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2014 – Driving regional integration

by Kizito Sikuka

THIS YEAR has provided an opportunity for southern Africa to consolidate gains and make plans to advance broader socio-economic independence and integration as a region.

A major milestone for 2014 was the decision by the 34th SADC Summit held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe to prioritise industrialisation in the ongoing review of regional plans under the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP).

Industrial development has been identified as one of the main drivers of the integration agenda in southern Africa as the region moves away from an economic path built on consumption and commodity exports onto a sustainable developmental path based on value addition and beneficiation.

SADC Member States acknowledged that industrial development is central to the diversification of their economies; development of productive capacity; and the creation of employment in order to reduce poverty and set their economies on a more sustainable growth path.

However, the RISDP, which is a 15-year blueprint for SADC regional integration and development, currently under review, was previously silent on the matter.

As a result, the SADC Ministerial Task Force on Regional Integration was directed by Summit to develop a strategy and roadmap for industrialization in the region.

In this regard, an extraordinary SADC Summit is planned for early 2015 to discuss industrialization, and ultimately approve the revised RISDP.

With regard to infrastructure development, the year 2014 saw the vision of southern Africa as an emerging economy with infrastructure that works coast-to-coast, move closer to reality when the region approved a declaration that aims to strengthen cooperation in the development of regional infrastructure projects.

When regional infrastructure such as roads, rail and energy transmission lines are in good condition, this lays the basis for numerous other benefits, including the smooth movement of goods, services and people across the region, thereby increasing intra-regional contacts and trade.



POLICY	3
PEACE & SECURITY	4
ELECTIONS	5
GENDER	6
TRADE	7
ENERGY	8-11
DISASTER MANAGEMENT	12
BUSINESS BRIEFS	13
COOPERATION	14
EVENTS	15
HISTORY TODAY	16



continued on page 2...



2014 – Driving regional integration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The SADC Declaration on Regional Infrastructure Development pays particular attention to the transport needs of landlocked countries, which, “due to their geo-political circumstances, have special needs for transport and transit services and bear high costs for capacity and access to external markets.”

The declaration builds on the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan that was launched in 2012, targeting a total of 418 infrastructure projects to be implemented by 2027.

These cross-border infrastructure projects cover the priority sectors of energy, transport, tourism, water, information communication technology and meteorology.

On agriculture, SADC made significant progress towards food security by approving a regional food and nutrition strategy to ensure its citizens have access to both adequate and nutritional foods.

To be implemented from the period 2015-2025, the Regional Food and Nutrition Security Strategy aims to serve as a regional mechanism to facilitate the attainment of universal physical, social and economic access to safe, health and nutritious food to ensure the wellbeing of the people of southern Africa.

It is historic that SADC adopted the strategy in 2014 – a year that was declared by the African Union as the Year of Agriculture and Food Security.

The SADC region also witnessed a major step towards the promotion of sustainable use and management of the environment,

through the approval of the Protocol on Environmental Management for Sustainable Development.

Previously, SADC had several protocols dealing with various aspects of the environment, most of which were sectoral in nature and did not take a holistic approach towards sustainable use and management.

Therefore, the adoption of the Protocol is an important step in the process of harmonizing the laws that deal with environmental issues.

Regarding health, the region intensified preparedness and response to monitor and prevent the spread of Ebola – a deadly disease that has affected parts of West Africa.

Among Member States, only the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has reported Ebola cases, which were quickly dealt with, while none has been reported in the other 14 SADC Member States.

However, medical specialists note that the strain of Ebola in DRC is different from that in West Africa, and has not spread from there, but is a separate strain that appeared in the 1970s.

On the political situation in the region, southern Africa witnessed positive developments with five countries holding national elections – Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa.

In Namibia and Mozambique, these were transitional elections that produced new presidents Hage Geingob of the ruling SWAPO party and Filipe Nyussi of the FRELIMO respectively, as the previous

Heads of State are standing down after a fixed term of office.

Stability also returned in Lesotho, with support from its neighbours in SADC.

Lesotho has experienced some political challenges that worsened in August in the wake of the suspension of Parliament and an alleged coup plot.

SADC, through its facilitator Cyril Ramaphosa, who is the South African deputy President, facilitated a dialogue among Lesotho's political parties to address the challenges facing the mountain kingdom.

The stakeholders have agreed to bring forward the General Elections to February 2015 from its original date of 2017, on a date to be set by King Letsie III.

The year 2014 also saw SADC lift its suspension on Madagascar following the restoration of constitutional order under a SADC mediation process.

The island nation was suspended from SADC in 2009 when the country slid into a political turmoil after the opposition leader seized power from the then president. However, noting the progress in resolving constitutional order in Madagascar, SADC invited the country to resume its participation in all SADC activities.

2014 was mostly stable from a political perspective with relative peace in the more unpredictable parts of the region such as the DRC, although latest developments in the east of the country remain a cause for concern.

With regard to trade, SADC, together with other re-

gional economic communities – the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC) – moved closer to signing a historic agreement to establish an expanded market covering 26 countries.

The agreement will boost intra-regional trade, increase investment and promote the development of cross-regional infrastructure, as the so-called “Grand” Free Trade Area (FTA) has a combined population of some 600 million people and a Gross Domestic Product of about US\$1 trillion, covering half of the member states of the African Union, spanning the entire southern and eastern regions of Africa – from Cape to Cairo.

The Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe became the SADC chair in 2014, taking over from his Malawian counterpart, President Peter Mutharika, at the SADC Summit held in August.

Mugabe will be deputized by Botswana's President Seretse Khama Ian Khama, as the 2015 SADC Summit will be held in Botswana.

Presidents Armando Guebuza of Mozambique and Hifikepunye Pohamba of Namibia also bade farewell as southern African leaders at the SADC Summit.

Both leaders are serving their second and last terms in office as per their national constitutions, have been instrumental in pushing the regional integration agenda forward, and are firm believers in the notion that SADC Member States have a lot to gain from working together. r

SADC Green Growth Strategy and Action Plan

SADC IS drafting a Regional Green Growth Strategy and Action Plan that will outline how the region can meet its development needs while reducing the socio-economic and environmental vulnerabilities and resource constraints.

To facilitate finalisation of the strategy, the SADC Secretariat organised a validation workshop in Harare, Zimbabwe in November whose objective was to enable stakeholders to endorse the draft document.

Development of the draft strategy commenced after the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012.

The outcome of that conference, which is commonly known as Rio+20 Summit, was a document entitled “The Future We Want” that set the global agenda for a sustainable future – towards reduction of poverty and promotion of sustainable and equitable global growth.

In preparation for the Rio+20 conference, the SADC region had undertaken a review to assess progress made towards attainment of sustainable development.

The review report indicated that the region had a number of good examples that demonstrate commitment to sustainable development. However, the impact of these efforts was not enough to assist in net poverty reduction.

The report also noted that the challenges that were highlighted in the Johannesburg Plan of Action 10 years earlier still remain relevant today.

The review identified a number of factors as affecting progress towards the attainment of sustainable development in SADC, including the

multiplicity of development programmes, institutional weaknesses and lack of capacity.

Poor enforcement of policies and regulations was identified as a bottleneck. It was observed that while the SADC region has many policy frameworks, implementation of these remains a big challenge due to a variety of national, regional and global constraints.

It further noted that the over-reliance by the region and individual Member States on donor funds made predictable and long-term implementation difficult.

The assessment also identified new and emerging challenges that have aggravated the slow progress towards attainment of sustainable development. These include global food security, high oil prices and the global economic crisis which are constraining efforts towards sustainable development.

Other emerging challenges include rising poverty, the impact of HIV and AIDS, gender imbalances, failure to create opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship and trade and fighting marginalization in a globalised world.

The report made a number of recommendations to enhance sustainable growth, among them the need to fully integrate the green economy and green growth concepts.

As a response to these findings, and benchmarking on the outcomes of Rio+20, SADC embarked on a programme to develop a Regional Green Growth Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Development that will facilitate a balanced and accelerated attainment of the agreed goals anchoring on the three pillars of sustainable develop-

ment namely environmental sustainability, economic well-being and socio-equity.

It is anticipated that the green economy will help to overhaul economies in a way that links economic growth and environmental protection.

Implementation of these outcomes and recommendations will require concerted and sustained and collaborative efforts at national and regional levels.

SADC has developed a number of strategies, protocols, policies and pro-

grammes, including the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan, the SADC Industrial Development Framework, the draft Regional Agriculture Policy and the various protocols.

The proposed Regional Green Growth Strategy and Action Plan should, therefore, outline how implementation of these strategies and policies can fully harness the green economy concepts in order to ensure resource savings that will enable the region to meet its development needs. r

SADC Green Growth Strategy objectives

Specifically the Green Growth Strategy and Action Plan will aim to:

- outline processes for the region and Member States to adopt that will facilitate development of a coordinated set of participatory and continuously improving processes of analysis, debate, capacity-strengthening, planning and investment, which seeks to integrate the short and long term economic, social and environmental objectives;
- enhance the green economy and promote sustained growth;
- promote policies and investment towards a range of green sectors such as clean technologies and industries, renewable energy, water services, clean transport, waste management and green building with a view to address poverty;
- contribute towards a people-centred, socio-economic development of the region by strengthening integration of the region's environmental and other natural assets into national economies;
- reduce social disparities by suggesting an accelerated framework for implementing the Millennium Development Goals and provisions of the outcomes of Rio+20, while strengthening equal opportunities and cultural identities;
- provide concrete recommendations to improve governance at the local, national and regional levels that fully integrates the green economy; and
- provide tools for the analyses of existing policies and programmes to enhance consistency and coherence that will promote sustainable development. r



Towards stability in Lesotho

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS has been made by the Kingdom of Lesotho to return to stability following the latest political crisis.

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 in August.

The SADC mediation led to the signing of the Maseru Facilitation Declaration in October and the Maseru Security Accord in November.

Substantive progress has been made with the

signing of those agreements, resulting in:

- reconvening of parliament in October;
- dissolution of parliament in December;
- agreement to bring forward elections to February 2015



Lesotho Prime Minister T. Thabane (left) with SADC chair, President R.G. Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

on a date to be set by King Letsie III; and,

- three senior officers of the Lesotho Defence Force and Mounted Police Services taking leave of absence, with working visits to various African countries.

The agreement to hold early elections arose from decisions of the SADC Heads of State and Government to support the return of Lesotho to political normalcy and stabilising the security situation in the country.

This was ratified by all of Lesotho's political parties who signed

the Maseru Facilitation Declaration presented by the SADC observer mission led by Ramaphosa.

The country had its last elections in May 2012 and the next ones were scheduled for 2017.

Ramaphosa has made several visits to Maseru since the signing of the agreements, to address the political situation that was allegedly set off when Lesotho Prime Minister Thomas Thabane, facing a vote of no-confidence, suspended Parliament in June after challenges in the Coalition Government formed in 2012.

King Letsie III expressed his gratitude to SADC for facilitating the peace process in his country.

"On behalf of the Basotho nation, I would like to express our deep-rooted gratitude to SADC for expeditiously coming to our assistance at this critical moment in our political journey," the King said during the re-opening of Parliament in November.

The King told the 120-member chamber and invited guests – including Ramaphosa and SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax – that Basotho should put the interests of the country before any other interest as well as guard and nurture peace and reconciliation.

Ramaphosa has also said a peaceful, stable and secure environment is critical to the holding of successful elections in Lesotho next year.

"Critical for the holding of these brought-forward elections is the need to ensure the people of Lesotho are able to exercise their democratic right to vote in a peaceful, stable and secure environment," he said. r

Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania discuss border issues

THREE SOUTHERN African countries have concluded their annual review and planning meeting to reaffirm their international boundaries.

Delegates from Malawi, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania met in Dar es Salaam in December to discuss issues to do with their common boundaries.

The three countries, which have been engaged with the African Union Border Programme (AUBP) since 2008, were each represented by five members from relevant ministries dedicated to border issues.

The AUBP aims to facilitate the delimitation and demarcation of African borders where such an exercise has not yet taken place, as well as promote cross-border cooperation.

Speaking at the meeting, permanent secretary in the Tanzanian Ministry of Lands, Alphayo Kidata emphasised

the importance of implementing the border programme effectively in order to secure sustainable peace and development.

"To ensure the safety and security of future generations and in order to shift our focus more towards the development agenda, it is incumbent upon us to resolve our border disputes through greater cooperation and dialogue," he said.

The meeting reflected on the advancements achieved by SADC Member States in border delimitation and demarcation during the past year.

The meeting provided a platform for three countries to exchange experiences and lessons learnt arising from their joint border management activities.



One of the highlights of the meeting was the official hand-over of data from an aerial survey (LiDAR survey) that was carried out along the western Malawi-Mozambique boundary.

The boundary forms the basis of delimitation and demarcation of the border between the two countries and will enable them to proceed with demarcation in 2015." r



Smooth leadership transitions in SADC

RECENT ELECTIONS in southern Africa have once again shown that the region is capable of holding elections that are in conformity with national and regional principles while meeting international and regional standards. After successful polls in South Africa and Malawi in May, three other SADC Member States voted in crucial elections in October and November – Botswana, Mozambique and Namibia. Two of the elections were significant in that they produced new leaders for their countries. In both Mozambique and Namibia, the elections saw new presidents being elected, with the smooth leadership transition boosting SADC democracy credentials. r

Hage Geingob – Namibia's third president

SWAPO WON a landslide victory in general elections held in Namibia in November, with presidential candidate Hage Geingob winning 87 percent of the vote.

Geingob, now Prime Minister, will be sworn in as President of Namibia in March next year. He becomes the third president in Namibia since the country won its independence from South African apartheid occupation in March 1990 after 24 years of armed conflict.

Geingob takes over in March from Hifikepunye Pohamba who has been president since 2004. Sam Nujoma was the country's first post-independence president from March 1990.

According to final results announced by the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN), SWAPO secured 80 percent of the vote and 77 National Assembly seats in parliamentary elections held on November 28.

Its closest rival, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA), could only manage five seats while the Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP) secured three seats in the elections billed as Africa's first e-vote, in which electronic voting machines were used.

The remaining 11 seats were shared among the 13 other political parties that contested the elections.

Namibia uses a majority system for presidential elections, in which the candidate with more than 50 percent of the votes is declared the winner, and Proportional Representation (PR) is used for legislative elections.

Under the PR system, each political party submits a list of candidates and then the parties receive seats proportional to their overall share of the national vote.

In the last elections in 2009, SWAPO won 54 seats, with the RDP getting eight. The United Democratic Front of Namibia, National Unity Democratic Organization and the DTA, All People's Party, Congress of Democrats, Republican Party of Namibia and South West Africa National Union got one seat each.

Geingob defeated eight rivals by a landslide in a concurrent presidential poll, securing 87 percent of the valid votes cast. r

The BDP retains power in Botswana

BOTSWANA PRESIDENT Seretse Khama Ian Khama was reelected for a second and final term after his party secured a convincing victory in elections held on 24 October.

The ruling Botswana Democratic Party secured 33 of the 57 elected parliamentary seats while the opposition Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) got 14 seats and the Botswana Congress Party took two seats.

Botswana uses a constituency electoral system of first-past-the-post for the election of Members of Parliament (MPs). Elected MPs then act as an electoral college to choose the President.

The Botswana Parliament has 63 seats, of which 57 are filled through direct votes. There are four seats reserved for the majority party in Parliament, while the President and Attorney General are ex-officio members.

A number of political parties and independent candidates took part in the elections. In the last elections held in 2009, seven parties and 15 independent candidates took part in the elections, which saw the BDP win 45 of the 57 elected seats. r

Frelimo presidential candidate wins in Mozambique

ELECTIONS HELD in Mozambique on 15 October produced the fourth leader for the country since independence in 1975.

Former Defence Minister Filipe Nyussi of the ruling Frelimo party won the presidential race after garnering 57 percent of the vote.

This is the first transition to the post-war generation in Mozambique as Nyussi was too young to fight in the decade-long liberation war that ended Portuguese colonial occupation in 1975, although he has close links to the liberation struggle, in which his parents were both active.

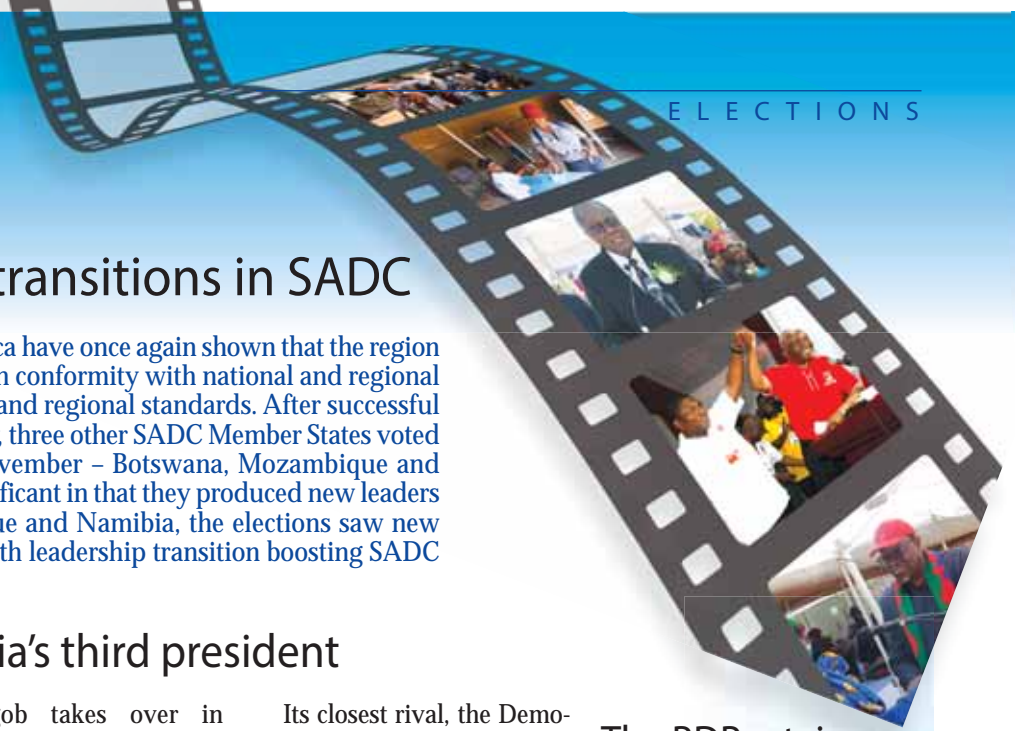
He becomes the first president to originate from the north of the vast country that

stretches 2,470 kilometres along the south-east coast of Africa.

He takes over from Armando Guebuza, who steps down as President in early 2015 after serving his second and final term in office as stipulated by the Mozambican constitution, although he remains President of the Frelimo party.

Opposition Renamo leader, Afonso Dhlakama garnered 37 percent of the votes (more than double the 16 percent he won in 2009), while Daviz Simango, leader of the Mozambique Democratic Movement (MDM), received 17 percent of the ballots cast.

Frelimo won the majority seats in the 250-member National Assembly with 144 seats. Renamo and MDM have 89 and 17 seats, respectively. r



2015 The Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063

"From Promises to Delivery"

A SADC knowledge network of regional and national gender partners has developed an action plan to strengthen support for the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development through a range of knowledge products, with the theme "From Promises to Delivery".

The network tracks regional targets such as that of 50:50 women and men in decision-making by 2015, and a range of other policies and targets for implementation under the Protocol, and produces the *SADC Gender Monitor* at two-year intervals, with the next edition due in 2015.

The initiative is driven by the SADC Gender Unit and the Beyond Inequalities Gender Institute, a part of the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC). The publications are available in print and online.

SARDC is a long-time knowledge partner for various SADC sectors. This partnership has resulted in reliable reference publications that are widely used in various countries in various ways, including policy makers, parliaments and universities, and has contributed to a process of generating awareness across borders towards gender equality in the region.

The action plan is part of a strategy review for an ongoing regional project titled *Beyond Inequalities* that reviews the status of women in the region, and the outlook, with a series of regional and national profiles to be updated for the third time since the Fourth World Women conference in Beijing in 1995.

This partnership supported the devel-

opment of the SADC gender declaration in 1997, and the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, and now supports the tracking of progress towards implementation, as the vision of "beyond inequalities" comes closer to reality.

The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development entered into force on 22 February 2013 after it was ratified by the requisite two-thirds of the SADC Member States. The Protocol has been signed by 13 Member States, except Botswana and Mauritius.

The strategy review meeting with SADC and national knowledge partners was designed to envision the work of the gender knowledge network for the next planning period in the context of tracking existing and emerging issues.

The strategy review took place in the context of Beijing +20, and the African Union declaration of 2015 as the "Year of Women's Empower-

ment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063".

The Regional Gender Knowledge Partners Strategy Review Workshop was organised by SARDC's Beyond Inequalities Gender Institute and funded by OSISA. The venue was Harare, as Zimbabwe is the current SADC chair and will next year become chair of the African Union.

Delivering the keynote address, the Head of the SADC Gender Unit, Magdeline Mathiba-Madibela, said the knowledge products produced by the network are an essential part of sharing progress and effective practices across borders throughout the SADC region.

The Secretariat is working with Member States to assist them to harmonise their gender laws and policies to the

Protocol, and Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles Swaziland, South Africa and Zambia have completed the process.

The SADC Secretariat also has an internal process of mainstreaming gender through focal points in all divisions, using the SADC Gender Mainstreaming Tool Kit which is designed to facilitate the integration of gender issues in all SADC policies, projects and activities to ensure that the working environment is gender-responsive and provides equal opportunities and treatment to both women and men.

Mathiba-Madibela stands down as head of the SADC Gender Unit at the end of 2014, after a decade long service that saw the development and entry into force of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. r

Ministers call for gender mainstreaming in water sector

MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE for water, sanitation, environment and development in Africa have adopted a declaration committing themselves to accelerating implementation of a continental policy and strategy for mainstreaming gender in the water sector.

The ministers, who met on the sidelines of a Gender and Water Conference held in East London, South Africa in November agreed to increase efforts to implement the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) policy and strategy for mainstreaming gender in the water sector on the continent.

The agreed measures include the establishment or

strengthening of national-level gender and water desks as well as a functional Gender Unit within the AMCOW Secretariat by 2015; and development of national targets and a monitoring and evaluation framework for each of the seven pillars of the AMCOW gender policy and strategy, including sex-disaggregated indicators for the African context by 2016.

Other measures include the need for annual reporting by Member States on progress on each of the seven pillars of the policy and strategy; harmonization of reporting on the AMCOW gender strategy with other gender-inclusive reporting commitments, and the proposed introduction of a

Gender Day during the bi-annual Africa Water Week from 2016 onwards.

Senior Programme Officer in the SADC Water Sector, Phera Ramoeli told the conference that a project on mainstreaming gender in transboundary water management was currently being implemented as one example of the SADC's contribution to realize gender mainstreaming in the water sector.

Delegates to the conference included representatives from community groups, civil society, development agencies, academia, and water governance and management institutions from each of the five sub-regions of Africa. □





Launch of Grand FTA set for December

by Kizito Sikuka

AFRICA'S LONGSTANDING vision foresees an integrated, prosperous and united continent.

This vision takes a step closer to reality in December 2014 with the launch of the largest integrated market covering 26 countries in eastern and southern Africa.

Commonly known as the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA), the integrated market will comprise the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and SADC.

The establishment of a single and enlarged market is expected to boost intra-regional trade and deepen regional integration through improved investment flows and enhanced competition.

In fact, this integrated arrangement will create a combined population of some 625 million people covering half of the member states of the African Union (AU) and a

Gross Domestic Product of about US\$1.2 trillion.

The proposed Grand FTA is scheduled for launch in December during a Tripartite Summit to be held in Egypt.

This follows a series of intense consultations and negotiations that have been going on since 2008 when the three regional economic communities made a commitment to jointly work together in regional integration during their historic summit held in Kampala, Uganda.

The commitment shown by the three economic communities has now proved fruitful as the Grand FTA is within sight of becoming a reality.

Meeting in Bujumbura, Burundi on 24-25 October, the Tripartite Sectoral Committee of COMESA-EAC-SADC ministers agreed to launch the Grand FTA in December, saying the region is now ready for an integrated market.

"The decision to launch the Tripartite FTA took into account the fact that the majority of the Tripartite Member/Partner States have made ambitious tariff offers and were agreed on Rules of Origin to be applied in the interim while further work continues on product specific Rules of Origin," COMESA Executive Secretary Sindiso Ngwenya said in a statement. Ngwenya is the chairperson of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Taskforce.

According to the roadmap developed by the three regional economic communities in June 2011 in Johannesburg, South Africa, the Grand FTA

was planned for launch in June 2014.

However, this was not possible due to a combination of factors including limited financial resources, as well as dragging negotiations over some major sticking points such as agreement on the rules of origin, trade remedies and dispute settlement, customs co-operation, documentation procedures and transit instruments.

Negotiations for the TFTA have been conducted in three different phases – the preparatory phase, phase one and phase two.

The preparatory phase mainly covered the exchange of all relevant information including tariffs including applied national tariffs as well as trade data and measures.

Phase one of negotiations covered core FTA issues of tariff liberalization, rules of origin, customs procedures and simplification of customs documentation, transit procedures among other issues.

Facilitating movement of business persons within the region was negotiated in parallel with the first phase.

The last stage of negotiations, which is phase two, deals with trade in services and trade-related issues including intellectual property rights and trade development and competitiveness.

Negotiations under this phase are ongoing and nearing completion in time for the historic launch of the Grand FTA in December.

Plans to establish Africa's largest integrated market are

being followed keenly by the AU and other regional economic communities on the continent that want to learn from this experience.

Under the African Economic Community Treaty signed in 1991, Africa aims to establish a continent-wide FTA and the pending single market is regarded as one of the building blocks for the continental target.

Therefore, once operational, the TFTA will be used as a benchmark for deeper regional and continental integration in Africa.

In fact, the AU Commission considers the tripartite arrangement as a "best practice" that other regional communities should emulate towards the realization of Africa's vision of an integrated, prosperous and united continent.

"The COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite arrangement represent best practice that the other RECs are encouraged to emulate in order to accelerate the harmonization of their programmes and activities," reads part of the latest report on the Status of Integration in Africa released by the AU Commission.

The tripartite agreement is not a new legal structure, neither is it a new regional economic community. Rather it is an attempt to merge the different regional organizations into the African Economic Community.

COMESA, EAC and SADC have all pledged to make the tripartite arrangement a success. sardc.net





by Joseph Ngwawi

ACCESS TO clean sustainable energy has become part of the international development agenda during the past two decades, reflecting the global recognition of the important role that energy plays in the delivery of basic services and in generating jobs and income.

Widely regarded as the “Missing Millennium Development Goal (MDG)”, energy has a direct impact on the welfare of people, facilitating the supply of water and fuelling agricultural output, helping in the delivery of health and education, creating job and contributing to overall environmental sustainability.

According to the African Development Bank (AfDB), the region has the potential to become a “gold mine” for renewable energy due to the abundant solar and wind resources that are now hugely sought after by international investors in their quest for clean energy.

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

The SADC region is also hugely endowed with watercourses such as the Congo and Zambezi, with the Inga Dam situated on the Congo River having the potential to produce about 40,000 MW of electricity, according to SAPP.

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

However, at present there are low levels of Renewable Energy (RE) penetration and use across the region. This is largely attributed to a lack of effective legislative and regulatory frameworks that would support market development.

There is overwhelming evidence of underutilisation of RE across the region in spite of there being abundant resources to produce RE.

For instance, research has shown that most countries in southern Africa receive more than 2,500 hours of sunshine per year. This is

Renewable energy Future of SADC energy sector

because the SADC region, and in fact the whole of Africa, has sunshine all year round.

In the majority of cases, RE projects, particularly those involving more than one SADC Member State, often take long to get off the ground. This is partly attributed to the challenges associated with cross-border trade as national interests have the tendency to prevail over regional energy needs.

There is, therefore, need to adopt measures to stimulate the uptake of RE products and technologies. Such measures include making it compulsory for the electricity industry to purchase RE or supply a certain proportion of their energy from renewable sources as well as the development of a guaranteed market.

There is also need for a harmonized sub-regional RE framework that will, among other things, result in the reduction of investment costs in RE technologies and improved reliability of the quality of new and renewable energy services.

With all their advantages, solar systems are not cheap to install; a typical home system in the region costs anywhere between US\$500 and US\$1,000, according to the AfDB.

There is also need to emphasize the importance of community participation in the development of RE products and technologies to ensure ownership and acceptance of the new sources of energy.

Community participation is key to building an empowered society and adds value through the infusion of indigenous knowledge systems into the RE sector.

It is in light of this that the SADC region is developing a centre to promote the uptake of RE products and technologies.

The proposed SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) is expected to increase the uptake of clean energy in southern Africa, enabling the region to address its energy challenges.

It will, among other things, promote market-based adoption of RE 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, which will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the centre.

The management team will be headed by an executive director appointed by the executive board and will consist of various levels of permanent staff to be complemented by consultants and seconded international staff as may be deemed necessary from time to time.

At least five countries are vying for the right to host the centre. Bids to host the



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2018 the critical date for energy integration, meanwhile more load-shedding

SACREEE have been received from Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. South Africa's bid is, however, subject to parliamentary approval.

Establishment of SACREEE, including the choice of the host country, is awaiting the holding of the annual SADC Energy Ministers meeting.

The Energy Ministers meeting was scheduled for September, but was postponed after Malawi said it was not able to host the meeting due to various challenges. Mauritius has been approached to serve as alternative host.

The decision of the ministers would be forwarded to the SADC Council in February 2015, which would give final approval.

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 composition of the executive board and technical committee will be agreed upon by member states.

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. r

THE SOUTHERN African Power Pool says all countries in SADC need to have an integrated approach to address power constraints in the region by 2018, but in the meantime, load-shedding will continue.

The Coordination Centre Manager of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), Dr Lawrence Musaba, said that targets for 2014 are likely to be missed due to lack of investment and delayed implementation of regional power projects.

"Between now and 2018 load-shedding in the region will continue due to lack of implementation and delays in implementing other projects in the region."

Addressing delegates at the Regional Energy Regulators Association (RERA) for Southern Africa meeting in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, Musaba said the region was expecting to commission 2,896 Megawatts (MW) this year, but the target is likely to be missed.

"Power deficits in SADC started in 2007 and at the moment we're commissioning projects that generate 1,100 megawatts yearly while the demand for energy is rising," Musaba said.

"Our planned generation for the period 2014-2018 stands at 28,000 MW. By 2016, we should be getting out of the deficit if the projects are implemented. There is need for the region to implement the planned projects."

SAPP is constituted by 12 mainland SADC Member States who together manage a regional energy grid, although some countries are not yet inter-connected. r

SADC renewable energy context

OPPORTUNITIES AND the importance of renewable energy are widely acknowledged within the SADC region.

Renewable energy, which is abundant in the region, is energy that is continuously and sustainably available such as wind, solar, biomass and hydropower.

On the other hand, energy based on fossil fuels is still available at affordable cost. This is the case with coal-based power from South Africa.

Development of a harmonized regional policy framework for new and renewable energy has been identified as an important step towards realization of SADC's goal of achieving the balance between meeting the region's energy needs and ensuring sustainability of the environment.

SADC is working on a draft Regional Renewable Energy Strategy, which seeks to promote the uptake of clean energy and ensure that southern Africa takes advantage of the numerous renewable energy opportunities that exist in the region.

According to the Energy Division of the SADC Directorate on Infrastructure and Services, almost all SADC Member States have energy policies in place while only three have so far developed renewable energy policies. These are Namibia, South Africa and Zambia.

SADC data also shows that only Mauritius, South Africa and Zambia presently have renewable energy strategies in place while Mauritius is the only Member State with an existing renewable energy master plan. r

Energy infrastructure development

A key pillar of Revised RISDP

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT – including in the energy sector – is one of the top priorities to be pursued under the revised SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP).

The Revised RISDP, which was presented to the SADC Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in August, 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 infra-

structure support for regional integration.

Energy is a critical area of this pillar of the Revised RISDP and considerable preparatory work has been done in this area to develop enabling policies, systems and processes that will greatly facilitate project preparation as well as help to attract private sector investments and further promote public-private partnerships.

Head of the SADC Directorate on Infrastructure and Service, Remigius Makumbe reiterated SADC's commitment to supporting the energy sector.

"The power sector remains key to the regional integration agenda and there is, therefore, a call for the ICPs (International Cooperating Partners) to align their programmes to the key regional priorities," Makumbe said.

Energy Ministers meeting deferred

THE ANNUAL meeting of SADC Energy Ministers has been postponed to a later date. The meeting provides an opportunity for energy ministers to review the power situation in the region in an effort to ensure that supply and demand are evenly matched.

Traditionally held in March/April each year, the meeting was first postponed to September to allow the host country, Malawi, to hold its general elections in May.

Malawi had indicated that it was unable to host the meeting a few months after the polls which produced a new government.

Mauritius, being next country in alphabetical order of 15-

member regional body, has been approached to host the energy ministers meeting, with no confirmation as yet.

A number of issues, including the establishment of a SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, will be discussed at the meeting. Other issues on the agenda are the status of implementation of key decisions made at the last meeting held Lesotho in 2013 as well as some of the priority projects.

The decisions of the energy ministers' meeting will be forwarded to the SADC Council of Ministers for final approval as their next meeting set for February 2015. r

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.

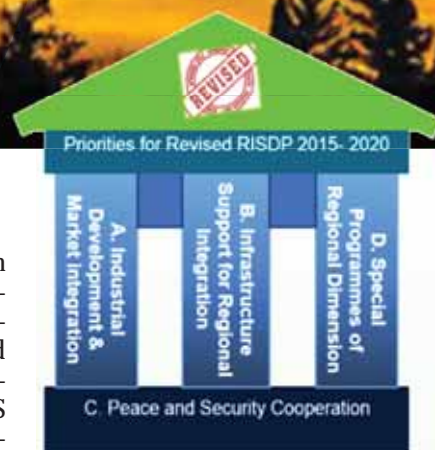
The RISDP is a 15-year strategic plan approved by SADC leaders in 2003 as the main blueprint for regional integration and development.

The plan has over the past few years undergone a review process, starting with a desk review that was undertaken by the SADC Secretariat in 2011.

In August 2013, the Council of Ministers directed the SADC Secretariat to work with Member States in setting up a multi-stakeholder task force with the responsibility to finalize the process of review of the RISDP.

The task force had a series of meetings in 2014 to propose new priorities; main focal areas; milestones; outputs; targets and timeframes for the remainder of the implementation period.

The result of this work is the Revised RISDP (2015-2020) that was presented for approval to the Council of Ministers and heads of state and government during the 34th SADC Summit in Zimbabwe in August. r



Tanzania to invest in geothermal power



THE UNITED Republic of Tanzania is exploring the possibilities of investing heavily in renewable energy, especially geothermal power.

Assistant Commissioner for Renewable Energy in the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Edward Ishengoma said the country has vast geothermal reserves, and once all these sources are explored, Tanzania would be in a position to sell surplus power to neighbouring countries.

He said Tanzania had at least 50 identified geothermal sources dotted across the country, which are yet to be explored.

"We want to effectively utilise all potential sources of power available in the country, including geothermal, he said.

It is estimated that the geothermal potential of Tanzania is worth more than 650 Megawatts (MW), most of which is located within the East African Rift System. *Tanzania Daily News* r



ENERGY

MoZiSa transmission line to boost power trading in SADC

by Kizito Sikuka

CONSTRUCTION OF a new power transmission line linking Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe is expected to improve connectivity and electricity trading in southern Africa.

Commonly referred to as the Mozambique-Zimbabwe-South Africa (MoZiSa) Transmission Project, the venture involves the three countries who are all linked to the regional grid.

Namibia to have first solar park

NAMIBIA IS expected to have its first solar power park in early 2015 that will produce about 4.5 megawatts of electricity.

According to reports, the US\$10.8 million Omburu Solar Park, owned by French investor InnoSun, is situated about five kilometres south of Omaruru and is the first renewable energy project in Namibia by an independent power producer (IPP).

Occupying some 15 hectares of land, the park will comprise about 30,000 solar panels that are on self-adjusting "tracker" mountings, which allow them to face the sun all day long, according to InnoSun.

Namibian Mines and Energy Minister Isak Katali said the project was one of the initiatives by the SADC Member State to harness its abundant renewable energy resources.

"We will continue to support InnoSun because they have realised their plans," he added. r

All the power utilities in mainland SADC, with the exception of Angola, Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania, are interconnected through the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), allowing them to sell electricity to one another through a competitive market.

In this regard, the MoZiSa transmission project has the capacity to improve access to power through the regional grid, allowing the smooth transfer of electricity between and among SADC member states.

According to SAPP, the MoZiSa project is being supported by the respective utilities of the three countries, namely *Electricidade de Moçambique (EDM)*, Eskom of South Africa and the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA).

The three utilities have since entered into a memorandum of understanding to develop the interconnector and have formed three joint project development teams. The joint teams – a steering committee, technical committee and commercial committee – have been tasked with spearheading the implementation process, which will be coordinated by 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.

Southern Africa considers the development of transmission lines as critical to addressing the energy deficit situation in the region, which dates back to 2007 when SADC ran out of excess electricity generation capacity and many regional transmission lines were becoming congested.

As such, the MoZiSa interconnector will complement

other regional transmission lines and facilitate power transfers within the SAPP network.

Furthermore, it will increase stability in the power pool through additional interconnection between the strong network in the South and the weak network in the North of the region, which has been a source of SAPP grid instability.

As part of the MoZiSa project, there will be various separate developments to complement the project to ensure that the MoZiSa interconnector is a success.

For example, in Zimbabwe there will be a new substation at Triangle and another one at Orange Grove.

Between Zimbabwe and South Africa, the Triangle-Nzhelele interconnector will be built with a 400kV line that stretches 275 kilometres. A new 400kV line bay at Nzhelele substation is also expected to be constructed.

Other major developments are being proposed between Zimbabwe and Mozambique. For example, a 185km-long 400kV line will be developed interconnecting Orange Grove in Zimbabwe to the Inchope Interconnector in Mozambique.

Furthermore, a new 400/220kV Inchope Substation in Mozambique will be established, while a 360km long 400kV Inchope-Matambo line and a 400kV that stretches 115km will be constructed at Matambo-Songo.

SAPP has since received funding from the Project Preparation Feasibility Study Fund (PPFS), which is supported by the Development Bank of Southern Africa and Agence Française de

Développement, to be used to carry out a scoping study for the preparation of the MoZiSa transmission project.

A call for consulting services was made in August to carry out a scoping and conceptualisation study that includes reviewing the initial technical studies and work already done by the three utilities and advise on the technical work on the proposed transmission lines.

The work will focus on assessing the high level the risks inherent in the project at various stages of development.

"These preparatory activities would enable the project sponsors and SAPP and funders to take the necessary and informed decisions regarding funding for the Bankable Feasibility Study of the projects," reads part of the terms of reference for the consulting services for scoping study for the MoZiSa transmission project.

The expressions of interest for the consulting services closed on 10 September, and SAPP is expected to announce the winning candidates soon.

The announcement will be an important step towards commencement of the implementation of the MoZiSa transmission project. sardc.net r





SADC calls for unity to help vulnerable people

SADC EXECUTIVE Secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax has called on the international community to dedicate efforts and resources towards helping vulnerable communities and countries to deal with natural disasters.

Dr Tax made the call at the World Humanitarian Summit regional consultation for southern and eastern Africa held in Pretoria, South Africa in late October.

"Notwithstanding the existing SADC Disaster Risk Reduction Structure, we need to be cognizant of the changing landscape and emerging realities, and thus forge a regional approach which takes into ac-

count the diverse nature of humanitarian challenges that is linked to a global approach and responding to unique humanitarian challenges faced by individual countries and communities," she said.

She said the region should start strategizing now and "not wait until 2016 Istanbul Summit to make the changes that need to be made now".

On the Ebola virus that has affected a number of countries in West Africa, the SADC executive secretary said the global community should work together to combat the deadly virus.

She said that Ebola has threatened not only the human

lives, "but has taken a toll on affected countries' economies and put a huge strain on the already weak health systems."

"Perhaps the most lethal dimension of this scourge is its potential to undo the achievements made so far in Africa. So divisive is Ebola that most countries have adopted protectionist policies that undermine Africa's collective power and the whole aspiration of free movement of people, goods and services," she said.

"Indeed this needs to be relooked at with a view of addressing and combating Ebola in unity of purpose and collective efforts." r

Mauritius to implement a coastal adaptation programme

MAURITIUS HAS secured a grant from the Adaptation Fund for the implementation of a programme on climate change adaptation in the coastal areas of the country over the next six years.

The Climate Change Adaptation Programme in the Coastal Zone of Mauritius aims to increase climate resilience of communities and livelihoods in coastal areas, mainly through measures to protect vulnerable coastal ecosystem and community features at Mon Choisy and Rivière des Galets, as well the development and implementation of an early warning system for incoming surges on Mauritius.

Speaking at an inception workshop of the project, Mauritian Environment and Sustainable Development Minister, Devanand Virah-sawmy, said as a Small Island Developing State, Mauritius is particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, especially along the coast where accelerating sea levels and the frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones can result in considerable economic loss and environmental degradation.

The project is expected to assist the coastal communities in addressing the adverse effects of climate change through the implementation of climate-resilient development measures.

He said the government has also adopted a proactive approach to building resilience to climate change. r

UN, SADC sign agreement on disaster management

THE UNITED Nations and SADC have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that establishes a framework for cooperation to

strengthen the regional disaster response mechanism in southern Africa.

The agreement was signed by the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax and the UN under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs who is also the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Baroness Valerie Amos, in Pretoria, South Africa in October.

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

The agreement aims to support an enabling environment for sustainable development in the region.

Most SADC countries are vulnerable to a range of natural disasters, particularly floods during the rainy season, and when these natural disasters occur, life may be lost and property destroyed. r



AU develops African Regional Integration Index

THE AFRICAN Union Commission has teamed up with the African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission to pro-

duce an Africa Regional Integration Index.

The Index is the first systematic, quantitative and continent-wide monitoring system for

regional integration in Africa, and is designed to track the progress of African countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) towards

achieving their shared regional integration goals.

This will track and document the impacts of regional integration in Africa, and present the case for deeper integration.

The Index to be produced by March 2015 is expected to help countries and RECs to identify gaps and make informed policy decisions on how best to bridge those gaps and arrive at their regional integration aspirations and commitments. *r*

New transmission line to link eastern, southern Africa

AN AGREEMENT has been signed to construct a new power transmission line that will allow countries in eastern Africa to share surplus electricity with those in southern Africa.

The new transmission line will effectively link the United Republic of Tanzania to the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) – a development that will see the country participating in the SADC competitive energy trading market, which enables countries to benefit from any new power generation implemented in other Member States.

All the power utilities in mainland SADC, with the exception of Angola, Malawi and

Tanzania, are interconnected through SAPP.

The new transmission link, commonly known as the Zambia-Kenya-Tanzania power interconnector project, will link the Eastern African Power Pool to SAPP.

Zambia, Kenya and Tanzania signed a US\$1.2 billion Memorandum of Understanding in December, which, among other things, set out principles that underline the relationship among the three countries.

According to the agreement, the project is expected to start in December 2015 and be completed by December 2018. Once completed, the project would promote electricity

trade, enhance security of electricity supply and foster regional trade, as well as stimulate investment in power generation to meet the increased demand from the large market that would be created by interconnecting the two sub-regions. *r*

Zimbabwe to establish bank for women

ZIMBABWE HAS approved the establishment of a bank for women to ease and facilitate access by women to financial resources and services.

Finance and Economic Development Minister, Patrick Chinamasa said the bank will improve credit availability to women to support their enterprises and income-generating projects.

“ZimAsset recognises that women are an integral part of Zimbabwe’s socio-economic transformation,” he said. “In this regard, facilitating their access to credit through formal institutions will overcome their financial exclusion.”

He said a total of US\$5 million has already been set aside for the bank’s capitalisation in support of women’s entrepreneurship.

A further US\$400,000 was allocated to training programmes to strengthen financial literacy and business skills. *The Chronicle r*

Seychelles joins WTO

SEYCHELLES HAS signed the accession protocol to become a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Finance Trade and Investment Minister Pierre Laporte signed the protocol in December, meaning that the island nation will now become the 161st member of the WTO.

The signing ceremony followed the approval of the Seychelles’ accession package, including the accession protocol by the WTO’s General Council in Geneva, Switzerland.

According to the Ministry of Finance, Trade and Investment, ratification is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2015.

WTO membership is set to bring several benefits to the country, and Laporte noted that reforms that had to be undertaken during the accession process have helped bring the country’s laws and policies at par with best international standards.

“Seychelles now has a platform which provides the country, as a small island nation, with an equal opportunity as its large counterparts to make its voice heard on trade issues,” he said. *Seychelles News Agency r*

Harmonizing standards key to regional development

SADC HAS the capacity boost trade and deepen integration if Member States work together to harmonize standards on trade and services.

Zambian Commerce, Trade and Industry permanent secretary Siazongo Siakalenge said this at a recent SADC Standardisation (SADCSTAN) training workshop on standards harmonisation and the development of technical committee business plans held in Lusaka, Zambia.

He said it is important for the region to maintain harmonized standards in a transparent manner through the

application of the SADCSTAN harmonization procedure for the benefit of all SADC Member States.

“We are committed to the SADC Protocol on Trade and it is positive that the recently amended technical barriers to trade annex to the protocol will enhance the operations of the SADC standardisation, quality assurance, accreditation and metrology structures, which is aimed at fostering the liberalisation of intra-region trades in goods and services in the region,” he said. *Zambia Daily Mail r*



SADC, Germany strengthen cooperation

SADC AND Germany have agreed to work together to support efforts to deepen regional integration in southern Africa.

The SADC Secretariat and a delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany successfully concluded consultations in November on the future of SADC-German cooperation.

Both sides recognized the significance and value-addition of more than 20 years of cooperation and the commitment of about €300 million by the German government in that period, for SADC programmes and projects.

Based on the SADC Treaty and Protocols, the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the Revised Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO), both sides agreed on the objective of "Supporting the Deepening of Regional Integration for the Benefit of the People in the SADC Region."

Specific areas of cooperation will be regional economic integration; transboundary water management; peace, security and good governance; transboundary use and protection of natural resources and resilience to climate change; and SADC organizational capacity development.

Within the various areas, increased importance will be given to support SADC's priorities of industrial development and infrastructure in the region.

Both SADC and Germany emphasised the importance of engaging in joint programmes with other International Coop-

eration Partners to strengthen synergies and avoid duplications and overlaps.

As a first important step toward that goal, a representative of the European Union delegation in Gaborone participated throughout the consultations as an observer.

The results of the consultations will guide future German commitments and prepare for the next round of SADC-German negotiations to be held in Gaborone in June 2015.

At the signing ceremony of the summary record, German ambassador to Botswana and

Observer to SADC, Rolf Ulrich, announced further German commitments to SADC.

In 2014, the German government has made an additional €26 million available to SADC to carry out the following programmes:

- Peace, Security and Good Governance (€ 3 million);
- Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources in the SADC region (€8 million);

- Regional Fund for Water Supply and Basic Sanitation (€ 10 million); and,
- Transfrontier Conservation Area Greater Limpopo (€5 million).

SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax confirmed the importance of the longstanding German support that is contributing towards the implementation of the SADC Common Agenda. r

SADC executive secretary thanks ICPs for support to CCARDESA



SADC EXECUTIVE Secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax has thanked international cooperating partners for assisting the agricultural research centre to launch a grant facility.

Speaking at the launch of the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) Grant Facility in Gaborone in November, Dr Tax said the region would not have made significant advances in the area of agriculture and natural resources development without the assistance of its friends and development partners.

"We therefore wish to convey our gratitude to the development partners for this assistance and hope they will

continue to extend a friendly hand to CCARDESA for it to deliver on its important mandate," she said.

The SADC Executive Secretary paid tribute to the European Union for facilitating the provision of the CCARDESA Grant facility.

CCARDESA is a sub-regional research organisation established by SADC Member States to facilitate coordination and cooperation in agricultural research and development in the SADC region for purposes of promoting technology generation, dissemination and adoption, in support of improved regional food security and livelihoods.

The centre's activities are funded by the EU under the

10th European Development Fund (EDF).

Since its establishment in 2011, CCARDESA has developed a Medium Term Operational Plan (MTOP) through which it implements its activities.

Early this year CCARDESA launched a call for proposals on collaborative research and development projects. Project beneficiaries to be funded from the CCARDESA Grants Facility include universities, agricultural research institutes, private companies and non-governmental organizations from the region.

The objective of the launch is to inform the public of the important milestones for CCARDESA in supporting regional research. r

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December
1-12, Peru**UNFCCC COP 20**

The 20th Conference of Parties (COP 20) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meets in Peru to continue negotiations towards a global consensus on addressing the impacts of climate change. While progress has been made towards a binding agreement, deep divisions remain on the way forward, particularly on such issues as carbon emission levels, climate finance, technology, and capacity for adaptation and risk management.

2-7,
Zimbabwe**6th Zanu-PF National People's Congress**

Zimbabwe's governing party holds an elective congress to review its policy agenda and choose its top leadership. The congress, which is held every five years, will discuss the way forward on key issues.

8-12,
Zimbabwe**Regional Electricity Regulators Association Annual Meetings**

The annual meetings will bring together participants from regulators, power utilities, independent power producers, policy makers, development financial institutions, the media, consumers, project developers, and international cooperating and development partners to discuss ways to nurture a regional electricity market that is efficient, sustainable, harmonised and able to attract investment.

9-10, Ethiopia

Expert Group on Strengthening Sub-regional Coordination Mechanisms in Support of the African Union

The Expert Group will review and contribute to a handbook on "Strengthening Coordination Capacity at Sub-regional Level" which will cover the effective harmonization and efficient coordination of UN system support to Africa's development, in the context of the programme priorities of the AU as well as the Regional Economic Communities.

10, Mauritius

Mauritius Parliamentary Elections

The parliamentary elections in Mauritius will see two coalitions competing to secure a majority of seats in the National Assembly. The Labour Party and the Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM) make up the first coalition. The second brings together the Militant Socialist Movement (MSM) and the Parti Mauricien Social Democrite (PMSD).

11,
South Africa**Africa Forum of former African Heads of State**

The network of former African Heads of State and Government and other African leaders is designed to support the implementation of the broad objectives of the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) at national, sub-regional and regional levels.

January
19-22, United
Arab Emirates**World Future Energy Summit 2015**

The summit will be dedicated to renewable energies, energy efficiency and clean technologies. WFES 2015 will present energy stakeholders with a unique opportunity to meet with their peers, exchange technology, share best practice and form business partnerships.

20, Zambia

Presidential By-Election

Zambians will go to the polls on 20 January to elect a new leader following the death of President Michael Sata on 28 October 2014. The last election which Sata won was held on 23 September 2011

30-31,
Ethiopia**24th Ordinary Session of the African Union**

African Heads of State and Government will gather for the 24th Ordinary Session of the African Union, preceded by technical meetings of officials. The theme for 2015 is "Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063". Zimbabwe is expected to become the chair of the African Union at this Summit, on behalf of southern Africa.

February
9-13,
Cote d'Ivoire**Third Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration**

The objective of the conference is to mobilize Member States to generate authentic civil registration records in realization of human and civil rights, identity management and efficient service delivery, and production of vital statistics for planning and monitoring development.

17-18,
South Africa**African Energy Indaba 2015**

The Indaba will bring together international and continental experts to share insights and solutions to Africa's energy crisis, while simultaneously exploring the vast energy development opportunities on offer for Africa.

40 years

1974 – 2014

Cahora Bassa Dam Symbol of Mozambique independence

DECEMBER 2014 marks the 40th anniversary of the completion of construction of the Cahora Bassa Dam and hydroelectric scheme in Mozambique

The dam began to fill in December 1974 after the construction commenced in 1969 by Portugal and apartheid South Africa.

The Cahora Bassa system is the largest hydroelectric scheme in southern Africa, with the powerhouse containing five 415 MW turbines.

The system includes two converter stations, one at Songo in Mozambique and another at Apollo in South Africa. There are two parallel power lines between these two stations, covering 1,400 km, of which 900 km is on Mozambican territory.

The main motive for the construction of the dam was to meet the growing electricity needs of apartheid South Africa, a development that saw Pretoria sourcing electricity at very low tariffs to build and strengthen its economy.

Cahora Bassa was the last major Portuguese investment in Mozambique that did not fall into Mozambican hands at independence in 1975, under the leadership of the late president Samora Machel.

The main reason for the non-nationalisation of the dam was an understanding emanating from the Lusaka Accord signed in 1974 for a ceasefire in the liberation war fought by Frelimo against Portuguese occupation of Mozambique.

The understanding was that the ownership structure of the dam-operating company, *Hidroeléctrica de Cahora Bassa (HCB)*, would eventually be altered after some years as the Portuguese and South African governments recouped on the investment made for this massive infrastructure project.

Until October 2006, the Portuguese state held 82 percent of the shares and its Mozambican counterpart held 18 percent. This was the ownership structure at the time the company was set up in June 1975 when Mozambique became independent.

After years of negotiations hampered by European Union regulations, Mozambique and Portugal signed in Lisbon on 2 November 2005 a Memorandum of Understanding that would substantially alter the ownership structure of HCB.

However, implementation of the MoU was delayed because Eurostat, the European Union statistics agency, was still investigating the deal to verify whether EU rules on budget deficits had been complied with by Portugal.

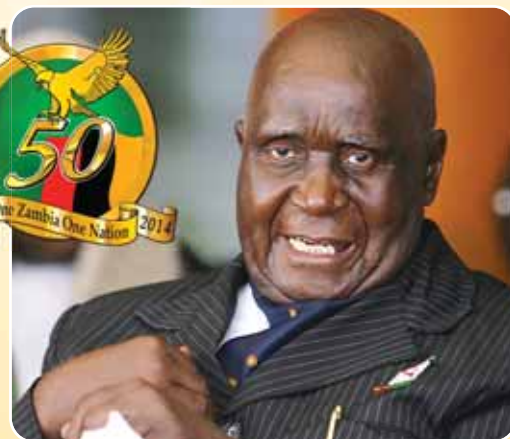
Eurostat's initially viewed the deal as debt forgiveness – under EU rules, debt write-off enters the book as transfer of capital, which meant that it would burgeon the Portuguese budget deficit.

The deal stated that Portugal would write off over half the estimated US\$2 billion it claimed HCB owed its treasury, and instead collect US\$950 million from Mozambique by selling two-thirds of the dam. The new ownership structure would leave Mozambique to hold 85 percent of the HCB shares, with the remaining 15 percent for Portugal.

The delay in implementing the MoU bred some impatience on the Mozambican side, as noted by President Armando Guebuza after the signing ceremony.

Clearly, control of the dam was a first step towards “speeding up our journey to achieve the well-being of Mozambicans,” Guebuza said.

The HCB is currently selling power to South Africa, Zimbabwe and others through the regional grid, but the tariffs are very different due to the historical agreements made between Portugal and South Africa. r



Kaunda reflects on Zambia @50

“WELL, IF we don't handle the question of future unity properly we could lose something of importance. All our leaders are talking about political unity, and looking into the future of African unity, and that's why we said we see here in Zambia, Michael Sata, he is talking about that, I have written to 13 presidents about the importance of building unity, including through friends such as China, and these shows we are still friends as the OAU intended, as we fight Africa's challenges.” – **Zambia's first post-independence President Kenneth Kaunda when asked, in an interview to commemorate his country's 50th independence anniversary in October, about what he thought was the most important issue African leaders should talk about.**

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

December 2014 - February 2015

8 December	Immaculate Conception	Seychelles
9 December	<i>Incwala</i> Day	Swaziland
9 December	Independence Day	Tanzania
10 December	International Human Rights Day	Namibia
16 December	Day of Reconciliation	South Africa
22 December	National Unity Day	Zimbabwe
25 December	Christmas	All SADC except Angola and Mozambique
	Family Day	Angola, Mozambique
26 December	Day of Goodwill	South Africa
	Family Day	Namibia
	Boxing Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
1 January	New Year's Day	SADC
2 January	Public Holiday	Botswana, Mauritius, Seychelles
3 January	Maulid Day	Tanzania
4 January	Martyrs Day	DRC
12 January	Zanzibar Revolution Day	Tanzania
15 January	John Chilembwe Day	Malawi
16 January	Heroes Day (Laurent Kabila)	DRC
17 January	Heroes Day (Patrice Lumumba)	DRC
1 February	Abolition of Slavery Day	Mauritius
3 February	Thaipoosam Cavadee	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes Day	Mozambique
4 February	National Armed Struggle Day	Angola
17 February	Maha Shivaratree	Mauritius
19 February	Chinese Spring Festival	Mauritius