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FREE TRADE AREA TO COVER HALF OF AFRICA

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THE LEADERS of 26 African countries have taken another major step towards a Free Trade Area that would cover the eastern half of Africa, literally from the Cape to Cairo – from South Africa to Egypt.

Meeting in South Africa on 12 June at their second joint Summit, the leaders of three Regional Economic Communities (RECs) formally launched negotiations for the establishment of an integrated market of the 26 countries comprising,

- o a combined population of almost 600 million people;
- o a total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of about US\$1 trillion;
- o half of the African Union (AU) in terms of membership;

- o 57 percent of the total population of the African Union; and,

o just over 58 percent in terms of contribution to total GDP. The establishment of so-called “Grand” Free Trade Area is expected to bolster intra-regional trade by creating a wider market, increased investment flows, enhanced competitiveness and the development of cross-regional infrastructure.

This FTA, formally known as the Tripartite Free Trade Area, is being established by the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the East African Community (EAC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

The Legal and Institutional Framework was agreed

through a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding on Inter-Regional Cooperation and Integration signed by COMESA, EAC and SADC, that came into force on 19 January 2011.

In order to fast-track preparations for implementation, the leaders have adopted a developmental approach to the Tripartite integration process that is anchored on three pillars:

- > Market integration based on the Tripartite FTA;
- > Infrastructure development to enhance connectivity and reduce costs of doing business; and
- > Industrial development to address productive capacity constraints.

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Free Trade Area to cover half of Africa

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In addition to launching the negotiations for establishing the Tripartite FTA, the leaders of COMESA, EAC and SADC adopted a roadmap as well as the negotiating principles, processes and institutional framework. They have also directed that a programme of work and a roadmap be developed for the industrialisation pillar.

The African Union Commission has expressed strong

support for the Tripartite cooperation within the framework of establishing an African Economic Community and the overall African Union Vision and Strategy presented in the Lagos Plan of Action (1980) and the Abuja Treaty (1991). They also support the resolution of the 2006 AU Summit that directed the commission and the RECs to put in place mechanisms to facilitate har-

monization and coordination within and among the RECs.

The first Tripartite Summit was held in 2008 in Uganda, with initial commitment to implementation regarding programmes in trade, customs and economic integration; free movement of business persons; and infrastructure development amongst the three RECs.

In the area of infrastructure development, progress is

already evident in the plans to strengthen the North South transport corridor between Dar es Salaam and Durban, with the support of international cooperating partners and the donor community.

Aid for Trade programmes are being developed for the other major corridors including maritime corridors. Priority projects will be presented at a Tripartite and Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Infrastructure Investment Conference in Kenya on 29-30 September 2011.

The host of the recent Tripartite Summit, President Jacob Zuma of South Africa, described the historic meeting that launched the Tripartite FTA negotiations as "a key milestone in the integration of Africa."

Egypt will host the next Tripartite Summit. r

How the Free Trade Area will work

THE GRAND FTA document launched at the 2nd Tripartite Summit in South Africa is in the form of a draft agreement that contains 14 annexes covering various complementary areas regarded as necessary for effective functioning of a regional market.

The main proposal is to establish a tariff-free, quota-free and exemption-free trade regime covering the 26 countries by combining the existing FTAs of the three RECs.

It is expected that by 2012, the SADC, COMESA and EAC FTAs would not have any exemptions or sensitive lists for products manufactured in the respective regions. However, there is a possibility that a few countries might wish to consider maintaining a few sensitive products in trading with some major economic partners.

For this reason, provision has been made for the possibility of a country to seek permission for maintaining some sensitive products for a specified period of time.

The Tripartite FTA will be underpinned by robust infrastructure programmes designed to catalyze the regional market through interconnectivity facilitated by all modes of transport and telecommunica-

tions, and to promote competitiveness through initiatives such as ensuring adequate supplies of energy.

Following the official launch of negotiations to establish the FTA, Member States will have about six months, up to December 2011, to finalize their domestic

processes for ratifying the agreement, establishing the required support institutions and adopting the relevant customs procedures and instruments.

It is proposed that once this approval process is accomplished, the Tripartite FTA should be launched in 2012. r

What the leaders said

HOST PRESIDENT Jacob Zuma of South Africa said the creation of an enlarged Free Trade Area would ensure a favorable environment for economic prosperity and growth.

"There is no single country that can prosper on its own, our destinies are intertwined. We can achieve greater competitive advantage through the Tripartite FTA arrangement," he said.

SADC chairperson and Namibian President, Hifikepunye Pohamba concurred, urging all member countries to put their shoulders to the wheel to make the FTA a reality.

"With a population of nearly 600 million people and a combined Gross Domestic Product of close to US\$1 trillion, the realization of this goal (economic integration) would reposition our respective regions to achieve higher levels of economic growth."

COMESA chairperson, King Mswati III of Swaziland also hailed the launch of the FTA negotiations, saying it is inline with the African Union initiative to promote free trade among all African countries.



President Zuma, King Mswati and President Pierre Nkurunziza of Burundi were some of the African leaders present at the launch of the Grand FTA.

"The present RECs have been operating in isolation, thus creating trading barriers within the African continent. Time has come for us to bring together all these organizations to form one big economic powerhouse to increase trade among African countries."

EAC chairperson and President of Burundi, Pierre Nkurunziza urged members of the three regional groups to establish a sound and viable economic bloc to pave way for the formation of an African Economic Union.

"In this perspective, we have a duty to adopt methods and principles governing the establishment of the Tripartite Free Trade Area, the roadmap negotiations, and the statement on the launch of negotiations." r

Energy policy review to be completed by March 2012

REVIEW OF SADC's energy sector governing instruments is expected to be completed by March 2012 after a year-long delay due to funding constraints.

This emerged from the annual meeting of SADC Energy Ministers held in Botswana in May at which various issues affecting the sector were discussed.

The review of the SADC energy sector governing instruments such as the SADC Energy Protocol, SADC Energy Policy, SADC Energy Strategy and Action Plan and SADC Energy Activity Plan was approved last year at the ministers' annual meeting held in Angola in April.

The ministers noted during the Gaborone meeting that the review had not been undertaken but that negotiations were ongoing with the Norwegian government to assist with funding with a view to have the review completed by March 2012.

The SADC energy policy framework is comprehensive and places great emphasis on the availability of sufficient, reliable and least-cost energy services. This addresses the broader SADC objectives, which include attracting investment and promoting competitiveness and trade as a means for eradicating poverty, bearing in mind the need for the environmentally sustainable use of energy resources.

The policy framework also aims to support the SADC's strategic priorities that are targeted at industrialisation, the promotion of economic and social infrastructure,

developing agriculture, gender mainstreaming, human resources development and improving social welfare.

The SADC Protocol on Energy provides the broad legal and policy framework for cooperation in the energy sector. It was signed in August 1996 and came into force in April 1997 after receiving the required number of ratifications.

The protocol was operationalised through the SADC Energy Cooperation Policy and Strategy and the SADC Energy Sector Action Plan approved by the SADC Council of Ministers in 1996 and 1997, respectively.

The Action Plan identifies four priority areas as energy trade, information and experience exchange, training and organisational capacity building, and investment and funding.

The SADC Energy Activity Plan (approved by Council in 2000) further elaborated the four priority areas into a detailed programme of activities to be implemented.

All the instruments governing regional cooperation in the energy sector were adopted more than 10 years ago and have, therefore, become outdated.

The sector has seen profound reforms over the years, bringing to the fore new areas which are not covered by the policy framework. Recent developments such as the climate change agenda have become more relevant than before. It has thus become necessary to review the policy instruments so that they are more responsive to current realities.

On the development of the Renewable Energy Strategy and Action Plan, the ministers said plans are underway to ensure the strategy is "finalized by the end of January 2012."

The strategy and action plan aim among other things to promote the uptake of clean and alternative energy sources.

Alternative energy sources or low-carbon energy projects such as hydro, solar and wind produce less pollutants and are fast emerging as the most lucrative sources of financing under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

SADC is vast with clean energy sources, which if fully harnessed have the capacity to address most of the energy needs in the region.

The ministers reaffirmed the need for collective collaboration in addressing the energy situation in the region, which now far outstrips demand.

They noted that the region could only attain self-sufficiency in power if Member States implement all short term generation projects as per agreed plans.

However, the lead time for most power generation projects is fast approaching and southern Africa needs to redouble its efforts to ensure the targets are met or at least get back on track.

"Member States should take measures necessary to ensure completion of projects as per the planned milestones and we invite the SADC Secretariat assisted by SAPP to effectively monitor the implementation of power

projects and submit reports," the ministers said in a statement.

The Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) is a 12-member regional body that coordinates the planning, generation, transmission and marketing of electricity on behalf of member states utilities in SADC.

"According to the current projection, the region will attain self-sufficiency in power by the year 2014, provided implementation of planned projects remains on course."

The ministers said countries should move towards identifying energy projects that have a regional impact to attract investment.

Potential investors have shown great desire to fund such projects, arguing that individual country projects are too small to attract investment hence expanding the market size could facilitate the mobilisation of funds while at the same time cross-border projects have the advantage of a positive economic effect on the region.

The Zimbabwe-Zambia-Botswana-Namibia (ZiZaBoNa) transmission project and the Mozambican Backbone Corridor are good examples of regional projects that have the potential to have a positive effect on the region.

Other projects include the Mphanda Nkuwa hydro power project in Mozambique, Itezhi Tezhi hydro power plant in Zambia and the Inga hydropower project in the Democratic Republic of Congo. r

Kazungula Bridge project remains on course

THE SADC Executive Secretary, Tomaz Salomão has confirmed Southern Africa's commitment to building the Kazungula Bridge that will link Botswana and Zambia over the Zambezi River completing an important transport route for the region.

Salomão said in a statement that despite the delays in constructing the bridge, the project is on course.

He said that Botswana and Zambia are committed to implementing the project that will benefit the entire southern African region.

"The SADC Secretariat expresses its appreciation to the two Member States for the utmost cooperation and commitment they have demonstrated in the course of implementing this phase of the project."

Salomão said this in response to some media reports that had claimed that the project was facing serious implementation challenges and was on the brink of being shelved.

"Contrary to recent press reports, that Zambia has not paid its contribution towards the project, resulting in delays, the two Member States have religiously met their financial obligations and currently none of them is in any form of arrears, and the current thrust is on implementation and conclusion of the three components of the project," he said.

The Kazungula Bridge is to be constructed at the confluence of the Zambezi and Chobe rivers, about 65km upstream from the Victoria Falls.

The project, estimated at more than US\$100 million, comprises the main bridge that measures about 720m



The Kazungula bridge linking Botswana and Zambia will replace the current ferry and provide a new transport route for regional trade.

and 2,980m for approach roads.

SADC approved the project a few years ago to facilitate trade and the smooth movement of goods and services across the region. However, various challenges have impeded the implementation process.

Initially the bridge involved Zimbabwe, arching over the country's territorial waters, but a new location was found after extensive consultations, a few metres upstream to Namibia.

The components comprise a detailed design study of the Kazungula road/rail bridge, border control facilities, tolling facilities and one-stop border posts on either side as well as consulting services for trade and transport facilitation for the North-South transport corridor component between Lubumbashi and Durban.

These components were completed by the end of January 2011 while the process of tendering for the construction of the bridge was finalized in February.

Challenges have included the relocation of the road/rail bridge from the shorter sec-

tion in Zimbabwe to the upstream in Namibia and an escalation of costs of financing such a regional project.

The bridge is expected to foster and support regional economic development and

Plumtree-Mutare road to boost regional trade

ZIMBABWE HAS signed a US\$206 million deal with the Development Bank of Southern Africa for the rehabilitation and upgrading of the Plumtree-Mutare highway.

The project involves the rehabilitation of 820km of road from Plumtree on Zimbabwe's border with Botswana to Mutare on the border with Mozambique, through Bulawayo and Harare.

The work envisaged includes rehabilitation of some sections and construction of state-of-the-art toll-gates to replace temporary shelters that have been erected.

Transport, Communication and Infrastructure

deepen integration among Member States, as well as reducing the transport costs for basic commodities and impacting on other economic sectors such as tourism.

The Kazungula Bridge project is largely funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB), although the two Member States are required to fund certain components of the feasibility studies as well as any aspects of the study that they may bring up after the signing of the bilateral financial agreements with the AfDB.

Completion of the bridge is expected to reduce the mounting pressure on southern Africa's transport system and address delays, which are often experienced at border posts. r

Development Minister, Nicholas Goche and Finance Minister, Tendai Biti signed the deal on behalf of Zimbabwe. The DBSA was represented by its Executive Vice President, Adamassu Tadesse.

Work on the highway will be done by Infralink, a joint venture company between the Zimbabwe National Road Authority (Zinara) and Group Five International of South Africa.

Zinara has a 70 percent shareholding in the joint venture while Group Five International has 30 percent. Group Five International has constructed major highways and airports in South Africa, notably for the 2010 Soccer World Cup. □

SADC region remains food secure

FOOD SECURITY is expected to remain satisfactory throughout the year over most parts of southern Africa.

Assessments by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) show average to above-average maize harvests for most SADC Member States during the just-ended 2010/11 agricultural season.

“Current reports indicate that household food access has improved and food security has been enhanced, par-

ticularly in those areas which benefited from favourable rainfall,” FEWSNET said in its assessment.

The harvests are sufficient to meet the region’s requirements for the next six months and beyond.

FEWSNET said the total regional cereal availability is expected to remain near the levels reached last season. For the 2009/10 marketing year, SADC recorded a regional cereal surplus of 476,000 tonnes.

Preliminary forecasts for regional maize and all cereals

production as estimated by the respective national statistics offices and the Food Security Early Warning Units (NEWUs) within the region show that while South Africa’s maize production dropped by 14 percent in the 2010/11 season, the combined production of maize by the other Member States increased by four percent.

The biggest contributors to this increase are Malawi and Zambia, whose maize production has increased by about 13 and 8 percent, respectively.

Final crop production estimates are expected by the end of July.

“Despite the drop in South African maize, however, the country’s total maize availability in 2011/12 is sufficient to meet the regional import requirements of its grain deficient neighbours,” said FEWSNET.

With regard to maize production, most countries are expected to complement their produce by larger carryover stocks on account of the bumper harvest from last season.

For example, South Africa is expecting a carryover of more than 2.65 million metric tonnes, while Zambia and Malawi have also reported significant formal and on-farm closing stocks. r

SADC countries work together to contain foot and mouth disease

VETERINARY AUTHORITIES from five SADC countries are working jointly to contain sporadic outbreaks of foot and mouth disease along their borders.

Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe met recently and resolved to work together to deal with outbreaks of the disease.

The joint initiative follows an outbreak of the disease in Matabeleland North, Masvingo and Chimanimani areas of Zimbabwe, some parts of Botswana, and South Africa’s KwaZulu-Natal province.

Botswana has since assisted Zimbabwe with vaccines as part of a joint vaccination programme as the two countries step up efforts to defend their beef industries.

“We appreciate the gesture by Botswana, who like us, are leading exporters of beef in southern Africa,” Zimbabwean Agriculture Minister, Joseph Made said.



He said his ministry is working closely with the Department of National Parks in order to minimize contact between cattle and buffaloes, which are vectors of the disease.

“We need to ensure that National Parks maintains fences to keep buffaloes in their traditional areas while we also closely monitor the incidences of veldt fires that are destroying pastures and forcing the buffaloes to wander out of the parks in search of forage,” Made said.

Foot and mouth disease is a contagious, sometimes fatal viral disease that affects cloven-hoofed animals, including domestic and wild bovids.

The virus causes a high fever for two or three days, followed by blisters in the

mouth and on the feet that may rupture and cause lameness.

Foot and mouth disease is a severe plague for animal farming since it is highly infectious and can be spread by infected animals through the air or by contact with contaminated farming equipment, vehicles, clothing or feed.

Its containment demands considerable efforts in vaccination, strict monitoring, trade restrictions and quarantines, and occasionally the elimination of millions of animals.

Susceptible animals include cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, pigs, antelope, deer and bison. It has also been known to infect hedgehogs and elephants. *The Herald* r

Swaziland signs SADC agriculture research charter

SIGNING OF the SADC agricultural research charter by Swaziland signals another step towards boosting food security in the region.

Swaziland signed the Charter for the Centre for Coordinating Agricultural Research and Development in Southern Africa (CCARDESA) in May and is among the first countries to do so.

CCARDESA, which was approved by SADC Council in 2010, aims to establish a centre to coordinate agricultural research, technology generation and dissemination of research information in southern Africa.

This is Expected to increase agricultural production and ensure SADC is sustainably food secure. r



COP 17 needs a breakthrough

by Neto Nengomasha

CLIMATE CHANGE experts from across the globe are engaged in crucial negotiations to ensure a breakthrough is achieved at the forthcoming climate change conference scheduled to for late November in Durban, South Africa.

Negotiators for the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP 17) recently met at the UN Climate Change Preparatory Conference in Bonn, Germany, "to provide clarity on the architecture of the future international climate regime to reduce global emissions fast enough to avoid the worst climate change."

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Executive Secretary, Christiana Figueres, said national governments hold an unavoidable



Increased flooding can result from environmental damage and climate change.

responsibility to make clear progress towards the 2011 climate objectives agreed to at the 16th Conference of Parties held in Cancun, Mexico, last year.

"Governments lit a beacon in Cancun towards a low-emission world which is resilient to climate change," she said, adding that "they

committed themselves to a maximum global average temperature rise of 2 degrees Celsius, with further consideration of a 1.5 degrees maximum," Figueres said.

"Now, more than ever, it is critical that all efforts are mobilized towards living up to this commitment," she added.

South Africa pledges fair COP 17 deal

SOUTH AFRICA has pledged to reach out to all stakeholders as it seeks a climate change deal that delivers on the aspirations of all parties.

As host of COP 17 and incoming chair of the global climate change negotiations, South Africa said it accepted that the onus to deliver an acceptable climate change outcome in Durban rests with the host country.

"But the role of state parties cannot be overemphasized – this is their meeting," said Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, South Africa's International Relations and Cooperation Minister.

Scheduled for Durban from November 29 to December 10, COP 17 is

expected to provide an opportunity for countries from around the world to agree on climate change adaptation and carbon emission reduction measures.

"As the next president of the COP 17, we are reaching out to all parties and stakeholders in the climate change negotiations. Our task remains to ensure that country parties to the UNFCCC deliver an acceptable, fair, transparent, and equitable deal in the upcoming climate change negotiations in Durban," Nkoana-Mashabane said.

The last conference, held in Mexico last year, failed to produce a binding international agreement to cut carbon emissions.

Mashabane, however, said recent climate change talks, such as the just-ended Bonn negotiations, are encouraging, ahead of the global conference.

She said there is an undertaking by President Jacob Zuma and President Calderon of Mexico to co-host a leaders' dialogue to be held on 20 September on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, "which we believe will set the tone as we move towards Durban."

SADC has a draft regional strategy for climate change at COP 17, although gender ministers have expressed concern that it does not sufficiently reflect the different impacts on women and men. r

Figueres highlighted the global climate action which governments need to capitalize on, including new policies that promote low-carbon growth and an increase in low-carbon investment by the private sector, as well as greater use of clean technology.

"The clean and renewable energy revolution has already begun – the challenge is to complete it in time," she noted.

COP 17 comes amid revelations that there is a sharp rise in the volume and concentration of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere.

The International Energy Agency announced that 2010 emissions from global energy generation have returned to record highs, marking an unexpectedly sharp rebound from the reduced emission levels resulting from the financial crisis.

The reports also show that carbon dioxide concentrations have once again peaked at just under 395 parts per million (ppm).

At an earlier conference held in Bangkok, Thailand, in April, Figueres pointed out that while Cancun was a significant step, meeting the long-term challenge of climate change requires increasingly strong international agreements, backed by national policies that incentivised all sides to take aggressive and collective action on a global scale

Climate change experts noted that the rulebook of the Kyoto protocol is the only international set of accounting rules to protect environmental integrity while ensuring that a tonne of carbon removed from the atmosphere is a real tonne, no matter where it is removed or who removes it. r



Regional energy cooperation is achieving results

REGIONAL EFFORTS to reduce SADC's energy crisis appear to be achieving results as the electricity shortfall in the region stood at just 325 megawatts (MW) in 2010 compared to more than 900 MW at the beginning of 2009.

SADC Energy Ministers said in a communiqué issued after their annual meeting held in Gaborone, Botswana, in May, that new power generation plants were installed last year with a capacity to produce a combined 1,040 MW.

"According to the current projections, the region will attain self-sufficiency in power by the year 2014, provided implementation of planned projects remains on course."

"Peak demand in 2010 was 45,650 MW which requires generation capacity amounting to 50,306 MW, taking into account the 10.2 percent reserve margin required at any time.

"With the available capacity at 49,981 MW, this gives a deficit of 325 MW," the ministers said.

The Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) expects to commission six energy projects in 2011 that will add about 1,250 MW of electricity. The new projects are currently being developed in Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Member state utilities have identified a number of priority projects for commissioning over the next few years to address the crippling energy situation in the region.



Zambezi river gorge at Cahora Bassa in Mozambique.

For example, between 2011 and 2015, SAPP expects to commission projects that would add about 16,692 MW of electricity to the regional grid, allowing the region to match supply and demand.

Recently, the SAPP has been experiencing a power deficit situation due to increased consumption growth in the SADC region of about 3-4 percent per annum as a result of enhanced economic activities and electrification projects.

Most of the SADC Member States are suffering energy shortages and the region is only expected to fully recover from the current widespread energy vulnerability after 2013 when power utilities can once more enjoy the desired collective cushion of 10 percent surplus power generation capacity, according to SAPP.

The reserve margin is necessary to guarantee system

en are actually slower than expected.

Many factors have been attributed to the current power shortages obtaining in the region as well as the slow pace of recovery from the situation.

Some of the reasons officially cited as having historically contributed to where the region presently finds itself include:

- Economic growth of more than five percent constantly achieved in most SADC Member States leading to unprecedented growth in electricity consumption and demand;
- Increase in demand for base metals resulting in high metal prices on the world market with new mining companies being established in the SADC region in the last few decades;
- Inadequate investments in generation and transmission infrastructure over the last 20 years; and
- Electrification expansion programmes such as rural electrification have partly contributed to increased consumption and demand.

reliability and allow for unexpected surges in demand.

But the target recovery year would only be met if all short term generation projects are implemented by Member States as per agreed plans.

However, the SADC Energy Ministers meeting in April worryingly revealed that SADC could in fact continue to experience serious shortages beyond 2013 as most projects being undertaken

Planned Power Projects for 2011-15

No	Country	NEW GENERATION CAPACITY, MW					TOTAL
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
1	Angola	150	0	260	260	0	670
2	Botswana	120	600	-	-	300	1,020
3	DRC	75	430	25	150	-	680
4	Lesotho	-	25	-	110	-	135
5	Malawi	-	-	64	150	100	314
6	Mozambique	-	-	150	600	750	1,500
7	Namibia	23	83	103	-	800	1,009
8	RSA	530	288	3,105	1,721	2,890	8,534
9	Swaziland	-	-	-	-	300	300
10	Tanzania	60	160	-	740	600	1,560
11	Zambia	-	6	360	120	34	520
12	Zimbabwe	290	-	20	55	355	720
TOTAL		1,248	1,592	4,087	3,906	6,129	16,962

Source: SAPP

Renewables: The future source of energy

ABOUT 80 percent of the world's energy supply could be met by renewables by 2050 if the right policies are put in place to promote the use of cleaner and alternative energy sources, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has said.

Currently, "renewables" provide less than 20 percent of the global energy supply with fossil fuels such as thermal accounting for the majority.

The IPCC said in its *Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation* that wider adoption of renewables would significantly reduce carbon emissions, thus contributing towards the global goal of holding the increase in temperature below 2°C.

The IPCC generally considers 2°C to be the level of safe warming, and the 16th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP16) agreed to cut emissions to control global warming, which has had some devastating effects such as increased frequency and severity of droughts and floods, especially in Africa.

Speaking at the report launch, Ottmar Edenhofer, the co-chair of the working group that produced the findings, said stakeholders should work together to encourage investment in renewables.

Renewable energy sources that are less polluting to the environment include solar, hydropower and wind. However, compared to fossil fuels, renewable energy stations such as hydropower plants and wind farms are expensive to construct.

The IPCC is urging governments to adopt the right policies, even though it may be "technically and politically very challenging" to increase the use of renewable energy.

These policies may include reducing the price of renewable energy technologies, and developing incentives for renewable energy investors such as attractive tariffs as well as friendly tendering procedures.

"With consistent climate and energy policy support, renewable energy sources can contribute substantially to human wellbeing by sustainably supplying energy and stabilizing the climate," he said.

Co-chair Ramon Pichs added that the report would help to inform governments on the options and decisions that will be needed if the world is to collectively achieve lower carbon emissions and a more resource-efficient and equitable development path.

"The report shows that it is not the availability of the resource, but the public policies that will either expand or constrain renewable energy development over the coming decades," he said.

"Developing countries have an important stake in this future - this is where most of the 1.4 billion people without access to electricity live yet also where some of the best conditions exist for renewable energy deployment."

For example, Africa is hugely endowed with watercourses through the seven major river systems of Congo, Limpopo, Niger, Nile, Orange, Senegal and Zambezi, which, if fully harnessed, could provide the continent with adequate energy supplies.

According to available data, the Zambezi River has the potential to produce about 20,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity. However, 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.

Despite the challenges in exploiting renewables, Africa has made stable progress towards adopting cleaner and alternative energy sources due to the realization that fossil fuels and other forms of energy such as coal will not last forever, hence the need to prepare for the future.

work of the IPCC as it prepares its Fifth Assessment Report (AR5). The AR5 Synthesis Report is scheduled for finalization in September 2014. r



Key renewable energy projects include the Mphanda Nkuwa hydropower project in Mozambique, Itezhi Tezhi hydropower in Zambia, Batoka hydropower station between Zambia and Zimbabwe, and the Inga hydropower project in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Other projects are the West Coast in South Africa, where plans are underway to commission wind power. The West Coast has the potential to generate about 10,000 MW of electricity.

With regard to solar, Botswana plans to build a 200 MW solar plant. The plant has the capacity to address a significant portion of the energy required by the country as its national power consumption needs stand at just about 450 MW.

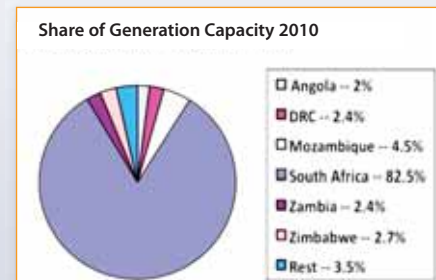
The *Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation* was launched on 9 May and will feed into the broader

SADC moves towards c

SADC PLANS to reduce its dependence on coal by more than 23 percent over the next five years as part of a programme to promote the use of cleaner energy sources that result in less carbon emissions.

The region currently generates about 74 percent of its electricity from thermal stations as coal is in abundance.

Thermal stations are easier and cheaper to construct compared to hydro or wind plants. However, renewable energy sources such as hydropower and solar are fast emerging as the most lucrative sources of energy because they do not pollute the environment.



Source: SAPP

y for the region

Powering Africa through clean energy – It's possible

A **SHIFT** to clean energy solutions will enable Africa to take advantage of concessional resources available, which reduce costs and risks of such investments while at the same time providing leverage for mobilizing private sector funding.

This emerged from the high-level seminar on

“Powering Africa: Financing Energy and Green Growth”, held during the 2011 Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank (AfDB).

This is particularly the case for the US\$4.3 billion Clean Technology Fund, which is expected to mobilize at least four times this amount for investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable transport.

Nevertheless, given the high cost of these solutions and the existing funding gap, there needs to be a range of funding sources that will meet current and future demand on a sustainable basis.

For Africa, the average cost of electricity is extremely high – US\$0.18 per kWh compared with US\$0.04 per kWh in Asia.

These exceptionally high costs are mainly due to the small size of national electricity grids and the widespread use of diesel for generation, an expensive and polluting form of energy.

Other handicaps include inefficient use of budgets for energy investment, inadequate maintenance, lack of efficiency and losses in distribution, and electricity pricing below the cost of production, which encourages waste.

AfDB said Africa should take a cue from the experience of developed countries that first focused on hydroelectric power. Construction costs are high, but operating costs remain low and the price is generally competitive. Largescale projects must also be combined with smallscale projects.

The strong economic growth achieved by SADC and the rest of Africa during the last decade means that they more than ever need new facilities to support their rising energy consumption.

Abundant natural resources in the African continent, coupled with the development of innovative financial instruments to combat climate change, make the continent capable of significantly reducing its energy deficit.

With its growth to be based on a low-carbon and clean energy, Africa will generate more interest than ever from donors and private investors.

To this end, the AfDB proposed the creation of a special

fund, the Africa Green Fund, as a funding mechanism to address the needs of low-carbon growth in Africa.

The fund would be mainly financed from resources allocated to Africa under the Copenhagen climate change agreement.

It will strengthen the appropriation of resources by African countries and African participation in decision-making about the use of these resources for the continent.

AfDB r

Africa's largest wind farm approved for carbon credits

THE UNITED Nations has registered sub-Saharan Africa's largest wind farm under a mechanism that will allow the project to generate carbon credits from its greenhouse gas emission reductions.

The 310 megawatt (MW) Lake Turkana Wind Power project is situated close to the shores of the famous Lake Turkana, in north-western Kenya.

The wind farm, which will be operational by 2013, is being developed by a group of local and foreign entrepreneurs.

“We are extremely pleased to have received notification of project registration,” said Carlo van Wageningen, chairperson of Lake Turkana Wind Power Limited (LTWP).

“This is another important milestone for LTWP, and is further confirmation that renewable energy is a viable option for Africa.”

LTWP has pledged to return part of the carbon credit revenue to the Kenyan government, which has indicated that it will use such revenue for development activities in the project area.

The wind farm was registered by the Clean

Development Mechanism (CDM) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change after independent auditing and expert review.

Carbon credits generated under the CDM are known as “Certified Emission Reductions,” each equivalent to one metric tonne of carbon dioxide reduced or removed from the atmosphere.

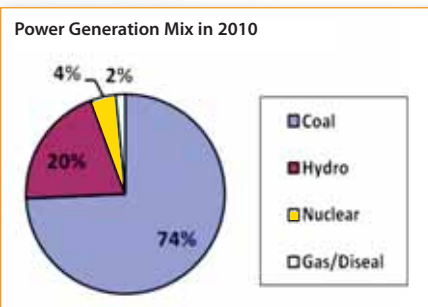
The project expects to reduce emissions by more than 700,000 tonnes per annum by displacing fossil fuel-based electricity generation. This is equivalent to the emissions of more than 150,000 cars in a year.

The registration of the wind farm is also further indication that CDM is picking up in Africa and confirms that it is possible to develop high-quality carbon projects on the continent.

The Africa Carbon Asset Development (ACAD) Facility, jointly set up by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Standard Bank with funding from the German government, helped to cover some of the costs related to the development and monitoring of the carbon credits. *r*



clean energy



Source: SAPP

The Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) says the current energy mix needs to be addressed to achieve a balance. As such, the region intends to reduce its energy dependence on coal to about 59 percent by 2015.

This move is expected to see usage of other energy sources such as solar, wind and gas increasing significantly while nuclear power would be reduced.

For example, wind and solar are expected to account for about 2 percent by 2015. Currently, both sources of energy are not considered as major contributors to the regional energy mix. *r*

Zimbabwe to boost energy production

ZIMBABWE PLANS to boost its power generation capacity from about 1,200 megawatts (MW) to over 2,800 MW by 2015, according to the country's new five-year economic blueprint.

According to the Medium Term Plan, which projects average annual economic growth rate of seven percent between 2011 and 2015, ramping up power output is deemed key to the country's quest for sustainable economic recovery, growth and development.

Plans to increase power generation come on the back of crippling power shortages as national power demand, at 2,200 MW, far outstrips supply.

The MTP seeks to raise output at the Hwange coal-fired power station to installed capacity, lease small thermal plans to raise supply by 290 MW, ensure use of pre-paid meters by 2012 and effect demand side management to save 300 MW by 2013.

The MTP envisages raising output at Kariba Hydropower Station to 1,050 MW, Hwange (1,520 MW), Harare thermal station (100 MW), Bulawayo thermal (90 MW) and Munyati thermal (100 MW) by 2015.

"The first two years of the MTP will ensure Kariba and Hwange power stations are restored to full capacity and that small thermal power stations are operational. Restoring capacity to 1,960 MW will require rehabilitation of the Hwange Thermal Power Station and smaller thermal units to capacity," reads part of the MTP.

But the plan also foresees that raising output will face constraints related to billing, collection of revenue from consumers, lack of funding,

old equipment, infrastructure and debt issues.

Undercapitalization of the national power utility, Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA), and inadequate specialized skills and tools for planning and forecasting the energy needs were also identified as major obstacles.

The plan is expected to address regulatory and legal issues seen as detrimental to efforts targeted at ameliorating the national power shortage.

The MTP also seeks to review legal and regulatory frameworks governing the energy sector, promising to address capacity constraints faced by the national regulator in setting viable power tariffs and regulation of power producers and consumers.

This would include stiffer penalties on offenders by reviewing existing legislation on theft and vandalism of

power infrastructure and enacting legislation to deal with environmental impact certification.

Despite facing crippling power shortages since 2000, the country has struggled to attract significant investment into the power sector.

Therefore, measures will be put in place to promote investment in the power sector and the MTP proposes a review of systems and processes in ZESA's commercial operations to enhance billing, revenue collection,

cash management and customer service.

Various technologies will be explored such as solar and wind energy, incentives to promote and explore viability and capacity for low carbon economy and creation of conditions for competitive power market.

Further, environmentally friendly biofuels will be considered as part of efforts to reduce dependence on fossil energy generation and expensive imported power. *The Herald* r

Power Station	Capacity (MW)
Kariba Hydropower	1,050
Hwange	1,520
Harare Thermal	100
Bulawayo Thermal	90
Munyati Thermal	100

Zambia launches energy master plan

ZAMBIA HAS launched the Power System Development Master Plan outlining projects worth US\$12.1 billion to be undertaken between 2010 and 2030.

The plan was developed with the help of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and highlights least-cost expansion options for generation, transmission and distribution in the country. The objective of the plan is to provide a blueprint for power system development up to the year 2030.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, Energy and Water Development Minister Kenneth Konga said power generation projects will be developed to add a total of

4,337 megawatts during the next 20 years.

"The successful implementation of the plan will, among others, lead to the provision of reliable electricity to all public and private institutions country-wide by 2030," he said.

He said the plan is expected to increase the transmission capacity for power export and import within the region as well as provide reliable electricity to all economic ventures. These include mining, agricultural, tourism, commercial and other sectors of the economy.

This plan supersedes the master plan developed by the Zambia Electricity Supply Commission (ZESCO) in 1966

which has guided the country in addressing its electricity generation, transmission and distribution challenges for more than 40 years.

Japanese Ambassador to Zambia, Akio Egawa, said the improvement of electricity network was crucial in propelling Zambia's economic development and helping the country meet targets set under its Vision 2030.

"I do hope that this master plan will be fully utilized by Zambia and leveraged to achieve stable and sufficient power supply for the country," he said.

The formulation of the Power System Development master plan started in 2008. *Times of Zambia* r



Tanzania to spend US\$27 billion on development projects

THE UNITED Republic of Tanzania plans to spend 42.9 trillion shillings (about US\$27.41 billion) over the next five years to finance development projects aimed at boosting economic growth in the country, a government minister has said.

Stephen Wassira, Minister of State in the President's Office, told parliament that the government would allocate 13.5 trillion shillings while the rest of the funds would be provided by domestic and foreign sources.

"The government needs to spend an average of 8.5 trillion shillings a year in order to implement the new five-

year development plan," he said when presenting the government's mid-term plan.

"We have to ensure that at least 35 percent of the government's budget is allocated for development projects."

He said the development plan launched by President Jakaya Kikwete on 7 June will target average economic growth of 8-10 percent annually over the next five years by focusing public and private investments on

infrastructure, agriculture and industrial sectors. Growth in 2010 was seven percent.

"Our aim is to reduce donor dependency in the government's budget to just 10 percent," he said. **r**

Mozambique to increase biofuel production

MOZAMBIQUE PLANS to boost biofuels production and introduce fuel blending next year in a bid to cut fuel imports, the energy minister said.

The government expects to save about US\$22 million in the first year on petrol and diesel imports from the current US\$500 million it spends annually.

"We have been approached by companies to enter into the production of biofuels, which means that as we increase production levels and the ratio of mixtures, the savings will also be high," Energy Minister Salvador Namburete said.

Mozambique plans to use jatropha, a biofuel crop, to boost the output. Jatropha

has been widely heralded as a wonder plant whose cultivation on non-arable land in Africa, Asia and Latin America would provide biodiesel and jobs in poor countries without using farmland needed to feed growing numbers of local people. **AIM r**

Intra-SADC trade rises 157 percent since 2000

INTRA-SADC TRADE has more than doubled since 2000 as the region steps up economic cooperation, a top SADC official said.

SADC trade policy advisor Paul Kalenga said intra-regional trade has grown in absolute terms from just US\$13.2 billion in 2000 to US\$34 billion in 2009, a staggering 157 percent increase.

However, intra-regional trade as a proportion of total SADC trade has only grown from 15.7 percent in 2000 to 18.5 percent in 2009.

This could be explained by the fact that SADC trade with the rest of the world, especially China and the United States has also grown tremendously during the same period.

SADC launched its Free Trade Area (FTA) in 2008 and the regional bloc anticipates that trade within the region would be completely liberalised by January 2012.

Kalenga's statistics on regional trade were corroborated

by a study carried out by the World Bank in April, which found out that once individual GDP and geographical issues are factored, trade within the region is actually high.

The World Bank found out that contrary to fears, SADC

countries are actually more integrated and that while there are impediments which make it difficult to move goods across the region, these are at levels comparable to countries with similar levels of development. **Southern Times. r**

Tourist arrivals to Mauritius rise

MAURITIUS SAW a seven-percent increase in tourist arrivals during February this year as its European market showed signs of revival and visitor numbers from Eastern Europe and Asia rose strongly.

Official figures show the country welcomed 77,390 visitors in February 2011, compared with 72,366 during the same period last year.

After the slump triggered by the recession in Europe, Mauritian holidays appear to once again have become popular with European tourists.

Tourist arrivals were up 33 percent from Switzerland, 18 percent from the Netherlands

and seven percent from France, which is a key market.

Tourism accounts for about 10 percent of the Indian Ocean Island's Gross Domestic Product and around two-thirds of foreign visitors come from Europe.

But the country's marketing push in other nations is also paying off, with a two-fold increase in tourist numbers from Russia and arrivals up 24 percent from China and 35 percent from India.

Last year, Mauritius saw its tourism revenues grow 11 percent as visitor numbers rose seven percent to a record 934,827. **r**

IMF gets new boss

CHRISTINE LAGARDE of France has been appointed Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), replacing compatriot Dominique Strauss-Kahn who resigned in March.

Lagarde beat Mexico's Agustin Carstens to land the IMF top job that has always been held by a European.

In the run-up to Lagarde's appointment, developing countries had lobbied for a departure from tradition to allow a non-European to lead the Bretton Woods institutions, the IMF and World Bank.

Since the formation of the IMF and the World Bank, a European has held the top post at IMF while an American is at the helm at the World Bank.

However, in recognition of the growing importance of China in the global economy as well as the need to move away from tradition, the IMF appointed Zhu Min to a newly created deputy managing director post. **r**

China to increase regional trade and investment

CHINA IS willing to expand imports from southern Africa and encourage Chinese companies to invest in the region, Vice-Premier Wang Qishan has said.

Speaking at the China-SADC Investment and Business Forum held in Beijing recently, Wang said while there are still many uncertainties with the global economic recovery, SADC and China should strengthen their economic cooperation to help both achieve stable growth and advance the global economy.

China-SADC trade volumes are increasing and reached US\$61.5 billion in 2010, accounting for about 48



percent of trade between China and Africa.

China is now the largest trading partner of the SADC region.

By the end of February, China's investment in SADC Member States had accumulated to about US\$10 billion, including close to US\$5 billion non-financial investment.

"China's launching of its 12th Five-Year Plan

(2011-2015) and the SADC's joining of the programme on enlarging the transportation network in Africa will offer new opportunities for cooperation," Wang said.

"The two should now enhance the cooperation in trade, investment, finance, energy, resources and infrastructure."

He urged Chinese enterprises to invest in southern

Africa and help the region to achieve sustainable development.

The Namibian President, Hifikepunye Pohamba, who is the current SADC chairperson, called for more cooperation between the two.

"The message that I want to send is that the SADC is open for business, and we look forward to you (Chinese companies) joining us to boost the development of our region. We encourage investment from China," he said.

He said Chinese investment in the region mainly covers infrastructure, mining, energy and agriculture. *China Daily* r

Africa, India aim to strengthen collaboration

AFRICA AND India have pledged to further strengthen their cooperation in regional and global peace and security, as well as economic and trade areas.

In the fields of economic cooperation, the two sides underlined the importance of supporting stable, long-term capital flows to developing countries to stimulate investment.

They envisaged a widening of the partnership to areas such as civil society and governance, science and technology, social development, health, culture, tourism, sports, infrastructure and media and communications, in order to achieve inclusive growth, social-economic development and self-reliance.

This forms part of the acceleration of cooperation agreed at the second Africa-India Forum Summit, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

According to the Addis Ababa Declaration, India and

Africa also committed to deal with a number of political issues, including piracy off the coast of Somalia, terrorism and UN reform.

Specifically, the summit emphasized the need for countries to exert utmost effort on UN Security Council reform during the current session of the UN General Assembly.

The two sides underscored the need for urgent and comprehensive reforms, saying they must reflect contemporary realities.

India supports Africa's claims for permanent membership of Security Council. On its part, Africa backs India's claim to a permanent seat with full rights in an expanded Security Council.

Amid growing regional and international concerns about the conflict in Libya, where NATO has intensified its bombing campaign in recent days, India joined Africa in calling for an immediate ceasefire and for a nego-

tiated end to the violence there.

The declaration took note of the UN resolutions under which NATO is using military force against Libya and stressed that efforts to implement them should be within the spirit and letter of those resolutions.

They urged parties in the conflict to strive for a political solution through peaceful means and dialogue.

India and the 15 African governments that took part in the summit, including South Africa and Libya, also expressed their support for the African Union High-Level Ad Hoc Committee initiative and the AU roadmap for the peaceful and consensual resolution of the conflict.

Both sides called on all countries to ensure that acts of cross-border terrorism do not occur and that their territories are not made a base for terrorists.



They unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, saying that an act of terrorism anywhere is a threat to the entire international community.

"We recognize the need to further strengthen international cooperation to combat global terrorism and for compliance of all member states with all international terrorism conventions and related protocols and United Nations Security Council's resolution on counter-terrorism," the declaration said.

Taking note of the African position on the condemnation of the payments of ransom to terror groups, the leaders called for the urgent need to address the issue. The next Africa-India summit will be held in New Delhi in 2014. r

Women to have equal rights and opportunities with men

WOMEN IN southern Africa will soon move a step closer to having equal rights and opportunities with men when a regional gender protocol is ratified by the required two-thirds of the Member States in the coming months.

Ministers responsible for Gender/Women's Affairs in the region, meeting on 2 June, endorsed a roadmap to operationalize the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and enable a systematic approach to implementation at both regional and national levels.

Half of SADC's 15 Member States have ratified the Protocol, meaning that the instrument has been approved by the national legal mechanism, usually through parliament.

The Ministers noted that 13 Member States have signed the Protocol, while seven signatories have deposited instruments of ratification with the SADC Secretariat.

These are Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. The Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa and Zambia are expected to ratify the Protocol in the coming months.

Most SADC leaders signed the protocol in 2008, although Botswana and Mauritius continue to refuse to sign, saying that they have reservations or cannot meet the targets.

The process of approval of a regional legal instrument requires, first, signing, and then ratification. The protocol "enters into force" following ratification by two-thirds of SADC member states. This advances the regional law from being a stated intention to actual application.

The head of the SADC Gender Unit, Magdeline Mathiba-Madibela, says the Protocol provides "concrete, time-bound targets to achieve gender equality in the SADC region.

"This milestone marks the end of an era of commitments to an era of implementation in the SADC region."

However, the final stages of enforcing this regional law are perhaps the most challenging, as this requires action at national level to "domesticate" the law and then implementation of the law.

According to the communiqué of their meeting in Windhoek, Namibia, the Ministers congratulated Member States that have ratified the Protocol and "urged those who have not yet signed or ratified to facilitate the signing and ratification process."

They noted progress made by Member States on women's representation in politics and decision-making positions, and expressed concern with retrogression in some countries that held elections recently.

The Ministers urged countries to safeguard achievements already made in gender parity and to develop innovative measures to fast track the equal representation of women.

Only four SADC Member States have reached the original target of 30 percent representation of women in Parliament (by 2005) and none has reached the 50 percent threshold.

South Africa has the highest proportional representation of women in parliament at 45 percent, followed by Mozambique at 39.2 percent, and Angola and Tanzania

with 38.6 percent and 36 percent respectively.

These countries have electoral systems or balancing mechanisms that encourage participation by women, and the minimum 30 percent representation is a constitutional requirement in Tanzania.

The objectives of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development are to provide for the empowerment of women, eliminate discrimination, and achieve gender quality and equity through gender-responsive legislation, policies, programmes and projects.

The Protocol addresses the following critical issues that affect women in the region:

- 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.

The targets include, among others, the achievement of 50 percent representation by women and men in politics and decision-making by 2015, in line with the decision of the African Union.

SADC expects that non-state actors including the private sector and non-governmental organizations, among others, will take note of this commitment by governments and advance the role of women in their organizations.

The meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Gender/Women's Affairs congratulated the SADC Deputy Executive Secretary, Ms. Emilie Mushobekwa

(from DRC) for being the first woman ever appointed at top management level in the Secretariat.

They noted progress made in the regional gender mainstreaming initiative, especially on capacity building of gender mainstreaming trainers, and emphasised the importance of mainstreaming gender into climate change policies and strategies.

They also noted progress in developing the SADC Strategy to address sexual violence against women and girls, particularly in conflict and post-conflict situations.

The Ministers approved the SADC Advocacy Strategy on Informal Cross Border Trade which provides clear policy and legislative action areas to create an enabling environment for women in trade.

They received a report on the 2010 Women in Business Trade Fair and Investment Forum held in Windhoek last year, noting the positive results that included new business opportunities, expanded markets, new business connections and capacity building for women in business.

The 2011 edition of the Women in Business Trade Fair and Investment Forum will be hosted by Angola in November this year, after Angola becomes SADC chair.

The ministers and officials witnessed the launch of the African Women's Decade (2010-2020) for the SADC Region and the Namibian Chapter, and the SADC Launch of the campaign "Africa United to End Violence against Women and Children".

The SADC Ministers responsible for gender/women's affairs will meet again in June next year in Angola. *sardc.net* ▮



Lesotho ends political dialogue, ready for elections

THE CONCLUSION of an agreement by political parties in Lesotho after lengthy negotiations paves the way for national elections scheduled for next year.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) concluded its successful mediation efforts in Lesotho in April following more than two years of talks aimed at finding a lasting solution to the political challenges in the country.

Post-electoral dissatisfaction emerged in Lesotho after the 2007 elections as the opposition party refused to accept the results, plunging the country into a crisis.

This resulted in a negotiating team comprising heads of churches in Lesotho and facilitators from the SADC Troika being put in place by southern African leaders to address the situation.

A statement released by the negotiating team says a lot has been achieved since the dialogue began two years ago, hence the decision to formally conclude the talks.

"On 28 April 2011, the stakeholders to the ongoing mediation process on the 2007 political dialogue agreed that the mediation be formally concluded. The stakeholders agreed that all the issues to the dialogue had been dealt with, thus paving the way for the next elections," the statement said.

Stakeholders to the mediation process included the Independent Electoral Commission of Lesotho, the ruling Lesotho Congress for Democracy, opposition parties and the government.

The stakeholders agreed to amend the Lesotho Electoral

Law in preparation for the next elections, resulting in the presentation of the National Assembly Electoral Bill 2011 and the 6th Amendment to the Constitution to the Parliament in March.

The two-year political dialogue has allowed stakeholders to share and exchange ideas, providing lessons for future national engagements.

The successful conclusion of talks in Lesotho is another example of practical commitment by southern Africa to find lasting solutions to the political and security challenges in the region.

In September 2008, SADC brokered an agreement in Zimbabwe that saw the formation of an inclusive government in February 2009.

The inclusive government led by President Robert Mugabe with former opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai as Prime Minister has been credited for addressing some of the country's political challenges.

However, the economic sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe by the United States, United Kingdom, and the European Union have derailed the country's economic turnaround programme.

For Madagascar, SADC appointed the former Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano to mediate a dialogue to address the political situation.

Madagascar slid into political turmoil in March 2009 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.

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

SADC, together with other partners has pledged to intensify its efforts to ensure the resolution of political disputes in the region. *sardc.net* r

President Michel re-elected in Seychelles polls

PRESIDENT JAMES Michel has been re-elected for another five-year term in office after winning about 55 percent of the vote in the May 19-21 presidential election.

According to the election commission, Wavel Ramkalawan of the Seychelles National Party garnered about 42 percent while Philip Boule, an Independent Candidate, and Ralph Volcere of the New Democratic Party collected about two percent and one percent respectively.

Speaking soon after the announcement of the results, Michel described his victory as a new era for all the people of the islands.

He pledged to lead the country to prosperity, urging all Seychellois to work



James Michel has been re-elected to be President in Seychelles.

together for the good of the nation.

"We will create Seychelles together, in peace and harmony, respectful of the diversity of opinions, and we will put our differences aside, and build the country together."

He added that "my arms will remain open and my doors will remain open. I will work for the wellbeing of all Seychellois, without exception."

Due to the distances across the archipelago, voting was held over three days with the outer islands casting their ballot on 19 and 20 May to allow the exercise to be completed in time and the ballots delivered back to the main island of Mahe.

In the last presidential elections held in July 2006, President Michel defeated Ramkalawan and Boule by garnering about 54 percent against 46 percent and less than one percent collected by Ramkalawan and Boule respectively.

In Seychelles the president is elected by an absolute majority vote through a two-round system to serve a five-year term. r

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June	
11 June	2nd SADC-COMESA-EAC Tripartite Summit Heads of State and Government from the three regions convene for their second summit to discuss ways to promote deeper integration among Member States. The highlight will be the formal launch of negotiations to establish the Tripartite Free Trade Area encompassing 26 countries in southern and eastern Africa by 2012.
14-16, France	Africa Energy Forum Energy experts will explore ways on how Africa as one of the fastest emerging markets in the world can meet the increased demand for energy to ensure sustainable development.
20-23, South Africa	Africa Investment Conference The conference will provide opportunities for the continent to look at ways of attracting investment in various sectors such as energy, infrastructure, mining and agriculture.
23 June-1 July, Equatorial Guinea	African Union Summit The Summit will discuss ways to deepen regional and continental integration, and issues related to the theme "Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development".
28-29, Swaziland	5th Multi-Stakeholders Water Dialogue Under the theme "Watering Development in SADC: Financing Water for Climate Change Resilience to Ensure Regional Security from Disasters" the dialogue aims to raise awareness and understanding of climate change funding opportunities in the water sector.
July	
6-7, Tunisia	ADEA conference The Association for the Development of Education in Africa meets to discuss ways of improving education in the continent.
18-22, South Africa	Banking Outlook Africa 2011 Stakeholders meet to assess the status of banking in Africa with solutions for key challenges faced by Africa's emerging banks.
19, South Africa	Africa Mining Congress Africa's premier mining and investment conference seeks to offer solutions in the mining industry.
August	
4-5, South Africa	African Renaissance Conference The conference will examine issues related to redefining and rebuilding the African continent through accessing and developing its own socio-economic resources.
11-18, Angola	SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government SADC leaders meet to discuss issues aimed at promoting regional integration and development. The Summit is preceded by meetings of senior officials and Council of Ministers.
29 August-2 September, South Africa	37th SAPP Meeting The meeting is expected to review the power situation in the region. The Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) is the management centre for 12 electricity utilities in SADC.

35 years

South Africa remembers Soweto

ON 16 June 1976 an incident happened in South Africa that changed the face of southern Africa's struggle for political freedom and emancipation when a protest march by black African children in Soweto ended with police firing guns at them.

The then *apartheid* government put the death toll at 95 but the figure is believed to be much higher.

The incident grabbed international headlines and galvanised the resolve of South Africa's majority black population to fight for freedom.

The picture of Mbuyisa Makhubo carrying the body of his 13-year-old friend, Hector Petersen, became an iconic image symbolising the struggle of the youth of South Africa – and the beginning of the end of *apartheid*.

The photograph, taken by Sam Nzima of *The World* newspaper, appeared in newspapers and on television channels all over the world, sparking outrage and a new awareness that hardened opposition within and outside South Africa to the brutality of the *apartheid* authorities.

On that day, more than 20,000 Soweto schoolchildren staged a peaceful protest against the imposition of Afrikaans as the language of instruction for black pupils and against the discrimination they suffered under the inferior "Bantu education" curriculum.

The Bantu education system, which had been enforced for black South Africans since 1953, was characterised by separate schools and universities, poor facilities, overcrowded classrooms and inadequately trained teachers.

The courage of the Soweto students in June 1976 is today commemorated by a national holiday in South Africa, Youth Day, which honours all the young people who lost their lives in the struggle against *apartheid* and Bantu education.

Thirty five years on, South Africa recognises the courage of the youth who helped to bring an end to *apartheid*.

The 16 June student uprising epitomises the role played by young people in the struggle to unshackle southern Africa from colonial rule.

The youth were at the forefront in the struggle for independence in all countries in southern Africa.

2010 World Cup - One year on

JUNE 11 is a special day in the history of sport in Africa. It marks the day when the continent hosted its first ever FIFA World Cup on home soil.

The 2010 World Cup was held in South Africa and has since been hailed as one of the best ever finals in the history of the tournament.

The 2010 Local Organising Committee chairperson Danny Jordaan said a celebratory event would be held in July to commemorate one year since Africa held the finals.

He said while the finals showcased the warmth of South Africa, the event also highlighted that Africa has the capacity to host bigger events.

"The 2010 FIFA World Cup was a time when South Africa dispelled doubt in its ability and invited the world to witness the reality, rather than believe the perceptions of what they thought South Africa was really about," he said.

A match is planned later this year between reigning European and world champions, Spain and an African Select XI in honour of football supporters and the organisers of the tournament.



PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

June-August 2011

1 June	International Children's Day	Angola
5 June	Liberation Day	Seychelles
16 June	Youth Day	South Africa
18 June	National Day	Seychelles
25 June	Independence Day	Mozambique
26 June	Independence Day	Madagascar
29 June	Independence Day	Seychelles
30 June	Independence Day	DRC
1 July	Sir Seretse Khama day	Botswana
4 July	Heroes Day	Zambia
5 July	Unity Day	Zambia
6 July	Independence Day	Malawi
7 July	International Trade Fair Saba Saba	Tanzania
17 July	King's Birthday	Lesotho
18 July	President Day	Botswana
19 July	Public Holiday	Botswana
22 July	Public Holiday	Swaziland
1 August	Farmers Day	Zambia
1 August	Parents Day	DRC
8 August	Peasant Day	Tanzania
8 August	Heroes Day	Zimbabwe
9 August	Defence Forces Day	Zimbabwe
9 August	National Women's Day	South Africa
15 August	Assumption Day	Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles
26 August	Heroes Day	Namibia
30/31 August	Eid-El-Fitri* Eid-UI-Fitr*	Tanzania Mauritius

*Depends on sighting of the new moon