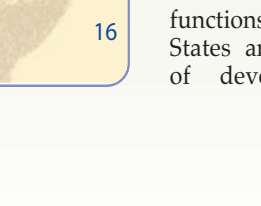
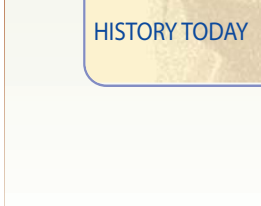
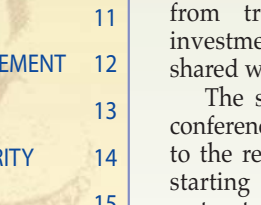
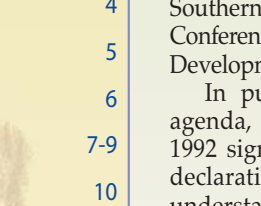
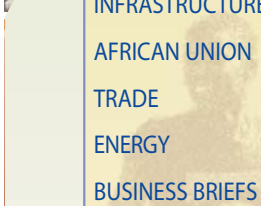
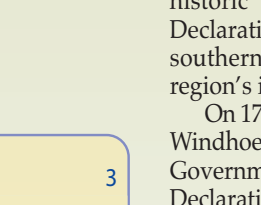




SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY



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SADC integration 20 years on

THE YEAR 2012 marks 20 years since the historic signing of the SADC Treaty and Declaration and presents an opportunity for southern Africans to forge ahead with the region's integration agenda.

On 17 August 1992, at their Summit held in Windhoek, Namibia, the Heads of State and Government signed the SADC Treaty and Declaration that effectively transformed the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) into the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

In pursuit of the regional integration agenda, SADC Member States have since 1992 signed 26 protocols and a number of declarations, charters and memoranda of understanding on various matters, ranging from trade, mining and finance and investment to illicit drugs, forestry and shared watercourses.

The shift in focus from a coordinating conference to a development community led to the restructuring of SADC's institutions starting in 2001. The exercise saw the restructuring and centralization of SADC functions, from 21 sectors based in Member States and dealing with a diverse range of development issues from health,

environment and mining to trade, tourism and investment, into four (now five) directorates based at the SADC headquarters in Gaborone, Botswana.

The reform of the SADC structure and its institutional framework since 1992 represented a strategic shift of intention to consolidate regional economic and political integration by Member States and the willingness to address broader development issues, while accelerating the process towards an integrated Regional Economic Community (REC) as part of the envisaged African Economic Community.

Another milestone achieved since the transformation of SADC was the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), a 15-year development blueprint produced in 2003 that provides strategic direction to the organisation and aims to operationalise the SADC Common Agenda towards poverty eradication.

The overriding target is to attain annual economic growth rates of at least seven percent, necessary to halve the proportion of people in the region living in poverty by 2015.

continued on page 2...

POLICY	3
INFRASTRUCTURE	4
AFRICAN UNION	5
TRADE	6
ENERGY	7-9
BUSINESS BRIEFS	10
AGRICULTURE	11
DISASTER MANAGEMENT	12
ELECTIONS	13
PEACE AND SECURITY	14
EVENTS	15
HISTORY TODAY	16

SADC integration 20 years on

To realign the RISDP with new realities on the continent, SADC leaders have ordered a review of the blueprint. SADC leaders, at their Summit in Angola in 2011, directed the Ministerial Taskforce on Regional Economic Integration to review the RISDP to identify priorities and reorient the region's integration agenda.

The taskforce is expected to table a report on the RISDP review during the 2012 Summit to be held in Maputo, Mozambique.

The reorientation of SADC's priorities comes in the wake of ongoing Tripartite negotiations between SADC, the East African Community (EAC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

This has meant that SADC's integration agenda can no longer be discussed in isolation from the Tripartite.

Despite staff shortages and other administrative challenges, SADC has also significantly moved forward on many substantive issues related to its restructuring programme.

The Organ for Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation has made progress in establishing procedures and mechanisms for intervention. SADC-initiated dialogue in Lesotho and in Zimbabwe, for example, has yielded positive results in resolution of national political disputes, thus helping to maintain stability in the region.

Similar dialogue is ongoing for Madagascar, which was suspended from membership of SADC following a military takeover in 2009.

However, perhaps the biggest achievement for SADC since the signing of the Treaty was the 2008 launch of a Free Trade Area (FTA) in the region. The SADC FTA came into force on 1 January 2008 following

implementation of agreed tariff phase-down commitments between 2000 and 2007.

From 2008, producers and consumers no longer pay import duty on an estimated 85 percent of all trade on goods between participating Member States. Two countries, Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo, have said they will join the FTA later.

Twenty years after SADC opted for a development integration approach, 2012 presents another opportunity for regional leaders to consolidate the gains made so

far and move the regional agenda forward.

The 2011 Summit also directed the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration to expedite work leading to agreement and common understanding on the roadmap for the proposed SADC Customs Union, which was initially set for launch in 2010.

Launch of the Customs Union has been postponed to allow Member States more time to consolidate the implementation and gains of the FTA, which SADC

governments feel is a more manageable and practical agenda.

Work is expected to continue this year on the long-awaited SADC Infrastructure Master Plan, which will guide development in key infrastructure such as road, rail and ports in the region. The regional infrastructure master plan, initiated by SADC leaders in 2007 and initially set for launch last year, would focus on key areas such as energy, transport, telecommunications, water infrastructure and tourism. □

Strong support for SADC candidate to lead AU Commission

Elections for African Union Commission deadlocked

ELECTIONS TO choose the chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission were suspended at the recent Summit in Ethiopia, after no winner emerged despite several rounds of voting.

The SADC-endorsed candidate, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, who is Minister of Home Affairs of South Africa and a former foreign minister, was contesting the post against incumbent AU Commission chairperson, Jean Ping from Gabon, amid much disquiet among many AU leaders over the Commission's handling of recent conflicts in Ivory Coast and Libya.

The hugely anticipated election ended in a deadlock after Ping and Dlamini-Zuma both failed to get two-thirds of the vote. The deadlock forced postponement of the vote to the next summit, which will be held in southern Africa, in Malawi, in July.

The deadlock also blocked the selection of new AU commissioners. The incumbent will head a caretaker administration until the Summit. Ping's failure to secure two-thirds of the vote, even as the sole candidate in the last round, is seen as a vote of no confidence. □



former South African President Thabo Mbeki, and replaced by the AU. □



AU Golden Jubilee set for 2013

THE AFRICAN Union will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the birth of its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), on 25 May 2013. The AU will mark the Golden Jubilee by highlighting the ideals of Pan-Africanism and Africa's aspirations for peace, democracy, development and unity. The OAU was established on 25 May 1963 in Addis Ababa by 32 governments. It was disbanded on 9 July 2002 at a ceremony in South Africa presided over by its last chairperson, the

First Global African Diaspora Summit

AFRICAN UNION leaders have also agreed to launch the first ever Global African Diaspora Summit on 25 May in South Africa. The Summit is expected to establish a solid foundation for reviving the African family across the world to give impetus to the renaissance of the continent. African leaders requested the AU Commission to consider and prepare a framework document on the representation of the African Diaspora in AU structures and processes. They called upon member states, AU partners and the Diaspora communities worldwide to support the summit and its implementation strategy. □

Strategy for the control of illicit trade in small arms

SENIOR OFFICIALS from SADC and other Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and representatives of regional bodies have prepared a draft strategy for the control of illicit proliferation and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) in Africa as the continent moves to contain cross-border violence.

Proliferation of SALWs in Africa poses a major threat to the continent's development. Small arms include rifles, pistols and light machineguns, and widespread abuse tends to divert scarce government resources from crucial health and education spending to expenditure on strengthening public security.

Uncontrolled use and trade in small arms and light weapons has negative effects on investment and economic growth, and causes injuries and loss of lives.

The African Union (AU) Commission and RECs met in Lome, Togo, late last year to define a Draft AU Strategy on the Control of Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, and an African Common Position on an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

The Togo meeting adopted the Draft Strategy and ATT documents and mandated the AU Commission to push for the implementation of these decisions.

A follow-up meeting held in Gaborone, Botswana, in January drew 18 senior arms experts from SADC, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), the East African

Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

They were joined by experts from the AU Commission, the United Nations Regional Centre on Small Arms and regional bodies on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

The experts produced a 2012 work plan for the Ad Hoc AU-Regions Steering Committee on SALWs.

The role of Southern African Regional Police Chiefs organization

THE SOUTHERN African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO) was formed in 1994 and coordinates implementation of the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials.

With its secretariat in Harare, Zimbabwe, it is an affiliate SADC structure and has a dedicated firearms desk officer responsible for assisting Member States with the implementation of the SADC firearms protocol.

Through SARPCCO, Member States engage in joint cross-border arms and ammunition collection and destruction operations. The operations have so far worked with Angola, Mozambique and more recently Namibia.

Approximately 46,000 small arms and light weapons, and close to 25 million rounds of small arms ammunition have been collected and destroyed. Other SADC countries have unilaterally destroyed surplus, obsolete and illegal arms and ammunition, including South Africa.

SARPCCO has assisted Member States to reform their firearms legislation to conform to provisions of the Protocol. In this regard it developed standard operating procedures for national implementation of the protocol in 2008.

The procedures aim to standardise, simplify and enhance the process of firearm controls and transfers in southern Africa. □

Through the strategy, the AU aims to prevent, combat and eradicate the trafficking of SALWs in an integrated and holistic manner across all regions of Africa.

To achieve this, there are plans to reinforce the existing Steering Committee on SALWs and ensure that the committee gradually attains the status of a standing committee, to be called the AU-Regions Standing Committee on SALWs.

The Committee is responsible for coordinating and facilitating the implementation of continental

agreements against the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of SALWs.

The strategy seeks to deepen cooperation and strengthen coordination at regional and continental levels in the implementation of agreements on the control of SALWs.

This will be achieved through the exchange of information and experiences as well as sharing of best practices.

SADC is one of a few RECs that have developed legal instruments governing the manufacture, sale and use of firearms.

The SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials of 2001 makes the illicit production and possession of small arms a criminal offence and encourages Member States to introduce tighter control measures over weapon stockpiles and arms transfers.

In line with requirements of the Protocol, SADC Member States have established national focal points who are members of the regional coordinating committee under the auspices of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO).

The ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and other Related Materials of 2006 and the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa of 2004 are the only other sub-regional agreements to control SALWs in Africa. □

AfDB financing corridor development concept

by Joseph Ngwawi

A **ROBUST** road transport is essential to development in southern Africa where access to good and well-serviced roads may be the difference between prosperity and poverty or even between life and death.

Lack of a good road transport network is one of the main impediments to intra-regional trade, with members of the same economic bloc often appearing detached from each other due to poor road connectivity.

Road transport is the most dominant mode of moving goods in the SADC region and the demand for good service is increasing constantly. Efforts to improve the road infrastructure in line with rising demand have been hampered by inadequate financing in most Member States.

Funds for road maintenance activities generally come from the treasuries of Member States, allocated under normal budgetary systems, and often compete with other priority social sectors such as education and health.

Faced with this scenario, most roads in the regions have deteriorated over the past decade as budgetary allocations for road maintenance declined in real terms.

Taking cognisance of these factors, SADC Member States have been implementing some institutional reforms in the road sub-sector. Financing of the roads is one of the most critical issues to be addressed with the reforms.

With the assistance of the African Development Bank (AfDB), several SADC Member States are undertaking major rehabilitation works of their road networks.



Among these are Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania, which are concluding agreements with the AfDB to improve road infrastructure in the two countries.

Under the Road Sector Support Project Phase II programme, Tanzania plans to upgrade 387km of trunk roads, consisting mainly of resurfacing part of the road from the capital Dodoma in the centre of the country, to Babati, and the Tunduru-Mangaka-Mtambaswala road in the south.

The project aims to improve road transport infrastructure to reduce road maintenance and travel time between those centres, and provide access to bigger markets and social services for local communities.

The 225km road between Dodoma and Babati is part of

the Cape-to-Cairo Trans-African Highway and the North-South Corridor, adopted through a tripartite agreement by the East African Community, SADC and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

Dodoma is the political capital of Tanzania and the seat of the country's parliament, the Bunge.

The 139km Tunduru-Mangaka road is a section of the Mtwara Corridor running from the Mtwara port to Mbaba Bay on Lake Malawi, while the 800km Mtwara-Mbamba Bay road provides the backbone transport infrastructure with cross-border linkages to northern Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia.

The opening up of the road between Mtwara port and Mbamba Bay has great

potential to promote the development of natural resources in the Mtwara corridor, as well as connecting northern Mozambique and Malawi to the nearest port of Mtwara.

The AfDB is also funding the rehabilitation of the 152km Nsipe-Liwonde-Magochi road under the Nacala Road Corridor Project Phase III being negotiated with Malawi.

The project will be implemented in two phases, each consisting of rehabilitation works on 76km length.

The project aims to provide Malawi, Zambia and the interior of Mozambique with an improved road transport linkage to the port of Nacala.

The same project will see the construction of two border posts between Malawi and Zambia and between Malawi and Mozambique beginning in the second half of 2012.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has agreed in principle to finance the One Stop Border Posts while the Malawian government will meet 10 percent of project costs. □

Brazilian firm to construct/rehabilitate railway through Malawi

MALAWI HAS signed a \$1 billion deal with a Brazilian company for the construction and rehabilitation of a railway line that can transport 18 million tonnes of coal from Mozambique, according to Malawian officials.

A new 138.5km railway line will be built, stretching from Chikhwawa in the south to meet an existing line at Balaka, and the existing 98.6 km link between Nkaya and Nayuchi will be rehabilitated.

"Vale will invest about \$1 bn in Malawi over a period of

three years for construction and rehabilitation of the railway line and it is expected to employ 4,500 workers, of which 70 percent will be Malawians," the Minister of Transport, Sidick Mia, said.

The railway will have annual haulage of at least 5 million tonnes of general Malawian cargo, and distances can be cut in transporting Mozambican coal by taking cargo through Malawi.

Mozambique has some of the world's largest untapped coal reserves. fin.24.co.za □

Beira rail system returned to CFM

MOZAMBIQUE HAS regained control of the Beira railway system operated by an Indian consortium since 2004. The initial deadline for completing rehabilitation work on the line was September 2009, but the line was not in a condition to carry coal trains until late 2011. The Beira rail system consists of the Machipanda line from Beira to Zimbabwe, and the Sena line from Beira to the Moatize coalmines and extending into Malawi. **AIM** □



AU to accelerate infrastructure development through the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa

THE AFRICAN Union has resolved to accelerate its infrastructure development programme and work towards the creation of a continent-wide free trade area by 2017.

The 18th AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, adopted a series of agreements on the continent's economic, political and security issues.

These included a resolution to speed up Africa's infrastructure development, which is regarded as one of the pillars of the continent's economic integration agenda.

According to the Declaration on the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa issued at the end of the summit, African leaders recognize "the vital role of infrastructure and related services in the political and social-economic development, and physical integration of the continent", especially given the population growth and economic demands.

The 54 Member States agreed to increase public financing of infrastructure, implement major power projects such as hydro-electricity, oil refinery and gas pipelines, accelerate the construction of missing links and modernization of railways, and increase the capacity of ports.

The declaration committed African countries to developing new and renewable energy resources to provide clean, reliable and affordable energy as well as nuclear energy for peaceful use.

The summit also recommended the development of regional and continental broadband networks and

submarine cables to promote Africa's digital economy.

In order to achieve these targets, the summit appealed to international institutions such as the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the World Bank to support the implementation of its projects and plans.

The declaration said the infrastructure needs will reach about \$60 billion over the next 10 years.

Africa's regional integration agenda is presently affected by low-level connectivity of infrastructure networks and poor access to energy and information services.

The summit also recognized the importance of intra-African trade, and the declaration said

Africa will target the establishment of a continental free trade area by 2017.

"The Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) should be operationalized by the indicative date of 2017, and enhanced intra-African trade and deepened market integration can contribute significantly to sustainable economic growth, employment generation, poverty reduction, inflow of foreign direct investment, industrial development and

better integration of the continent into the global economy," the declaration said.

The AU agreed on a three-step plan to prepare for the launch of the CFTA.

The first step is to finalize the tripartite agreement among the East African Community (EAC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and SADC by 2014.

The second is to urge other trade blocs to follow the experience of the tripartite agreement and reach a parallel agreement between 2012 and 2014.

The third is to consolidate the tripartite and other regional free trade areas into the CFTA initiative between 2015 and 2016. □



Modern headquarters for African Union

THE AFRICA Union has launched its new modern headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, consisting of three conference centres, a helipad and office space for 700 people. In front of the building stands a bronze statue of the former Ghanaian President, Kwame Nkrumah, who was one of the founding fathers of African independence and a respected Pan-African leader. Towering above the Ethiopian capital's skyline, the 99.9 metre-tall building was funded by the Chinese government at a cost of US\$200 million. Construction lasted for three years during which a team of up to 1,200 Chinese and

Ethiopian workers worked around the clock in shifts to finish it on schedule.

The building was inaugurated by the African Heads of State and Government attending the Summit, together with Jia Qinglin, chairman of the People's Political Consultative Conference of China. He said China's trade with African countries reached US\$150 billion in 2011, a 13-fold increase in the past decade. The new AU headquarters is a bold symbol of China's rapidly changing role in Africa, and suggests a shift from mainly bilateral relations to strengthen multilateral links, already established since 2000 through the Forum on China Africa Cooperation. □

Intra-SADC trade increasing steadily

TRADE AMONG southern African countries is increasing steadily, with the potential for significant impact on regional development and integration.

However, more pragmatic measures are needed if the SADC region is to increase the current levels of intra-regional trade to achieve deeper integration.

For example, while trade among Member States has been increasing since 2000, the current figures still fall far short of regional trade with the outside world, particularly with Europe, United States and China.

The SADC Secretariat trade policy advisor, Paul Kalenga, says intra-SADC trade grew in absolute terms to about US\$34 billion in 2009 from US\$13.2 billion in 2000.

While proponents of closer economic co-operation within the region are likely to laud the growth in intra-regional trade, the figure, as a proportion of total SADC trade, has grown only to 18.5 percent in 2009 in the nine-year period from 2000 when it was 15.7 percent.

To increase intra-regional trade, Kalenga said there is need for Member States to address non-tariff barriers as well as other trade barriers such as congestion at border posts caused by customs and immigration laws.

SADC countries must also fully implement the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) launched in 2008. The FTA seeks to promote the smooth movement of goods and services across Member States.

Its launch created a combined population of more than 240 million and a regional market worth over US\$430 billion.

However, little progress has been achieved to date,

especially in the implementation process. For example, Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo continue to have reservations about joining the FTA while other countries that are party to the trade agreement lag behind in the implementation process.

A World Bank report on trade says that "Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and

preferential trade agreements with the European Union do."

A number of bilateral trade agreements exist within the SADC region and are negotiated between SADC Member States themselves.

Reasons for these bilateral trade agreements include the recognition that members could increase bilateral trade and investment opportunities

between themselves through cooperation, tariff liberalization and by reducing miscellaneous barriers, other than tariffs, to trade and investment.

Trade in the region is unusually concentrated in agricultural products as well as machinery, fuels and chemicals, among other inputs. □



Experts agree timetable for Grand FTA negotiations

THE TRIPARTITE Trade Negotiation Forum (TTNF) involving the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and SADC has agreed to a timetable and format of negotiations to establish an integrated market covering 26 countries in east and southern Africa.

This was adopted during the first round of negotiations held in December 2011 in Kenya following the historic launch of negotiations by the leaders of the three regional economic communities last June.

It was agreed that the TTNF would meet at least four times per year during the first phase of negotiations, with more frequent meetings of the technical working groups in the various sub-sectors.

The first phase of negotiations is to be completed within 36 months (June 2013), and will address issues such as tariff liberalisation, rules of origin, customs cooperation, non-tariff barriers, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, trade remedies and dispute settlement.

The second phase of negotiations will focus on negotiating trade in services and trade related issues, including intellectual property rights, competition policy and trade development and competitiveness.

Facilitating movement of business persons within the region will be negotiated in parallel with the first phase. □

"Cahora Bassa is ours!"

Mozambique energy backbone to boost regional power trade

THE LAUNCH of the Mozambique energy backbone is expected to strengthen regional power trade and address energy shortages in the region, as well as improving access to energy in Mozambique.

SADC has experienced power shortages since 2006 due to factors such as low investment in new energy infrastructure and poor transmission interconnection across Member States.

However, with the launch of the Mozambique energy backbone, the region is set to address some of its challenges as the interconnector will create an alternative route for power imports and exports among SADC countries.

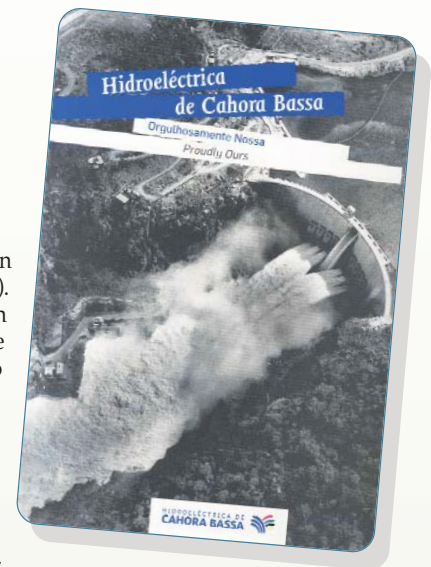
The project consists of a double transmission line from the Tete province in central Mozambique to the capital Maputo in southern Mozambique and the interconnected power network

managed by the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

Budgeted at more than US\$2.5 billion, the backbone seeks to guarantee the availability of integrated and efficient electricity facilities that can support industrialization in Mozambique and the region.

When operational, power from the Cahora Bassa dam on the Zambezi River can go directly to the south of the country, instead of via South Africa as happens under the current arrangement through a colonial agreement between Portugal and South Africa dating before Mozambique's independence in 1975.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, the Mozambican



President Armando Guebuza said the project would give the country and the region a vital infrastructure for the rapid, reliable and safe transmission of electricity.

He said power from Cahora Bassa would be available along the transmission line, ensuring that the true meaning of the phrase "Cahora Bassa is ours!" would be felt by many more Mozambican communities.

"By ensuring inter-connection between the centre-north and centre-south power systems, the backbone will also make viable new electricity generation projects, using our rich and diversified potential," he said.

Guebuza said the project fits well into Mozambique's vision for the electrification of the entire country through development of generation and transmission infrastructure.

This is not just another power line, he stressed, but a project of social transformation in which technology is a key factor of change.

"This project will break the vicious cycle whereby there is a lack of energy-intensive investments because there is no electricity, and there is no electricity because there are no energy-intensive consumers in Mozambique". □

The energy backbone will transport electricity generated in new hydropower plants at Mphanda Nkuwa (1,500 MW) and Cahora Bassa north bank (1,245 MW) to the regional market. It will comprise of a 400kiloVolt high-voltage alternating current line and an 800kV high-voltage direct current line to supply the major consumption zones within Mozambique and link with the South African market. □

Batoka power station to light up southern African

THE BATOKA hydropower project could soon become a reality as Zambia and Zimbabwe have intensified efforts to construct the power station, although environmental challenges remain a factor.

This follows the payment of more than US\$70 million to Zambia by Zimbabwe, an amount long outstanding as a contribution towards the construction of the Kariba South power station.

The payment, which had been outstanding for more than two decades, is expected to end a standoff that had stalled work on the Batoka power project.

The debt was for the shared cost of the Kariba Dam construction and the associated infrastructure,

built before Zimbabwe's independence. It also involved proceeds from the sale of assets of the Central African Power Corporation (CAPCO), which both countries owned as members of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland dissolved in 1963.

Zambia felt that Zimbabwe had benefited more from the sale, while Zimbabwe argued that it had contributed more. After a series of meetings it was agreed that Zimbabwe should compensate Zambia.

"The total principal debt is US\$70.8 million, but it has accrued interest over the years," said Elton Mangoma, Zimbabwe's energy minister.

He said he would meet his Zambian counterpart to discuss the construction of the Batoka power station.

Located between the two countries, about 50km downstream of the Victoria Falls (Mosi oa Tunya), the plant will have the capacity to produce up to 1,600 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

It is envisaged that Zambia and Zimbabwe will share the power equally, but as the two countries are members of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) much of the electricity will also feed into the regional power grid.

This will allow the installed capacity at the planned station to be realized across the SADC region.

All mainland SADC Member States, with the exception of Angola, Malawi and Tanzania, are interconnected through SAPP. □

THE YEAR 2012 has been declared the United Nations Year of Sustainable Energy for All, underscoring a global commitment to increase the use of renewable energy.

In December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2012 the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, recognizing that “access to modern affordable energy services in developing countries is essential for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).”

The General Assembly’s Resolution 65/151 called on UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, in consultation with the inter-agency group UN Energy to organize and coordinate activities to be undertaken during the Year in order to “increase awareness of the importance of addressing energy issues, including modern energy services for all, access to affordable energy, energy efficiency and the sustainability of energy sources and use” at local, national, regional and international levels.

In response, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, with support from UN Energy, is leading a new global initiative – *Sustainable Energy for All*.

The initiative will engage governments, the private sector, and civil society partners globally with the goal of achieving sustainable energy for all, and to reach three major objectives by 2030:

- ensuring universal access to modern energy services;
- reducing global energy intensity by 40 percent; and
- increasing renewable energy use globally to 30 percent.

The designation of the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All will provide a vital platform for raising awareness of the challenge and for securing national commitments towards achieving the three objectives.

Key Elements of the Global Initiative

• High-Level Group

The Secretary General has convened high-level representatives from the private sector, governments, UN, intergovernmental organizations and civil society to develop a global strategy and concrete agenda for action to reach the three objectives. The roadmap will be offered for consideration at the Rio+20 Conference in June 2012.

- **National Actions** – The United Nations Development Programme will provide support to national activities on advocacy, commitments and accountability to drive action on universal energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy goals. National activities may include designation of national coordinating mechanisms to facilitate wide stakeholder involvement by government, private-sector, civil society and development partners; advocacy and dialogue towards the formulation of national commitments; and accountability mechanisms to measure success.

SADC Renewable Energy Context

Opportunities and importance of renewable energy are widely acknowledged within the SADC region. Renewable energy is energy that is continuously and sustainably available such as wind, solar, biomass and hydropower.

Renewable energy resources are abundant in the region, especially solar energy, biomass energy and hydropower, while energy based on fossil fuels is still available at affordable cost. This



2012 – UN Year of Sustainable Energy

is the case with coal-based power in the region.

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 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.

Regional Initiatives in SADC

Southern African countries have identified a number of renewable energy projects that are due for commissioning between 2020 and 2030.

These include the Kudu gas power project in Namibia and the Eskom Concentrating Solar Power projects in South Africa.

Other projects being considered are the Mphanda Nkuwa hydropower project in Mozambique, Itezhi Tezhi hydropower in Zambia and the Inga hydropower project in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Inga project has the potential to produce about 40,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity, enough to meet most of the current power needs for the entire SADC region.

Meeting in January in Gaborone, Botswana, for the 2nd SADC workshop on Renewable Energy Strategy and Action Plan (RESAP), energy experts from the region agreed to increase the use of cleaner energy sources to ensure sustainable socio-economic development.

It was agreed that the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) should achieve a renewable energy mix in the regional energy grid of at least 32 percent by 2020 and 35 percent by 2030.

SAPP, a 12-member regional body that coordinates

Renewable Energy

- Angola
- Botswana
- DRC
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Seychelles
- South Africa
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Source: SADC



ENERGY AFRICA

Energy for All

the planning, generation, transmission and marketing of electricity on behalf of Member State utilities in SADC, presently generates about 73 percent of its electricity from thermal stations.

Hydropower generation accounts for only 17 percent of total energy production in SADC, while distillate power stations contribute five percent, nuclear stations add four percent to the regional power grid and Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) stations make up another one percent to the grid.

Nuclear power stations use uranium as their source of fuel. Uranium is a non-renewable resource that will eventually be exhausted.

Renewable Energy Opportunities

• Solar Energy

Solar thermal-electric systems have the long-term potential to provide a significant portion of SADC's electricity and energy needs. Research has shown that most countries in southern Africa receive more than 2,500 hours of sunshine per year. This is because the SADC region, and in fact the whole of Africa, has sunshine all year round.



Knowledge on solar energy technology is widespread in the SADC region, although its use is still limited. Solar heating systems vary from very simple and cheap water and air heaters to sophisticated, high-performance, long-life and expensive solar boilers.

The potential of solar energy in SADC will, however, depend on the cost and performance improvements of solar electric technologies. 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 African Development Bank.

The use of innovative financing schemes, such as fee-for-service arrangements, is one way to overcome these high up-front costs. Installing solar panels to power multiple houses at once can also cut down on costs.

• Wind Energy

SADC Member States are slowly turning to wind power to boost production and meet ever-growing demand for electricity in the region. Wind energy is regarded as one of the most reliable and cleaner forms of power that does not pollute the environment compared to other forms such as thermal.



Intermittent wind power on a large grid can contribute substantially to annual electricity production without special arrangements for storage, backup and load management.

Wind farms are relatively easier to construct – it is estimated that it takes just a year to build one with a capacity of 100 MW.

Independent power producers in South Africa have commissioned at least 400 MW of wind power since 2006, with most of the plants located along the west coast that has the potential to generate about 10,000 MW of electricity.

Similar wind energy projects are being developed in Madagascar, which will see the island drawing its energy from the wind and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

• Biomass

Most households in the SADC region obtain their energy for cooking and heating from biomass.



Biomass energy is fuel derived from any living organism but traditionally comprises wood, charcoal, dung and agricultural residues. Potential biomass energy supplies include municipal solid waste, industrial residues and energy plantations.

Through the Programme for Biomass Energy Conservation (ProBEC), SADC in partnership with German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) are promoting efficient energy-saving wood stoves in the region.

ProBEC promotes a switch to renewable energy sources through the introduction of biogas, solar cookers, and fuels can include crop residues. Charcoal is considered a form of wood-fuel. The programme also provides training for entrepreneurs who supply the products to the market independent of the project. □

Renewable Energy Instruments in SADC

	National Energy Policy	Energy Master plan	Renewable Energy (RE) Policy	RE Strategy	RE Master plan/Action Plan	Integration of RE into Rural Electrification
Botswana	✓	✓				✓
Lesotho	✓					
Malawi	✓					
Mozambique	✓					
Swaziland	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Tanzania	✓		✓			✓
Zambia	✓					
Zimbabwe	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
South Africa	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

Directorate of Infrastructure and Services, Energy Division

Angola has oil reserves to last 50 years

THE SIZE of Angola's oil reserves, which had previously been estimated at 20 years, has been revised upwards and is now projected to last another 50 years following the commencement of new exploration activities off the country's Atlantic Ocean coast.

In December last year, Angola's national oil and natural gas regulator Sonangol signed contracts with oil companies for exploration of the pre-salt layer in 11 blocks and, although the existence of oil has yet to be confirmed in most of the blocks, there have

already been satisfactory results in the Kwanza basin. British oil company BP is optimistic about future prospects for oil exploration in Angola.

"The pre-salt layer in the Benguela and Kwanza basins have the potential to increase the lifetime of the oil industry



in Angola to half a century," observed BP chief executive, Bob Dudley.

BP was awarded four contracts for exploration of pre-salt layer blocks.

In 2010 Angola produced an average of 1.9 million barrels of oil per day. However, production in 2011 fell to about 1.7 million barrels of oil per day. *Angola Hub* □

Namibia to attract investment for the Kudu project

NAMIBIA IS finalising details of a multimillion-dollar guarantee for the national power utility Nampower and petroleum flagship company Namcor, which are involved in the development of the N\$7 billion (about US\$876 million) Kudu Gas Project.

The two companies are Namibia's largest participants in the capital-intensive Kudu Gas, whose licences have changed multiple hands since its discovery in 1974.

Mines and Energy Minister Isak Katali said the guarantee is meant to attract partners for the project's upstream operation, whose absence constitutes the biggest hold-up on progress.

"Government is preparing a guarantee for the project and discussions are ongoing," he said.

The search for partners was partly triggered by last year's withdrawal of the Russian gas company Gazprom, which

had expressed interest in the project in 2009.

When fully operational, the plant is expected to produce about 800 megawatts, which would go a long way in addressing some of the energy challenges facing the country.

Currently, over 50 percent of electricity used in Namibia is imported from Angola, DRC, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. *New Era* □

Mauritius targets greater investment in 2012

MAURITIUS WILL focus on boosting foreign direct investment and export promotion in 2012 amid projections that the economy will expand by more than four percent this year.

Finance Minister, Xavier-Luc Duval said during the presentation of the 2012 national budget that government spending during the next financial year will focus on activities to boost investment, export promotion, market development and the opening up of the economy.

He said "more focus and more carefully thought-out promotional campaigns" will be run in India, China and Africa.

Other initiatives include the proposed establishment of a Joint Public-Private Sector Business Facilitation Task Force that will define measures aimed at removing the remaining bottlenecks to investment and exports. □

Swaziland rail project to boost regional trade



SWAZILAND IS set to reap socio-economic gains from the development of a 146-kilometre railway line linking the country with neighbouring South Africa.

"Transnet and Swaziland Railways have agreed to jointly develop a 146-km line from Lothair in Mpumalanga to Sidvokodvo Junction in Swaziland as well as upgrading adjacent rail

networks in South Africa," Transnet group chief executive Brian Molefe said, adding that the line "will provide an unprecedented economic boost to the region."

He said the line will act as a coal transport route and will enable freight trains up to 200 wagons in length to travel across the border. Rail is a cheaper and better mode of transport compared to road.

He said it is preferable for coal to be transported via rail as opposed to trucks, as this is cost-effective for unprocessed minerals and bulk products.

The new line will also handle general freight volumes separate from coal, and will add new rail transport capacity of 15 million tonnes to the region. *AllAfrica.com* □

Agriculture support services key to boosting food security

AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS from developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) regions have urged their governments to strengthen extension services to achieve food security and promote rural development.

The participants attending an international conference on innovations in extension and advisory services held in Kenya said that a sustainable food supply is possible if policies on agricultural extension services are enacted and fully implemented.

The support from adequate extension services would allow farmers to try new crops or livestock enterprises and determine the production practices that are most suitable in supplying specific markets or expanding enterprises to community or national level.

Kenya's Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Kareke Mbiuki, said the farmer-to-extension ratio needs improvement, adding that most countries are struggling to meet the demands of their farmers.

He said the ratio in Africa is about one extension officer to 4,000 farmers, with the number reduced by the exodus of skilled extension personnel due to low salaries in the public sector.

The Permanent Secretary for Agriculture from Antigua and Barbuda in the Caribbean, Zane Peters urged the relevant stakeholders to work together in addressing shortcomings in extension and advisory services.

She said while national governments have the full responsibility of ensuring they provide the right environment for the development and improvement of extension

services, they cannot solve the challenges of the extension industry on their own.

"Partnerships are important," she added. "The private and public sector should work together to improve agriculture extension services."

The Director of the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA) in Brussels, Michael Hailu, said the ACP regions have a vast amount of natural resources to become global players in the agricultural sector, but this is often hindered by poor agricultural policies.

He said for the regions to boost food security there is need to equip farmers as well as ensure that farmers have access to knowledge, technologies and financing required to increase productivity.

"There is no point in developing new technologies or environmentally friendly, climate-smart systems if the farmers are not consulted and the outputs are not widely disseminated and practiced," he said.

The Executive Director of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Monty Jones, in urging national governments to review their policies and strategies on extension services, said a "teacher-student" approach is often adopted where the extension worker "feeds" the farmers with information, but this will not work.

"The whole process should be all-inclusive so that extension workers and farmers interact."

On gender equity and empowerment, the President of the Women in Agriculture

Development Foundation of Papua New Guinea, Maria Linibi, said that special focus must be accorded to women who make up the majority of farmers.

She said women are often marginalized by extension services because many are illiterate and because some cultures tend to shield women from improving their skills.

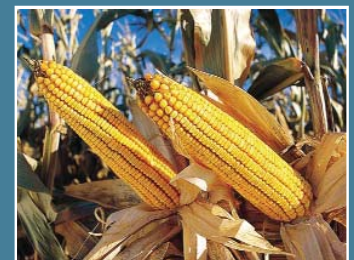
Another key issue raised at the conference was the need to harmonize agricultural extension and advisory services.

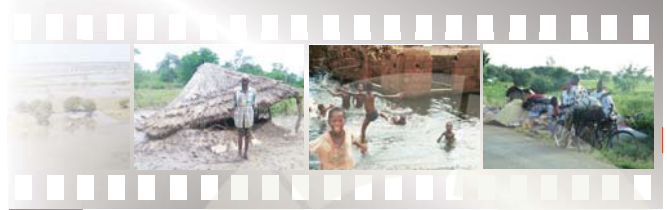
With regard to the transfer of research information, a communications specialist with the Farmers Union of Malawi, Catherine Mloza-Banda, said in an interview that if governments developed an appreciation for the concept of agricultural innovation systems, this would assist in the flow of information amongst farmers, research officers and others.

For example, community radio can help in spreading the information to farmers as well as facilitate information-sharing with researchers, experts, agro-dealers and policy makers.

Radio creates a platform that can serve everyone, giving extension workers the opportunity not only to send information, but also to receive feedback for the various technologies that are being passed on to the farmer.

Investment in new technologies such as mobile phones gives farmers the opportunity to have timely and convenient access to market and technical information directly from the market, thereby encouraging direct interaction between the farmers and the buyers. □





SADC responding to threat of floods

SOUTHERN AFRICA has activated contingency plans to offset and mitigate the impact of floods as heavy rains hit most parts of the region, as predicted by the SADC regional climate centre.

Heavy rains that began in December 2011 and continued through January 2012 have caused flooding in some parts of the region, claiming lives and destroying property and infrastructure.

Hardest hit are countries in the Zambezi River basin and further afield in Lesotho, Madagascar and South Africa. SADC weather experts have predicted normal to above-normal rains for most of the region from January to March 2012 largely because of the continuing effects of the 2011 La Nina phenomenon. This is the opposite condition to El Niño, caused by a warming of waters in the western Pacific Ocean that impacts on the weather over a quarter of the earth's surface, bringing drought to southern Africa.

According to the SADC Climate Services Centre, seasonal wind convergence in the Congo basin since the last week of December 2011, and the interaction between eastward mid-latitude and tropical systems across southern and south-eastern Africa have escalated rainfall activity in mainland SADC countries.

"Thus there is increased chance for heavy rainfall over southern DRC, north-eastern Angola, half of eastern Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, central parts of Tanzania and Zimbabwe," the Centre said.

This was echoed by the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET), which warned of heavy rainfall

across southern Africa during the period January to March. The heaviest rainfall (above 150mm) is expected over southern Zambia, northern Zimbabwe, southern Malawi, Mozambique and eastern Madagascar, according to FEWSNET.

"In Mozambique, the combined increased level of the Zambezi River due to discharges of the Kariba and Cahora Bassa dams and the heavy rainfall forecast over



northern Mozambique raises concerns for flooding along downstream locations," FEWSNET said.

The region was pounded by heavy rains since a tropical depression hit Mozambique in January when two powerful storms, Tropical Cyclone Funso and Tropical Depression Dando, caused flooding in coastal regions.

Officials say flooding from the two storm systems claimed at least 40 lives and displaced several thousands. Major highways between the capital, Maputo, and northern parts of the country were destroyed, raising fears of food shortages in affected areas.

The government's new estimate of the number of people directly affected by the torrential rains, high winds and flooding brought by the

two storm systems is 119,000, according to the Mozambique news agency, AIM.

Mozambique began releasing water from the Cahora Bassa Dam on the Zambezi last year with people living along the lower Zambezi basin and in the Buzi, Save and Pungue basins being relocated.

Local authorities have been running flood simulation exercises since November 2011 to prepare communities for sudden evacuations

are closely monitoring water levels in the Zambezi River.

The Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit of Zambia (DMMUZ) has also prepared a contingency plan to assist about 370,000 people likely to be affected by rain and dry spells following assessments indicating that the water level in the Zambezi was higher than that recorded last year.

"We have had three seasons of heavy rainfall and the ground is saturated with water, making it more prone to flooding," the DMMUZ National Coordinator, Dominicano Mulenga, said.

Namibia has prepositioned essential commodities and relief tools as part of their contingency plans, especially in the Caprivi Region, which is prone to floods.

With regard to South Africa, the country has been forced to temporarily close the Kruger National Park following floods that hit the area early this year.

Heavy rains that pounded the northern part of the country for days in January, causing streams in the national park to flood and sweeping away a number of bridges. Park officials were forced to evacuate 60 tourists in January who were stranded on safari drives.

The SADC Secretariat has said that plans are underway to establish an improved communications and early warning system for the region.

Executive Secretary Tomás Salomão said it is important for countries upstream and downstream of major regional rivers to exchange information in order to plan joint action as agreed in the SADC Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses. □



SADC awaits elections in four countries

by Joseph Ngwawi

AT LEAST one national election is expected in southern Africa this year, with three others pending.

Buoyed by an atmosphere of relative peace and political stability that has obtained in the region for the past few years, SADC is awaiting polls this year in Angola and possibly in Lesotho, Madagascar and Zimbabwe.

President José Eduardo dos Santos announced in a New Year's Day televised address that Angola will hold elections to choose new Members of Parliament (MPs) by the end of August 2012.

This is the first time Angola will hold elections since adopting a new Constitution in 2009 under which the President is elected by Parliament from the largest party in the House of Assembly, similar to the South African system. Under the new governance charter, the President's tenure will now be limited to two terms.

DRC tensions trigger fears of instability

POST-ELECTION instability following the disputed presidential election in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is causing concern in the region.

The hotly contested presidential poll in November was won by President Joseph Kabila. The 40-year-old Kabila won a second term with some 49 percent of the popular vote against 32 percent for his nearest rival Etienne Tshisekedi of the Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS) party.

Tshisekedi has disputed the results, claiming that the polls were marred

by numerous irregularities. However, the country's Supreme Court upheld the election results on 15 December, saying that the incumbent president won 48.95 percent of the vote against 32.33 percent for his opponent.

The 79-year-old Tshisekedi has proclaimed himself the democratically elected new leader of the DRC and controversially swore himself in during a ceremony held at his house on 24 December, four days after Kabila was sworn in by the country's Supreme Court.

Upon his inauguration, Kabila vowed to safeguard

national unity and promote peace and security in the country and within the region. Tshisekedi has stopped just short of calling mass protests but urged Congolese security forces to defect and recognise him as the elected president.

The veteran opposition leader, a former prime minister under dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, has no militia of his own but the announcement of the results in December triggered violence in the streets of Kinshasa. Hundreds of DRC nationals fled their homes and sought refuge in neighbouring countries after the tensions heightened in December. □

conclusion of ongoing processes to resolve disputes among the main political players in the respective countries.

In the case of Lesotho, a SADC-brokered political dialogue was concluded in April 2011, paving way for elections possibly later this year.

Post-electoral dissatisfaction emerged in Lesotho after the 2007 elections as the main opposition party refused to accept the results. A negotiating team comprising heads of churches in Lesotho and facilitators from the SADC Organ troika was put in place by southern African leaders to address the situation.

Zimbabwe's general elections depend on the successful conclusion of an ongoing process to draft a new Constitution, which should then be presented to a national referendum.

President Robert Mugabe has expressed concern at the slow pace of the constitution-making process but has expressed his determination to have the referendum and subsequent elections held this year.

SADC-led mediation efforts in Madagascar have resulted in political leaders agreeing to set up a transitional government to run the country until fresh elections are held this year. However, implementation of this agreement continues to be a challenge.

Madagascar slid into political turmoil in March 2009 after opposition leader Andry Rajoelina seized power from Ravalomanana in a public demonstration backed by the military, in much the same way that Ravalomanana himself had seized power a few years earlier. *sardc.net* □



SADC responds to maritime piracy threat

SOUTHERN AFRICA has strengthened security in its coastal areas as the tide of maritime piracy treks south and threatens trade along the Mozambique Channel.

As Somali pirates venture southwards in the Indian Ocean where they have attacked or seized commercial vessels since 2005, Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states are taking steps to confront the growing problem that has confronted the shipping industry over the past few years.

The capture of a Somali pirate "mother ship" north of Madagascar last year has highlighted the increasing threat of piracy in the Mozambique Channel and its implications for peace and security as well as trade within SADC.

Located between Madagascar on the east and Mozambique on the west, the Mozambique Channel forms an important trade route from southern Africa and the South Atlantic to and from the Indian Ocean.

The Channel is a strategic trade route for SADC, carrying more than half of the region's merchandise exports and imports.

As a result of the large volume of SADC's goods that pass through the 2,400 kilometre-long Channel, the threat posed by Somali pirates as they move south in search of easier hunting grounds is of serious concern to the region.

SADC is increasingly becoming an attractive alternative ground for pirates as they try to avoid scrutiny by international anti-piracy forces

that now monitor the Horn of Africa and the Gulf of Aden.

At least six vessels registered in or belonging to SADC countries have been attacked or seized by Somali pirates since 2007. These include two Tanzanian-registered ships, FV Mavuno 1 and 2, captured in May 2007; and a Seychelles yacht, MV Serenity, seized in February 2009.

The hijackings intensified in 2010 when at least three SADC-registered vessels were attacked. These were the Tanzanian-registered MV Barakaale 1, the South African-owned SY Choizil, and Mozambique's FV Vega 5.

Several other foreign-owned vessels have also been hijacked in recent years on southern Africa waters in Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles.

This has prompted SADC countries to deepen

cooperation in the area of maritime security.

SADC countries have engaged in bilateral and multilateral anti-piracy efforts to boost security in the Mozambique Channel, the latest such move being the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by South Africa and Mozambique in late 2011.

There are plans to extend the agreement to a trilateral MOU that includes Tanzania in a move meant to prevent the southward expansion of operations by Somali pirates.

South Africa has responded to the threat against SADC shipping by sending a frigate with a helicopter and maritime patrol aircraft to cut off pirate attempts to dominate the Channel.

South African Defence and Military Veterans Minister Lindiwe Sisulu told a recent SADC meeting on regional anti-piracy strategy that time was now up for the region to fight piracy.

"There is little doubt that the issue of piracy is beginning to be a serious problem to us. If pirates move into our routes, it will cause a detrimental reaction against many economies," she said.

"We believe we all share in this vulnerability, as piracy is now in our waters. As SADC's coastal areas do not fall within patrol areas of the international anti-pirate forces, SADC will have to take responsibility for its own maritime security." *sardc.net* □



Troika calls for implementation of Madagascar peace roadmap

THE SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation has called on the parties to the Madagascar conflict to urgently find a consensual approach for the implementation of a roadmap to facilitate a return to constitutional order in the Indian Ocean Island.

The ministerial Troika meeting, held in Pretoria and attended by South Africa, Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania as well as the SADC Secretariat, noted that while there has been progress in the implementation of the roadmap, there are still some critical challenges to be resolved.

The committee emphasised the need to avoid the selective



implementation of the roadmap.

"Therefore, the Malagasy stakeholders are urged to expedite the process of implementing all the other outstanding articles of the Roadmap especially those relating to confidence building measures," the ministers said in a communiqué issued after the meeting.

The ministers called for an immediate prioritisation of the

enactment of the amnesty legislation by 29 February 2012 in order to facilitate implementation of outstanding matters as agreed under the roadmap.

The committee also criticised the unilateral decision by former Madagascar President Marc Ravalomanana to return to the island on 21 January, describing the move as a major setback to the process to bring peace to the country. □



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E V E N T S

Events Diary February – April 2012

February 6 – 9, Kenya	Bridges Africa The conference will discuss challenges and opportunities in the designing, construction and maintenance of bridges in Africa.
12-17, Zambia	38th SAPP Meeting The meeting is expected to review the power situation in southern Africa. SAPP is made up of 12 electricity utilities in the SADC region.
21-23, South Africa	Africa Energy Indaba The annual conference aims to explore ways in which Africa can harness its huge energy resources to achieve energy self-sufficiency.
20-22, Kenya	Global Ministerial Environment Forum “Green Economy and International Environmental Governance and Emerging Issues” is the theme of the forum, which will discuss actions for the global community to address climate change. UNEP will launch the GEO-5 Summary for Policy Makers.
TBA, Angola	SADC Council of Ministers Ministers from SADC Member States, from the ministries of foreign affairs, economic development, planning or finance meet twice a year in Council, with responsibility for supervising and monitoring the functions and development of SADC, and ensuring that policies are properly implemented, as well as making recommendations to Summit.
March 5 – 10, Kenya	Regional Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa The forum will deliberate on the improvements of science and technology to promote socio-economic development in Africa.
8, Global	International Women's Day This is an occasion to reflect on progress made so far in advancing women's rights, to call for change and celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have contributed to the development of equality and equity.
19 – 23, Malawi	27th Annual SADC SQUAM Meeting Standard, Quality assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQUAM) meeting aims to improve quality and accreditation standards for SADC countries.
22 – 23, London	Global Energy Summit The summit will allow stakeholders to outline strategies to ensure that energy supplies meet demand.
22 – 27, Ethiopia	AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance Running under the theme “Unleashing Africa’s Potential as the Pole of Global Growth”, the meeting will look at ways of boosting Africa’s economic performance.
April 3-4, Ghana	Africa Investment Forum The forum will discuss how Africa can attract investment inflows into the continent.
27-28, South Africa	Wind Power World Africa The meeting will deliberate on the need to increase the uptake of wind energy, which is a cleaner source of energy compared to coal.

100 Years

1912-2012

African National Congress of South Africa

THE CENTENARY anniversary of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa on 8 January marked a major achievement for Southern Africa's oldest black nationalist liberation movement.

Traditional leaders, representatives of people's and church organisations, and prominent individuals gathered in Bloemfontein on 8 January 1912 and formed the South African Native National Congress (SANNC) whose main aim was to campaign for the rights of all Africans. It was renamed the African National Congress in 1923.

The first president was Reverend John Langalibalele Dube, a scholar once described as "a great, if not the greatest, black man of the missionary epoch in South Africa." Other members of the first executive committee were author and journalist Solomon Plaatje as secretary, lawyer Pixley ka Isaka Seme as treasurer, Thomas Mapikela as spokesperson, and lawyer George Montsioa as recording secretary.

The formation of the ANC ignited the flame of organised resistance to white colonial domination and racist legislation in southern Africa.

From its humble beginnings at Waaioek church in Bloemfontein (now Mangaung), the ANC struggled and grew, notably in later years through the 1955 Freedom Charter and the decision of the Youth League to establish an armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), in 1962.

More than 100,000 people, including scores of international dignitaries, attended the ANC centenary celebrations in Mangaung in January 2012. The celebrations included a traditional ceremony, a golf tournament, concerts and a gala dinner.

However, it was not the festivities that made the commemoration of the anniversary stand out but the significance of the event for Africa in general and southern Africa in particular.

It was, in fact, the beginning of political solidarity in southern Africa as evidenced by the presence of several traditional leaders from neighbouring countries during the historic formation of the ANC 100 years ago.

The delegates in 1912 included esteemed traditional leaders such as Lewanika, the Paramount King of the Lozi people of Zambia; King Letsie II of Lesotho; royal regent Labotsibeni Mdluli of Swaziland; and Seretse Khama I of Botswana.

At the commemoration 100 years later, the ANC President Jacob Zuma paid tribute to the countries and people who supported ANC during that period until the apartheid administration was removed.

Zuma thanked especially SADC Member States Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe for support rendered to the ANC during its fight against apartheid that led to the first democratic elections and an ANC government in April 1994.

He also paid tribute to the assistance the ANC received from other African countries such as Algeria, Benin, Ethiopia, Guinea, Nigeria and Uganda, as well as the material and logistics support from the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) through the Liberation Committee based in Dar es Salaam, and from Cuba, the Soviet Union, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and the international Anti-Apartheid Movement. *sardc.net*



President Zuma lights the ANC centenary flame in Mangaung on 8 January 2012. Other recent leaders of the ANC include OR Tambo, Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki. On 16 December this year, it will be 50 years since Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) was launched as the armed wing of the ANC. This followed the Sharpeville massacre in 1960 and the banning of ANC by the apartheid regime, rendering its activities illegal. The time had come to rethink the approach and move from "passive resistance" to the "armed struggle".

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

February-April 2012

1 February	Abolishing of Slavery Day	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes Day	Mozambique
4 February	National Armed Struggle Day	Angola
21 February	Carnival Day	Angola
3 March	Martyrs Day	Malawi
8 March	International Women's Day	Angola, Zambia, Madagascar
11 March	Moshoeshoe Day	Lesotho
12 March	National Day	Mauritius
	Youth Day	Zambia
21 March	Independence Day	Namibia
	Human Rights Day	South Africa
29 March	Martyrs Day	Madagascar
4 April	Day of Peace & Reconciliation	Angola
	Heroes Day	Lesotho
6 April	Good Friday	Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
7 April	Holy Saturday	Zambia
	Women's Day	Mozambique
9 April	Easter Monday	Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
18 April	Independence Day	Zimbabwe
25 April	National Flag Day	Swaziland
27 April	Freedom Day	South Africa
30 April	Youth Day	DRC

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