufacturing; mining; industry and trade nexus; small to medium-scale enterprises; as well as the enabling role of institutional and financing mechanisms.

The purpose of the workshop was, therefore, to subject the paper to a review by economic experts to ensure that its contents are technically sound.

The paper will be circulated during the forthcoming SADC Extraordinary Summit scheduled for 29 April in Harare, Zimbabwe to discuss and adopt a SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap. sardc.net □

Revised RISDP to be presented at Extraordinary Summit

THE REVISED SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan is expected to be approved during an Extraordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government scheduled for Zimbabwe this month.

The summit, scheduled for Harare on 29 April, is expected to discuss the updated Draft Revised RISDP 2015-2020 and the Draft Implementation Framework for the blueprint.

This follows the decision by the 34th SADC Ordinary Summit held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in August 2014 at which the leaders directed the SADC Secretariat to finalise the document by frontloading

industrialization and its implementation strategy.

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. □





Late rains, floods dampen regional food security situation

by Kizito Sikuka

LATE RAINS and floods that affected most parts of southern Africa late last year and early this year have subdued the overall food security situation in the region, which has otherwise been impressive over the last few years.

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, said this in her address to the SADC Council of Ministers meeting held in Harare, Zimbabwe in March.

"The food security situation in the region is expected to be less than satisfactory during the 2015/16 marketing year as a result of poor rains in most parts of the region, dry spells in some areas, and floods in other areas."

Dr Tax could not, however, give the estimate figures on what the region is expected to harvest this year, saying that SADC "will continue to monitor the situation and support early warning for food security and vulnerability assessments in the Member States."

According to a regional food security assessment presented at the 34th SADC Summit held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in August last year, the region had recorded a cereal surplus of more than

670,000 metric tonnes during the previous agricultural marketing season.

Factors for this surplus included good rainfall, better access to inputs such as seeds and fertilizer, as well as credit facilities and extension services.

While significant progress has been made by the region to provide improved inputs and services to farmers, natural conditions such as rainfall and floods have affected the 2015/16 marketing year.

For example, recent floods that affected parts of southern Africa between December 2014 and February 2015, have caused extensive damage to crops, livestock and infrastructure in Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Malawian President Peter Mutharika had to declare a state of disaster in 15 districts after more than 200 people died and 500,000 were displaced by floods.

In Mozambique, at least 27,838 households were reported to have suffered crop losses over an area of 33,648 hectares due to floods.

"We wish to express our sympathies and condolences to the governments and people of Madagascar, Malawi,

Mozambique and Zimbabwe for the loss of lives and destruction of properties as a result of the recent floods in these Member States," Dr Tax said.

Chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers, Zimbabwe's Minister of Foreign Affairs Simbarashe Mumbengegwi, said it is now time for the region to seek innovative ways of dealing with such problems associated with changes in weather patterns.

"Increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods will adversely affect key sectors of the regional economy including agriculture," Mumbengegwi said.

"While this is not a new phenomenon it calls into question our readiness to deal with major disasters."

For example, to deal with poor rains, SADC could invest more in regional water infrastructure development such as irrigation, allowing the region to farm all year around and not only depend on climatic conditions.

The potential for irrigating land in the SADC region is large as the region is hugely endowed with watercourses such as the Congo, Limpopo, and Zambezi rivers.

To address the situation of less food in one particular season, or other parts of the region, SADC needs to improve its transport network and storage facilities so that agricultural produce can move smoothly from one place to another.

Furthermore, storage facilities allow farmers to store their harvest for use in poor seasons, and according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, post-harvest crop losses in SADC is estimated to be as high as 40 percent.

Other key interventions to boost agriculture in SADC include increasing budget allocations to agriculture as well as targeted subsidy programmes that result in farmers accessing agricultural inputs and farm implements at cheaper rates.

This is in line with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which was formulated in 2003 by the African Union to encourage countries to reach a higher path of economic growth through agriculture-led development.

Under this continent-wide programme, African governments made a commitment to allocate at least 10 percent of their national budgets to the agricultural sector each year.

Ultimately, this ambitious and broad vision for agricultural reform in Africa aspires for an average annual growth rate of six percent for agriculture.

Agriculture is the backbone of most economies in southern Africa, and more than 62 percent of the SADC region's 277 million people are dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. sardc.net





Benguela railway shorter and cheaper for key regional trade

THE REHABILITATION of the Benguela railway line will provide the shortest route to the sea for the Angolan hinterland as well as the mineral-rich region of southern Democratic Republic of Congo and northern Zambia.

SADC gateway port takes off

THE SADC Gateway Port will soon become a reality with the first phase of the construction of the oil terminal expected to begin this year.

The new port, which is spearheaded by the Namibia Ports Authority (Namport) is aimed at catering for commodity exports and for importers from landlocked SADC countries including Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

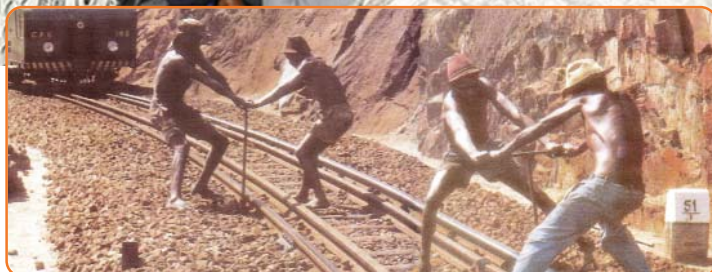
The other nine SADC Member States have access to the sea – Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania.

According to Namport, the port will be developed in various phases and completion is set for 2019.

"The contract has already been awarded and construction is expected to start soon while phase one of the project will be commissioned in 2017," Namport official, Elzevir Gelderbloem said. □

Built in the 1920s, the railway connects Angola's Atlantic port city of Lobito to the eastern border town of Luau and onward to the rail networks of DRC and Zambia. However, operations of the line were disrupted by civil wars in Angola and the DRC.

Angola, DRC and Zambia completed the rehabilitation of the Benguela railway in February and the ceremony to reopen the line was held in Luau, Angola, attended by the presidents of the three countries.



Benguela rail link offers shortest trade routes to Angola, DRC, Zambia.

"This route is the shortest to the sea, the cheapest, and of course, most reliable," Zambian President Edgar Lungu said, adding that rehabilitation of the railway line is expected to spur development in the three countries.

His counterparts, José Eduardo dos Santos of Angola and Joseph Kabila of DRC,

agreed, pledging their commitment to deepen regional integration and trade among SADC Member States.

The US\$1.9 billion railway rehabilitation project was undertaken with support from China, covering 1,344 kms between the port of Lobito and the DRC border.

The rehabilitation has raised the maximum speed from around 30 km/h to 90 km/h, with a 30-hour journey time from Lobito to the border at Luau.

The governments of Angola, DRC and Zambia see the reconstruction of the Benguela railway as a window of economic opportunity that can boost the export earning of the three countries, saving millions in transport costs.

The Benguela railway is one of many SADC projects that have been designed to meet the regional development goals presented in the SADC Regional Infrastructure Master Plan.

Benguela is an essential, cheaper route for Zambian copper exports and imports of machinery and other goods, which suffer long and often expensive rail and road routes from South Africa through Zimbabwe or Botswana, or via the port of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. □

SADC eyes top AfDB post

SOUTHERN AFRICA has agreed to support the candidature of Thomas Zondo Sakala of Zimbabwe for the post of the African Development Bank (AfDB) president.

The SADC Council of Ministers, which met in Harare, Zimbabwe in early March, agreed to back Sakala during the elections set for May. Sakala is a former AfDB vice president.

"Council noted that the SADC selection process identified Mr. Thomas Zondo Sakala for the SADC candidate for the elections of the President of the African Development Bank," reads part of a statement realised by the SADC Council.

Sakala is a strong contender with very high chances of landing the post after having worked for the continental bank for 31 years and was the vice president responsible for programmes under the incumbent president Dr Donald Kaberuka, who steps down after two terms in charge.

He resigned from his post last year to campaign for the presidency of the financial institution where he will tussle it out with seven other candidates.

Other candidates for the AfDB presidency are from Cape Verde, Chad, Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Tunisia. □



SADC, NEPAD sign infrastructure agreement

THE SOUTHERN African Development Community and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) have signed an agreement on support for infrastructure development in southern Africa.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed in March by the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency Chief Executive Officer, Dr Ibrahim Essane Mayakim in Gaborone, Botswana.

The purpose of the agreement is to establish a legal framework of cooperation between the parties under which the NEPAD Agency will provide grant support to the SADC Secretariat under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa Capacity Building Project (PIDA CAP).

The legal framework is also expected to outline the modalities through which grant support from the African Development Bank, through the NEPAD Agency, to the SADC Secretariat will



be used to assist SADC to participate fully in the PIDA Programme.

PIDA is a continental programme approved by the African Heads of State and Government at their summit held in Addis Ababa in January 2012 as a priority programme of infrastructure investments in energy, transport, ICT and transboundary water resources aimed at connecting and integrating Africa to support its growth and development objectives.

The PIDA Priority Action Plan (PIDA PAP) has an investment portfolio amounting to US\$68 billion programmed over the period 2012 to 2020 comprising 51 programmes and projects in energy, transport, ICT and transboundary water resources.

Out of the 51 Programmes defined into 433 projects, SADC has 34 projects as part of the PIDA PAP list, which will support the Secretariat and Member States to fast-track implementation of these projects. □

Selected PIDA projects

A TOTAL of 16 strategic and regionally balanced projects were presented to potential donors at the Dakar Financing Summit held in June 2014 in Senegal to mobilise financial investment to accelerate implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. Seven of these are in SADC, as follows:

- **Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya Transmission Line.** The proposed line will link the power grids of the three countries, and also improve and promote regional integration and energy trading within and between the Southern African Power Pool and East African Power Pool.
- **Batoka Gorge Hydropower** involving Zambia and Zimbabwe. The project will add 1,600 MW of electricity.
- **Ruzizi III Hydropower** in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The project will add 147 Megawatts (MW) of electricity.
- **Dar es Salaam Port Expansion** in Tanzania. The project will include deepening and strengthening of the berth for deep sea vessels, and increasing the capacity to handle bigger vessels.
- **Serenge-Nakonde Road** in Malawi. The rehabilitation of the road will improve the competitiveness of business in the eight countries that share the North-South Corridor – Botswana, DRC, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- **Brazzaville-Kinshasa Road Rail Bridge** and Kinshasa Illebo Railways in DRC. The line will be connected with the Lumbumbashi-Ilebo line, creating a railway link between central and southern Africa across the DRC.
- **Lusaka-Lilongwe ICT Terrestrial Fibre Optic** linking Malawi and Zambia. The project aims to facilitate inter-connection between Malawi and Zambia. □

China, Africa deepen ties “The most substantive project the AU has ever signed with a partner”



THE RECENT agreement by China and Africa to develop infrastructure in the continent is expected to increase intra-Africa trade through the smooth movement of goods, services and people across the continent.

China and Africa signed a continental transport deal within the Framework of the Agenda 2063 at the 24th AU Summit, and it is aimed at developing road, rail and air transport routes

to link capitals across the continent.

At present, the quickest route to travel from one side of Africa to the other can involve connections routed via Europe, although it is viable to connect directly.

Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, said the deal is “the most substantive project the AU has ever signed with a partner.” □



Regional centre for renewable energy

SADC HAS completed the process of selecting a Member State that will host the proposed regional centre for the promotion of renewable energies in southern Africa.

The adjudication and evaluation process for the four bids to host the SADC Centre for Renewable and Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) received from Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe, took place in February 2015 at the SADC Secretariat.

The name of the host country is expected to be announced during the next meeting of SADC Energy Ministers set for South Africa in May.

The establishment of SACREEE is expected to increase the uptake of clean energy in southern Africa, enabling the region to address some of its energy challenges.

The region has an abundance of energy sources, particularly renewable energy, which, if fully harnessed, could greatly boost power generation.

The proposed centre would promote market-based adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and services in SADC Member States.

The centre is expected to contribute substantially to the development of thriving regional renewable energy and energy efficiency markets through knowledge sharing and technical advice in the areas of policy and regulation, technology cooperation, capacity development, as well as investment promotion.

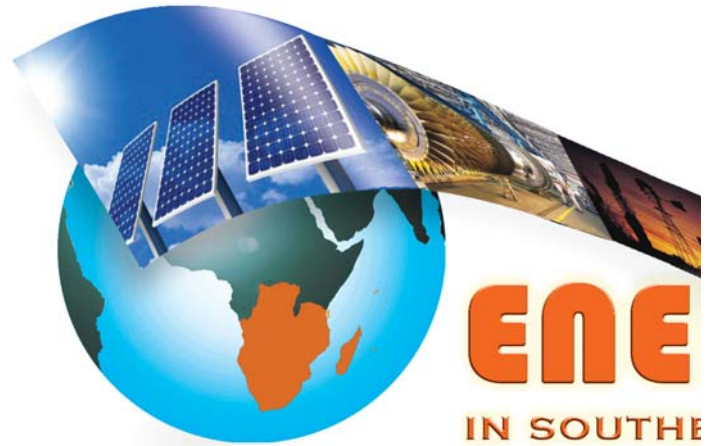
Various cooperating partners such as the Austrian Development Agency and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) have pledged to provide financial support to the centre for the first three years. After that, the centre should be self-sustaining.

Establishment of the centre is expected to be carried out in three phases, the first of which involves the selection of a host country and establishment of the SACREEE Secretariat.

The Preparatory Phase, that was initially expected to run from January-October 2014, would also see the creation and inauguration of the SACREEE executive board and technical committees.

The First Operational Phase is expected to run from the end of 2014-2017 during which the centre will primarily focus on developing renewable energy programmes for the region and resource mobilisation.

The Second Operational Phase, from 2018-2021, will focus on activities to ensure sustainability of the centre after the exit of international cooperating partners such as UNIDO. □



SADC Energy Thematic Group d

REPRESENTATIVES OF the SADC Secretariat, SADC sub-operating Partners (ICPs) and other development institutions met in Gaborone, Botswana, in February 2015 as the SADC Energy Thematic Group (ETG). The ETG discussed the main issues affecting the SADC energy sector. This issue of Southern Africa Today discusses the main issues discussed at the meeting.

Progress on Zimbabwe-Zambia-Botswana-N

THE SOUTHERN African Power Pool has appointed three consultants to provide various technical services aimed at ensuring the commencement of an interconnector project that will link the electricity grids of four countries in the region.

According to the SAPP Coordination Centre manager, Dr Lawrence Musaba, the German engineering consultancy firm Fichtner was appointed to provide transaction and technical advisory services to the ZiZaBoNa project while the Swedish firm SWECO has been selected to undertake an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Zambian leg of the transmission line. ESIA has been completed in Botswana, Namibia & Zimbabwe.

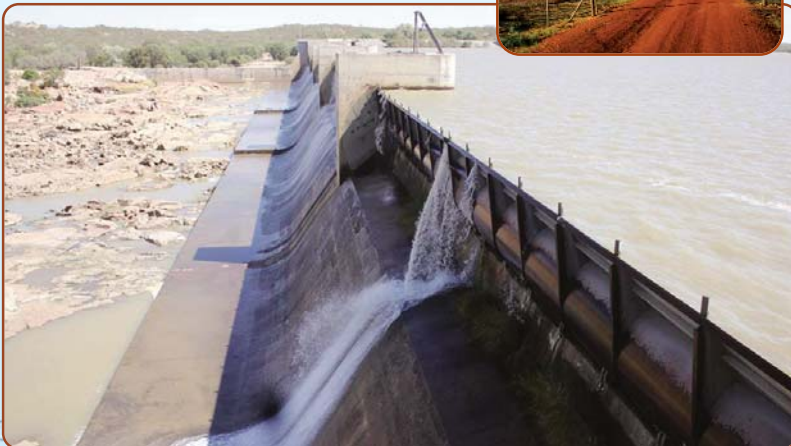
The contract to undertake project coordination and supervision was awarded to PhD Capital of South Africa. The African Development Bank (AfDB) is funding the consultants. "Funding has now been released by AfDB and the project is expected to commence soon," Musaba told the SADC Energy Thematic Group in Gaborone, Botswana in February.

Initiated in 2008, the ZiZaBoNa transmission line links Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia. Its development is expected to increase electricity trading among power utilities of the participating countries.

The interconnector aims to provide an alternative power transmission route in the SADC region and decongest the existing central power transmission corridor that passes through Zimbabwe.

The ZiZaBoNa project is expected to be implemented in two phases. The first phase of the project includes the construction of a 120-km 330kilovolt(kV) line from Hwange Power Station to Victoria Falls where a switching station will be built on the Zimbabwe side. The line will extend to a substation at Livingstone in Zambia.

The second phase involves the construction of a 300-km 330kV line from Livingstone to Katima Mulilo in Namibia, through Pandamatenga in Botswana.





discusses regional energy supply

Regional energy organisations, International Conferences met in Gaborone, Botswana in February. The meeting meets twice a year to discuss pertinent regional energy issues. Today highlights some of the key issues.

Zimbabwe project ZiZaBoNa



The Zimbabwe-Zambia interconnector will be built as a high voltage line with a transmission capacity of 430kV. However, it will operate as a 330kV line during the first phase.

Once completed, the ZiZaBoNa project would, for example, make it possible for Namibia's power utility, Nam-Power, to import electricity directly from Hwange Power Station in Zimbabwe. Electricity from the Hwange station is currently routed to Namibia through South Africa.

The SADC region is not yet fully integrated as Angola, Malawi and United Republic of Tanzania are not connected to the regional power pool.

This means that any new generation capacity installed in any of the three countries is not realised in the nine other SAPP members. These are Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. □

SADC Energy Ministers to meet in May

SADC ENERGY Ministers will meet in South Africa in May to discuss a number of issues, including the establishment of the proposed centre to promote the uptake of renewable energies in the region.

The meeting which was scheduled for Malawi last year around March/ April was postponed to allow the host country to prepare for its general elections. South Africa has since offered to host the meeting this year, providing an opportunity for energy ministers to review the power situation in the region.

Key issues to be discussed include the decision on the country to host the proposed SADC Centre for Renewable and Energy and Energy Efficiency. Other issues on the agenda will be the implementation of key decisions made at the last ministerial meeting held in Lesotho in 2013, as well as status of some of the priority regional energy projects. □

Projects to be commissioned in 2015

	Utility	Country	Name	Type	Capacity (MW)
1	Eskom	South Africa	Medupi	Coal	738
2	Eskom	South Africa	Ingula	Hydro	333
3	IPP	South Africa	Cogen	Gas	335
4	Eskom	South Africa	Cogen	Gas	100
5	IPP	South Africa	Round 3 Renewables	Renewables	322
6	TANESCO	Tanzania	Kinyerezi 1	Gas	150
7	SNEL	DRC	Inga 1	Hydro	110
8	SNEL	DRC	Inga 2	Hydro	320
9	ZESCO	Zambia	Ithezhi Tezhi	Hydro	120
10	ZESCO	Zambia	Lusiwasi	Hydro	15
11	IPP	Zimbabwe	Pungwe	Hydro	15
12	IPP	Mozambique	Ressano Garcia	Gas	175
13	IPP	Mozambique	Kuvanianga	Gas	30
Total					2,763

Source: SAPP

SAPP to commission 2,763MW new generation capacity



THE SOUTHERN African Power Pool plans to commission new projects that will add 2,763 megawatts to the regional grid this year as the region targets to meet its energy needs by 2018.

Of the planned capacity from the 13 projects being undertaken in six SADC Member States, the majority will come from South Africa where at least five projects are targeted for commissioning this year, producing an additional 1,828MW for the regional grid.

According to the SAPP Coordination Centre manager, Dr Lawrence Musaba, another significant contribution to the regional power grid is expected to come from the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is due to add 430MW this year (see table).

Coal will contribute the largest share of the new generation capacity in South Africa, with the coal-fired Medupi Power Station expected to have additional capacity of 738MW by the end of this year.

With regard to the regional target of increasing the uptake of clean energy, about 45 percent of the planned new capacity for 2015 is expected to come from renewable energy sources.

The uptake of renewable energy follows a resolution made in 2012 by southern African countries to increase the uptake of cleaner energy sources that result in reduced carbon emission.

The long-term target set by regional energy experts is that SAPP should achieve a renewable energy mix in the regional grid of at least 32 percent by 2020 and 35 percent by 2030.

In addition, gas is becoming a major contributor of energy in the region as five of the projects to be commissioned are gas-fired, with South Africa expected to contribute 435MW from cogeneration capacity between the national power utility ESKOM and an Independent Power Producer (IPP).

This year will witness a major share of planned capacity coming from IPPs who contribute about 32 percent of new generation.

For example, new power to be commissioned in Zimbabwe and Mozambique will be produced by IPPs.

Zimbabwe has four notable IPP hydropower stations, one of which – the Pungwe – is expected to be commissioned this year and contribute 15MW to the power grid.

The Ressano Garcia and Kuvanianga power stations in Mozambique are also run by IPPs and are expected to add 175MW and 30MW respectively to the regional grid.

According to SAPP, southern Africa plans to commission 24,062MW of power between 2015 and 2019 if all proposed projects come on stream.

This development will see the region finally meeting its power needs after several years of shortages.

Since 2007 the region has been facing challenges in meeting its energy requirements, forcing most SADC Member States to implement demand-side management policies such as load shedding that have to some extent succeeded in restraining overall electricity demand in the region. □

SADC-EU economic agreement to be finalized in 2015



SOUTHERN AFRICA and the Europe Union are expected to finalize their Economic Partnership Agreement this year.

The agreement provides, among other things, duty- and quota-free access to the EU market for exports from SADC countries, which will, in turn, be required to gradually open their markets to European exports over a 15-year period, with exceptions for certain products the countries consider sensitive.

However, this fragmented approach to the EPA negotiations was one of the major stumbling blocks to the negotiation process, which was completed in July 2014 between the SADC region and the EU.

The SADC negotiating group comprises Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and the United Republic of Tanzania.

South Africa participates in the SADC group but only as an observer as the country already has a trade agreement with Europe.

The other SADC countries – Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Zambia and Zimbabwe – negotiated under the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) group, while the Democratic Republic of Congo is in the Economic Community of Central African States (CEMAC).

Members of the ESA group already reached an interim EPA with the EU that came into force in 2012.

The SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, told the SADC Council of Ministers, which met in Zimbabwe in March, that progress towards imple-

mentation of the agreement was underway and should be finalized soon.

"In 2014, notable progress was realized in the area of the Economic Partnership Agreements, as the EPA was initiated between the EU and the SADC EPA group," she said.

"The text is currently undergoing legal vetting leading to eventual signature, ratification and implementation."

The EU is one of the largest trading partners for most SADC countries. In 2013 the value of total EU imports was about €31 billion (9.3 percent

for agriculture; 1.5 percent for fish; and 89.3 percent for industry). On the other hand, total EU exports to the region represented €33 billion.

Other regions such as Asia, particularly China, are also becoming major SADC economic partners. □

Central Bank Governors New technology to facilitate cross-border payments

THE COMMITTEE of Central Bank Governors in SADC is developing two technology-based projects to minimize dependence on western banking systems.

One of the systems will focus on banking supervision while the other deals with cross-border payments.

Chairperson of the Subcommittee of the Information Technologies of the CCBG, Arlindo Lombe of Mozambique, said the network of banking techno-



logical information commonly referred to as Cyrus will be based in South Africa, and will cover all SADC countries.

"It is a system designed to facilitate cross-border payments in SADC member countries without passing through

European systems, as it has been habit," he said.

The regional project on banking supervision will also cover other parts of Africa outside southern Africa such as Cape Verde, Uganda and Kenya. *Angola Press News Agency* □

Towards empowering migrant workers in SADC

SADC MEMBER States are intensifying efforts to improve financial security of migrant workers in the region, as migrant workers have contributed immensely to the socio-economic development of most countries in southern Africa, yet have little to show for their contribution.

Arnold Chitambo from the SADC Secretariat told a recent regional dialogue on portability of social security benefits for mineworkers in southern Africa that the welfare of mi-

grant workers should be improved as they play a critical role in the integration agenda of SADC.

He told the conference held in Johannesburg, South Africa in late March that the regional Code on Social Security will be reviewed to accelerate the levels of implementation.

The Code was approved by SADC Member States in 2007 to facilitate the easy transfer of the benefits or compensation for migrant workers from host

countries to their respective countries.

"The SADC Secretariat has administered a monitoring and evaluation tool to determine the implementation status of the code by member states," he said, adding that a report on the implementation status should be out this year.

The code tackles issues of access to information for ex-workers since most of them are not aware of the exact benefits owed to them, or their rights to make such claims. □



Illicit financial flows – time for Africa to act

by Kizito Sikuka

IMAGINE WHAT Africa would be like if all its proceeds from natural resources such as diamonds, gold and platinum remained in the continent to finance its development agenda.

Africa could be one of the most developed and industrialized continents in the world, with seamless infrastructure, uninterrupted power supplies, enough jobs for everyone and a peaceful and stable socio-economic environment.

In global affairs, the continent could be a prominent force, which other players, including China, Russia, Europe and the United States could regard as an equal partner.

This vision is attainable, but only if measures are put in place to address the scourge of Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) from the continent.

It is estimated that Africa has lost more than US\$1.8 trillion to IFF between 1970 and 2008, and continues to lose resources valued at up to US\$150 billion annually through IFF or “illicit capital flight”, mainly through tax evasion and mispricing of goods and services by multi-national companies, according to a recent study commissioned by the African Union (AU).

This means that resources that are intended to develop Africa are being used elsewhere to improve the economies of other countries in Europe, Asia and the US.

In fact, even when these countries try to “make-up” by providing assistance to Africa, it has been noted that “the amount of IFF from Africa is

greater than the inflow of Overseas Development Assistance,” according to a declaration by the 24th AU Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia recently.

So the question is, what can Africa do to curb these illicit financial flows, and ensure that its resources are used to develop economies of African countries?

Former South African President Thabo Mbeki, who heads the High-Level Panel on IFF established by African leaders in 2011 to find ways of addressing the problem, believes that the solutions should be multi-pronged.

“It has become quite clear in the course of our work that while the study of IFF seems technically complex, it is ultimately a political matter requiring decisions at various levels of governance,” Mbeki said in his address to the 24th AU Summit, adding that IFF could best be described as an “African problem requiring a global solution.”

“This slogan underscores the important role of cooperation and collaboration by all concerned to tackle IFF and to bring coherence at regional and global levels to existing disparate strands of the work being done on this matter,” he said.

Mbeki’s assessment is critical as Africa and the global community, particularly Europe and the US, are mostly to blame for “siphoning” and channelling resources meant to develop Africa to fund other developments outside the continent.

For example, most resource exploitations in Africa are usually in the hands of a few for-



eign-owned companies which pay low taxes and often prefer to process the raw materials outside the continent.

Most African countries lack proper documentation that profile their own available natural resources.

This situation has resulted in many African governments being prejudiced in mineral extraction negotiations as they are not aware of the exact quality and quantity of their natural resources.

Director for the Southern Africa Resources Watch, Claude Kabemba, has urged Africa to develop a vibrant database that profiles the various natural resources that are found on the continent.

“When we extract the minerals, we are extracting our capital. Therefore, Africa needs to invest heavily in data collection and knowledge management about its natural resources,” Kabemba said.

Another key intervention for Africa could be to consider re-negotiating some of the mining deals signed many decades ago to identify those that are dubious and do not benefit the continent.

Such a route may pose its own technical and legal challenges, but is nevertheless an important intervention if Africa is to take full advantage of its resources.

TO CONTRIBUTE to the ongoing debate on curbing Illicit Financial Flows, Trust Africa and the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) have established a database to provide a knowledge hub for research papers, newspaper articles and other literature on the subject of illicit financial flows from Africa. The overall goal of the database is to improve the accessibility of both research findings and organizations working on illicit capital outflows. □

African leaders also agreed that the financial resources lost through IFF should be identified and returned to Africa to finance the continent’s development agenda.

“The time is now for Africa’s Renaissance, for the continent to regain ownership of its natural resources and to implement sound, prudent management and good governance, with a view to optimizing the benefits derivable from its natural resources in particular extractive sectors and mineral resources for present and future generations while limiting negative environmental and macroeconomic impacts,” the leaders said. □





Tanzania postpones constitutional referendum

THE UNITED Republic of Tanzania has postponed plans to hold a referendum on a new constitution, following delays in the registration of voters.

Originally scheduled for 30 April, the National Electoral Commission (NEC) of Tanzania announced in early April that the referendum will take place at a later date when the voter registration process has been completed.

"The previously announced referendum has been postponed until the National Electoral Commission announces a new date," reads part of a statement released by NEC.

"Since the registration of voters has not been completed, the electoral commission will not be able to proceed with the referendum on the new constitution."

In addition to this, there has been some difference in approach between the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party and the opposition over the way the new constitution was crafted.

The opposition claims that the draft constitution was approved without a quorum by an assembly dominated by the CCM party.

This is after the opposition quit the constitutional assembly in April 2014, arguing that their suggestions on political reforms, including limiting presidential powers and the establishment of a federal system of government, were being ignored.

Since then, the opposition, together with civil society groups, has been calling for the

postponement of the referendum.

The new constitution resulted from a lengthy process of consultation and review, and is intended to replace the one approved in 1977.

The proposed constitution embraces continuity more than change. Most importantly, the government structure will remain as it has been since the Act of Union in 1964. This is a sensitive national issue, seen as ensuring national unity.

Under the 1964 agreement, the Zanzibar archipelago, comprising the two main islands of Unguja and Pemba, retains its own governance structure and electoral system in addition to the Union structures.

Zanzibar and Tanganyika, as the mainland was then known, entered into a Union agreement 26 April 1964 to

form the United Republic of Tanzania, whose main objective is to build a unified society based on freedom, human rights and peaceful existence.

Another key highlight of the draft constitution includes the introduction of gender parity in representation in parliament.

This is in line with the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, which calls for equal representation of women and men in decision-making positions.

More than 1.5 million copies of the proposed constitution have been printed in Swahili, with over 1.3 million copies already distributed.

Mainland Tanzania has received over 1.1 million copies for its 25 regions, while 200,000 copies were distributed in Zanzibar.

It is not clear how the change to the referendum date

would affect the presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for late October.

Tanzania held its last general elections in 2010 and expects to go to the poll this year to choose a new government.

Tanzania has held national elections at regular intervals since Independence in 1961, and this year's general election will be the country's fifth since the introduction of multi-party politics in 1992.

Incumbent President Jakaya Kikwete is not taking part in the presidential elections as he is serving his second and last term in office, under the existing constitution.

Therefore, the ruling CCM party, which has been in power since independence, will be represented by a new candidate, who will be elected by the party congress in mid-year. □

SADC happy with political situation in region

SADC HAS expressed satisfaction with the general political situation in the region, saying stability is critical for socio-economic development.

The SADC Council of Ministers, which met in Harare, Zimbabwe in early March, urged the region to consolidate the peace by addressing "a few pockets of insecurity" that still exist.

For example, the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo has been experiencing political challenges since 2012 when anti-government rebels invaded and captured the city of Goma located in the eastern parts of the coun-

try, causing displacement of people and loss of lives and property.

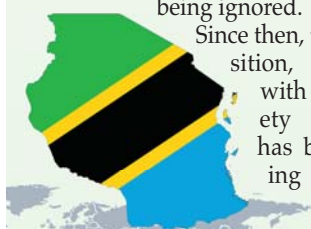
"Though there are still pockets of insecurity in SADC, I am very much encouraged by the level of political maturity that the region continues to exhibit," the Council chairperson, Simbarashe Mumbengegwi, who is Zimbabwean Foreign Affairs Minister, said.

"We pay tribute to the people of Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Lesotho for the smooth and peaceful elections in those countries towards the end of last year and at the beginning of this year."

Botswana, Mozambique and Namibia held that national elections in 2014, with transfer of power to new Presidents in Mozambique and Namibia in early 2015.

Zambia and Lesotho went to the poll in January and February respectively, and both were declared as in conformity with regional and international standards.

"The successful conduct of these elections is a clear testimony that democracy and democratic principles have firmly taken root in our region. It is a development that gives us great satisfaction as member states of SADC," Mumbengegwi said. □





"Let's steer Lesotho out of political insecurity"

PAKALITHA MOSISILI was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho on 17 March 2015 after the formation of a coalition government.

This follows the general elections held on 28 February that were won narrowly by the All Basotho Convention (ABC) headed by former Prime Minister Thomas Thabane.

The ABC won 40 seats followed by 37 for the Democratic Congress (DC) led by Mosisili, also a former Prime Minister.



The Lesotho Congress for Democracy and the Basotho National Party garnered two and one seats, respectively, of the 80 parliamentarians that are chosen using the first-past-the-post system.

The remaining 40 National Assembly seats are elected from one national constituency using party-list proportional representation.

Through this, the DC forged an alliance with the six other opposition parties to form the next government since the ABC had failed to gain enough votes.

This is a similar strategy used by Thabane when he was elected Prime Minister in 2012.

However, differences among the coalition government plunged the country into crisis that led to the rescheduling of the country's elections from the initial date of May 2017 to 28 February 2015.

Expectations are high that the new seven-party coalition government can bring lasting stability to a country that has a long history of political strife, dating back to the time when it attained its independence on 4 October 1966.

Speaking soon after being sworn in, Mosisili pledged to unite the Kingdom and steer the country to prosperity.

"I accept this responsibility fully aware of the grave challenges that continue to face our country," he said, adding that it was the responsibility of all stakeholders to "successfully steer our country out of the political insecurities to-

wards peace, harmony and prosperity."

Several regional leaders witnessed the swearing-in ceremony including President Jacob Zuma of South Africa, Prime Minister Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini of Swaziland, and the SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax.

SADC has been active in seeking a lasting solution to the Basotho political situation.

When Lesotho plunged into instability allegedly triggered by Thabane in June 2014, who after facing a vote of no-confi-

dence, suspended parliament, SADC set up a mediation team to address the situation in Lesotho.

Led by South African Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, the mediation saw the signing of the Maseru Facilitation Declaration in October and the Maseru Security Accord in November 2014, paving the way for successful holding of election in February.

A total of 1,210,079 voters have registered to vote, according to the Independent Electoral Commission of Lesotho. □

SADC endorses Lesotho polls

THE SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) to the National Assembly elections in the Kingdom of Lesotho said the 28 February polls were held in conformity with regional and international standards.

"The SEOM observed that the pre-election phase was characterised by a generally calm and peaceful political atmosphere. Political rallies were peaceful and there were no violent incidents observed," reads part of a statement released by the SADC mission, which was headed by South African International Relations and Cooperation Minister, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane.

"Based on its observations, the SADC Electoral Observation Mission concludes that the 2015 National Assembly Elections in the Kingdom of Lesotho were peaceful, transparent, credible, and free and fair, thus reflecting the will of the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho." □

SADC closes facilitation mission office in Lesotho

THE SADC Mission to the Kingdom of Lesotho (SOMILES) has closed down following successful elections in Lesotho.

The SADC Double Troika Summit held in Pretoria, South Africa in September 2014 decided to deploy the SOMILES in order to address the political and security developments in Lesotho.

The mission was closed down on 30 March by the SADC Facilitator and Deputy President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa and the SADC Executive Secretary Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, following the successful completion of their mission.



The SADC flag was lowered at a ceremony symbolising the closure of the mission.

"By this act we declare to the people of this country and the world to know, that peace and stability has indeed returned to Lesotho," Ramaphosa said.

"I would like to assure the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho that SADC will always be there to support SADC Member States, including our brothers and sisters in this very beautiful and great Kingdom of Lesotho. We are confident that the milestones achieved will be safeguarded by the Basotho people," Dr Tax added. □



"SADC remains committed to gender equality, parity"

SADC IS committed to improving the status of women and will endeavour to mainstream gender in all of its regional integration programmes.

This was said when the SADC region joined the rest of the world in commemorating International Women's Day on 8 March, which this year marks the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform For Action, as well as the 15th anniversary of the United Nations Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

The theme for this year is -- "Empowering Women; Empowering Humanity: Picture it".

Speaking during the commemoration held in Gaborone, Botswana, the SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, said the region remained committed to empowering women and attaining gender equality.

"Empowering Women is indeed Empowering Humanity as women are the backbone of our economies and they are the majority of those involved in agricultural production for subsistence livelihoods and food security," she said.

"Since women make up the majority of the poorest in our region, there is no doubt that only their empowerment will make a difference in addressing poverty and reaching the set targets of poverty eradication."

She said it is important for SADC Member States to continue to integrate "a gender perspective in our different policies, programmes and activities across all sectors of regional integration so that we can realize the SADC vision of ensuring economic well-being and improvement of the standards of living and quality of

life of the people of Southern Africa."

Dr Tax, said that, while SADC has made significant strides to empower women, a lot more still needed to be done to ensure gender equality in the region.

"SADC Member States have achieved significant progress in access and equity in primary education and, for some countries, secondary and tertiary education," she said, adding that the "overall, the gap between boys and girls in schools is decreasing within the SADC region."

"However, retention at secondary to tertiary levels is a challenge due to high drop-out rates for girls, hence the gross-enrolment ratio for tertiary education is still very low."

On health, she said achievements have been made to reduce new HIV infections,

particularly through interventions to prevent mother-to-child transmission.

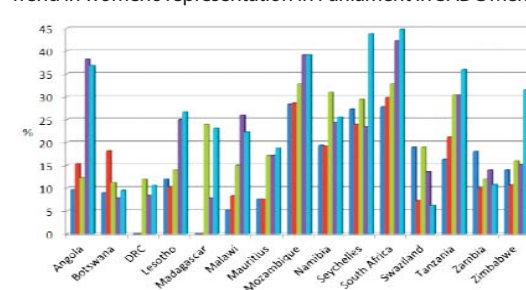
This achievement, she said, should be replicated in reducing the number of women who die from pregnancy-related causes.

On the participation and representation of women in politics and decision-making, a steady upward trend has been noted over the past few years. (See table).

"On average the region's representation of women in parliament is about 25 percent with seven of the 15 Member States having more than 30 percent representation of women in Parliament, three of which have reached 40 percent," Dr Tax said.

This is in line with the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, which calls for equal representation of women and men in decision-making. □

Trend in women's representation in Parliament in SADC Member States



Source: SADC

Key SADC gender achievements

GENDER EQUALITY in southern Africa is firmly rooted in the regional integration agenda and SADC Member States support the fundamental principle that both women and men must be engaged in decision-making at all levels and in all areas.

Some of the major achievements realized by SADC in promoting gender equality and parity are:

- Signature and adoption of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development in 2008, with ratification and entry into force on 22 February 2013, and Member States have started implementing the Protocol;
- This built on the achievements of the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development of 1997 and its 1998 Addendum on the

Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women and Children which called upon Member States to commit to, among others, repeal laws that discriminate against women;

- One of the goals of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan is to facilitate the achievement of substantive equality between women and men in the SADC region, through mainstreaming gender into all national and regional policies, programmes and activities;
- Adoption of the SADC Gender Policy by the SADC Council of Ministers in 2007;
- Establishment of ministries responsible for Gender or Women's Affairs in 12 of the 15 SADC Member States to manage and advocate the empowerment of women

and gender equality commitments;

- All SADC Member States have legislation or related instruments for addressing Gender Based Violence, with nine countries having specific legislation pertaining to sexual offences;
- Development of a Regional Women's Economic Empowerment Strategy in 2011, which has seen an increase in the number of women in economic decision-making positions;
- SADC guidelines on gender budgeting developed and implemented; and
- The participation and representation of women in politics and decision-making has significantly improved in the region, although progress is inconsistent across the region. □

Events April-May 2015

April 9-10, Zimbabwe	Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa The Forum seeks to identify concrete steps for fast-tracking the roll-out plan of the 16 priority regional infrastructure projects of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). PIDA is a blueprint for African infrastructure transformation for the period 2012-2040. Of the 16 priority projects, seven are in SADC.
13-15, Zimbabwe	SADC RISDP Review Task Force The multi-stakeholder task force will meet to validate the contents of the revised Draft RISDP 2015-2020 and Draft Implementation Framework to be presented for approval by the SADC Extraordinary Summit on Industrialisation, to be held on 29 April. The task force comprises representatives from Member States, the SADC Secretariat, SADC subsidiary and affiliated organizations, policy research institutions and independent experts.
14-16, Zimbabwe	Innovation Africa Digital Summit 2015 Running under the theme "Affordable Access" the meeting will discuss how Africa can develop its ICT industry to improve access to technology and internet products and services.
15, Senegal	Task Force Meeting on the Continental FTA The task force will consider preparatory issues and review essential technical documents that will enable the African Union Assembly to launch the Continental Free Trade Area (CTFA) negotiations in June. Africa aims to establish a continent-wide FTA by 2017.
15-16, Mozambique	Southern Africa ICT Summit 2015 The summit will gather policymakers, regulators and industry leaders to share knowledge, network and develop strategies on best practices in the ICT sector. 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.
27-29, Ethiopia	Africa Climate Resilient Infrastructure Summit ACRIS is a forum for catalysing action to deal with the challenges caused by climate change in ICT, energy, water, agriculture, food security and transport infrastructure in Africa. Hosted by the African Union Commission, the summit will highlight investment-ready projects, showcase African leadership in developing the projects and explore strategies and effective practices across the continent for accelerating development of these projects and adoption of efficient technologies.
28, Zimbabwe	SADC Council of Ministers The Council of Ministers will hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss and approve the industrialisation strategy and roadmap as well as consider the final report on the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015-2020.
29, Zimbabwe	SADC Extraordinary Summit on Industrialization Following the directive by SADC leaders at their Summit in 2014 to prioritise industrialization in the regional economic integration agenda, the region will hold a special summit to discuss a framework for strengthening industrial capacity in southern Africa. The summit is also expected to consider the Revised RISDP 2015-2020.
May 4-8, Ethiopia	First AU Specialized Technical Committee on Information Communication Technologies The African Union (AU) Specialized Technical Committees are composed of ministers or senior officials responsible for sectors falling within their respective areas of competence and are responsible for preparing projects and programmes of the Union and submitting them to the Executive Council. They also have the duty to ensure the supervision, follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of decisions taken by organs of the Union and coordination and harmonization of projects and programmes of the Union.
12-14, South Africa	15th Annual African Utility Week & Clean Power Africa The event will bring together water and power utilities professionals to discuss best practices for effective power and water supply in Africa and other emerging issues.



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Knowledge for Development




35 years

Zimbabwe independence

APRIL IS a special month in the history of Zimbabwe as it contains several significant dates, notably Independence on 18 April 1980.

One hundred and seventeen years ago, on 27 April 1898, the architects of the first resistance against colonialism (Chimurenga), Mbuya Chahwe, the medium of the Nehanda spirit, and Sekuru Gumboreshumba, the medium of the Kaguvi spirit, were hanged by the settler regime for daring to challenge colonial dispossession.

Sixty-eight years later, on 28 April 1966, the first battle of the Second Chimurenga took place at Chinhoyi.

April is also the month that President Robert Mugabe left the country on foot to neighbouring Mozambique in 1975 to lead the liberation struggle following his release from prison.

This year the month is even more significant as it marks 35 years since Zimbabwe attained independence from Britain.

The struggle for Zimbabwe's independence highlighted the importance of international cooperation in the fight for justice and exposed the geopolitical tensions occasioned by the Cold War politics of the time.

Zimbabwe achieved majority rule and internationally recognized independence on 18 April 1980 following 90 years of colonial rule, including a 15-year period of white settler rule after the Ian Smith regime's Unilateral Declaration of Independence in 1965.

The success of the Patriotic Front forces – comprising the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) and Zimbabwe People's Liberation Army (ZIPRA) – in executing the war of liberation was credited in part to the strong support the liberation movements had with newly independent regional countries and international partners.

The leaders of independent African states established the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Liberation Committee based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, which provided diplomatic and material support and training for the liberation combatants on the continent, and notably in southern Africa, a mission that was accomplished with the end of apartheid in South Africa in 1994.

Zambia and Mozambique, which have common borders with Zimbabwe, hosted the liberation movements and provided rear base support and security.

From about 1972, ZANLA had operated from Tete Province in northern Mozambique, which was controlled by the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo). After Mozambique's independence from Portugal in 1975, ZANLA was permitted to open additional training and supply camps in the border areas. This greatly assisted the recruitment and training of cadres. The ZIPRA forces operated mainly from Zambia, but also Botswana.

Thousands of fighters were trained in Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania, Ethiopia, Yugoslavia and Libya, as well as the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China.

Negotiations in London between the Patriotic Front and Britain resulted in the Lancaster House Agreement and ceasefire in December 1979.

The country returned temporarily to British control under a British governor and elections were held under international supervision in February 1980.

ZANU PF won the election and Mugabe became the first Prime Minister of Zimbabwe on 18 April 1980.



Namibia celebrates Silver Jubilee

NAMIBIA CELEBRATED its Silver Jubilee on 21 March during a ceremony that coincided with the smooth transition of power from President Hifikepunye Pohamba to former Prime Minister Dr Hage Geingob.

Geingob became Namibia's third democratically elected president during a joint ceremony at Independence Stadium in Windhoek to mark the 25th independence anniversary of the SADC Member State and to witness the inauguration of the country's new leader.

Pohamba thanked Namibia's neighbours as well as Cuba for the assistance rendered to the country in helping it gain independence in 1990.

Since its foundation in 1990, Namibia has earned respect for providing value-based governance systems and for imparting the ideals of democracy based on the values of peace, security, stability, justice, unity, freedom and importantly inclusivity in the manner the country is governed.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

April-June 2015

3 April	Good Friday	Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
4 April	Easter/Holy Saturday	Malawi, Seychelles, Zambia
4 April	Peace and Reconciliation Day	Angola
6 April	Easter Monday	Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
7 April	Sheikh Abeid Karume Day	Tanzania
	Women's Day	Mozambique
18 April	Independence Day	Zimbabwe
19 April	King's Birthday	Swaziland
25 April	National Flag Day	Swaziland
26 April	Union Day	Tanzania
27 April	Freedom Day	South Africa
30 April	Youth Day	DRC
1 May	Workers Day	DRC, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
	Labour Day	Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Swaziland
4 May	Cassinga Day	Namibia
14 May	Ascension Day	Botswana, Madagascar, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland
14 May	Kamuzu Day	Malawi
17 May	Liberation Day	DRC
25 May	Africa Day	Angola, Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe
	Africa Freedom Day	Zambia
5 June	Liberation Day	Seychelles
16 June	Youth Day	South Africa
18 June	National Day	Seychelles
19 June	Corpus Christi	Seychelles
25 June	Independence Day	Mozambique
26 June	Independence Day	Madagascar
29 June	Independence Day	Seychelles
30 June	Independence Day	DRC