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Summit wants action

by Kizito Sikuka

THE SOUTHERN African Development Community will continue to direct its efforts towards consolidating the gains achieved so far and accelerating implementation of agreed regional priorities.

The new SADC Chairperson, President Joseph Kabila Kabange of the Democratic Republic of Congo, said this in his acceptance speech at the annual SADC Summit held on 7-8 September in Kinshasa, where he pledged to ensure continuity in the implementation of regional projects.

Kabila, who took over the rotating chair from his South African counterpart,

President Jacob Zuma, said SADC has many achievements in recent years and attention must now shift to accelerating implementation of priority programmes for regional integration.

The SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) launched in 2008, the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security, the Maseru Declaration on Combating HIV and AIDS, and the impending Customs Union set for 2010, are some of the main programmes for action over the next few years.

At the Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government, southern African leaders reviewed the programmes and urged Member States to accelerate the implementation process.

(See Policy page 3 for key Summit decisions)

The FTA and Customs Union aim to promote trade and economic growth through the movement of people, goods and services across borders while the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security seeks to boost agricultural production and food security in the region.

Kabila said the region can succeed in implementing its programmes on time, through collective effort, as well as addressing challenges such as climate change, impacts of the global financial crisis, energy shortages, and political instability in some parts of the region.

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Summit wants action

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"It is essential that Member States, both within SADC as well as the African Union adopt a common position to defend the specific interests of the continent for the preservation of natural resources and opportunities for a sustainable development," Kabila said.

He noted that, while progress has been made towards implementation of the FTA, there is still more that the region must do to ensure that this becomes a success.

With regard to the energy deficit that has affected development in the region, Kabila said SADC has huge deposits of natural resources that can be developed for the benefit of its people, and he urged the region to identify viable strategies to encourage the uptake of renewable energy sources.

Sub-Saharan Africa has the potential to provide more than 170 Gigawatts (GW) of additional power generation capacity – far more than current installations – through exploiting "low-carbon" energy sources such as wind, hydro and solar, according to the African Development Bank (AfDB).

However, little is being done to harness this huge energy potential despite the growing demand for power in southern Africa.

On the global financial crisis, Kabila called for more efforts to redress the situation and implement measures aimed at minimizing its impact on the SADC region.

The SADC Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration which met in May noted that the global economic crisis has had a negative impact on the economies of most countries in the region, thus impacting on regional macroeconomic convergence.

Mining, agriculture and tourism are the most affected sectors.

With regard to the political situation in some parts of the region such as Madagascar, the new SADC chair said he will continue to pay attention to developments to ensure that lasting solutions are found.

Madagascar slid into political turmoil early this year after opposition leader Andry Rajoelina seized power from President Marc Ravalomanana in a public demonstration backed by the military, similar to the method used by Ravalomanana when he seized power a few years earlier from his predecessor, Didier Ratsiraka.

However, the main political figures have since reached an agreement on the transitional government ahead of elections expected in 2010.

Former Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano, who is mediating in the peace talks sponsored by SADC, attended the Summit, as did the former President of Botswana, Sir Ketumile Masire, who played a similar role in Lesotho.

Kabila said he will also track developments in Lesotho and Zimbabwe to ensure peace and stability in the region. He said the inclusive government in Zimbabwe is progressing well and paid tribute to SADC and South Africa for mediating in the talks.

As the outgoing SADC Chairperson, President Zuma said the region should build on its achievements that were laid by eight valiant independent southern African states known as the "Frontline States" to promote peace and prosperity in the region.

"SADC was built on a solid political foundation and can therefore not fail in its mission.

We must now build on these achievements," he said.

"The same spirit that captured our energies in our struggles for national liberation now needs to be unleashed to win a more decisive battle against the scourges of poverty and underdevelopment," he added.

Zuma was addressing SADC Heads of State and Government for the first time as a new SADC leader following his inauguration as President of South Africa in May 2009 when he also became SADC Chairperson. He highlighted positive developments in the socio-economic and

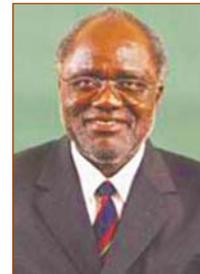
political areas of SADC during his country's tenure of office.

Summit also received the maiden speech by President Rupiah Banda of the Republic of Zambia who stressed that, given peace and political stability underpinned by good governance and the right economic policy environment, SADC can perform to its full potential.

Fourteen SADC Member States, with the exception of Madagascar which is suspended, attended the 29th annual Summit held in Kinshasa.

DRC was hosting the SADC Summit for the first time. □

New SADC leadership



Part of the new SADC leadership elected; Presidents Kabila, Pohamba and Banda.

A NEW leadership for the next year was selected at the 29th Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government held in DRC in September.

The host, President Joseph Kabila, took over the rotating chair from South African President Jacob Zuma, while his Namibian counterpart Hifikepunye Pohamba will be deputy chairperson of SADC.

Thus, DRC, Namibia and South Africa, as the immediate past chair, make up the SADC Troika.

The 2010 summit will be held in Namibia and the host nation will assume the chair for the period 2010-2011.

Mozambican President Armando Guebuza is now

chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

He will be deputized by the Zambian President, Rupiah Banda. The Organ Troika is now made up of Mozambique, Zambia and the immediate past chair, Swaziland.

SADC Executive Secretary Tomaz Salomão was re-elected for another term. Engineer João Samuel Caholo was also re-appointed - but this time to the newly created post of SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration.

The Deputy Executive Secretary responsible for Administration is yet to be appointed. □

Key Decisions

The 29th Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government

THE SUMMIT of Heads of State and Government, the ultimate policy-making institution of SADC, met on 7-8 September in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, and reviewed the socio-economic and political situation in the region.

Economic Development

Summit noted progress made in implementation of the SADC Free Trade Area and in preparations for negotiation of the SADC Customs Union, and urged the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration to ensure that outstanding issues are effectively addressed, noting that the Task Force will meet in a Strategic Forum before the end of 2009 to examine the regional economic integration agenda.

Food Security

Summit reviewed the food security situation in the region and noted the improved production, with estimates of cereal surpluses in Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia. Summit noted that while food production and availability has improved, access to food and malnutrition at household level remains a challenge due to low income and high food prices among others, and urged Member States to scale up their implementation of the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security.

The Declaration of May 2004 identifies a number of priority areas on which SADC agreed to focus in the short term (2004-2006) and medium-to-long term (2004-2010) so as to achieve food security in the region. These measures include availability of agriculture inputs for farmers as well as an improved market base and a regional food reserve.

Climate Change

The Summit reiterated SADC's support of the African position

on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012 to be set within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009.

HIV and AIDS

Summit noted progress made in implementation of the Maseru Declaration on Combating HIV and AIDS, particularly on Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission and the uptake of ARVs. In order to achieve universal access targets and mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS on socio-economic development and regional integration, Summit urged Member States to intensify their efforts in this regard.

Politics and Decision-making

Summit noted the consolidation of democracy and political stability in the region, and the free and fair manner in which the people of the Republic of Angola, Republic of Malawi, Kingdom of Swaziland, Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Zambia have exercised their franchise at the polls last year and this year in presidential, parliamentary, provincial and local elections.

Summit considered progress made towards the achievement of the 50% representation of women in political and decision-making positions at all levels in line with their 2005 decision, and urged Member States, especially those still to hold elections this year, to ensure the gender parity goal. Summit congratulated Malawi for appointing a woman Vice President after the May 2009 elections.

Peace and Security

Summit received a report from the outgoing Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, His

Majesty King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Swaziland, noting that the region remains peaceful and stable, and that political and security challenges in a few parts of the region, especially the eastern part of the DRC, as well as Lesotho, Madagascar and Zimbabwe, are being effectively addressed.

o On Zimbabwe, Summit noted the progress made in the implementation of the Global Political Agreement and called on the international community to remove all forms of sanctions.

o On Madagascar, Summit noted the progress made in an effort to restore constitutional order, and commended the former President of Mozambique, Joachim Chissano, who is the SADC Mediator, for the progress made thus far. Summit noted with concern the attempts to undermine the agreements signed in Maputo by all Malagasy political movements on 9 August 2009, and firmly rejected and strongly condemned any unilateral decision which violates the spirit of the Maputo agreements. Summit further reiterated its decision on the suspension of Madagascar from SADC until the restoration of constitutional order in that country and its support to the current political dialogue, urging all political stakeholders to fully implement the Maputo agreements.

o On Lesotho, Summit noted the report of the Eminent Person, former President of Botswana, Sir Ketumile Masire, and commended him for his efforts in the post-electoral political dialogue in Lesotho. Summit further urged all Basotho stakeholders to the dialogue to continue to be engaged in the process.

Legal Instruments

Summit approved and/or signed the following six legal instruments:

- o Memorandum of Understanding on Regional Cooperation and Integration among the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC);
- o Agreement Amending the Treaty of the Southern African Development Community (Deputy Executive Secretaries);
- o Agreement Amending the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation, and Consequential Amendments to the Treaty;
- o Declaration on Regional Cooperation in Competition and Consumer Laws and Policies;
- o Agreement Amending the Protocol on the Development of Tourism in the Southern African Development Community.

African Union

The Summit supported Malawi's candidature to be the next chairperson of the African Union.

According to the AU constitution the next chair should come from the SADC region when Libya's tenure comes to an end next year. The AU chair rotates according to regions.

SADC ES Report

Summit noted the statement of the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Tomaz Augusto Salomão who said, among other things, that the region has been negatively affected by the Global Economic Crisis. He also reported the completion of the new SADC Headquarters and said SADC Secretariat staff moved into the new building in August. □

SADC on implementation of Free Trade Area and Customs Union launch

SOUTHERN AFRICAN leaders have urged Member States to speed up implementation of the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) launched in August 2008 in preparation for the establishment of a Customs Union in 2010.

All SADC Member States with the exception of Angola and the Democratic Republic

Free Trade Area potential benefits

THE SADC Free Trade Area is now one year old since its historic launch in August 2008 at the Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in South Africa.

Some advantages of the SADC FTA are:

- o Goods produced in the SADC region enjoy trade preference compared to those from outside the region;
- o Increased domestic production as Member States aim to meet an upsurge in demand;
- o Greater opportunities for the business sector due to a wider market base;
- o Higher value of intra-regional trade for both imports and exports;
- o Access to cheaper inputs and consumer goods;
- o Expanded opportunities for employment and job creation;
- o More foreign direct investment and joint ventures;
- o Significant improvement in efficiency of the movement of goods and services through border posts; and
- o Removal of trade barriers including most tariffs among SADC Member States. □

of Congo (DRC) are party to the FTA.

Meeting in Kinshasa, DRC for the annual SADC Summit in September, southern African leaders said while significant progress has been



The Free Trade Area is expected to boost regional trade.

made in putting into practice some of the agreed issues, a few countries still lag behind in implementing the FTA.

Such delays, the leaders noted, are affecting regional integration as well as SADC's

ultimate goal to successfully launch its Customs Union in 2010.

The SADC Customs Union aims to facilitate the movement of goods and services across borders in the region and boost intra-regional trade.

The launch will see the region join other regional communities such as the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (Comesa) and the East African Community (EAC) that already have customs unions, and in some cases these regulations need to be aligned due to common membership.

SADC, Comesa and EAC are working together towards establishing an enlarged FTA encompassing all 26 members in the three Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

The SADC Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration will meet before the end of the year to examine the regional economic integration agenda, and to ensure that outstanding issues are effectively addressed and that Member States scale up their efforts to implement the FTA.

At its meeting earlier this year, the Task Force noted that the global economic crisis has had a negative impact on the economies of most countries in the region, thus affecting regional macroeconomic convergence.

The Ministers placed emphasis on the need to accelerate efforts to deepen integration and resolved to closely monitor the effects of the crisis with a view to implementing measures aimed at minimizing the impact on the SADC region. □

Angola's economy to grow by 8.2 percent in 2010

ANGOLA'S ECONOMY is expected to grow by 8.2 percent in 2010, a six-fold increase on the 2009 growth projection of 1.3 percent, the country's economy minister has said.

The predicted growth comes at the back of the development of non-oil sectors such as agriculture, as well as higher oil prices.

Angola is Africa's biggest crude oil producer and relies on this commodity for some 90 percent of its export income.

The economy had been booming since the end of the 27-year civil war in 2002 but saw only modest growth in 2009 due to the global financial crisis which did not spare the petroleum industry.

"In the oil sector we forecast a growth of around 1.1 percent, and in the non-oil sector growth of around 15 percent," Minister Manuel Nunes Jnr told the media.

"It is a signal that our economy is diversifying into sectors like agriculture, manufacturing and trade."

Diversification away from petroleum-based industry has been a key policy of the Angolan government in the past year, after oil prices fell sharply at the start of 2009.

Angola's foreign reserves plunged by 30 percent at the start of the year, the Kwanza currency was devalued, the budget was slashed and the government turned to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a loan, granted in October for US\$1.3 billion.

The government's original growth projection for the country during 2009 was 11.8 percent which was revised downwards to 6.2 percent and later to 1.3 percent.

The IMF has predicted just 0.2 percent growth during this year but is more optimistic for 2010 and forecasts an increase of 9.3 percent. *AngolaPress* □

China-Africa to strengthen cooperation

by Kizito Sikuka

THE FORUM on China-Africa Cooperation meeting in Egypt will review the implementation of various agreements signed since 2006 and outline a plan of action for the next three years.

The meeting set for Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt on 8-9 November "will give an overall review of the implementation of various cooperative agreements since the Beijing Summit, and will chart the course for the development of China-Africa relations," the Chinese Foreign Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

The statement said that a number of bilateral agreements will be signed to boost economic and trade cooperation, and new measures are expected to help Africa develop as well as to deal with the global economic crisis.

The meeting is expected to issue the Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration and also the Sharm el-Sheikh Action Plan for 2010-2012 as "a blueprint for bilateral cooperation in various areas in three years to come."

The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) is one of three high-level meetings established by Chinese and African leaders at their inaugural Summit in 2000.

The other two meetings to take place between the Asian nation and African countries are a senior officials meeting and a conference of the Chinese follow-up committee with the African diplomatic missions in Beijing.

At the last FOCAC Summit in 2006, attended by 48 of the 53 members of the Africa Union, China and Africa adopted a number of resolutions, which proclaimed the

establishment of "a new type of strategic partnership".

The partnership is based on "political equality and mutual trust, economic win-win cooperation and cultural exchanges," and calls for the promotion of two-way trade and investment and exploration of new modes of cooperation.

Priority is placed on different areas of the economy such as agriculture, infrastructure, industry, fishing, information technology, public health and personnel training to draw on each other's strengths for the benefit of the two peoples.

On trade development, China and Africa pledged to increase volumes to about US\$100 billion by 2010 with Chinese President Hu Jintao announcing a package of aid and assistance measures to Africa including US\$3 billion of preferential loans in the

next three years, and the exemption of debt owed by some African countries.

China made an undertaking to establish a US\$5 billion fund to encourage Chinese investment in Africa.

Significant progress has been made in the past three years to meet some of the targets set at the 2006 summit.

By the first quarter of 2009, China had successfully cancelled 150 mature debts of 32 African countries.

Trade between China and Africa has also increased – in 2008 the volume was about US\$160 billion, a year-on-year increase of 45 percent, surpassing the US\$100 billion target set by 2010.

Of the total volume, the imports from Africa amounted to US\$56 billion, up by 54 percent over the previous year.

Chinese companies have been active in building infrastructure and providing loans and assistance to many African countries.

Exchange visits of top government officials between China and Africa have expanded to include more people-to-people visits.

The fourth meeting of the FOCAC is thus viewed with great importance to promote China-Africa relations.

Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao and his Egyptian counterpart are expected to co-chair the meeting and some African Heads of State have been invited to attend, including President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

The first FOCAC ministerial conference was held in Beijing in October 2000. This was followed by a meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2003. Beijing hosted a full China-Africa Summit in 2006. sardc.net □

African finance ministers call for voice in G20

MINISTERS OF Finance from across Africa have called for their countries to have a voice in the Group of 20 (G20) nations in order to ensure the body considers their long-term development needs.

While pledging to show fiscal prudence in the wake of the global financial crisis, the ministers said they need more assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank to help shore up battered budgets, make needed investments, and replenish foreign currency reserves.

The African states have been hard hit as the economic crisis knocked commodity prices and wiped out foreign investments.

They stressed that they have mobilized their domestic resources and are now looking to broaden income streams and boost revenue collection.

Nigeria, the second largest economy in sub-Saharan Africa, said it is particularly eager to have a voice in the G20 bloc.

"We have really been clamouring for a greater role... For us the key concern is to see that the principle gets accepted, and we are very happy to see a softening of view in this regard," the Nigerian Finance Minister, Mansur Muhtar, said at a news conference with fellow ministers.

"The crisis is reducing poverty reduction efforts..."

We ask the IMF and World Bank to increase resources available to African countries" and ease the conditions they place on loans, said Ethiopian Finance, Minister Sofian Ahmed.

The African ministers suggested that the international community should create a small fund to relieve debts owed by severely indebted and low-income countries to each other.

The IMF lowered its 2009 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth projections for sub-Saharan Africa this month to 1.3 percent from 1.5 percent previously, citing the collapse of global trade and falling commodity prices. Tralac □

Zambezi River has potential to light up southern Africa

THE MIGHTY Zambezi River that drains water from eight SADC countries has the capacity to produce a sufficient amount of hydropower for the region to meet its growing demand for electricity.

The river has an estimated hydropower generation capacity of about 20,000 Megawatts (MW), which is almost enough to meet the region's energy needs if all potential power sites are exploited.

Only 23 percent of this potential is being harnessed, largely from two main sites at the Kariba Dam between Zambia and Zimbabwe, and the Cahora Bassa Dam in Mozambique.

Solar tower to be erected in Namibia

THE PROPOSED solar energy tower to be deployed in Namibia will boost power supply in the country as well as the entire SADC region.

Standing at one-and-half kilometres tall and 280 metres wide, the tower will be Africa's first solar tower.

Estimated to cost more than US\$900 million, the tower, whose constructing date is yet to be confirmed, will be cheap to run, as it is the case with most clean sources of energy such as hydro and wind.

The Ministry of Energy in Namibia has said the tower will be sited close to the capital, Windhoek.

The operation of a solar tower involves heating air inside a vast transparent tent, several kilometres in diameter, at the base of the tower.

This hot air rises inside a tall concrete chimney, driving wind turbines linked to generators. The tent can also be used to grow crops. The solar



Studies undertaken by some of the Zambezi Basin states indicate that more power can be harnessed from other points on the river. These options are being studied to ensure ecological balance with energy requirements.

Potential sites include the Batoka Gorge, Devils Gorge, Victoria Falls South and Mupata Gorge. All the four

sites are located between Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Batoka Gorge has the potential to produce about 1,600 Megawatts (MW) of electricity while the Devils Gorge has a capacity of 1,200 MW, according to the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), which coordinates the planning and generation of electricity on behalf of Member States' utilities.

The Victoria Falls South and Mupata Gorge have a capacity of 390 MW and 1,085 MW respectively.

Zambia and Zimbabwe have already developed plans to set up a power station at the Batoka Gorge, but are proceeding carefully to ensure that all environmental impacts are considered.

The power station at Batoka could be completed in 5-6 years from the date of commencement at an estimated cost of US\$2.4 billion.

chimney power plants can also produce power at night.

The water used for crops is heated during sunny weather and this heat is released back into the air during the night or during cloudy weather to keep the turbines going.

No extra water is required – an important issue for a desert country such as Namibia. □

Botswana, Zimbabwe sign power deal

BOTSWANA AND Zimbabwe have concluded a deal that will result in the revival of the Bulawayo Thermal power station by June 2010.

Energy ministers from both countries signed the deal in Francistown, Botswana and agreed to work jointly to restore power generation at Bulawayo power station.

The ministers agreed to address transmission constraints in the Zimbabwe

power grid to facilitate increased power transfers through the country.

The ministers also resolved to create an enabling environment to facilitate closer cooperation between the two countries in the power sector.

Botswana and Zimbabwe are scheduled to sign an Inter-Governmental Memorandum of Understanding in November aimed at among other things

Hydro energy is regarded as one of the cheapest and cleanest forms of energy compared to other forms such as coal that pollute the environment and are not renewable.

This type of energy has also emerged as one of the most lucrative sources of "carbon financing" under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

According to SADC, a total of 19,000 Megawatts (MW) worth of generation projects can be commissioned under the CDM in the region, resulting in surplus energy for Member States.

Planning for integrated development of the Zambezi river basin is currently awaiting completion of the hosting agreement between SADC and Botswana for the Zambezi Watercourse Commission, expected to be operational soon with an interim secretariat. □

identifying joint energy projects.

Such projects include the extension of the Beira-Harare fuel pipeline to Botswana and developing renewable energy. The cooperation is meant to improve energy security and access to clean energy in the two countries.

The ministers said failure to address the energy situation will stifle social and economic development in the two countries. *Mmegi* □

Africa, South America to increase cooperation in energy development

THE SECOND Africa-South America Summit held in September has called for more cooperation between the two regions in harnessing energy sources for the good of both continents.

At the inaugural Summit held in Abuja, Nigeria three years ago, leaders from Africa and South America (ASA) identified the energy sector, as one of the key areas for collaboration to boost regional partnerships and investment.

According to the Nueva Esparta Declaration adopted soon after the September meeting in Venezuela, ASA said all agreements related to energy should be consolidated through the exchange of experiences in terms of development and universal use of energy sources and energy saving by the governments and the peoples of both regions.

The Summit said focus must be put on exploiting clean, renewable and alternative energy sources, with a view to extending their sustainable diffusion and utilization, as well as achieving maximum efficiency in their usage, in accordance with the relevant economic, social and environmental aspects, thus contributing to the economic and social transformation of the countries of both regions.

"Considering the envisaged use of fossil fuels going into the future, both regions will cooperate on matters relating to the sustainable production and use of fossil fuel, particularly oil and gas," read part of the Nueva Esparta Declaration.

"We commit ourselves to joining efforts with the aim of ensuring the exchange of experiences in the areas of prospect-

ing, exploration and treatment of mineral resources, prioritizing local transformation, in a diversified manner, using clean technologies that preserve the environment."

The leaders also made a commitment towards enhancing support in order to contribute to industrial growth, the development of energy infrastructure, the exchange and transfer of technologies, the reduction of transaction costs and the enhancement of human skills to ensure the



Transmission lines are key for cross border power trade.

attainment of the strategic goal of energy security and integration.

The Summit said there was need to create a conducive environment to increase the presence of African and South American companies including the energy and mining sectors in both regions, which would contribute to strengthening South-South trade and investment.

"We renew our earlier mandate for AFREC and UNASUR to prepare an energy strategy

to promote sustainable development, while respecting the sovereign rights to manage and regulate natural resources," said the Summit.

At the previous summit the leaders approved plans to set an Energy Commission to coordinate development in the sector.

Other joint programmes identified by ASA include the crafting of a strategic plan to promote sustainable development of energy resources in the two regions.

The plan to be coordinated by the African Energy Commission (AFREC) and the Latin America Energy Organization (OLADE) is expected to respect the sovereign rights of Member States to manage and regulate their natural resources. □

SADC needs to jointly harness bio-fuel

SADC COUNTRIES are slowly turning to bio-fuel such as jatropha to cushion themselves against the rising oil prices on the international markets.

However, the search for the alternative source of energy lacks coordination as member states are doing it all alone, affecting the region's capacity to derive maximum benefit from bio-fuel.

Zimbabwe's Energy and Power Development permanent secretary Justin Mupamhanga believes the region can benefit more if it works together in harnessing bio-fuels.

"All of us (SADC countries) are into bio-fuel projects," he said, "but we are doing so individually. We must pursue this at a regional level."

He said that most of these national projects were too

small to attract investment since a number of investors preferred bigger projects that have an effect on regional development.

Mupamhanga urged southern Africa to come up with a common policy on bio-fuels, which is similar to that of the electricity sector that calls for collective rather than individual efforts.

Doing so, he added, will allow the region to successfully exploit bio-fuel, which is regarded as a clean, cheap and reliable form of energy compared to other forms such as thermal that pollute the environment.

Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe are some of the SADC countries leading the search on how to harness bio-fuel.

Zimbabwe pioneered Africa's commercial bio-diesel production when it launched the continent's first bio-fuel plant in Harare a few years ago.

The plant uses seeds from the fuel-rich jatropha shrub and produces about 100 million litres of bio-diesel at full throttle.

Mozambique has announced plans to implement a US\$550 million bio-fuels project to produce up to 226 million litres of fuel and create close to 800 jobs.

Mozambique has capacity to be a bio-fuel superpower as it will use sugar cane and jatropha on about 74,000ha of land.

South Africa is another southern African country that is exploring prospects of full-scale bio-diesel production. □

SADC to power South Africa during World Cup

THE SOUTHERN African Power Pool (SAPP) will provide electricity to South Africa during the 2010 Soccer World Cup final to ensure there are no shortages.

The regional body that coordinates the planning, generation, transmission and marketing of electricity on behalf of member states utilities in nine SADC countries made the pledge at a meeting held in Maputo, Mozambique earlier this year.

SAPP agreed that any surplus power capacity in Member States will be made available to Eskom, South Africa's national power utility, as a contribution towards the tournament set to run for more than a month from mid-June 2010.

As part of the deal, Member States will be encouraged to slow down production during the evening peak when most soccer games will be taking place and increase production during the off-peak periods.

Some might also take their plants off the grid for planned maintenance during the game times, thus reducing pressure on the interconnected SAPP system.

This was first agreed at the Maputo meeting held in April, which resolved to improve transmission capacity for the smooth transfer of power to South Africa as well as promote energy efficiency initiatives and load shedding during the finals.

Eskom official Johnny Dladla welcomed the assistance saying it will go a long way in ensuring the finals are a huge success.



He said the World Cup finals, to be staged for the first time in Africa, are a major event not only for the host nation South Africa, but also deserve wide celebrations across the continent.

"We are delighted with the level of co-operation we are receiving from our SAPP counterparts," Dladla said.

SADC Univisa to boost tourism in the region

THE PROPOSED SADC Univisa system has the capacity to boost regional tourism during the 2010 Soccer World Cup finals in South Africa and beyond.

A Univisa is a single visa for visitors to the SADC Member States that enables tourists to move between and across associated countries with ease without having to apply for travel documents each time they enter a different country.

Southern African leaders came up with the plan a few years ago and pledged to implement the scheme by 2009 in time for the World Cup finals scheduled for June-July 2010 in South Africa.

However, the Univisa is not yet a reality, and the Regional Tourism Organization of Southern

Africa (RETOSA) has been tasked by SADC to spearhead the process.

Issues to do with security have been identified as a stumbling block to the establishment of a Univisa and Member States are yet to agree on the modalities.

While the Univisa may make economic sense for the tourism industry, the development also has an impact on home affairs and security of Member States.

The proposed new visa system is based on the European Schengen system, which allows visa holders to move freely between the 15 Schengen countries in Europe without having to obtain a separate visa for each one.

This saves the tourist time, money and bureaucratic hassles, and makes travel



Kalusha Bwalya: one of the greatest soccer players to emerge from southern Africa.

between countries much easier, thus ensuring a positive impact on tourism revenue for all Member States.

While the Univisa is still being negotiated, most SADC countries have signed bilateral agreements between themselves to encourage the free movement of SADC citizens within the region. These countries include Botswana, the DRC, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The agreements, which are a step towards the already signed but yet to be ratified Protocol on Facilitation of Movement of Persons, enable entry into a SADC country without a visa for no more than 90 days per year, among other benefits. □

South Africa to spend billions on public transport

by Patson Phiri

SOUTH AFRICA is spending billions on public transport to promote the smooth movement of people before, during and after the 2010 Soccer World Cup finals.

According to the National Department of Transport of South Africa, the rehabilitation programme was planned to run over a period of three to five years to ensure developments lived beyond 2010.

The transport sector is regarded as one of the key industries on which the suc-

cess of the soccer tournament will be judged, hence the need for an efficient, safe, high quality and cost-effective transport network.

The National Department of Transport says it will thus work with host cities and provinces to refurbish as well as construct existing and new public transport infrastructure.

These include airport developments, where about R19.3 billion (US\$1 approx. R7.5) has been set aside for the next five years to improve national airports.

A total of R400 million will

be channelled to the air traffic navigation to improve air safety as thousand of visitors are expected to fly to South Africa for the month-long soccer extravaganza.

The taxi recapitalisation programme has been allocated R7.7 billion. Soccer fans will likely use the taxi service to travel to and from stadiums.

About R70 billion has been set aside for the preservation and upgrades of road infrastructure for the next three years while R25 billion will be used on the Gautrain rail link project to run between

Johannesburg and Pretoria and OR Tambo Inter-national Airport.

Work is also in progress to increase the number of passenger rail services with increased frequencies. The public transport facilities are being set up to facilitate journeys between airports, hotels and venues.

"It must be noted that the department has also established a Monitoring Committee in order to focus on the monitoring of all these initiatives," the department said in a statement posted on its website. □

World Cup Trophy on Africa tour

THOUSANDS OF fans will enjoy a rare close-up view of the authentic 2010 FIFA World Cup Trophy, which will visit every nation in Africa, giving fans a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to look at, but not touch, the coveted piece.

FIFA and Coca-Cola announced that the World Cup trophy will tour 86 countries in the world, including 53 African countries.

Only State Presidents and World Cup winners have been known to touch this

exclusive trophy, and only a handful of people know where it is kept.

Made of solid 18-carat gold, the 36cm tall piece, weighing 6kg, boasting two layers of semi-precious malachite, began its African journey from the FIFA headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland en route to Cairo, Egypt.

It will wrap up its African tour in Cape Town on 2 December 2009, just in time for the FIFA World Cup draw.

It will then resume its world tour from Seoul,

South Korea, on 17 January 2010, before being delivered back in May 2010 to South Africa to a venue still to be announced.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter said the international outreach and marketing expertise of their partner Coca-Cola is an enormous benefit in strengthening the game.

He said it helps bring the excitement and passion of the sport to more people around the globe.

"This campaign captures both the unique spirit of the continent of Africa and the celebrations that football inspires."

Coca-Cola has unveiled a grand marketing campaign for the soccer extravaganza inspired by the joyous dance celebrations, and has invited fans to express their optimism and passion for football through active dance celebrations, with a promise to award the best dancer during the tournament.

The promotional campaign includes a music anthem, global television commercials, an online program and commemorative packaging.

In the months leading up to the 2010 FIFA World Cup, an array of programmes will be activated that will bring fans closer to the world cup experience. *BuaNews* □

Africa Cup of Nations draw set for November

THE DRAW for the 2010 African Cup of Nations, to be hosted by Angola, is set for November 2009 with a number of world football luminaries participating.

The championship, to be held for the first time in Angola, will comprise 16 national teams and matches will be hosted in the provinces of Luanda, Benguela, Huila and Cabinda.

The stadiums are under construction and will be handed over to the organizing committee before the end of 2009.

The stadiums will be tested during Angola's 34th independence celebrations on 11 November 2009, with the holding of a national or international tournament.



Vibrant telecommunication system key to regional integration

THE DEVELOPMENT of a vibrant and effective telecommunication system is central to regional development and integration.

SADC Ministers responsible for Telecommunications, Postal and ICT said this at their annual meeting held in Namibia recently.

Speaking at the meeting, the Namibian Minister of Information Communication Technology (ICT), Joel Kaapanda, said there is need to interconnect the region and ensure the free flow of information among Member States.

He said sound communication networks characterized by a high degree of integration and interconnectivity is a guarantee for intra-regional and inter-regional trade.

Improved communication also promotes remote business transactions (e-commerce) thus facilitating trade within and beyond the region.

"The delivery of effective and efficient services that meets the universal criteria of accessibility and affordability has the capacity to stimulate development and assist SADC Member States to meet the Millennium Development Goals, including the drastic reduction of poverty in our region," he said.

With the hosting of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup finals

in South Africa fast approaching, a vibrant telecommunication and ICT sector in the region is critical for the successful hosting of the grand event to be staged for the first time on African soil.

This will allow thousands of visitors to communicate easily with families and friends back home. Therefore, Minister Kaapanda said, SADC Member States should urgently consider scaling up its efforts to implement a number of telecommunications and ICT-related projects identified by the region in recent years.

These include the SADC Regional Information Infrastructure (SRII) Project and the NEPAD ICT Broadband Infrastructure for Eastern and Southern Africa.

South Africa launches satellite

SOUTH AFRICA has launched its second satellite into space to provide the country with affordable access to space technology and data.

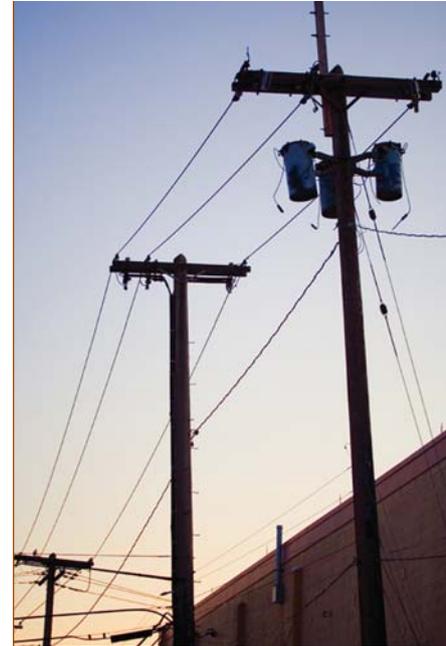
The R26 million low-orbit satellite code named *SumbandilaSat* is the product of a three-year satellite development programme, commissioned by the Department of Science and Technology, and implemented by Stellenbosch University's engineering facility.

The SRII project seeks to provide the necessary telecommunication infrastructure and connectivity within the SADC region as well as to bridge the digital divide.

The Nepad ICT Broadband Infrastructure for Eastern and Southern Africa aims to interconnect African countries and connect Africa to the rest of the world.

This project is in line with SADC vision to transform the region from individual and fragmented markets, into a single integrated vibrant and globally competitive regional market.

Another regional project is the e-SADC initiative that will help Member States to address the challenges of con-



Improving telecommunication infrastructure remains a priority in the SADC region.

vergence and the harmonization of ICT infrastructure, services and indicators.

The initiative also aims to promote the use of ICT for regional economic integration, the enhancement of connectivity and access to ICT service among and within SADC Member States. □

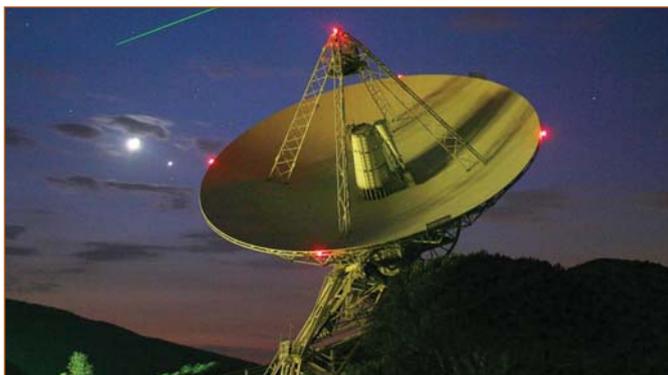
SumbandilaSat, which means "to lead the way" in Venda was originally scheduled to be launched in 2006 but logistical reasons saw its launch date moved to this year.

The signing of a new agreement on space cooperation between South Africa and Russia in 2008 saw the project gather momentum and its final launch this year.

The two countries are also cooperating on the establishment of a South African space agency that is expected to be in place later in 2009.

Elsewhere in Africa, Egypt and Nigeria have also launched their own satellites. South Africa's first satellite, SunSat was launched in 1999 as an experiment by the University of Stellenbosch and exhausted its lifetime in space two years later.

South Africa is the only southern African country to launch a satellite into space. □



Accurate data such as that derived from Satellites is vital for planning.

Zambezi bridge commissioned in Mozambique

MOZAMBICAN PRESIDENT Armando Guebuza has commissioned a new bridge over the Zambezi River, which links Sofala and Zambezia provinces in the centre of the country.

The "Armando Emilio Guebuza Bridge" is a major link on the main North-South highway and replaces an inefficient ferry service across the river. The only other road bridge over the Zambezi is hundreds of kilometers to the northwest, at Tete.

The bridge is 2,376 metres long. It has two lanes for vehicles, two hard shoulders to be used in the event of breakdowns, and two walkways for pedestrians. It is the second longest bridge in the country, beaten only by the bridge linking Mozambique Island to the mainland in the northern province of Nampula.

Construction began in March 2006, and the building work was done by a consortium of two Portuguese companies at a cost of about US\$113 million.

Ever since the only bridge over the Zambezi River was destroyed during the war sponsored by the South African apartheid regime against Mozambique in the 1980s, the North-South transport has been dependent on the ferry and there have been plans to build a new bridge but the length of the bridge and the conflict made it impossible to continue the work.

After the end of the war of destabilization, the government set about seeking finance for the bridge. This was no easy task -- repeatedly the government was told that there was not enough traffic to justify a new bridge, and that the ferry was perfectly adequate.

This was certainly not the opinion of motorists who had to spend hours and sometimes days before crossing the river. Throughout the 1990s there was just one boat making the 15-minute crossing of

the river a much lengthier process, although this decade a second was added.

Nonetheless, lengthy queues of trucks built up, and any perishable goods they carried were in danger of rotting.

Caprivi Link Interconnector project to be completed in 2010

THE CAPRIVI Link Interconnector project aimed at finally connecting Caprivi to the national power grid will be ready for commissioning in April 2010.

NamPower Managing Director, Paulinus Shilamba said the N\$3.2-billion capital project is already 70 percent complete. (US\$1 approx. N\$7.5)

The project will ensure that the Caprivi Region, which since the country's independence in 1990 has been dependant on power supply from Zambia, has reliable power supply.

"Without the Caprivi link, Namibia will face serious problems of load-shedding and power cuts," Shilamba said.

The project will serve as a shorter wheeling route from the north of SADC to Western Cape. It will also relieve transmission congestion on the 400 KV line through Zimbabwe and Botswana.

The project is also a vital link into the Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia (ZIZABONA) regional project as it will allow SADC countries to access power via the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

Once complete, the Caprivi link, the second largest project in the country's energy sector since independence is envisaged to bring Namibia's electricity woes to an end, making the Caprivi link an essential project for the country.

Namibia has been heavily dependant on other countries especially South Africa for power supplies and, according to Shilamba, from a strategic point of view it is wrong for Namibia to entirely depend on another country for electricity.

The country's maximum power demand is 450 MW whereas generation capacity stands at about 384 MW. □

Chirundu one-stop border post to open for business

THE CHIRUNDU one-stop border post between Zambia and Zimbabwe will formally open for business in December in what will be a new benchmark for regional integration among SADC countries.

SADC selected Chirundu as a pilot phase of the one-stop border to facilitate trade and free movement of goods and services across the region.

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

This development will address issues of delays at most border posts and promote the smooth flow of goods in SADC. □

Now the ferry has passed into history. Guebuza was one of the last people to use it. He crossed the river by ferry from Chimuara on the northern bank, to Caia on the Sofala side, where the inauguration ceremony began.

Guebuza then cut the ribbon at the start of the bridge, and became the first citizen to drive over it -- and to pay the toll fee.

He was followed by a huge crowd running or walking behind the car. The toll fee is the same as motorists had to pay for using the ferry - about US\$30 for trucks.

The bridge, managed by the National Road Administration (ANE), has a speed limit of 60 kms per hour.

The two boats will now be moved from the Zambezi to other parts of the country where ferries are used to cross rivers *AllAfrica.com* □

Tanzania to renovate ports

UNITED REPUBLIC of Tanzania plans to renovate and expand five ports on the Indian Ocean coast and inland waterways as well as inland customs depots this year.

Various improvements will be made on the Dar es Salaam Port, Mtwara, Tanga, Bagamoyo and Mwambani on the Indian Ocean coast and Kigoma Port on Lake Tanganyika.

The developments are intended to cater for the current and future volumes of goods to and through Tanzania.

Tanzanian ports serve landlocked Malawi, Zambia, Burundi, DR Congo and Uganda. The Dar es Salaam port is one of the largest and busiest ports in the region. □

SADC leaders commend political stability in the region

by Juakali Kambale

HEADS OF State and Government attending the 29th SADC Summit held in Kinshasa, DRC in September, expressed satisfaction with the political stability in most parts of the region.

The leaders said that, despite a few security concerns

in some parts of eastern DRC, Madagascar and Lesotho, the region is generally peaceful.

The Summit also noted that the troubled areas are slowly addressing their challenges as evidenced by the successful hosting of the 2009 SADC Summit in DRC.

DRC was at one time under serious threat from

armed groups crossing over from some of its eastern neighbouring countries, but is now back on its feet and moving towards peace and democracy as well as normalising relations with Rwanda and Uganda.

The country is preparing for elections due later this year or early next year.

Presidential and legislative elections were successfully organized in 2006.

In Lesotho, dialogue is ongoing to resolve the post-electoral dispute in that country while much ground has been covered on Madagascar to bring all the political players together.

Madagascar slid into a political turmoil in March after opposition leader Andry Rajoelina seized power from President Marc Ravalomanana.

Former Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano has been tasked by SADC to bring the concerned parties together to find a lasting solution to the problems.

"The Summit noted the progress made in an effort to restore constitutional order in Madagascar. Summit commended H.E. Joachim Alberto Chissano, former President of Mozambique and SADC Mediator for the progress made thus far," reads part of a statement released soon after the meeting.

Southern African leaders urged all players to continue working together to ensure the peace talks are a success.

On Zimbabwe, the leaders said the inclusive government formed in February this year is working successfully towards implementation of the Global Political Agreement.

Heads of State and Government also noted the peaceful manner in which SADC Member States held their elections this year, adding that those going to the polls late in the year should maintain the atmosphere.

Malawi, Zambia and South Africa held elections early this year while Botswana, Mozambique and Namibia are expected to go to the polls later in the year. □

SADC forces ready for peacekeeping missions

SOUTHERN AFRICAN forces are ready to carry out peacekeeping operations where peace, security and stability are required.

Regional forces exhibited their readiness at the recent SADC Standby Forces Field Training called Exercise Golfinho held at Walvis Bay, Namibia.

Personnel from 12 SADC Member States took part in the training, which is held once every two years, according to the SADC Standby Force Operational Guidelines.

SADC said the exercise is an instrument that will assist the region and the entire African continent to create a peaceful and stable political and security environment for economic development.

"It is without doubt that Exercise Golfinho is a valuable investment in the stability and security of the region and the African continent at large," the SADC Secretariat said in a statement, adding that the force must always be kept ready for missions.

The SADC Standby Force was established by under the Defence and Security Sectors of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

Southern African leaders launched the force in August



Exercise Golfinho is a valuable investment in the stability and security of the region and African continent at large.

2007 at the annual summit in Lusaka, Zambia.

The first training exercise known as the Mapping Exercise was conducted

in February in Angola while the second known as the Command Post was hosted by Mozambique in April. □

Tanzanian civil polls get a new look

THE TANZANIAN government has made a number of sweeping changes regarding civil polls, which are used by political parties as a litmus test ahead of general elections.

Unlike previously civil elections that saw people use hats and baskets as polling boxes, this year elections will have official ballot boxes and papers.

Voters will also be required to register weeks before election day and not on the polling date.

Civil elections are scheduled for 25 October 2009, and the new changes will be applied during the polls.

"We are not going to use hats and baskets - there will be conventional ballot boxes, official voting slips, registration books and eligible voters must hold proper identity cards," the spokesman of the Prime Minister's Office, Calist Luanda, said.

He said the new changes will improve democracy and efficiency as well as reduce polling time, which usually took the whole day.

Political parties are busy preparing for the civil elections. Tanzania holds general elections in 2010. □

Copenhagen Climate Change conference: What position for Africa?

by Egline Tauya

SOUTHERN AFRICA'S position for the forthcoming Copenhagen conference on climate change is centered on four broad areas covering the reduction of emissions, deforestation and degradation, and the financing of adaptation and climate change, and technology transfer.

The first item is known as the REDD approach, that is, Reducing Emissions, Deforestation and Degradation (REDD). Financing of adaptation and mitigation efforts, and financing the adaptation and effects of climate change are the second and third areas, respectively. The fourth area is the transfer of clean technology to developing countries.

This position, which is taken through the African position process in which the continent agreed to speak with one voice, was reached at the Regional Climate Change Programme (RCCP) for the Southern Africa workshop held in Johannesburg in September 2009.

The decision to field a single negotiating team to strengthen the continent's clout was reached at the 13th African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Libya in July 2009.

A key issue for southern Africa regarding the REDD approach, which proposes to compensate landowners for not logging wooded areas, is its non-inclusive nature.

The REDD approach favoured by industrialized countries applies mainly to rain-forested countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo and not so much to the rest of southern Africa, the RCCP noted.

In addition, it is not clear how to ensure that compensation from REDD is distributed fairly in countries where many people are subsistence farmers.

Southern Africa therefore wants African nations to stand together in Copenhagen on a position that not only sees REDD go through, but also kick-starts a process for post-Kyoto negotiations that incorporates agriculture as well as forests and the full range of other land uses, known as a REDD-Plus mechanism.

Unlike the REDD, which is most likely going to benefit rich people when they buy up land in order to claim the compensation, the REDD-Plus would ensure that small landholders are considered.

Agriculture is the lifeline of the African continent and as such, it has been argued that for Africa, a post-Kyoto regime that does not include agriculture and food security by extension is no deal at all.

Linked to the REDD-Plus, Africa also calls for a bio-carbon initiative, which would reward countries that adopt agricultural systems that store carbon, are climate-resilient and increase productivity.

The bio-carbon initiative takes into account the full opportunities for reducing emissions and increasing carbon stocks in agriculture, forestry and other land uses.

Africa's negotiating position also stipulates that developed countries should commit to cutting their greenhouse gas emissions by a minimum of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2020.

On finance, Africa calls for the international community to fund adaptation and mitigation efforts to the tune of US\$67 billion per year by 2020.

This financing should be new, additional, predictable and grant-based to allow countries to plan ahead.

Africa calls for ongoing climate change negotiations to put more emphasis on the need for adaptation funding for the poorest countries.

Implementation of the developed National Action Plans for Adaptation (NAPAs), a requirement by the UNFCCC failed to take off due to lack of financial resources.

Normal to below normal in first half of rainfall season

SOUTHERN AFRICA climate experts have forecast normal to below-normal rainfall in the first half and normal to above-normal in the second half of the 2009/2010-rainfall season in major parts of the region.

The rainfall outlook was prepared by climate scientists from national meteorological and hydrological services within the SADC region as well as the Drought Monitoring Centre and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society.

The experts divided the rainfall season into two parts, October-December 2009 and January-March 2010.

Areas forecast to have normal to below normal in the first half of the season, October-December include northern and western parts of DRC, most of Angola, Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, western Lesotho, western parts of Swaziland, south of Lake Victoria in the United Republic of Tanzania, eastern and southern Madagascar, Mauritius, and south-western Zimbabwe.

In the second half of the season, January-March 2010, most parts of SADC are

On technology transfer, Africa's position is that the Copenhagen Conference of the Parties (COP 15) should give greater focus to areas of particular relevance to Africa, including forests, land use, efficient and renewable energy technologies.

The continent was expected to finalize its position during the last two preparatory meetings in Bangkok in early October and in Barcelona in early November. □

expected to receive normal to above-normal rainfall.

This covers most of Angola, the whole of DRC, Madagascar, Mauritius, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, extreme northern Botswana, and the northern half of Zimbabwe.

In developing the outlook, the experts took into account the prevailing and expected sea surface temperature anomalies over the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans as well as other factors that affect the climate of the SADC region, including the Indian Downpour and atmospheric circulation processes that brings moisture into the region.

Above-normal rainfall is defined as being within the wettest third of historically recorded rainfall amounts while below-normal is within the driest third of rainfall amounts and normal is within the middle third.

The outlook is relevant only to seasonal timescales and relatively large areas and may not fully account for all factors that influence regional and national climate variability, such as local and month-to-month variations. *sardc.net* □

Southern Africa can advance towards gender equality by 2015

by Patience Zirima

SOUTHERN AFRICA can make significant moves towards gender equality by 2015 if Member States ratify and implement the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

In the Foreword to a new publication, the *SADC Gender Monitor 2009*, Magdeline Mathiba-Madibela, Head of the SADC Gender Unit, said the Protocol provides concrete and tangible targets for the region to address its gender imbalances.

She said the Protocol signed by SADC Heads of State and Government in August 2008 "marks the end of an era of commitments to an era of implementation in the SADC region."

"We therefore have to capitalize on this investment to move the agenda forward, with full understanding that the time is now."

The SADC Gender Monitor tracks progress on the implementation of the Protocol, and the 2009 edition will be launched in Johannesburg, South Africa, in late October, at the annual meeting of SADC ministers responsible for gender and women affairs.

The publication is produced for SADC by the Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness, the gender programme of the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC).

Mathiba-Madibela said it is important to advocate strongly for the ratification and accession of the Protocol while the momentum is still high following the historic signing of the Protocol one year ago.

The Protocol aims to ensure that women take up an active role in national development by occupying half of the decision-making positions in all structures of the society.

Other issues covered in the Protocol include constitutional and legal rights; governance; education and training; productive resources and employment; gender-based violence; health and HIV and AIDS; peace-building and conflict resolution; and media, information and communication.

Only Namibia has ratified the Protocol, but the ratification process is underway in most SADC Member States and Mathiba-Madibela believes that other countries will soon follow Namibia's lead.

Ratification is the act by which a state confirms the signature of a treaty by its representatives. Following signature of any given Protocol by Heads of State and Government, a protocol in the SADC region needs to be ratified by two-thirds of Member States to have legal force.

Mathiba-Madibela said the year 2009 is crucial for the region to strategise concretely for implementation of the Protocol, particularly now that it is preparing for the Beijing +15 review set for November in Banjul, Gambia.

"Almost 15 years since Beijing, the SADC region cannot afford to do business as usual. It is our expectation that with the SADC Protocol in place, a regional legally binding instrument, more action shall be taken as the commitment is much closer to home," she said.

She said the SADC Secretariat is committed towards investing in prudent strategies in order to facilitate Member States to implement their gender commitments on the ground.

She added that Member States are expected to develop action plans on the basis of this strategy as the SADC Gender Monitor shows that "a lot still needs to be done to realise this target."

The SADC region has set a target of 50 percent representation of women in politics and decision-making by 2015.

Five countries have managed to reach the earlier target of more than 30 percent women in their parliaments (Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania), through electoral systems based on Proportional Representation or Special Representation.

The majority of Member States still lag behind, as evidenced by the recent elections in Botswana in which women occupy just 6.5 percent of parliamentary seats, the lowest figure in the region.

Mathiba-Madibela urged the region to draw lessons from Rwanda where women in parliament now outnumber men.

In the 2008 parliamentary elections in Rwanda, women won 45 out of the 80 seats in the chamber of deputies translating to more than 50 percent, which is the highest proportion in the world.

She said gender-based violence is one of the key intervention areas that the region

needs to address urgently as stipulated in the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

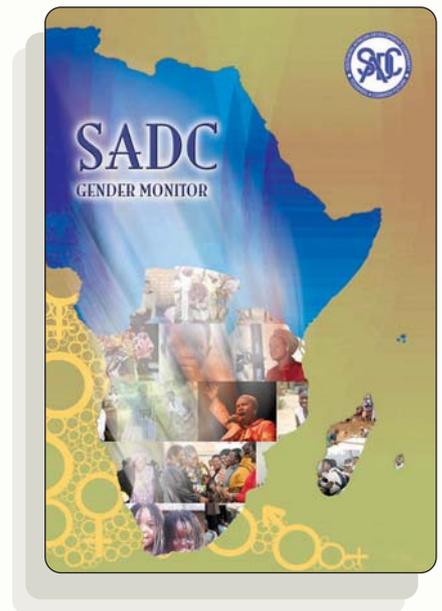
She said a pilot project to train law enforcement personnel on how to effectively deal with gender violence is underway in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Mathiba-Madibela said southern Africa has put in place measures to combat incidence of trafficking of women and children.

On women's economic empowerment, Mathiba-Madibela said there is need "to achieve development and economic growth, alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the people of southern Africa and support the socially disadvantaged through regional integration."

She said in line with the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, efforts must be made to enable women in business to scale up their business and upgrade from informal to formal trade.

The monitor highlights procedures different countries in the region have to undergo to ratify and then domesticate the gender Protocol as well as successes in achieving gender equality objectives. *sardc.net* □



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2009 Events Diary

November 11-13, Angola	RERA Annual Conference Annual conference of the Regional Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA). The sixth annual conference of RERA will bring together regulators, industry leaders, utility customers, investors and other stakeholders in the SADC region and elsewhere to exchange information on pertinent developments affecting electricity supply and demand.
16-18, Italy	World Food Summit Attended by world leaders, the Summit is expected to adopt an Outcome Document, emphasising the world's collective commitment to fight hunger and poverty, and improve agricultural development and food security.
9-10, Botswana	SADC Energy Sector Thematic Group Meeting Officials from the SADC Secretariat, International Cooperating Partners, Southern African Power Pool and RERA attend this thematic coordinating meeting to jointly plan support for SADC programmes and projects.
25 Nov-10 Dec	16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence The event will be celebrated this year with the theme "Commit, Act, Demand: We Can End Violence Against Women!"
27-28, Namibia	Presidential and National Assembly Elections Namibians will go to the polls to elect their Members of Parliament and President for a five-year term. SADC will dispatch an Election Observation Mission to Namibia ahead of the election.
27-29, Trinidad and Tobago	Commonwealth Summit The 52 members will meet for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held every two years. The theme for the 2009 CHOGM is "Partnering for a More Equitable and Foreign Sustainable Future".
December 1, Global	World AIDS Day On December 1 the SADC region joins the rest of the world in commemorating World AIDS Day. The Theme for this year is "Universal Access and Human Rights".
7-18, Denmark	COP15 Summit on Climate Change The 15th United Nations Conference Of the Parties (COP15) on Climate Change convenes at Bella Centre in Copenhagen as governments negotiate on key climate change issues and discuss a follow-up to the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012. The conference is expected to issue a Copenhagen Declaration, but negotiations will be tough as the positions of developed and developing countries are very different.

40 years since "A Candle on Kilimanjaro"

14 - 24 October Ten Years Since *Mwalimu's* final journey

THE PERIOD of 14-24 October marks 10 years since the final journey of *Mwalimu* Julius Kambarage Nyerere and is a very special week for southern Africans to rededicate themselves to the struggle for Africa's future.

On 22 October 1959, exactly 40 years ago, when most of Africa was still under colonial rule, the visionary young African leader made a commitment on behalf of his people, who had not yet reclaimed their own country:

"We, the people of Tanganyika, would like to light a candle and put it on the top of Mount Kilimanjaro which would shine beyond our borders giving hope where there was despair, love where there was hate and dignity where there was before only humiliation."

When *Mwalimu* Nyerere made that speech to the Legislative Council two years before his country's Independence, almost all of Africa was still under colonial rule, except for nine countries (Ethiopia, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia).

Political pressure for Independence had begun and the "wind of change" was gathering strength, but most of the southern African political parties and liberation movements which later fought and won majority rule were still banned or had not yet been constituted.

Mwalimu's dedication and commitment to the liberation of the sub-continent, to African unity and to pan-Africanism remains unsurpassed.

True to his vision, it can be said now, 40 years later, that he "carried the torch that liberated Africa".

Those were the words of the then SADC Chairperson, the former President of Mozambique, Joaquim Chissano, of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (Frelimo) which was based in Tanzania for more than a decade prior to Mozambique's Independence from Portugal.

Mwalimu Nyerere passed away on 14 October 1999 at the age of 77.

On 18 October 1999, three million grieving Tanzanians lined the streets of Dar es Salaam to pay their respects to *Mwalimu* when his body arrived on his final journey, and they continued to file past his coffin for the next three days and nights.

21 October was the State funeral attended by 16 heads of state from Africa, representatives of more than 70 countries worldwide and of regional and international organizations, and as many Tanzanians as could fit into the National Stadium with a capacity of 35,000.

At that time, the presidency of the European Union was held by Finland, and its President, Martti Ahtisaari, a friend and former ambassador to Tanzania in the 1970s and UN Commissioner for Namibia in the 1980s, came personally to bid farewell.

Mwalimu dedicated his life to the ideals of human dignity and common humanity, Ahtisaari said. "His contribution to promoting these values in Tanzania, in Africa and worldwide is indisputable and incomparable."

Julius Nyerere was "a great freedom fighter" and a "tireless mediator and peace-builder... who promoted peace and stability in Africa and was an advocate of good governance worldwide."

Ahtisaari spoke for everyone when he said at the end of his statement:

"Asante sana, *Mwalimu*. Thank-you, *Mwalimu*."

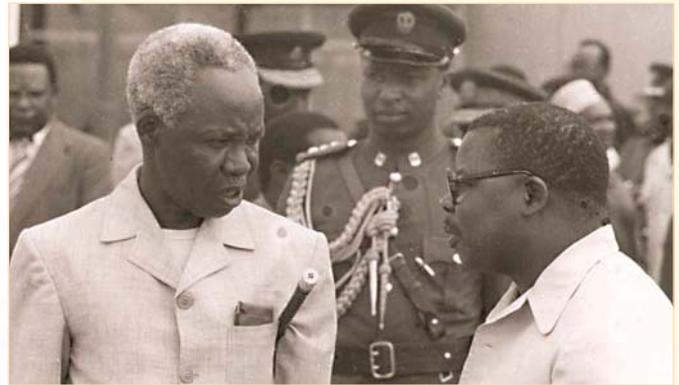
But *Mwalimu's* President had the last word. The then President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Benjamin William Mkapa, said at the end of an emotional speech at the State Funeral:

"Our world is composed of givers and takers. The takers may eat better, but the givers sleep better. In death, as in life, *Mwalimu* sleeps better. For his entire life was a life of giving, not taking."

23 October is the date that *Mwalimu* returned to his final resting place among his family in the village where he was born, in Butiama, Mara region, in the United Republic of Tanzania.

THE WEEK of *Mwalimu's* final journey, 14-24 October, contains other significant dates for neighbouring countries and the whole of the SADC region.

- o 19 October is the commemoration of the loss of another close ally in the liberation of southern Africa. President Samora Moises Machel of Mozambique and 34 others died when the presidential plane crashed in South Africa in 1986, believed to have been lured off course by agents of the apartheid regime using a false beacon.
- o 24 October is the date of Zambia's independence from colonial rule 45 years ago, in 1964, when President Kenneth David Kaunda emerged as a strong ally of *Mwalimu* Nyerere in the liberation of the continent. □



Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere with Benjamin Mkapa, who later became his President (1995-2005).

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

October -December 2009

1 October	Public Holiday	Botswana
4 October	Peace Day	Mozambique
	Independence Day	Lesotho
5 October	Public Holiday	Mozambique
	Public Holiday	Lesotho
14 October	Mwalimu Nyerere Day and Climax of "Uhuru Torch Race"	Tanzania
	SADC Creators & Performers Day	SADC
16 October	Mother's Day	Malawi
18 October	Diwali (Festival of Lights)	Mauritius
19 October	Public Holiday	Mauritius
24 October	Independence Day	Zambia
1 November	Dimanche Toussaint	Madagascar
	All Saints Day	Mauritius, Seychelles
2 November	All Saints Day	Angola
	Arrival of Indentured Labourers	Mauritius
10 November	Maputo Day	Mozambique
11 November	National Independence Day	Angola
12 November	Public Holiday	Angola
28/29 November	Eid al Adha (Feast of Sacrifice)*	Tanzania
8 December	Immaculate Conception	Seychelles
9 December	Independence and Republic Day	Tanzania
10 December	Human Rights Day	Namibia
16 December	Day of Reconciliation	South Africa
	Incwala Day	Swaziland
22 December	National Unity Day	Zimbabwe
25 December	Christmas Day	SADC
	Vendredi Noël	Madagascar
	Family Day	Mozambique
26 December	Family Day	Namibia
	Day of Goodwill	South Africa
	Boxing Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Malawi, Mauritius, Tanzania, Zimbabwe

* Depends on the sighting of the moon