

THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY TODAY



SADC Today, Vol 10 No. 2 Aug 2007

INSIDE...



3



4



Accelerating Infrastructure Development

by Joseph Ngwawi

SADC MEMBER States are scaling up the provision of regional infrastructure, a critical foundation for the speedy realization of regional integration objectives.

Infrastructure support intervention has been placed at the core of the region's community-building agenda and concerted efforts are being made to ensure the availability of an integrated, efficient and cost-effective system to sustain regional economic development and trade.

To this end, five intervention areas have been prioritised, as contained in the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan - SADC's 15-year blueprint. These are energy generation, transport, communications technology and meteorology, water infrastructure, and tourism.

This is expected to ensure the availability of reliable and least-cost energy supplies; and the provision of efficient, cost-effective and safe transport, communications and meteorology systems.

Water infrastructure is a priority, including the promotion of integrated water resources development and management as well as their equi-

table sharing for mutual benefit; and joint promotion of tourism is planned to achieve sustainable socio-economic development and as an incentive for conservation of the region's natural resources.

continued on page 2

Economic milestones achievable

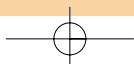
by Munetsi Madakufamba

WITH THE year 2008 fast approaching, the SADC region is preparing for a new way of doing business.

The SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) is to be launched next year in what would be a momentous development for the 240 million SADC citizens, the dawn of a new era of regional cooperation and socio-economic development.

continued on page 4

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| POLICY | 3 |
| INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES | 4-5 |
| BUSINESS | 6 |
| EVENTS | 7 |
| HISTORY TODAY | 8 |



Accelerating Infrastructure Development

continued from page 1

Significant strides have been made to improve the level and quality of infrastructure in the region in order to attract investment, increase competitiveness and promote trade.

However, major challenges of a political, economic and financial as well as institutional nature are causing delays in the implementation of identified regional infrastructure projects.

In the area of energy, power pooling has been at the core of regional initiatives. The plan is to achieve 100 percent connectivity to the regional power grid for all member states by 2012 and to have at least 70 percent of all rural households with access to electricity by 2018.

Efforts are directed at boosting southern Africa's electricity generation capacity, with almost 50 short and long term projects currently underway or earmarked for future development.

The new projects identified so far have the potential to increase SADC's total electricity generation capacity by more than 42,000 megawatts (MW) between 2007 and 2027. Present combined capacity is only 52,743 MW, of which 41,000 MW is secured capacity available for distribution to consumers against demand of 42,000 MW.

The ultimate goal is to transform the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) from a cooperative to a competitive pool and to create a regional electricity market.

The region is facilitating the development of other energy resources such as biomass energy and bio-fuels, to augment the power sector capacity.

To strengthen self-sufficiency in petrole-

um and gas resources, southern Africa is also undertaking joint exploration and development of these commodities.

Cooperation in this area includes harmonisation of policies, regulations and legislation to facilitate cross-border trade, improve capacity utilisation and liaison in joint procurement of petroleum products in the world market.

The region's transport systems, particularly the railways, were initially constructed to radiate from the coastal ports to provide former colonial powers with access to and control over the inland areas. As urban and industrial centres began to develop, the focus switched to inland transport.

However, from a regional perspective, port-based routes or corridors continue to be important for the landlocked countries, particularly in international trade. Recent and ongoing investments are expected to increase the range of choice of routes to the sea via road, rail and port systems of adequate capacity.

There has also been considerable interest in transport corridors, which link ports and their connecting road and rail systems to investment in industry, mining, agriculture and tourism.

These initiatives is the Maputo Development Corridor through Mozambique and South Africa, and the Trans Kalahari Corridor connecting Namibia's port of Walvis Bay to South Africa's industrial heartland, thus completing a transport route across the region linking east and west coasts.

The concept has been introduced to the other corridors linking regional ports with their hinterlands, and is being rolled out all over the region. A lot of work has also been put into facilitating the devel-

opment of water infrastructure, particularly comprehensive, integrated basin-wide plans and improvement of the legal and regulatory framework at national and regional levels to ensure harmonised policies and legislation.

The SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses, which took effect in September 2003 after ratification by two-thirds of SADC Member States, has been instrumental in strengthening cooperation in joint management of the region's 15 shared river basins and avoiding conflict over water resources.

Robust tourism infrastructure is also seen as key to deepening of regional integration and development. Among the targets for SADC member states is the introduction of a universal visa by 2009.

The SADC Univisa system will facilitate intra-regional travel through the removal of

travel and visa restrictions and harmonisation of immigration procedures for SADC citizens, as well as facilitation of cross-border movement of international tourists in order to increase southern Africa's market share in world tourism.

Harmonisation of tourism and immigration policies, legislation and standards are expected to be completed by 2009.

Spurred by the Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons in SADC signed in August 2005, at least seven countries in the region have signed bilateral agreements to waive visa requirements for citizens of other member states.

Trans Frontier Conservation Area are also key to joint tourism promotion in southern Africa, ahead of the FIFA World Cup to be held in the region in 2010. □

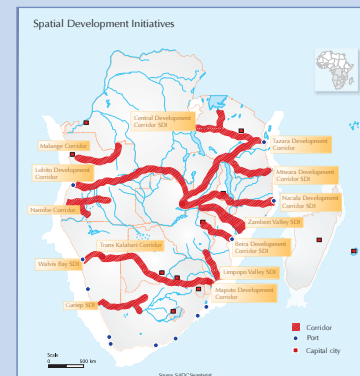
Corridors offer trade routes and more

REGIONAL CORRIDOR networks are the basis upon which requisite infrastructure is being developed to improve the quality of regional transport links through Spatial Development Initiatives (SDI).

Initiatives on corridors also include a programme on Corridor Trade Facilitation, which is aimed at minimising transit delays as well as delays at border posts along the corridors.

This has the potential of increasing usage of existing transport infrastructure and reduce the cost of doing business, thus strengthening SADC's competitiveness in trade and productivity.

Priority corridor infrastructure development projects have already been identified and inserted in the NEPAD Short Term Action Plan. These include the Lobito, Trans Cunene, Trans Caprivi, Shire Zambezi Waterway, Mtwara and Nacala corridors.



Economic integration, infrastructure development top priorities for SADC

SADC HEADS of State and Government are to hold a brainstorming session during the 2007 Summit that focuses on "Scaling Up of the Implementation of Regional Infrastructure Development in SADC".

The brainstorming session comes at an opportune time, taking place on the eve of the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) set for 2008. With the FTA beckoning amid expectations of a Customs Union in 2010 and a Common Market in 2015, infrastructure development is central to promoting intra-regional trade and strengthening the region's manufacturing capacity.

The session on infrastructure will build upon commitments made by the SADC leaders during a similar brainstorming workshop on "Scaling Up the Regional Integration Agenda" held during the 2006 Summit in Lesotho.

The outcome of the Lesotho session was the re-affirmation of the milestones relating to the implementation of the SADC Protocol as set out by the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP). The RISDP is SADC's 15-year regional blueprint for development.



Incoming SADC Chairperson, President Levy Patrick Mwanawasa of Zambia (left), outgoing SADC Chairperson, Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili of Lesotho (right).



The Lusaka brainstorming meeting will also build on the Extraordinary Summit held in Midrand, South Africa in October 2006 to, among other issues, review the status of regional economic integration and identify measures necessary to accelerate implementation of the SADC economic integration agenda, especially the Free Trade Area and the Customs Union.

Noting that the economic integration agenda was on course, the Extraordinary Summit underscored the need to mobilise resources in order to address issues of infrastructure, food security and other supply side challenges within the SADC region.

The Midrand summit agreed that it is through the development of supportive infrastructure that the regional trade potential can be harnessed to the benefit of the people of the re-

gion. Thus the leaders reiterated that the establishment of a Development Fund should be fast tracked.

Given the interconnectedness between economic integration and infrastructure development, the two areas have been accorded top priority in the SADC Programme of Action and this is reflected in the outcomes of the Maseru and Midrand summits.

"There can be no doubt therefore that our priorities are Regional Economic Integration and Infrastructure Support for Regional Integration. We have taken the liberty of sharing these priorities with our development partners within the context of the Windhoek Declaration of April 2006," says Tomaz Salomão, the SADC Executive Secretary.

Thus the prioritisation of economic integration and infra-

structure development has the full support not just of the leaders, but other stakeholders including cooperating partners as underlined by the Windhoek Declaration on a New SADC-ICP Partnership agreed upon at the 2006 SADC Consultative Conference in Namibia.

In this regard, the implementation of two key protocols is central to the SADC Programme of Action. These are the Protocol on Trade and the Protocol on Facilitation of Free Movement of Persons. Free movement of persons constitutes the key pillar of trade, and the availability of efficient and cost-effective cross-border transport infrastructure is pivotal to its realisation.

Equally important is access to raw materials and access to markets for completed products at cheap and affordable cost needed for business to be competitive and for the region to eradicate poverty on the basis of export led growth.

In the same vein, sustained economic growth requires robust communications infrastructure, least-cost energy supply, and cost-efficient water supply and sanitation.

The development of infrastructure in the SADC region will go a long way in addressing supply side constraints and maximisation of productive competitiveness.

In addition, infrastructure development that strengthens regional integration will also enable the strong role to be played by the SADC region as a building block for the African Union and African Economic Community.

It is against this background that the brainstorming on infrastructure by the SADC Heads of State and Government is being held. □

SADC develops regional food reserve facility

THE SADC Secretariat is developing a Regional Food Reserve Facility, which will ensure physical stocks and financial reserves for use in times of food crisis.

The facility is aimed at strengthening the SADC region's capacity to deal with food deficits arising from disasters such as drought, floods and cyclones.

Member States will use the facility to timely access food and fi-

nances to minimise the impact of disasters on food security.

The ad-hoc committee of ministers responsible for food, agriculture and natural resources agreed at a meeting in Zambia in June agreed that Member States will need to carry out further national consultations on the facility.

The ministers reviewed the overall food security situation in the region and noted that only five out of the 14 SADC Member

States had received above average rainfall during the 2006/07 season.

These are Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

Lower harvests are expected in Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and possibly South Africa, mainly due to drought and, in some cases, floods and cyclones. □

Tourism ministers discuss 2010 World Cup strategy

MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE for tourism in southern Africa met at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe in July to discuss their strategy for the opportunities offered by the hosting of the 2010 FIFA World Cup in the region.

Member States were requested to submit their proposals on how they can participate and benefit from the 2010 World Cup.

The regional proposals will include a submission by Angola to host the 2010 African Nations Soccer Cup.

The meeting focused on establishing a common visa called the SADC Univisa which will enable tourists to travel within the region using a single visa.

South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique signed agreements in May to share the tourism spin-offs of the 2010 FIFA World Cup through "border free" tourism packages.

South Africa's Limpopo Tourism Parks Board, Zambia

National Tourists Board, Zimbabwe Tourism Authority and Mozambique's Tourism Board signed the agreement at the Tourism Indaba in Durban, South Africa.

Together the parties are called the Limpopo-Zambezi Destination.

The cooperation is premised on the view that the 2010 FIFA World Cup is an opportunity to position the region as a tourist destination of choice for World Cup visitors.

The Limpopo-Zambezi Destination will undertake tourism research, collect data and statis-

tics to help parties gain better understanding of the profile of the present travellers and the needs of future market sectors.

Some of the tasks to be undertaken include the branding for Limpopo-Zambezi Destination, and joint marketing strategies in support of the package tours.

The ministers could not reach a conclusion on the Univisa as Member States considered it important to hold a multi-sectoral meeting at the highest

level involving ministries of tourism, foreign and home affairs for a common decision about the issue, since it is a transversal matter. □



Economic milestones achievable

continued from page 1

Within the framework of the FTA, the SADC region hopes to remove barriers on all intra-regional trade. The target is to ensure that 85 percent of most intra-regional trade is at zero tariffs by 2008.

Member States remain confident that they can move a gear up to remove outstanding impediments for the region to achieve set targets.

Since 2000, SADC countries have been implementing a programme towards creating the FTA in 2008, a Customs Union by 2010, a Common Market by 2015 and a Monetary Union by 2018.

The Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in Lesotho in August 2006 raised concern about the

pace at which SADC's economic integration programme was being implemented. Consequently, a Ministerial Task Force was appointed to come up with a progress report that was tabled before an Extra-ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government in Midrand, South Africa, in October 2006.

The October Summit reaffirmed the region's commitment to achieving the trade milestones, noting several challenges that need to be overcome.

"Summit noted progress made in the attainment of an FTA and concluded that the SADC Free Trade Area programme is on course and that it will be launched as planned by 2008," reads the communiqué in part.

However, the Summit noted that SADC's trade patterns consist mainly of commodities, thus there is need to diversify national economies and increase intra-regional trade and growth.

The 2007 Summit in Lusaka is expected to review progress and give fresh impetus for Member States to complete all outstanding tasks for the FTA to be launched as planned.

As the SADC region moves towards the planned Free Trade Area, one of the challenges is to bring down tariff and non-tariff barriers in line with agreed timetables within specific product lines. The target is to ensure that 85 percent of all intra-regional trade is at zero tariffs by 2008.

Economic integration in SADC is guided by the Trade Protocol, which was signed in 1996 and came into force in 2000.

As part of its implementation, Member States have been negotiating tariff reduction schedules, rules of origin, a dispute settlement mechanism, special product agreements, elimination of non tariff barriers and harmonisation of customs, trade documentation and clearance procedures.

Tariff phase down is based on a variable geometry model, taking into account the asymmetrical level of development in Member States.

SADC Member States are at different levels of development, with South Africa far much more developed than the rest in terms of industrial base.

Countries within the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) - Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland - are liberalising faster, followed by



Angola, Namibia in joint water project development

WORK ON the upgrading of water sources on the Kunene Trans-boundary Water Project involving Angola and Namibia is expected to start in September.

The project will involve the upgrading of water pumps at a huge reservoir under the Cuvelai Water Scheme at Oshakati that provides water to north-central Namibia and to parts of southern Angola.

The countries' water utilities met in July to scrutinize records that will enhance water supply to the border towns and villages in the two southern African countries.

The project is funded by in part by the governments of Angola and Namibia with the bulk of the budget coming from the KfW, a German development agency. □

Free movement of persons between Lesotho and South Africa

LESOTHO AND South Africa have agreed to allow the free movement of their citizens across each other's borders.

The agreement on the Facilitation of Cross Border Movement of Citizens was signed in June by Lesotho's Minister of

Foreign Affairs, Mhlabi Kenneth Tsekoa, and South Africa's Minister of Home Affairs, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula.

Underlining the importance of the cross-border agreement, South African President, Thabo Mbeki, wel-

comed Lesotho Prime Minister, Pakalitha Mosisili, to his "other home", saying that many South Africans regard Lesotho as such.

"Both our peoples share the same history; we are descendants of the same ancestry, we sing the same songs and our praise-songs salute the same forebears," said President Mbeki.

There is great movement of persons between Lesotho and South Africa on a daily basis, often resulting in long queues at border-crossings between the two countries.

Prime Minister Mosisili, who is the current chair of SADC, said the issue of visas for all SADC citizens must be looked at within the context of the region being a "community" of nations, meaning that travel restrictions between these 14 countries should be loosened further.

The agreement between Lesotho and South Africa is in line with the 2005 approval by regional leaders of the Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons in SADC, which is aimed at the progressive elimination of obstacles to the movement of people in the SADC region. □

Reconstruction of Malawi-Zambia railway line starts

RECONSTRUCTION WORK has started on a railway line between Malawi and Zambia which is expected to provide a route to the Indian Ocean through Mozambique.

Work on the reconstruction of the 30-km railway line between Mchinji in Malawi and Chipata in Zambia is expected to end in September.

"By September, the work will be concluded. From then on, we can say that the Nacala Corridor will be one of the doorways for our foreign trade," said Zambia's High Commissioner to Mozambique, Edwin Hatembo.

The Nacala Corridor aims to develop an economic corridor linking landlocked Malawi and Zambia to the port of Nacala in Mozambique.

The rationale behind the collaborative approach between the two countries is that of generating economies of scale in developing related infrastructure, marketing, production and utilising the natural resources.

About 70 percent of Malawi's population lives in the corridor. There is need to expand and rehabilitate the transport infrastructure to unlock the investment potential in the corridor. □

Mauritius and Zimbabwe, while the rest follow.

Tariff reduction is divided into three categories, the first being goods that were to be liberalised by 2001, the second by 2008 and the third by 2012.

Special agreements have been concluded on trade in sensitive products such as sugar, and textiles and clothing.

Negotiations on rules of origin, which seek to promote use of local raw materials, were the most difficult, but have since been completed for most product lines. The most difficult areas were wheat flour products and motor vehicles.

Another challenge for Member States to achieve a successful Free Trade Area is to address the supply side of trade. This calls for a strong industrial base in each member state to produce

exportable goods that have a competitive edge.

The variable geometry model is meant to allow Member States time to adjust and prepare themselves for inevitable competition in a liberalised market. The question is whether industries in Member States have had sufficient time to prepare for the new market.

Multiple membership to Regional Economic Communities (RECs) that are working towards creating, or already have, a Customs Union is yet another challenge. Some SADC Member States belong to SACU, which is a functioning Customs Union, while others belong to either the East African Community (EAC) or the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), which are planning their own customs unions. □

Region plans petroleum body

SADC IS setting up a Regional Petroleum and Gas Association to promote trade in fuels and harmonise standards and regulations in the sector.

According to Bashir Mrindoko, commissioner for energy and petroleum affairs in the Tanzanian Ministry of Energy and Minerals, the association will "create a common investment destination with harmonised environmental standards and policies".

The association has been on the cards since 2002 and aims to make optimal use of regional capacities and reap the benefits of joint product procurement.

Other objectives of the project are to coordinate hydrocarbon exploration activities in the SADC region.

The SADC Secretariat has already floated a tender for consultancy firms to review the existing data and information alongside its Directorate of Infrastructure and Services.

The consultant will work with the departments of energy of the Member States and other institutions relevant to the sector. Among the duties for the consultant is the identification of petroleum and gas issues that need harmonisation and draft appropriate specifications, rules, and standards.



The consultant will also identify functions, tasks and structure of the regional petroleum and gas association, and offer

advice on the feasibility of having a composite regional energy regulator encompassing electricity, petroleum and gas. □

Bank avails US\$93m for Malawi-Mozambique power project

THE WORLD Bank has approved International Development Association (IDA) credit lines totalling US\$93 million for Malawi and Mozambique that will increase the availability and reliability of low cost, environmentally friendly elec-

tricity in the southern Africa region.

The bank availed US\$48 million to Malawi and US\$45 million to Mozambique to finance an electricity inter-connector project involving the two countries.

As the second phase of the Southern African Power Market Programme, the Mozambique-Malawi Transmission Interconnection Project will connect Malawi to the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), allowing two-way energy trade between the two countries.

This will ensure much-needed diversification in Malawi's electricity supply and allow the export of any off-peak power surpluses. It will also provide Mozambique's energy sector with a new revenue source.

The project will provide technical assistance, capacity building, training, and equipment necessary for the Electricity Supply Corporation of Malawi (ESCOM) and Electricidade de Moçambique (EDM) to strengthen and expand the networks to maximise the benefits of power trading.

It will also help replace worn-out, inadequate, or obsolete equipment in order to remove critical bottlenecks in the networks that could impede the flow of traded electricity. □

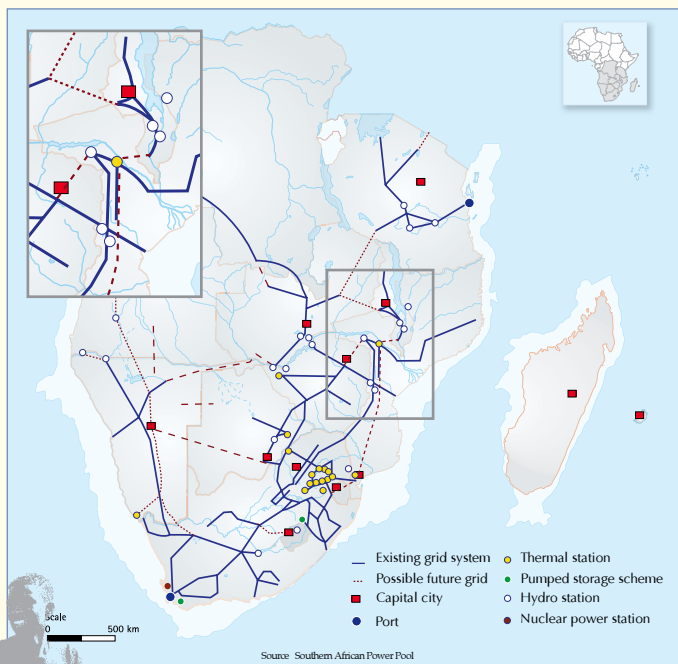
Mozambique to have computer assembly plant

MOZAMBIQUE HAS awarded a licence for South African company, Sahara Plans, to start building a multi-million dollar plant for assembling computers.

On completion the plant will have a capacity to produce 3,000 units per day, some of which will be exported.

Mozambique's Minister of Science and Technology, Venâncio Massingue, said this will be the biggest such investment in the African continent, and they have plans to export some of the computers made in Mozambique to neighbouring SADC countries.

The assembly unit will be the first step in setting up a distribution centre for computer products in the region and will be a joint venture with the Mozambican Institute of Information Technologies and Communication, a quasi-government body involved in publishing, business incubation and a science park. □



Southern African Energy Grid showing Malawi-Mozambique Inter-connector



THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY TODAY
SADC Today, Vol 10 No 2 August 2007



SADC TODAY is produced as a reference source of activities and opportunities in the Southern African Development Community, and a guide for decision-makers at all levels of national and regional development. Articles may be reproduced freely in the media and elsewhere, with attribution.

EDITOR

Munetsi Madakufamba

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Bayano Vally, Tomas Vieira Mario, Mukundi Mutasa,
Alfred Gumbwa, Joseph Ngwawi, Barbara Lopi, Clever Mafuta,
Phyllis Johnson, Sheila Chikulo, Emmanuella Matorofa

EDITORIAL ADVISOR

Head of Corporate Communications Unit, SADC
Leefa Penehupifo Martin

SADC TODAY is published six times a year by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) for the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana, as a reliable, knowledge source on the Southern African Development Community. The contents consider the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as integral to the region's development.

© SADC, SARDC, 2007

SADC TODAY welcomes contributions from individuals and organisations within the SADC region in the form of articles, photographs, news items and comments, and also relevant articles from outside the region. A standard fee is paid for articles, photos and illustrations used in the publication. The publishers reserve the right to select or reject items, and to edit to fit the space available. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official positions or opinions of SADC or SARDC.

Subscribe today

SADC TODAY is available through an annual subscription fee. For six issues a year, the fee is US\$75 for outside Africa, US\$55 for the rest of Africa and US\$45 for SADC. Your subscription will enable you to receive the newsletter by airmail or email. For more details on subscriptions, please contact the Editor.

SADC TODAY is published in English and Portuguese and is available electronically in English, Portuguese and French at www.sadc.int www.sardc.net.

DESIGN & LAYOUT

Tonely Ngwenya
Arnoldina Chironda

PHOTOS & ILLUSTRATIONS

p1, Copyright South African Tourism; 4, D Martin, P Johnson, DEAT;
4, 16 CDFF; 5, (top left) ,7,8,13, SARDC; 6, Mackson Wasamunu;
9, HartRAO (South Africa); 12, IRIN;

ORIGINATION & PRINT

DS Print Media, Johannesburg

Correspondence should be addressed to:

The Editor, SADC TODAY
SARDC, 15 Downie Avenue, Belgravia, Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel 263 4 791141 Fax 263 4 791271
sadctoday@sadc.net

or

SADC HOJE

SARDC, Rua D. Afonso Henriques, 141, Maputo, Moçambique
Tel 258 1 490831 Fax 258 1 491178
sardc@maputo.sardc.net

Information 21 Websites

www.sadc.int www.sardc.net www.ips.org www.saba.co.za

Thanks to the following airlines for assisting with distribution of SADC Today:
Air Botswana, Linhas Aeresde Moçambique, Air Namibia, South African Airways,
Air Mauritius, TAAG Angolan Airlines, Zambian Airways and Air Zimbabwe

EVENTS DIARY 2006

August 2007
6-7 South Africa

Third Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union

The meeting will be attended by the ministers responsible for education in the 53 Member States of the African Union. They will, among other things, discuss a proposal on the establishment of strategic partnerships for the implementation of the plan of action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa.

10-13 Zambia

Standing Committee of Senior Officials of SADC

The technical advisory committee to Council of Ministers meets in advance of Council and is chaired by the country chairing SADC - Lesotho.

14-15 Zambia

SADC Council of Ministers

The Council is responsible for supervising and monitoring the functions and development of SADC and ensuring that policies are properly implemented. Council comprises foreign affairs, international cooperation, economic development or planning and finance ministers from each Member State. Council precedes the Summit and prepares policy recommendations for adoption by the leaders.

16-17 Zambia

SADC Summit

The Summit of Heads of State and Government is the ultimate policy-making institution of SADC. The Lusaka Summit will witness the official handover of the rotating SADC Chair from Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili of Lesotho to President Levy Mwanawasa of Zambia.

12-18 Sweden

World Water Week

The World Water Week in Stockholm is the leading annual global meeting place for capacity-building, partnership-building and follow-up on the implementation of international processes and programmes in water and development. The theme for this year's event is "Progress and Prospects on Water: Striving for Sustainability in a Changing World".

19-23 South Africa

World Library and Information Congress: 73rd IFLA General Conference and Council

Organised by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the Congress taking place in Durban will look at the role of the library and information sector in development. The theme is "Libraries for the Future: Progress, Development and Partnerships".

28-30 South Africa

Climate Change Action Africa 2007 Conference

African environmental experts will meet to strategise on a continental position to incorporate climate change adaptation programmes in national development policies. The conference will be hosted by the International Quality and Productivity Centre.

September

Parliamentary elections in Madagascar

Legislative elections are due at the end of September following the dissolution of Parliament by President Marc Ravalomanana.

October
30-31 Nigeria

NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee Summit

The committee comprises of the Heads of State and Government of 15 African Union member states, drawn three each from the continent's five regions. The main function of the committee is to set the policies and priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. It meets three times a year and reports annually to the AU Summit.



27

years
1980-2007

SADC returns to its roots for 2007 Summit

IT IS back to the roots as SADC returns to the place where the regional organisation was officially formed more than 27 years ago.

The 2007 Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government takes place at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka, Zambia - the same venue where the leaders of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe met to form the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) on 1 April 1980.

The objective of the leaders of the nine independent countries was to integrate their economies. This marked a new commitment to coordinate their economies in order to accelerate development and reduce dependence on the then apartheid South Africa.

Other SADCC objectives were to implement programmes and projects with national and regional impact; to mobilise Member States' resources in the quest for collective self-reliance; and to secure international understanding and support.

Twenty seven years on, the regional integration agenda remains and is even stronger albeit with a renewed focus.

Transformation from SADCC to SADC, the Development Community, took place at a Summit in Windhoek, Namibia, in 1992 when the SADC Treaty was signed, seeking deeper regional integration.

As the SADC Heads of State and Government meet in Lusaka this year, the limelight will fall on efforts to increase intra-regional trade through the planned Free Trade Area (FTA) as well as cooperation in infrastructure development.

SADC plans to launch an FTA in 2008, under which Member States hope to open up trade among Member States.

The Summit also recognises the important role played by infrastructure in facilitating greater intra-regional trade and deepening regional integration.

Mozambicans commemorate victory over colonialism

MOZAMBIQUE WILL on 7 September commemorate the 33rd anniversary of victory in the war against Portuguese colonialism.

It was in Lusaka on 7 September 1974 that the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo) and the Portuguese government signed the agreement ending the war, and paving the way for full independence nine months later.

The date is celebrated as "Victory Day" and is a public holiday.

Events during the day normally include the laying of wreaths at the Monument to the Mozambican Heroes where the first leader of Frelimo, Eduardo Mondlane, and the country's first president, Samora Machel, are buried.

April 1980. Presidents Kenneth Kaunda, Ketumile Masire and Julius Nyerere with the Prime Minister-designate of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe, at the founding Summit of SADCC in Lusaka.

Public holidays in SADC for the period August - October 2007

| | | |
|--------------|--|---------------------|
| 1 August | Parents' Day | DRC |
| 6 August | Farmers' Day | Zambia |
| 8 August | Peasants' Day | Tanzania |
| 9 August | National Women's Day | South Africa |
| 13 August | Heroes' Day | Zimbabwe |
| 14 August | Defence Forces Day | Zimbabwe |
| 15 August | Assumption Day | Madagascar |
| 26 August | Heroes' Day | Namibia |
| 6 September | Somhlolo Day | Swaziland |
| 7 September | Victory Day | Mozambique |
| 16 September | Ganesh Chaturthi | Mauritius |
| 17 September | Founder of Nation and National Heroes' Day | Angola |
| 24 September | Heritage Day | South Africa |
| 25 September | Armed Forces Day | Mozambique |
| 30 September | Botswana Day | Botswana |
| 1 October | Public Holiday | Botswana |
| 4 October | Independence Day | Lesotho |
| 4 October | Reconciliation Day/Peace Day | Mozambique |
| 8 October | Mother's Day | Malawi |
| 11 October | Eid ul Fitr* | Mauritius, Tanzania |
| 14 October | Mwalimu Nyerere Day and Climax of "The Uhuru Torch Race" | Tanzania |
| 24 October | Independence Day | Zambia |

* Depends on the sighting of the moon