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Full energy recovery by 2013

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THE SOUTHERN African region is expected to fully recover from current crippling energy shortages in 2013 when it will enjoy the desired surplus power generation capacity.

However, this would only happen if all short term generation projects are implemented by SADC Member States as per agreed plans, according to the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

SAPP is a 12-member regional body that coordinates the planning, generation, transmission and marketing of electricity on behalf of Member State utilities in SADC.

The power utilities in mainland SADC Member

States, with the exception of Angola, Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania, are interconnected through SAPP, allowing them to sell electricity to one another through a competitive market.

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

As a stopgap measure, SAPP has been impressing upon member utilities to implement demand-side management policies that

have to some extent succeeded in restraining overall demand in the region. For example, a minus one percent growth in peak demand was recorded in 2008 as compared to 2007.

As of April 2009, SAPP had a total installed capacity of 55,927 Megawatts (MW) while 48,649MW were available for use by member utilities. And for the actual interconnected SAPP grid, the installed capacity during the same period was 53,445MW with only 46,772MW as the available capacity, leaving a deficit of 6,673MW between the installed and the available capacity.

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Full energy recovery by 2013

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The mismatch between installed capacity and available capacity arises from several factors including rehabilitation and regular remedial maintenance, as well as fuel supply challenges in some cases.

SADC's main sources of electricity generation are coal, hydro, nuclear and diesel.

During the course of 2009, SAPP expects member utilities to commission projects that will add 2,187MW to the regional grid.

The power will come from South Africa's Eskom, which is to commission a total of 1,729MW from six plants. Zimbabwe's ZESA will weigh in with 100MW from its Hwange Thermal rehabilitation project, Angola's ENE, 83MW from the Lobito gas, DRC's SNEL, 215MW from the rehabilitation of Inga 1 and 2, TANESCO of Tanzania, 45MW from Tegeta Gas; and Zambia's ZESCO will add 15MW from Kariba North Hydro rehabilitation.

Last year, a total of 1,442MW were added to the grid against a planned target of 2,014MW.

On the basis of current load forecast, and barring any demand side management measures, the SADC region is set to continue with the precarious generation deficit until 2013 when the situation should ease, provided planned generation projects are implemented on time.

However, with load management measures such as demand side management, the situation may significantly improve, leading to less need for load shedding from 2009.

Based on global practices, SAPP requires a 10.2 percent reserve margin at any time. This desired reserve margin is required to guarantee system reliability and allow for unexpected surges in demand for power and maintenance requirements that may occur from time to time.

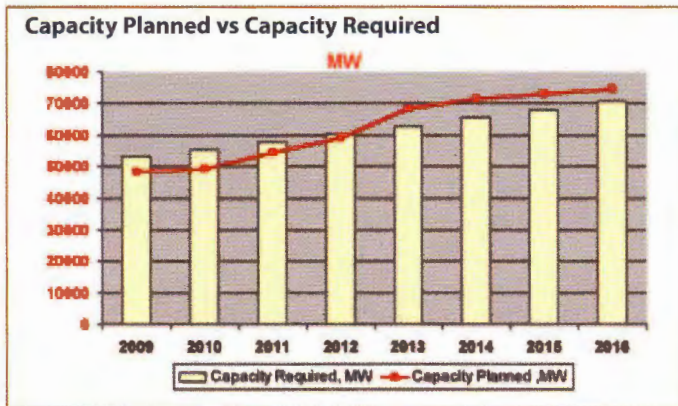
To achieve sustainable power supply in the short, medium to long term, SAPP has developed a Pool Plan covering the period 2008 to 2020 based on two scenarios.

One scenario, which is called the Base Case would add more power to the region but relies heavily on more expensive options such as coal-fired generation. The second scenario or the Alternative Case, is based on least cost whereby high cost coal generation is replaced by low cost options such as hydro and gas generation.

The Alternative Case would add a total of 57,000MW by 2020 at a cost of US\$83 billion. This would mean adding 8,400MW less thermal and 5,600MW more hydro than the Base Case while the corresponding total cost would be significantly lower.

The Alternative Case does not consider nuclear power generation as an option.

Perhaps most significantly, the Pool Plan underscores the benefits arising from pursuing projects collectively as a region rather than individual Member States. Going this route would not only result in better coordination and optimization but total cost savings of US\$48 billion over the planning horizon.



As such, the plan recommends that current self sufficiency policies of some utilities should be reviewed to encourage regional development and integration.

The plan urges Member States to accelerate the interconnecting of Malawi and Tanzania to the regional grid. It further advocates for what it calls a central transmission corridor from

the DRC to South Africa through Zambia and Zimbabwe to ease congestion and widen options.

While SAPP can recommend least cost and best case scenarios based on its technical expertise, the onus lies with Member State utilities to approach investors and implement identified projects if the region is to meet its energy targets. r

Projects to be Commissioned in 2009

No	Utility	Country	Name	Type	Units	Capacity (MW)	
1	SNEL	DRC	Inga 1 & 2 Rehab	Hydro	1	215	
2	ENE	Angola	Lobito	Gas	1	83	
3	Eskom	South Africa	OCGT	Gas	4	1050	
4	Eskom	South Africa	Groovtvei	Thermal	1	565	
5	Eskom	South Africa	Komati	Thermal	1	114	
6	ZESA	Zimbabwe	Hwange	Thermal	1	100	
7	ZESCO	Zambia	Kariba North	Hydro	1	15	
8	TANESCO	Tanzania	Tegeta	Gas	3	45	
						Total	2187

Source: Southern Africa Power Pool

Generation Requirements

The alternative case shows that 56,687 MW of new additional power generation capacity would be required by 2025 as follows:

Technology	Capacity Added, MW	Percentage, %
Coal	23883	42%
Hydro	18045	32%
Nuclear	0	0%
Natural Gas	2164	4%
Distillate Oil	12594	22%
Total	56686	100%

The optimized plan includes no new nuclear

In 2025, a total of 1002,871MW would be required in the SAPP:

Coal	57,415 MW - 56%	Was 74.3%
Hydro & PS	27,016 MW - 26%	Was 20.1%
Diesel	13,908 MW - 14%	Was 1.6%
Natural Gas	2,732 MW - 3%	Was 0%
Nuclear	1,800 MW - 2%	Was 3.9%

Source: Southern Africa Power Pool

United we stand, divided we fall – Energy Ministers

AS THE energy sector in southern Africa continues to experience a considerable degree of volatility characterized by diminishing installed power generation capacity against increasing growth in demand, SADC Member States find themselves requiring more unity than ever before in confronting the challenges facing the region.

SADC energy ministers at their annual planning meeting in April in Maputo, Mozambique, concluded that no one country can individually tackle power shortages presently felt across the region. Not even the region's biggest economy, South Africa. Moreso at this critical juncture when southern Africa is due to host the historic FIFA World Cup in 2010.

In an unprecedented move, SADC utilities signed an agreement in Maputo under the aegis of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) that will require each utility to provide a certain percentage of its available capacity to supply power to South Africa in the event of shortages during the World Cup.

The ministers noted that in accelerating the implementation of cross border energy projects, there would be significant reductions in capital costs if power projects are developed collectively as a region rather than individually.

In order to attract investment into the power sector, energy ministers agreed to initiate steps towards adopting cost-reflective tariffs in the region.

Electricity tariffs levied by most utilities are heavily subsidized by their governments

ostensibly to allow wider access by citizens. However, the low tariffs have tended to discourage private investors who fear that they would not recoup their costs.

Regional power projects are set to be marketed at forthcoming fora in the region and beyond. These include the Investors Roundtable scheduled for 15-17 July in Livingstone, Zambia, a Power Sector Infrastructure Development Seminar in Germany in October, and a similar seminar in Brazil at a date to be announced.

The ministers agreed that as part of an appropriate financing model for transboundary power projects, such projects as identified by SAPP should receive the blessing of Heads of State and Government in order to give confidence to the investors.

Lack of political will has often been cited as SADC's challenge in implementing transboundary infrastructure projects, including those in the power sector.

Regarding the German Development Cooperation (GTZ) initiated Programme for Biomass Energy Conservation (ProBEC), the funding for which is coming to an end, the ministers noted the need for an exit strategy to ensure that sustainable institutional structures are in place at the SADC Secretariat and in Member States.

The programme has been hailed for its contribution to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as it reduces poverty by enabling deprived rural and urban people to fulfil their energy needs in a socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

ProBEC is currently implemented in seven countries namely Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia with funding from the German and Norwegian governments. Operations of the project were suspended in Zimbabwe due to EU sanctions and the energy ministers noted the request from Zimbabwe for the activities to resume.

The ministers noted that the region has been experiencing spiralling oil prices in recent years, reinforcing the need for home-grown alternative energy solutions such as biofuels to ensure energy security.

While oil prices have come down significantly, Member

States should guard against complacency and instead accelerate their biofuels initiatives, not only as an alternative source but as an environmentally friendly fuel that can also spur rural development.

Consequently, Member States were urged to use South-South arrangements to learn from Brazil which has enormous experience in biofuels development, in particular the production of biodiesel.

If the current collective spirit in the energy sector is anything to go by, then the SADC region is well placed and on sound footing necessary for the Free Trade Area and the establishment of a Customs Union in 2010 and Common Market in 2012.

Priorities for 2009/10

In view of ongoing activities and the regional and global energy sector environment, the ministers adopted priorities for 2009/10 as follows:

- overcoming the diminished SADC power surplus capacity;
- completing the Review and Update of SADC Energy Activity Plan;
- sustaining the Regional Energy Planning Network (REPN) and producing the SADC Energy Statistical Year Book;
- ensuring the provision of energy to the users of biomass who are the less well off in the Member States;
- monitoring and ensuring the timely implementation of projects;
- monitoring and providing policy guidance in the meetings of the SAPP Programme, and Regional Electricity Regulators Association (RERA) Programme;
- completion of the study on the Establishment of Regional Petroleum and Gas Association (REPGA);
- Joint Programming of Projects with other Regional/Inter-Regional Bodies (such as AU, COMESA, AFREC, NEPAD, ADB, etc);
- coordinating the activities of the Regional Biofuels Taskforce;
- developing a SADC Regional Strategy for energy access; and
- developing a SADC Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Programme of Action in conjunction with other sectors. r

New power trade model introduced

ENERGY TRADING in southern Africa is set to increase fourfold after the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) opened a new trading model early this year.

The Day-Ahead-Market (DAM) was introduced on a trial basis for an initial six-month period from February to August 2009.

This period is expected to allow SAPP to review and assess the operation of the trading system before using it on a long-term basis.

According to SAPP, the arrangement was progressing well as of April with as many as five utilities taking part in trade under the model.

During the trial period there will be no financial obligations among the SAPP Member States, meaning that the trade will be conducted free of

charge by SAPP until 1 September 2009.

According to Lawrence Musaba, the SAPP Coordination Centre Manager, the idea behind DAM is that Member States conduct energy market auctions in two phases.

"The DAM is conducted prior to the commencement of each day. Forward contracts are established for each hour of the coming day," Musaba said.

"This system is the opposite of the Hour-Ahead-Market and the Real-Time-Market which is conducted when the load actually occurs," added Musaba.

The DAM sets prices as of 11am the previous day (thus the term "day ahead") based on generation and energy transaction bids that are offered in advance to the SAPP.

DAM prices are determined on an hourly basis for each of the power pool's operating members.

After the trial period, more than 90 percent of energy transactions processed by SAPP will occur in the DAM.

A software programme called Security Constrained Unit Commitment (SCUC)

will be used to determine the amount of energy that may be needed within the pool for each day.

SAPP will schedule the generating units in the region that can most economically satisfy the energy needed to supply SADC customers' demand and allow a sufficient reserve for contingencies. r



Energy plants are set to benefit from the new trading model.

Energy investors roundtable set for July

by Kizito Sikuka

THE SADC energy sector is set to attract vital investment at an Investors Roundtable scheduled for 15 to 17 July in Livingstone, Zambia.

The Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) said the Investors Roundtable will bring together potential investors, regional utilities and other relevant stakeholders.

Expectations are high that the Livingstone meeting will see more companies exploiting the numerous energy opportunities that lie untapped in the region.

These opportunities include hydro, thermal, wind, solar and gas generation as well as several transmission projects.

SAPP has since identified a number of such projects for commissioning between 2008 and 2025, and the availability of funds would help to speed up the process.

Some of the projects that need urgent attention include the Inga 3 and the Grand Inga Phase 1 with a total potential generation capacity of 9,500MW.

DBSA has also predicted that the SADC region could save up to US\$48 billion on power projects planned in the region by 2025 if they developed them jointly.

Currently, the region is working on projects worth more than US\$83 billion by 2025.

"Almost all of these projects are being developed as individual projects by national utili-

ties. Potential savings of US\$48 billion could be realized if the region worked together," DBSA energy expert Jean Madzongwe said.

The SADC region is also struggling to meet its energy demands owing to poor investment policies by some Member States, which have seen investors shunning the region.

Hence the Investors Roundtable is expected to address the situation and encourage SADC members to craft policies that are conducive for business.

Such a development could draw the much needed investment in new power generation capacity as well as the harnessing of other energy sources such as solar and wind.

Solar and wind energy are in abundance in the region but lack of investment has affected SADC's effort to exploit the sources for its own benefit.

Among the key potential investors will be the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), the African Development Bank, the World Bank and the Norwegian government.

A number of speakers such as Zambian Energy and Water Development Minister Kenneth Kongo and SADC Energy Ministers Committee Chairperson, Dipuo Peters will present keynote papers on luring investment and embarking on joint energy projects.

SADC Executive Secretary Tomas Salomao is expected to officially open the round table. r

Towards cleaner energy

SADC MEMBER States are slowly warming up wider adoption of clean energy sources that result in less carbon emissions in line with new trends in the global energy sector.

Following a presentation during the SADC Energy Ministers meeting in Maputo in April, the ministers directed the SADC Secretariat to explore opportunities for Member States to embrace more actively embrace the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which has emerged as the most lucrative source of "carbon financing".

The CDM allows a country with an emission-reduction or emission-limitation commitment under the Kyoto Protocol to implement emission reduc-

tion projects in developing countries.

It also enables developing countries to increase energy access while limiting green house gas emissions through harnessing of clean energy sources such as hydropower, wind, solar and biofuels.

According to available data, southern Africa has benefited the least among all the regions of the continent from the US\$7 billion annual CDM market.

Since the European Union began trading "carbon credits" through its Emissions Trading Scheme in 2005, only 71 of the 2,156 CDM projects included under the scheme have been registered in Africa and of these 33 are in southern Africa.

Africa needs fourfold jump in energy supplies to meet 2025 demand

AFRICA'S ENERGY supplies would have to increase at least fourfold by 2025, if the continent is to meet the energy demand of its people, according to the South African National Energy Association (SANEA).

Contributing to the African Energy 2009 Conference held in South Africa, SANEA's Brian Statham said the energy demand was being driven by population growth, economic developments, and the improved standard of living on the continent.

It is estimated that about 30 African countries experienced chronic blackouts and power shortages last year alone, greatly affecting the continent's growth potential.

However, only one-third of the continent's population has access to modern forms of electricity, such as power from hydro or coal-fired stations.



Despite enormous hydropower potential on the continent, only seven percent has been developed.

"The rate of electricity access is estimated at about 34 percent, with large disparities among countries, and between urban and rural areas within countries," said Statham.

Rural communities are estimated to have an electricity access rate of about five percent. The majority of the people with access to modern electricity are also more likely to be congregated in the far north and south of the continent.

Statham said although hydropower was a cornerstone for Africa's energy sustainability, with enormous



Solar power is regarded as a clean alternative energy source.

South Africa accounts for the majority of the projects with 25 having been approved by August 2008.

Other countries that have benefited in the region include the United Republic of

Tanzania with three projects, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with two, and Madagascar, Mauritius and Mozambique with one each.

Based on an analysis by SADC, a total of 19,000MW worth of generation projects can be commissioned under the CDM in the region, resulting in surplus energy for Member States.

Some of the CDM projects under development include a solar plant in Botswana, hydropower stations in the DRC and Mozambique and solar water heaters in South Africa.

A 2008 report by the AfDB provides evidence of the continent's potential in adopting the CDM.

For instance, the AfDB notes that Sub-Saharan Africa has potential to provide more than 170 gigawatts (GW) of additional power-generation capacity — more than double the sub-region's current installations — through 3,200 "low-carbon" energy projects.

SADC Secretariat says there is need for more coordinated initiatives in the implementation of CDM energy projects, knowledge capacity-building programmes and a thematic approach to the adoption of CDM in the region. r

hydropower potential, less than seven percent of its potential had been developed.

He noted that the most severe challenges facing the continent, with regard to power generation, included inadequate development of the energy infrastructure, high capital costs attached to energy projects, the lack of finance and investing in energy projects, and scarcity of technical expertise.

However, Statham added that the continent offered a vast and diverse energy potential.

"There are plentiful energy resources in Africa to satisfy the energy demand over the next 40 years. The challenge is to develop these resources and to get them from where they are produced, to the places where they are needed the most. More co-operation and integration would assist with this," he said. r

Trade volumes increase on transport corridors

TRADE VOLUMES along the Trans Kalahari, Trans Caprivi and Trans Cunene corridors have increased from 174,299 tonnes to 282,031 tonnes, representing a growth rate of more than 61.8 percent on tonnage shipped between 2007 and 2008.

According to Johnny Smith, Business Development Executive of the Walvis Bay Corridor Group (WBCG), the estimated revenue generated by the transport sector along the corridors increased by N\$45.9 million from the N\$73.5 million in the 2006/2007 financial year to N\$119.5 million in 2007/2008 (US\$1 approx. N\$8).

"Volumes on the Trans Kalahari Corridor increased by 19.1 percent from 4,917 to 5,857 tonnes. Volumes on the

Trans Caprivi Corridor increased by more than 76.7 percent from 27,521 to 48,627 tonnes. Volumes on the Trans Cunene increased by 60.4 percent from 141,861 to 227,548 tonnes," Smith said.

He said this growth has been very exciting for the

WBCG, as the volumes have started to increase significantly on the various corridor routes serving the SADC region.

During the month of January 2009 the traffic volumes along the Walvis Bay corridors reached its highest levels yet, carrying more than

55,000 tonnes for the month along the Trans Caprivi, Trans Cunene and Trans Kalahari Corridors.

Most of these volumes have been imports destined for Angola via the Port of Walvis Bay. More and more consumables, equipment and vehicles are being imported via the Port of Walvis Bay and then moved along the Trans Cunene Corridor into Angola.

Namibia's role as a gateway to the rest of the SADC region has proved more prominent and has created more interest from regional as well as international markets.

Smith said SADC's economy is growing beyond 5 percent per annum and the Port of Walvis Bay is better placed through its capacity building programme to handle some of this growth through increased imports and exports for the region.

"With more direct shipping calls to Walvis Bay, high efficiencies, short transit times and strategic partnerships, the Walvis Bay corridor routes are now in a robust position to present the SADC market to the rest of the world," Smith added. r



Transport corridors remain strategic gateways linking the SADC market to the rest of the world.

Zambia, Angola railway link to bring cheaper fuel to the SADC region

BOTSWANA, ZAMBIA and Zimbabwe are set to procure cheap finished petroleum products from Angola once the railway link between Zambia and Angola is completed.

Before the destructive civil war in Angola that ended in 2002, the Benguela railway line used to operate through Angola to Zambia, and Angola's ports were the main outlet for Zambia's considerable mining production. Reviving the railroad will greatly enhance regional transportation and facilitate regional commerce.

Completion of the connection will link Angola to Zambia, Tanzania, Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

However, Angola has said that it needs to increase its refining capacity for exporting finished petroleum, especially to its landlocked neighbours.

This is because currently, there is no refinery in Africa's leading oil-producing country that can export the precious liquid to the region.

Expensive fuel has created problems for both road and avi-

ation industries in the past year when the price of a barrel of oil went as high as US\$150 a barrel.

Consumers were the most affected as transport costs and inflation increased beyond the means of many. r

Mauritius, Seychelles set up joint Continental Shelf Management

MAURITIUS AND Seychelles have jointly lodged a submission to the United Nations Commission to claim approximately 400,000sq km of additional continental shelf beyond the traditional 200 nautical mile limit.

The joint submission made by the two SADC countries in December 2008 was heard during the 23rd session of the Commission held in New York from 2 March to 9 April 2009. The Commission decided that the joint submission would be

addressed through a sub-commission.

If the claim is approved, it offers the prospects of significantly increasing continental shelf jurisdiction, thereby opening up new areas for exploration and development such as mining, chemical engineering and biopharmaceuticals.

Jurisdictional certainty is very crucial as it gives exclusive access to potentially lucrative natural and living resources of the seabed which

include oil, gas, fisheries, mineral resources and biological organisms. It is the first ever submission to be made by any country in the African region or the Indian Ocean Rim and marks the conclusion of an exclusive economic zone boundary between the two.

Both island states stand to gain from the management of this area which offers strategic and economic benefits that will provide increased revenue and deliver sizeable economic benefits. r

Chirundu one-stop border post for commissioning in September

THE CHIRUNDU One-Stop Border Post between Zambia and Zimbabwe is set for commissioning in September 2009 in what will become a new benchmark for regional integration among SADC Member States.

SADC selected Chirundu a few years ago as one of the border posts for the pilot phase of the one-stop border initiative that aims to facilitate trade and free movement of goods and services among the 15-member regional bloc.

The Beitbridge Border Post linking South Africa and Zimbabwe is another port of entry chosen by SADC as a pilot project.

Beitbridge and Chirundu are considered to be among sub-Saharan Africa's busiest ports of entry with hundreds of southward or northward commercial trucks passing through the two border posts everyday. Beitbridge is the busier of the two.

Under the one-stop border post scheme, travellers would be cleared just once for passage into another country contrary to the current situation where travellers have to be sanctioned on both sides of the border.

This development is expected to address issues of delays which are often experienced at most border posts as well as promote the smooth flow of goods through the removal of often perceived "restrictive" operational procedures at borders.

In the long run, the project seeks to ultimately harmonize customs and immigration laws at border posts within the SADC region.

According to Zimbabwean Prime Minister Morgan

Tsvangirai, work is now complete for the commissioning of the border post at Chirundu.

"The One-Stop Border Post concept has been introduced in the region in an effort to ease congestion at border posts as well as reduce transit times for traders and transporters," said Tsvangirai at a recent regional meeting.

"The launch of this concept at Chirundu Border Post between Zimbabwe and Zambia is set for the 1st of September 2009."

SADC is expected to roll out the One-Stop Border Post concept to other regional ports of entry soon, as it seeks to harmonize customs laws and promote the free movement of goods among Member States in line with the Free Trade Area launched in August last year and Customs Union expected in 2010. r



Human traffic and commercial trucks are common sights at the Beitbridge and Chirundu border posts.

Transport corridors adopting electronic border clearing system

TRANSPORT CORRIDORS in southern Africa are in the process of adopting electronic transmission of the Single Administrative Document (SAD500) this year.

With support from the Global Competitiveness Hub, the declaration document was to be introduced for electronic use by June 2009 although some Member States are lagging behind as they are still using the manual option.

The SAD500 was first introduced to the Trans Kalahari Corridor as a pilot project. It is now the only customs declaration document used in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and South Africa.

SAD500 is also being used in the Dar es Salaam corridor countries of Malawi, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia albeit manually. Mozambique is in the process of adopting the SAD500.

The major purpose of the document is to reduce the cost of moving goods along regional frontiers through a single customs declaration made in the originating country.

SAD500 is a multi-purpose goods declaration form covering imports, exports, cross-border and transit movements and it incorporates all the information necessary for advanced customs clearance

and customs risk management purposes.

It reduces paperwork and allows for quicker turnaround with fewer errors, less confusion, lower costs and improved trade efficiencies.

The movement of goods across international frontiers in southern Africa is characterized by high transaction costs caused in part by different customs transit procedures.

With technical assistance from the Hub, harmonized customs transit procedures and a single administrative document were developed and adopted along selected transport corridors. r

Infrastructure development key to regional integration

by Kizito Sikuka

AS AFRICA'S three main regional blocs in east and southern Africa move towards the harmonization of programmes and the creation of a single Free Trade Area, the need for an efficient and sound infrastructure base is critical for the successful implementation of their integration agenda.

At their inaugural tripartite Summit in Kampala, Uganda, last year, Heads of State and Government from SADC, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and the East African Community (EAC) approved the setting up of a Free Trade Area to promote the free movement of goods and services among Member States.

And one key factor toward attaining such a goal is the development of a vibrant regional infrastructure base as most of it is in a bad state, a situation that has greatly affected the smooth flow of transport thus impacting negatively on the cost of goods.

To deal with this daunting task, the three regional blocs have since made an undertaking to implement an extensive Aid for Trade programme encompassing transport, power and trade facilitation projects along the North-South Corridor traversing eight countries in east and southern Africa.

Over US\$1.2 billion has been raised to upgrade regional road, rail and port infrastructure and to support trade facilitation measures.

In addition to upgrading transport networks, the pro-

gramme would also open up new routes to give producers in the region access to a greater choice of road and railway networks.

According to a recent meeting attended by chairpersons from the three regional blocs in Lusaka, Zambia, the range of planned projects include the construction of over 8,000km of road, rehabilitation of 600km of rail track and upgrading of Dar es Salaam port, which is one of the biggest and busiest ports in east Africa.

The leaders agreed that the success of a free trade zone and achievement of deeper regional integration hinges upon sound infrastructure development corridors at both national and regional levels.

"If we are to successfully realize our vision of creating a

vibrant and integrated free trade area, it is vital that we develop the region's physical infrastructure and capacity to trade," said former COMESA chairperson, the Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki, who was at the helm in April before handing over the chair to Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe at the summit in June.

The high level meeting, which was hosted by Zambian President Rupiah Banda, was also attended by South Africa as current chair of SADC, Uganda in its capacity as leader of the EAC and various stakeholders that included the three secretariats.

The meeting resolved to establish a tripartite fund whose sole responsibility is to accept funding from develop-

ment partners to finance identified projects and programmes needed to improve infrastructure in the region.

The fund is to be hosted and managed by the Development Bank of Southern Africa. r

Luanda port revamped

LUANDA'S PORT is getting a US\$105 million facelift which authorities there say will help to curb delays that have hiked prices of goods.

The head of the state-run port, Silvio Vinhas, said the number of working hours for cargo operators would be increased, and roads around the port revamped to enable faster movement of container trucks.

"The modernization plan is being carried out and should produce positive results," Vinhas told the media. "But we don't expect to end all the delays as traffic remains intense."

Some cargo ships wait for weeks before docking at the port which is the main entry point for most goods to the oil and mineral rich nation.

Port officials said the port is expected to process 6.6 million tonnes of cargo in 2009, a 10 percent increase from last year. (*AllAfrica.com*) r



Road renovations near Luanda port are set to improve movement of trucks.

AfDB commits \$13bn for infrastructure growth

THE AFRICA Development Bank (AfDB) has committed a total of US\$13.5 billion for infrastructure development in three of the continent's economic blocs.

"The bank group has committed US\$3.3 billion towards infrastructure development in the EAC, US\$6.2 billion in COMESA and US\$4 billion in SADC," Ashie Makungu, senior country economist in the AfDB Zambia office, said.

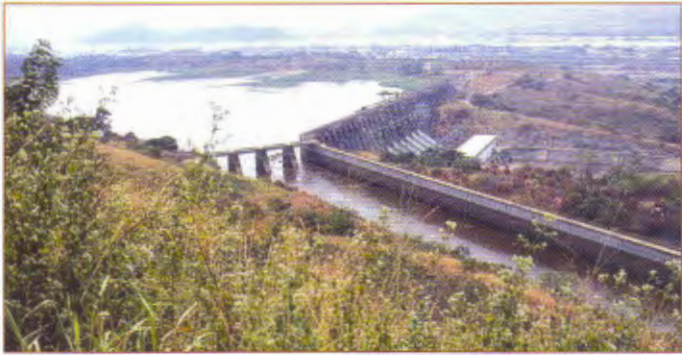
Makungu said the global economic crunch had made it even more urgent for Africa to build its own infrastructure, especially after Africa's largest economy, South Africa, went into recession. He said the economic downturn had exposed

Africa's economic weaknesses and called for an immediate relief from overdependence on western donors.

The AfDB senior economist said close to 70 percent of the bank's resources had been directed towards infrastructure improvement as a way of responding to the economic crisis that had paralyzed economic growth in many developing countries.

Makungu was hopeful that infrastructure expansion in transport, telecommunication, energy, agriculture, health and education would greatly assist the continent to mitigate economic challenges resulting from the current global economic crisis. (*Tralac*) r





The Inga Dam offers vast hydroenergy potential for the SADC region.

Inga 3 power plant back on track

THE MUCH-AWAITED Inga 3 project in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is now back on track with the host country opening bids for investors to fund the hydro-electric power plant.

When fully operational, the US\$7 billion power plant can produce up to 4,300 megawatts (MW), much of which would feed into the southern African regional power grid. This would be almost 10 percent of SADC's current power consumption whose combined peak demand for 2008 was 43,267MW, albeit suppressed due to shortages.

The current power shortage in SADC is a result of several factors that include lack of investment in the energy sector as well as delays in implementing agreed regional energy projects such as Inga 3.

However, the recent move by DRC to invite investors to finance the long-delayed Inga 3 energy infrastructure project is set to help SADC boost its power generation to meet the growing need for energy in the near future.

DRC Energy Minister Laurent Mutalamu indicated that one of the world's largest diversified miners, BHP-

Billiton, had already expressed an interest in the project.

BHP-Billiton has since pledged to contribute close to US\$35 million towards the project which is expected to last

Mozambique assembles computers

MOZAMBICAN COMPUTERS are now rolling off an assembly line in Maputo, under a deal between the Mozambican government and a South African computer company.

The factory began operating in June 2009, and is producing between 50 and 70 computers a day. They come in three sizes -- desktop, laptop and mini-computers.

The computers have been baptized "Dzowo" -- being the clan name of the founder and first president of the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo), Eduardo Mondlane.

Gustavo Chauque, the production manager of the factory, told the media that the installed capacity would allow the plant to assemble 150 computers a day.

The parts are all from reputable companies, and so "Dzowo" could deal a body

blow to those companies who have been selling imported computers at grossly inflated prices.

"The advantage of these computers is that they are high quality, and they are cheaper than other models available on the market," said Chauque.

The price for sale to the public is between 15,000 and 17,000 meticaais (560 to 640 US dollars). The cheapest imported laptop that AIM has seen in any Mozambican electronics shop costs about 20,000 meticaais. The company is offering computers at even lower prices to students and institutions of higher education.

"The price is low, because we have to pay fewer customs duties," said Chauque. "The taxes on importing parts are lower than for importing complete computers." (AIM) r

whole Inga dam and bring on line Grand Inga 1 and Inga 2 together with Inga 3.

The combined potential of DRC's Inga dam projects is estimated at about 40,000MW, enough electricity to more than meet the current power needs for the entire southern African region.

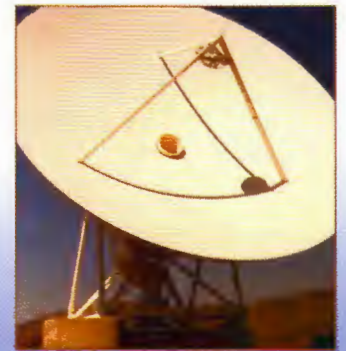
The whole project, which could be the world's biggest hydropower infrastructure project and almost twice the capacity of China's Three Gorges project, requires about US\$80 billion. r

Company to launch US\$250m satellite

A LEADING communications consortium in southern Africa, Intelsat, is set to launch a US\$250 million satellite for Africa in a bid to improve communication links.

Communication is regarded as a key factor for increased foreign investment and a panacea for the much needed infrastructure development on the continent.

The project will be funded by regional institutions that include the African Development Bank and the Development Bank of Southern Africa. r



Africa's soil to be digitally mapped

A DIGITAL map of the state of soils in sub-Saharan Africa is to be developed in an initiative that is meant to assess the impact of climate change and deforestation.

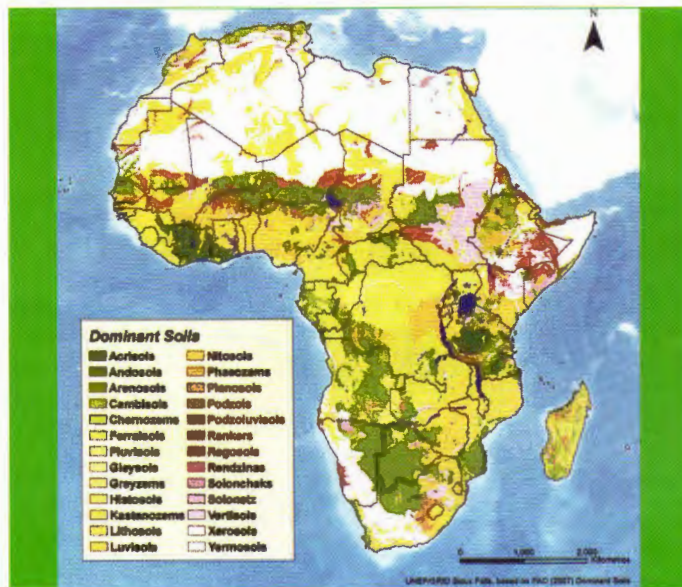
The African Soil Information Service (ASIS), based in Kenya, will produce the digital map of 42 of Africa's 53 countries revealing soil type and its component nutrients.

Information gathered will guide farmers and policymakers on efforts to improve the fertility of Africa's soils, some of which are the most depleted in the world.

Coverage and detail of existing soil maps are poor, particularly in large, sparsely populated countries in Africa, says Alfred Hartemink, a soil scientist with the ASIS.

"The maps that do exist are 10 - 30 years old. That poses a problem, because the soil properties of interest - like pH, carbon or phosphorus content - change over time."

The project will gather existing local soil maps and combine them with new measurements to produce the



Updated soil maps are essential for agricultural planning.

digital map, which will be freely accessible on the web in a user-friendly format.

The new measurements will include those derived from remote sensing, which involves analysing the features of satellite images such as colour and radiation to infer the characteristics of the soil.

These calculations are then calibrated against actual soil

samples from the particular region.

The African map is the first stage of an initiative called GlobalSoilMap.net to map global soils to help informed decisions not only about agriculture, but also to monitor the effects of climate change, environmental pollution and deforestation. r

Regional Groundwater Management Institute for South Africa

SADC IS in the process of establishing a regional Groundwater Management Institute to be operational by early 2010. As a response to the challenges in managing groundwater in the sub-region.

The hosting of the institute has been awarded to South Africa's University of Free State in Bloemfontein following a rigorous selection process from a field of 14 nominations received from nine Member States.

At least 70 percent of the 250 million people in SADC rely on groundwater as a source of water for drinking and other uses.

The need to implement comprehensive Groundwater and Drought Management strategies in SADC is becoming critical as the region enhances implementation of its regional economic integration programme.

Economic development in SADC member states is highly dependent on adequate and reliable water resources.

The groundwater institute will increase the understanding of groundwater management through action-oriented re-search, knowledge management, awareness raising, coordination and capacity building.

The vision of the institute is to "ensure the equitable and sustainable use and protection of groundwater, as well as being a centre of excellence in the areas of groundwater, drought management and management of groundwater-dependant ecosystems in the region." r

NAPAs place climate change adaptation on development agenda

NATIONAL ADAPTATION Programmes of Action have helped put climate change on the international development agenda.

The National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) outline the most urgent actions required to meet the climate change adaptation needs of countries.

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), all developing countries are required to prepare NAPAs as a means to facilitate communication to highlight their

most urgent adaptation needs and to identify priority projects to address these needs.

To date over 100 NAPAs have been submitted to the UNFCCC, and their activities range from raising awareness on climate change to strengthening climate monitoring systems and building capacity for early warning systems.

A number of SADC countries have prepared their NAPAs, and these include Malawi, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

While countries agreed on the NAPAs in 2001, a recent study noted pressing timescale as a key issue in the implementation of NAPAs. The study also noted the importance of identifying achievable priority projects in the implementation of NAPAs.

In as much as NAPAs are viewed to help put climate change on the development agenda, there is also general consensus that the NAPAs are not an end in themselves as they must be complemented by other projects that target vulnerable sectors of a country. r

Regional food security situation improves

by Eglina Tauya

SOUTHERN AFRICA'S food security situation has improved in 2009 compared to 2008.

This is according to the latest assessment by SADC Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Food Security who met in Johannesburg in May 2009 to review progress on regional food security.

With the 2008/2009 agricultural season coming to an end, while harvesting and movement of produce to markets are underway, the ministers noted that most Member States expected better harvests this year than in the 2007/2008 season due to favourable rains received in most parts of the region.

This was in line with the SADC climate outlook forecast, which predicted moderate to heavy rains persisting across most of SADC countries during the peak of the growing season.

Although harvest prospects in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe were compromised by some mid-season droughts and floods, expectations were still for average to above average harvests.

Pockets of food insecurity are projected in areas directly affected by flooding, mid-season dry spells and input shortages, reducing what could have been a bumper harvest.

The areas that may suffer food insecurity include the lower Shire valley, Chikwaka and Nsanje districts in Malawi where an estimated 55,000 households were affected, according to the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET).

The same applies to most parts of Mashonaland East province in Zimbabwe, where harvests are expected to last

until July 2009 instead of the normal October/November period.

In Mozambique, areas affected include northern Maputo province, southern Inhambane southern Sofala and southern Tete provinces.

Maize production in the affected countries is expected to cover most of national requirements, it is anticipated that they will need to import some grain to cover the needs

of populations whose harvests were significantly reduced.

Although the majority of SADC countries have not officially released their harvest estimates, preliminary data points to a better cereal harvest this year compared to last year.

South Africa, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe have released their crop estimates. In Malawi and Zambia, cereal harvest increases are projected

at 30 percent and 51 percent, respectively.

Malawi has recorded a 3.88 million metric tonnes total harvest, compared to 2.99 million metric tonnes last year, while Zambia's cereal harvest has gone up from 1.46 million to 2.2 million metric tonnes.

Zimbabwe's preliminary estimates also point to an improved harvest this year, despite the February dry spell and other production challenges. Zimbabwe's maize harvest is estimated at 1.24 million metric tonnes, a 92 percent increase over last year's production level.

For South Africa, estimates predict maize production of 11.72 million metric tonnes, a 10 percent decrease from last season.

Post-harvest assessments conducted by the FEWSNET in April revealed similar harvest trends across the region. r



Above average yields are set to ensure food security throughout 2009.

Global food prices gradually steadying, FAO report

INTERNATIONAL PRICES of most agricultural commodities have fallen in 2009 from their 2008 levels, an indication that many markets are slowly returning into balance, says the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

According to the FAO report, titled Food Outlook published in June 2009, an apparent easing of market conditions was reflected in the benchmark FAO Food Price Index, which had fallen by one third since its peak in June 2008 at the height of the world food crisis.

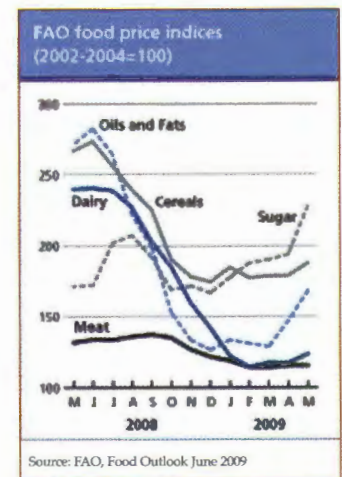
So far there is an improvement in cereals availability, the critical sector for food security, after record production in 2008 overshoot original forecasts, the report says. The bumper crop had also facilitated replenishment of global

reserves to pre-crisis levels. Expansion in fish, meat and milk production have also reduced prices.

"With the new 2009-2010 marketing season commencing, prospects continue to be positive as world cereal production is expected to be the second largest, after last year's record," it adds. World production was forecast at 2,219 million tonnes as compared with 2,287 million tonnes in the 2008/09 marketing season.

By contrast, prices for oilseeds and sugar are rising due to production setbacks in major producing countries, as well as growing consumption.

The 2008 State of Food Insecurity report by FAO had noted that high food prices present an opportunity to relaunch smallholder agriculture in the developing world.



"In the long run, high food prices represent an opportunity for agriculture throughout the developing world especially in Africa, but they have to be accompanied by the provision of essential public goods," reports FAO. r

South Africa, Malawi polls impress SADC, AU

by Kizito Sikuka

SADC AND the African Union (AU) described the recent elections in South Africa and Malawi as being in conformity with regional standards and principles.

South Africa went to the poll in April while Malawi held its general elections in May.

The African National Congress (ANC), led by Jacob Zuma, won South Africa's fourth democratic election whilst President Bingu wa Mutharika of the Democratic Progressive Party won the Malawian poll.

SADC said in its preliminary statement on the South African elections that the polls were conducted in compliance with guidelines adopted by SADC Member States.

"It is our considered judgment that the election process was conducted in a free, fair, transparent and credible manner," read part of the statement of the SADC observer mission headed by Balefi Tsie of Botswana.

The AU concurred with the judgment, saying it was also impressed by the enthusiasm displayed by South African voters as well as the peaceful manner in which the elections were held.

"The AU observer mission was impressed by the skilful and efficient organization of the elections by the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa.

"The commission's professionalism and integrity has significantly contributed to the successful conduct of the electoral process," the AU said in a statement.

Former Tanzanian Prime Minister Salim Ahmed Salim led the AU observer mission to South Africa. About 23 million people had registered to take part in the elections, and

turned out in their thousands on election day.

Regarding the Malawian elections, SADC said the polls were peaceful, transparent and credible despite some concerns raised.

"It is SADC's overall view that the elections were conducted in an open and transparent manner. SADC was impressed

by the patience of voters who were able to express their franchise peacefully, freely and unhindered," read part of the report by the SADC Elections Observer Mission (SEOM).

Swaziland Labour and Social Security Minister Patrick Mamba was head of the SADC observer mission to Malawi.



Citizens waiting to cast their votes.

More elections in second half of 2009

ELECTION FEVER grips SADC in the second half of 2009 with at least four countries preparing to go to the polls this year.

Botswana, Mauritius, Mozambique and Namibia are holding elections between October and December, while polling dates for Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo are yet to be announced.

Namibia is hosting its fourth presidential and National Assembly polls in November with the ruling South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) party confirming President Hifikepunye Pohamba as its candidate.

SWAPO, which has been in power since independence in 1990 will stand against other opposition parties such as the Rally for Democracy and Progress, and the Congress of Democrats.

The ruling Botswana Democratic Party led by President Ian Khama will be seeking to preserve its popular-

ity in the October general elections. The ruling party has never lost an election since independence in 1966.

In Mozambique, the ruling Frelimo party has confirmed President Armando Guebuza as its candidate for the elections set for October.

Guebuza, who has been in power since 2004, will stand against Renamo's Afonso Dhlakama and Daviz Simango of the newly formed Mozambique Democratic Movement. They are the front

The AU also paid tribute to the way the people of Malawi conducted their elections peacefully.

There were no acts of violence or disturbances witnessed before, during and after the polls observed the continental body.

"The smooth conduct of the elections and the vibrancy of the electorate gave honour not only to the people of Malawi but Africa as a whole.

"We pay particular tribute to the Malawi Electoral Commission for a commendable job that contributes to the consolidation of democracy in Malawi," read the AU statement.

Former Sierra Leone President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah led the AU observer mission to Malawi. r

runners in a large field of presidential candidates.

Mozambique is holding elections for provincial assemblies for the first time.

SADC Member States use different methods of electing their governments. Some use the First Past the Post constituency system of individual candidates, while others use Proportional Representation based on political party lists with provinces or the entire nation considered as their constituency. r

2009 Elections Calendar

Country	Type of Election	Expected Month
Botswana	Parliamentary (President elected by Parliament)	October
Mozambique	Presidential, parliamentary and provincial	28 October
Namibia	Presidential and parliamentary	November
Mauritius	Local government: urban and rural	October and December respectively
DRC	Provincial	TBA
Angola	Presidential	TBA

Strategy to accelerate 50/50 gender representation

by Patience Zirima

SOUTHERN AFRICA has seen an increase of women elected to parliaments in elections held this year in Malawi and South Africa but a new regional strategy should ensure even higher representation in future.

A notable achievement by Malawi is the appointment of Joyce Banda as the first woman to be Vice President of that country.

Malawi's May elections saw 22 percent women elected to parliament, up from 14 percent in 2004. In Cabinet the proportion rose to 26 percent, up from 17 percent.

Although this is below the SADC regional target of 30 percent (to be increased to 50 percent by 2015), it is a

positive step towards the target.

The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development states that Member States shall "endeavour that, by 2015, at least 50 percent of decision-making positions in the public and private sectors are held by women, including the use of affirmative action measures."

South Africa is on course to meet the 50 percent target, with President Jacob Zuma appointing 45 percent women to his Cabinet. The 45 percent women in South Africa's new Parliament, up from 34 percent, places South Africa third in the world behind Rwanda and Sweden.

The increase of women in decision-making positions in the different countries of the

region is a result of concerted efforts by governments, and political parties to ensure this target is met.

At regional level, a draft strategy is being developed to accelerate the achievement of the 50/50 target of women in politics and decision-making positions at all levels by 2015.

According to Magdeline Mathiba-Madibela, Head of the SADC Gender Unit, the strategy "will provide coherent and standardised efforts at national level towards achievement of the goal; provide a catalyst for action; form a basis for monitoring and evaluation as well as for resource mobilisation purposes."

The strategy encourages partnerships between the state, political parties and civil

players as these are crucial to the achievement of the intended outcomes.

To ensure equal representation of men and women by 2015, governments are urged to quickly domesticate the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

This may involve governments putting in place affirmative action measures, reviewing and developing national policies, provide resources and developing guidelines for government appointments.

The countries that have achieved at least 30 percent of women in political decision-making positions have demonstrated that increasing the number of women in parliament can be possible through a combination of an enabling policy environment, party and constitutional quotas and political commitment.

For example, the constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania guarantees at least 30 percent of all parliamentary seats to women, which effectively means women have reserved seats in Parliament whatever the election outcome might be.

Angola, which has a 38 percent representation of women in Parliament since the last elections in 2008, uses the Proportional Representation system where the electorate votes for the party and the candidates are taken from the party list. So the decisions of political parties are critical to the outcome, as in Mozambique.

At country level, five Member States have achieved more than 30 percent representation in parliament. These are South Africa with 45 percent, Angola (38), Mozambique (37), Namibia (31) and Tanzania (30.4). r

Tanzania Gender Festival 2009 focuses on marginalised women

THE 2009 Tanzania Gender Festival will focus on "Making Resources Work for Marginalised Women", under the broader theme of "Democracy and Development".

The festival, organised by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) and the Feminist Activist Coalition, will take place from 8 to 11 September in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Participation is open to players from Tanzania, and around the world.

The festival provides an opportunity for gender, feminist and human rights activists to share experiences, take stock of achievements and constraints and to foster joint action plans to further



Economically empowering marginalized women will improve their livelihoods.

the democracy and development agenda.

Activities at the festival will include workshops, plenary sessions and exhibitions by different organisations. The workshops will deal

with issues of bodily integrity and sexuality; economic rights and livelihoods; knowledge, arts and culture, politics, leadership and accountability; and HIV and AIDS. r

SADC World Cup hopefuls disappoint in qualifiers

by Patson Phiri

MALAWI, MOZAMBIQUE and Zambia are holding the southern African dream of qualifying for the 2010 FIFA World Cup finals to be hosted by Africa for the first time since inauguration in 1930, but their performance so far has won few admirers.

The three countries are the only ones from the SADC region to reach the final qualifying stage currently underway. South Africa has already qualified by virtue of it being host nation.

After three rounds of games played as of June 2009, all the three teams remained uncertain in their respective

groups as the region hopes to send more representatives to the soccer fiesta.

Ivory Coast with nine points is ahead of one of the three southern African countries, Malawi, which has not managed any point since the start of the final phase of the 2010 World Cup and Africa Cup qualifiers.

The other teams in the same group with the Flames, as the Malawi team is known, are second placed Burkina Faso and Guinea on third position.

The Flames' next game is against Guinea in Malawi on 5 September and will later face Ivory Coast on 10 October before closing its attempt for a

maiden World Cup berth on 14 November away to Burkina Faso.

For Malawi to qualify for the World Cup, they need to win the remaining three games and hope that Ivory Coast will lose all their next games, which is a far-fetched mathematical dream.

The Black Mambas of Mozambique have one point and also occupy the last position in a group which has Nigeria, Tunisia and Kenya.

All the three teams in the group have a chance to quali-



fy and Mozambique will be hoping that Tunisia will lapse along the way to give them a chance if they win the next three games starting with Kenya on 5 September in Maputo.

They will wrap up their fight with a tricky away match to Nigeria on 10 October.

Of the three teams in the region, chances are too far to call except for Zambia which will hope that Algeria can lose one of the matches for Chipolopolo to take over the group leadership and claim qualification in the remaining three rounds of matches.

Zambia's Chipolopolo are breathing with fading hopes after the three games they have played have given them four points on second position to the Desert Foxes of Algeria who lead the group with seven points.

The Chipolopolo will hope to win both games away to Algeria on 5 September and the game against Rwanda on 10 October to remain in contention for a World Cup berth.

Zambia's final game will be at home against Egypt on 14 November.

The top three teams in each group will still qualify for the Africa Cup of Nations finals to be hosted by Angola next year. r

South Africa marks a milestone in 2010 journey

WITH LESS than one year to go, the successful 2009 Confederations Cup marked another milestone in the road towards South Africa's hosting of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

On 11 June 2010, the first whistle will blow and the much-anticipated FIFA World Cup will kick off at Soccer City in Johannesburg.

The event is scheduled to take place between 11 June and 11 July 2010 in all nine provinces of South Africa.

Millions of soccer enthusiasts will descend on the country, and its southern African neighbours, not only to enjoy soccer but experience the region's rich heritage and culture -- not least of all blowing the completely local vuvuzela.

Many have been questioning the preparedness of South

Africa and whether the event will be a success. However, the Confederations Cup hosted by the country from 14-28 June 2009 left even the country's loudest critics in no doubt about its readiness.

The 2010 Local Organising Committee Chief Executive Committee, Danny Jordaan, indicated that virtually all the projects and plans are completed or nearing completion.

It was a proud moment when FIFA President Sepp Blatter publicly announced, after the world class 2010 World Cup Preliminary Draw event held in Durban in 2007, that South Africa was more than capable of hosting one of the world's largest events.

In his State of the Nation Address, President Jacob Zuma affirmed before the

public that South Africa was on track to meet all its obligations and was determined to give the world the best World Cup ever.

"We have, as government and the nation at large, pledged that the World Cup will leave a proud legacy from which our children and our communities will benefit for many years to come," he said.

Former President Thabo Mbeki once declared that historians would reflect upon the 2010 World Cup as a moment when Africa stood tall and resolutely turned the ride on centuries of poverty and conflict.

"We want to show that Africa's time has come," he said. Indeed Ke Nako - the Time has come to celebrate Africa's Humanity. (*AllAfrica.com*) r



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Southern African Development Community

SADC Secretariat, SADC House, Private Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana
Tel +267 395 1863 Fax +267 397 2848/318 1070
E-mail registry@sadc.int Website www.sadc.int

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EDITOR

Munetsi Madakufamba

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Kizito Sikuka, Emmanuella Matorofa, Patience Zirima,
Clever Mafuta, Phyllis Johnson, Shiela Chikulo

EDITORIAL ADVISOR

Head of Corporate Communications Unit, SADC
Leefa Penehupifo Martin

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Correspondence about this publication should be addressed to

Southern African Research and Documentation Centre

15 Downie Avenue, Belgravia, Box 5690, Harare, Zimbabwe

Tel +263 4 791 141/791 143 Fax +263 4 791 271

E-mail sadctoday@sardc.net www.sardc.net Knowledge for Development

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2009 Events Diary24 June-3 July,
Libya**African Union Summit**

13th Ordinary Session of the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government for the AU's 53 member countries. The agenda will focus on "Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security".

30 June-2 July,
France**Africa Energy Forum**

Launched in 1999, the Africa Energy Forum is Africa's premier annual power and gas investment and business forum, where government and power utility companies discuss the international energy situation with focus on Africa's power and gas sectors.

14-16 July

FOPRISA Annual Conference

Formative Process Research on Integration in Southern Africa (FOPRISA) is a research network whose main objective is to assist SADC to advance regional cooperation and integration through research that provides information, data and analysis. The FOPRISA programme commenced in 2005 and is concluding the first phase in 2009. Planning for the next phase is underway.

15-17 July,
Zambia**Southern Africa Investors Roundtable**

The Investors Roundtable in Livingstone is a meeting of energy investors and power utilities to discuss investment in energy projects, running under the theme, "Emerging Investment Opportunities for Sustainable Development in the Southern African Power Sector".

5-7 August,
Zimbabwe**SADC Ministers of Communications**

SADC Ministers responsible for communications meet in Victoria Falls to consider ways of strengthening postal services in the region and craft a four-year plan for the industry.

7-8 September,
DRC**SADC Summit**

The Summit of Heads of State and Government is the ultimate policy-making body for the Southern African Development Community. This is the 29th Ordinary Summit and will be preceded as usual by the Council of Ministers. The rotating chair will move from South Africa to the DRC during the Summit.

September
DRC**Southern African Power Pool**

Meetings of the various committees of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), made up of 12 electricity utilities in SADC. These are the 33rd SAPP committee meetings.

7-11 September,
Lesotho**Regional Electricity Regulators Association**

Meetings of the Regional Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA) subcommittees on Legal; Economic Regulation; Technical Regulation; Portfolio Committee on Facilitation of Electricity Supply Industry (ESI) Policy, Legislation & Regulations; and the Portfolio Committee on Regional Regulatory Cooperation.



Mozambique celebrates the life of Mondlane

EDUARDO CHIVAMBO Mondlane was the founding President of the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo).

This tall, charismatic man was born on 20 June 1920 in Nwadjahane village in what was then called Portuguese East Africa, the son of a chief in southern Gaza province, and like most young boys he spent the first 10 years of his life herding cattle.

He entered a mission primary school, walking several kilometres every day, but as an African he was prevented from going to secondary school. He taught himself English and got a scholarship to go to high school in South Africa, going on to study social science at the University of the Witwatersrand, where he and others established a students union, causing his arrest by the South African police.

Continuing his studies in Portugal, he met future nationalist leaders from other Portuguese colonies, but due to harassment by the security police, PIDE, he transferred to the United States where he studied sociology and anthropology at Oberlin College, graduating with a BA degree in 1953, followed by a Masters from Northwestern and a PhD in sociology.

After a short period of research at Harvard, he was appointed to the United Nations in 1957 as a research officer in the Trusteeship department, a post that facilitated frequent travel to Africa, and later joined Syracuse University.

He had already concluded from his various experiences and discussions that independence for his country could only be won by fighting for it, and he was determined to unite the various Mozambican political movements for this purpose.

Mondlane strongly supported joint action by all the liberation movements in the region as well as greater cooperation between all liberation movements in Portuguese colonies.

After the Independence of Tanganyika (later Tanzania) in December 1961, he devoted his time to preparations for a unified movement, achieved in 1962 when UDENAMO, MANU and UNAMI formed one organization, Frelimo, whose activities included consolidation and mobilisation, preparation for war, diplomacy, and education.

Mondlane was elected as the first President of Frelimo, and took up his base of operations in Dar es Salaam, the capital of Tanganyika, in early 1963. Like many founder leaders of African countries, such as the late Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, Mondlane was one of the most educated Africans at the time.

Two years after its formation, Frelimo made its first military attack in the north of the country, led by Alberto Chipande, on 25 September 1964.

By 1968, Frelimo was able to hold its second Congress in the liberated zones of northern Mozambique. Mondlane was re-elected. Mozambique became an independent nation on 25 June 1975. Sadly, Mondlane was not present to share the victory.

Forty years ago, on 3 February 1969, at age 48, he was assassinated in Dar es Salaam by a parcel bomb sent by the PIDE. His life is celebrated and his death commemorated each year on 20 June and 3 February, respectively.



Monument to Mondlane in Nwadjahane

Mozambican President Armando Guebuza unveiled a monument to Eduardo Mondlane in his home village of Nwadjahane in the southern province of Gaza, on 20 June, the day that would have been Mondlane's 89th birthday, declaring that no monument can do more than recognize "a small part" of the achievements of the founder and first president of the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo).

"We know that Eduardo Mondlane deserves many more monuments," Guebuza said. "But all the monuments that we can erect in his honour would symbolize only a small part of our recognition and our homage to his immeasurable contribution to the awakening of our nationalist awareness."

The ceremonies included the official launch of the first computer to be assembled in Mozambique, named "Dzowo", which is Mondlane's clan name.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC July-September 2009

1 June	International Children's Day	Angola
1 June	Lundi Lundi Day	Madagascar
5 June	Liberation Day	Seychelles
16 June	Youth Day	South Africa
18 June	National Day	Seychelles
25 June	Independence Day	Mozambique
26 June	Independence Day	Madagascar
29 June	Independence Day	Seychelles
30 June	Independence Day	DRC
1 July	Sir Seretse Khama Day	Botswana
6 July	Independence Day	Malawi
6 July	Heroes Day	Zambia
7 July	International Trade Fair	Tanzania
7 July	Saba Saba (Industry Day)	Tanzania
7 July	Unity Day	Zambia
17 July	King's Birthday	Lesotho
20 July	President's Day	Botswana
21 July	Public Holiday	Botswana
22 July	Birthday of the late King Sobhuza	Swaziland
1 August	Parents' Day	DRC
3 August	Farmers' Day	Zambia
8 August	Peasants' Day	Tanzania
9 August	National Women's Day	South Africa
10 August	Public Holiday	South Africa
10 August	Heroes Day	Zimbabwe
11 August	Defence Forces Day	Zimbabwe
15 August	Assumption Day	Madagascar
15 August	Assumption of Mary	Seychelles
17 August	SADC Day Commemorations	All
26 August	Heroes Day	Namibia

* Depends on sighting of the moon