

# SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY



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## Vision 2050 SADC ponders future

by Joseph Ngwawi

**SADC IS** defining a new development blueprint that is expected to shape southern Africa's regional integration agenda until 2050.

The SADC Vision 2050 aims to provide a framework for a long-term vision for SADC as the region seeks to position itself in a context of emerging global and continental issues such as climate change, democratisation of the United Nations and increasing financial instability.

According to the SADC chairperson, Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the intention is to set in motion a development agenda that takes into account the dynamics of events and issues affecting not only the southern African region, but also the rest of the world.

"We propose that our organisation holds, at the highest level, an extended reflection about our vision and our strategic objectives in a long-term horizon," he said.

Dos Santos stressed that this should mitigate potential threats from emerging global issues, and ensure that the strategic objectives of SADC are not endangered.

The Angolan president warned that without a common position on emerging global issues "we run the risk of suffering from their undesirable effects both in all our countries and in the region as a whole."

The direction of economic growth in several SADC member states is influenced by trends in global commodity prices due to relatively high dependence on the export of commodities, mainly minerals including crude oil, gold, diamonds and platinum, as well as tobacco, sugar and cotton.

For example, the global crisis of 2008/09 resulted in a reduction in mineral value in nine economies in southern Africa.

The most affected sectors in 2009 were oil and mining, because of their sensitivity to global GDP changes, thus Angola, Botswana, DRC, Mozambique and Namibia were negatively affected.

Other countries such as Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius and to a lesser extent Swaziland, which are heavily dependent on the export of income-sensitive products such as clothing and textiles, were severely affected in terms of reduced export returns and shrinking employment.

Dos Santos presented a concept paper on the need to develop the SADC Vision 2050 to other SADC Heads of State and Government during an Extraordinary Summit held in Luanda in June.

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## Vision 2050, SADC ponders future

The concept was referred to Member States for further consultations and contributions.

"Inputs from this process will be consolidated and submitted to Council and Summit at the next meeting in August 2012," said a final communiqué from the Extraordinary Summit.

SADC is in the process of engaging consultants to undertake an independent mid-term review of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), its 15-year regional integration plan.

The objective is to analyse SADC's performance and identify the challenges encountered and lessons learnt during the implementation of the RISDP from 2005 to 2010.

An initial desk assessment of the RISDP carried out by the SADC Secretariat at the beginning of 2012 has revealed that all sectors have been able to fully or partially reach most of the outputs and targets within the stated timeframes.

SADC has developed, adopted and approved critical policies, protocols and frameworks, established implementing institutions and increased its visibility since implementation of the RISDP started in 2005.

Issues identified by the desk assessment as some of the main challenges to be addressed in the next 10 years of implementing the RISDP include the need to: facilitate implementation at Member State level; ensure effective structures for Secretariat and Member State cooperation; deepen consultation at Member State level; ensure realistic targets; complete the ongoing RISDP evaluation; and, tackle human, financial

and technical resources constraints at the SADC Secretariat.

The desk review also identified the need for: strengthening monitoring and evaluation; mainstreaming RISDP crosscutting issues such as gender and climate change; improvement of the think-tank capacity of the Secretariat; maintaining SADC as a platform for common pan-African and global positions; and ensuring more effective and efficient stakeholder participation.

Human resources constraints have been identified as a major impediment to improving the Secretariat's performance.

The Extraordinary Summit noted that the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan is being finalised. This would form the basis for implementing infrastructure networks in the key sectors such as energy and transport including maritime corridors, information communication technologies, tourism and water infrastructure, taking into account the specificities of the island member states.

Summit approved a proposal to include specific programmes to develop the infrastructure connecting the maritime island states of the SADC region as part of the infrastructure master plan.

"It is unfortunately a common occurrence that African continental organisations sometimes neglect the infrastructure needs of its maritime space," the Seychelles Foreign Minister, Jean-Paul Adam, observed.

The long-awaited launch of SADC's infrastructure master plan is expected to allow the region to establish an efficient, seamless and cost-

effective transboundary infrastructure network to support socio-economic development in Member States.

A vibrant transport network can accelerate regional integration as well as ensure that the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) launched in 2008 and the impending SADC Customs Union are successfully implemented through addressing delays at border posts and promoting the free movement of goods and services across southern Africa.

Some of the programmes that the plan would target include the Kazungula Bridge linking Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe; the proposed Zimbabwe-Zambia-Botswana-Namibia power transmission line that links the four respective countries, dubbed ZiZaBoNa; and the Benguela railway line through Angola and Zambia.

The Luanda Extraordinary Summit also directed the Council of Ministers, and in particular the SADC Ministers responsible for Finance and Investment, to expedite the process for the establishment of the SADC Development Fund, which would, among other things, ensure the availability of adequate levels of resources to fund regional infrastructure programmes.

The march towards regional integration in southern Africa has been delayed by the slow pace of implementation of projects and programmes due to lack of adequate funding.

This has been partly blamed on the current funding structure of SADC where Member States contribute about 40 percent of the annual budget, with the remainder coming from International Co-operating Partners. □

## SADC supports Dlamini-Zuma for top AU post

**SADC HAS** reinforced its support for South African Home Affairs Minister, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma for the top African Union (AU) Commission post.

Elections to choose the new AU Commission chairperson will be held at the forthcoming 19th AU Summit set for Ethiopia in mid-July.

Dlamini-Zuma is contesting against the incumbent Jean Ping of Gabon. The election to choose the AU chairperson was suspended at the previous AU summit when no winner emerged after several rounds of voting.

Ping's failure to secure two-thirds of the vote, even as the sole candidate in the last round, was seen as a vote of no-confidence as there was much disquiet among many AU leaders over his handling of recent conflicts on the continent in Ivory Coast and Libya.

SADC has said the time for southern Africa to lead the AU Commission is now, since all other regions in Africa have had the opportunity to occupy the top AU post.

Nigeria, through Vice-President Mohammed Namadi Sambo, has already thrown its support behind Dlamini-Zuma, and SADC member states have been lobbying other African leaders for support for their candidate.

Kenya has said publicly that they want to retain the status quo as they have their man, Erastus Mwencha, as deputy chairperson.

If elected, Dlamini-Zuma would become the first woman to lead the AU commission. □

## SEAC

# Advisory council to encourage adherence to SADC election principles and guidelines

**THE SADC** Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC) has been tasked with encouraging adherence to principles and guidelines governing the conduct of elections.

The 15-member SEAC, which was inaugurated in April 2011, is mandated to advise SADC on electoral matters and issues pertaining to enhancement of democracy and governance.

Adopted in August 2004 at the Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in Mauritius, the principles and guidelines contain procedures to be followed by SADC observer teams and minimum standards that a Member State should follow if its election is to be declared free and fair.

The electoral guidelines aim to enhance the transparency and credibility of elections and democratic governance as well as ensuring the acceptance of election results by all contesting parties.

They are, however, not legally binding and are subservient to national law provisions.

It is not mandatory for a Member State holding elections to invite a SADC Electoral Observer Mission (SEOM) to observe its elections. Section 3.1 of the principles and guidelines states that a SEOM will have a role only "in the event a Member State deems it necessary to invite SADC to observe its elections."

In addition to ensuring adherence to the SADC electoral principles and guidelines, the SEAC is expected to encourage the development, improvement and review of

electoral laws and regulations in SADC Member States, and develop strategies on handling electoral disputes in the region.

First conceived in 2005, the SEAC is a statutory body created under the SADC Inter-State Politics and Diplomacy Committee (ISPDC) to advise Member States on electoral matters.

The ISPDC reports to the Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, made up of the ministers responsible for foreign affairs, defence, public security and state security from the SADC Member States. The MCO reports to the Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government.

The SEAC is guided by various SADC documents, including the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections, and, as an official SADC body, is able to engage with countries at all levels, both governmental and non-governmental.

SEAC is composed of one representative from each Member State, selected and appointed by the MCO from a list nominated by governments.

To avoid conflict of interest, SEAC members cannot be serving Members of Parliament or cabinet ministers; they cannot be active in party politics or sit on any election management body.

They must be individuals of the highest reputation with experience in democracy and governance issues and must be over 40 years of age.

Retired Tanzanian judge John Tendwa is the inaugural chairperson of the SEAC. Hon. Tendwa leads 14 other former judges, ambassadors, professors and civil society officials from the SADC region appointed to the SEAC.

Other members are Angolan diplomat Virgilio Marques de Faria; Professor Appollinaire Malumalu of the Democratic Republic of Congo; Abel Leshele Thoahlane of Lesotho; Malawian judge, Justice Maxon Mbendera; Orlanda Rafael of Mozambique; Prof. Gerard Totemeyer of Namibia; Seychelles Supreme Court judge, Justice Bernadin Renaud; Zambian lawyer, Gertrude

Imbwae; and Zimbabwean ambassador, Prof. Hasu Patel. Botswana government's first choice candidate, Gloria Somolekae relinquished the post after being appointed a Specially Elected Member of Parliament and Assistant Minister of Finance and Development Planning. Botswana is still to submit a replacement.

The South African government redeployed its first nomination, Ambassador Ajay Bramdeo and, is therefore, still to submit the name of a replacement.

Mauritius and Swaziland are still to submit their nominees while Madagascar is under suspension from active participation. □

### SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections

**THE SADC** Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections outline the responsibilities and code of conduct for election observers as well as expectations from countries holding elections.

The charter sets out the following basic principles for the conduct of democratic elections which SADC Member States should follow, although not mandatory:

- Full participation of the citizens in the political process;
- Freedom of expression;
- Political tolerance;
- Regular intervals for elections as provided for by the respective national constitutions;

- Equal opportunity for all political parties to access the state media;
- Equal opportunity to exercise the right to vote and be voted for;
- Independence of the judiciary and impartiality of the electoral institutions;
- Voter education;
- Acceptance and respect of the elections results by political parties proclaimed to have been free and fair by the competent national electoral authorities in accordance with the law of the land; and
- Challenge of the election results as provided for in the law of the land. □

## Africa-EU negotiations First Economic Partnership Agreement operational...

**NEGOTIATIONS ON** an economic agreement between Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) and the European Union (EU) advanced in May when the two parties agreed to start implementing an interim agreement.

The interim Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the EU and four Eastern and Southern African states – Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles and Zimbabwe – came into effect on 14 May following several years of painful negotiations.

The agreement provides access to the EU market free of import duties and quotes for exports from the four countries, which will, in turn, be required to gradually open their markets to European exports over a 15-year period, with exceptions for certain products the countries consider sensitive.

The agreement covers provisions on rules of origin, development cooperation, fisheries, trade defence instruments and dispute settlement. The ESA group comprises Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Zambia and Zimbabwe concluded an interim EPA with the EU at the end of 2007, and the first four countries signed in August 2009 in Mauritius.

The four countries have now completed steps towards ratification so the agreement can be applied.

All the four countries that have operationalized the agreement are also SADC Member States.

EPAs are trade and development agreements that the

EU is currently negotiating with the six African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) regions. These regions are SADC, ESA, the Economic Community of Central African States (CEMAC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and groups representing Caribbean and Pacific nations.

They seek to replace the trade chapters of the 2000 Cotonou Agreement between the EU and the ACP countries.

In 2000, ACP countries and the EU opted for a more ambitious trade and development

relationship covering not just trade in goods, but also services, trade-related rules, investment and development cooperation.

Negotiations for such comprehensive trade and development agreements started in 2002. However, it became clear towards the end of 2007 that it would not be possible for all ACP regions to finalise negotiations before the end of the Cotonou trade regime on 31 December 2007.

A series of interim agreements were concluded to minimise trade disruption for

ACP countries arising from the expiry of the Cotonou trade regime in 2008 while maintaining progress towards comprehensive regional EPAs.

The entry into force of the interim EPA with the four ESA countries is seen as a stepping stone to a wider and more comprehensive deal currently under negotiation between the EU and the whole ESA region. However, membership of the various negotiating groups does not reflect the membership of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). For example, the ESA group is not made up of all countries in eastern and southern Africa.

Similarly, the SADC negotiating group, consisting of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and the United Republic of Tanzania, is also not made up of all SADC Member States.

Speaking at a ceremony to mark the start of the EPA implementation process between the EU and ESA, the EU Trade Commissioner, Karel de Gucht said the agreement with the four countries was a result of “hard work of negotiations” from both sides.

“With this trade deal we hope to accompany the development of our partners in Eastern and Southern Africa and open up better and lasting business opportunities,” he said. □

### ...as negotiations continue in SADC

**DISCUSSIONS ARE** still ongoing between the European Union and the SADC group to produce a comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the two regions.

Various issues have stalled negotiations, including how to navigate the complex and numerous trade arrangements in southern Africa while maintaining coherence within the region.

Other challenges are how to deal with services, investment and other trade-related issues such as rules of origin, as well as some textual provisions of the interim EPA text that seem to favour one party over another.

The SADC negotiating group comprises Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and the United Republic of Tanzania.

South Africa participates in the SADC group but only as an observer as the country already has a trade agreement with Europe.

The other SADC countries – Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Zambia and Zimbabwe – negotiated under the Eastern and Southern Africa group (ESA), while the Democratic Republic of Congo is in the Economic Community of Central African States (CEMAC).

This fragmented approach, where SADC and other African regions are negotiating under different groups, is seen as one of the major stumbling bloc to the negotiation process. Experts argue that a comprehensive deal could have long been reached if the whole of Africa had negotiated as a single group. □

### SADC Member States negotiating the EPAs with EU

SADC Group	Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA)	Economic Community of Central African States (CEMAC)
Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Tanzania	Mauritius, Madagascar, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe	Democratic Republic of Congo

Note: South Africa is an observer in the SADC Group

## Chirundu One Stop Border Post a huge success

**THE CHIRUNDU** One Stop Border Post between Zambia and Zimbabwe has more than halved waiting times for transport operators and improved the general flow of persons and goods in line with SADC's regional integration agenda.

According to a progress report on the implementation of the North-South Corridor programme by Tripartite Taskforce for SADC, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and the East African Community (EAC), the Chirundu one-stop border has, since its inception in November 2009, addressed issues of delays at the border and facilitated trade among member states.

For example, waiting times have been reduced by an average 50 percent for freight transport and 83 percent for passenger transport. It now takes about a day for haulage trucks to clear immigration and customs formalities at the border compared to three days previously.

It takes even less for passenger vehicles – an average 30 minutes from more than three hours previously.

The report noted that further reductions in crossing times was possible through additional changes such as improved communications between the Zambian and Zimbabwean sides of the border.

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

COMESA-SADC-EAC selected Chirundu a few years ago as one of the border posts for the pilot phase of the one-stop-border initiative that aims to facilitate trade and movement of goods and services in eastern and southern Africa,



Goods trucks at Chirundu border post

and Chirundu has become a new benchmark for regional integration.

This development addresses issues of delays as well as promoting the smooth flow of goods through the removal of often perceived "restrictive" operational procedures at borders.

In the long run, the one-stop border post concept seeks to harmonize customs and immigration laws at border posts within the eastern and southern region.

Other ports of entry identified for implementation of this concept include the Beitbridge

border post linking South Africa and Zimbabwe, and the Kasumbalesa post between Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Beitbridge and Chirundu are considered to be among sub-Saharan Africa's busiest border crossings with hundreds of southward or northward commercial trucks passing through the two border posts every day.

Under the North-South Corridor initiative, COMESA, EAC and SADC have identified border post refurbishment as one of the initiatives

to improve infrastructure and increase intra-regional trade in eastern and southern Africa.

More than US\$1.2 billion has been raised to implement the North-South Corridor project, which traverses eight countries in eastern and southern Africa.

Planned programmes include the construction of more than 8,000 kilometres of road, rehabilitation of 600km of rail track and upgrading of the Dar es Salaam port in the United Republic of Tanzania – one of the biggest and busiest ports in Africa. □

## Shire-Zambezi waterways to boost trade in southern Africa

**THE ESTABLISHMENT** of the Shire-Zambezi waterways involving three countries from southern Africa is expected to boost trade in SADC and deepen integration among member states.

Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia – the countries developing the Shire-Zambezi waterways – in April received a grant from the African Development Bank (AfDB) through the SADC Secretariat to conduct a feasibility study on the navigability of the waterways.

The waterway project entails the construction of an inland port to provide a direct waterway transport system between Nsanje in southern Malawi and the port of Chinde in Mozambique, which are about 238 kilometres apart.

The project offers an alternative route to the Indian Ocean for landlocked SADC Member States through Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique.

The proposed inland port would have a lifespan of more

than 50 yeasters and be designed to handle different types of vessels, with a carrying capacity of up to 48 containers.

On completion, the port could be expected to handle more than 10,000 containers annually, thereby reducing transport costs for exporters and importers from landlocked SADC Member States that presently use Durban port in South Africa as the route to the sea. □

# 2020 Towards biodiversity protection

by Kizito Sikuka



**AFRICA IS** making steady progress towards reducing the direct pressures on biodiversity and promoting sustainable use of natural resources by safeguarding different ecosystems.

Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat, Bráulio de Souza Dias, said this progress should be maintained and improved to ensure that by 2020 the ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet's variety of life and contributing to human wellbeing and poverty eradication.

The 2020 goal is part of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and is also one of the key targets of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted in 2010 to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across all sectors.

The Aichi Biodiversity Targets, for example, identify five strategic goals and 20 ambitious, yet achievable targets.

Their purpose is to inspire broad-based action in support of biodiversity during the decade from 2011 to 2020 by all countries and stakeholders, promoting the coherent and effective implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity – conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of biodiversity, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

Speaking at a recent regional workshop for Africa on updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans held in Ethiopia, de Souza Dias said despite the challenges of reducing the direct pressures on biodi-

versity, Africa must continue with broad-based action in support of biodiversity.

"Some important advances have been made in this region to promote biodiversity and sustainable use," he said, adding that a number of countries in Africa have been successful in integrating biodiversity into poverty reduction strategies and involving local communities in protected areas management.

"None of these are easy victories. They require tradeoffs among the interests of different sectors of society. They can be politically difficult to achieve and we would therefore like to salute these efforts."

While remarkable progress has been recorded in Africa, there is need for intensified efforts by all stakeholders to scale up interventions and ensure that Africa and the rest of the world are able to meet the desired targets by 2020.

For example, a number of people around the world still remain unconcerned about the ongoing loss of life on earth. This is largely because the majority of people and policymakers remain unaware of the irreplaceable contributions that biodiversity makes to human wellbeing.

As a result, there is great need to intensify efforts that encourage the reduction of direct pressures on biodiversity.

Countries must also step up efforts to promote sustainable use of the environment by safeguarding different ecosystems.

Ecosystems are critical to human life as they provide a variety of goods and services upon which people depend.

An ecosystem is a biological system consisting of all the living organisms in a particular area and the non-living or abiotic components with which the organisms interact such as air, soil, water, and sunlight.

Key processes in ecosystems include the capture of light energy and carbon through photosynthesis, the transfer of carbon and energy through food webs, and the release of nutrients and carbon through decomposition. □

## Aichi Biodiversity Goals

- **Goal A**
  - Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society
- **Goal B**
  - Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use
- **Goal C**
  - Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity
- **Goal D**
  - Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services
- **Goal E**
  - Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building. □

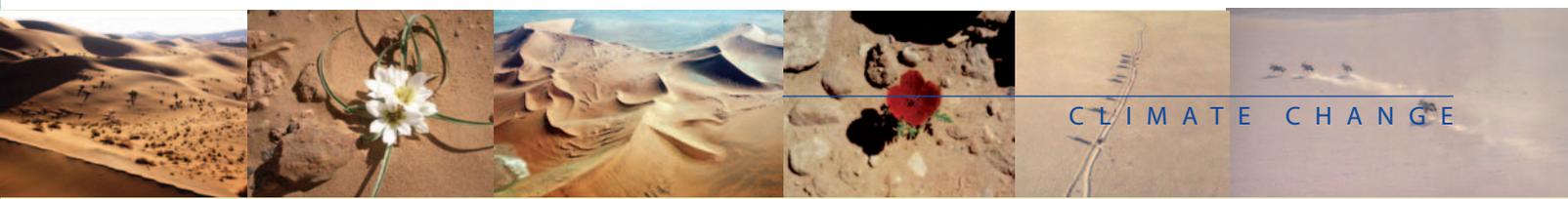
## United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

**FOLLOWING THE 2010** International Year of Biodiversity, the UN declared 2011-2020 as the Decade on Biodiversity, intended to promote and raise awareness about the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The targets are specific goals that are related to the broad themes and goals of the Strategic Plan.

The plan's objective is to ensure countries "take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet's variety of life, and contributing to human wellbeing and poverty eradication." □





## SADC supports Namibia's bid to host Green Climate Fund

**SADC LEADERS** have endorsed a bid by Namibia to host the secretariat for the Green Climate Fund to be established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The fund, announced in December 2011 at Durban, South Africa during the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to UNFCCC, seeks to support climate change mitigation and adaptation actions in developing countries.

The fund is expected to raise and disburse about US\$100 billion a year by 2020, starting with US\$30 billion from 2012 to help the global community address issues of climate change, according to UNFCCC.

Six countries in different parts of the world have expressed interest in hosting the fund – Namibia, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Germany, Poland and Switzerland.

The decision on the host country is expected to be made later this year and presented for endorsement at the climate change conference set for Doha, Qatar in December. The provisional secretariat is in Bonn, Germany.

At the SADC Extraordinary Summit in June in Luanda, chaired by Angola, southern

African leaders endorsed the candidature of Namibia to host the Green Climate Fund, and agreed to lobby the African Union to support Namibia and ensure that the African continent has a sole candidate.

An endorsement by the AU, which is widely expected, would put more weight to Namibia's application as there has been some unwritten consensus among the global community that such a fund be situated in a developing country, where the effects of climate change are felt most acutely as high levels of poverty reduce the capacity to adapt.

The Seychelles Foreign Affairs Minister, Jean-Paul Adam, said that Namibia is an ideal candidate to host the climate fund as middle-income small countries are often excluded from climate change funding due to their relatively high per capita Gross Domestic Product.

"Namibia's bid represents an important step in our quest for fairness in terms of international development mechanisms," he said, adding that southern Africa and the entire African continent "must be activists in the fight against climate change."

This pro-active approach may include intensifying efforts to access the fund through jointly identifying projects that would be suitable for financing.

Research has shown that most financiers tend to favour regional projects over individual country projects as joint projects have wider impact and promote regional integration.

Examples of regional projects that SADC could consider for financing under the Green Climate Fund include the Inga hydropower station in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Mphanda Nkuwa hydropower project in Mozambique, and the Kudu gas project in Namibia.

Although there has been some scepticism about the magnitude of the figures and the conditions to access the funds, the establishment of the fund represents another step toward addressing climate change in developing countries.

The Green Climate Fund is expected to promote the paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways by providing support to developing countries to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The Board consists of 24 members, with equal representation of developing and developed countries, and will be supported by an independent secretariat to administer the funds. The World Bank would serve as interim trustee for the first three years.

The establishment of the Green Climate Fund was initiated at the 2010 climate change conference held in Cancun, Mexico. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net) □



Namib desert

## All set for Rio+20

**RIO DE** Janeiro, Brazil will host the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held from 13 to 22 June.

Dubbed Rio+20, the meeting comes 20 years after the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, where United Nations members adopted Agenda 21 – a comprehensive blueprint of action to be taken globally, na-

tionally and locally by UN organisations, governments and major groups in every area in which humans directly affect the environment.

It also comes a decade after the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

In preparation for Rio+20, southern Africa is guided by



the Africa position that was adopted in October 2011 by African ministers responsible for the environment. The common position calls for industrialized countries to fulfil previous commitments and pledges to help Africa's efforts in achieving sustainable development. □

**ACCESS TO** energy is widely regarded as the “missing” Millennium Development Goal (MDG) and debate among development experts is that poverty eradication and the general global socio-economic condition would improve if energy were to be identified as the ninth MDG.

The global community adopted eight MDGs in 2000 to improve the general socio-economic conditions in the world, particularly in developing countries. These goals range through gender, education, health, poverty and the environment.

While remarkable progress has been recorded to implement some of the agreed goals, most countries are still not on track to meet the desired targets by 2015 due to various factors such as limited resources as well as addressing new and emerging challenges including climate change.

However, development experts argue that the oversight of energy in the original MDG list has had an impact on how the world responds to issues of sustainable development and poverty reduction.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), for example, says that energy is central to sustainable development and poverty reduction efforts.

Energy affects all aspects of development – social, economic, and environmental, including livelihoods, access to water, agricultural productivity, health, population levels, education, and gender-related issues.

“None of the Millennium Development Goals can be met without major improvement in the quality and quantity of energy services in developing countries,” the UNDP observes.

In this regard, there is need for the global community to intensify efforts that improve access to energy as a critical tool in the attainment of most MDGs, especially Goal 1 seeking to reduce by half the proportion of people living in poverty by 2015.

SADC’s population totals about 270 million and, according to some estimates, just 30 percent have access to energy in the form of electricity, mostly in urban areas.

This figure falls to an average of two percent in rural areas, where the majority of the people live – far from the 35 percent consumption level that African leaders pledged to achieve at their 8th Session of the African Union Summit in 2007.

The majority of people in southern Africa still rely on traditional energy sources including wood or other biomass such as crop waste as the dominant fuel for cooking. This comes at a huge cost to the environment as families continue to cut down trees for much-needed fuel.

Therefore, attaining energy self-sufficiency would go a long way in improving SADC’s chances of reaching the MDGs and creating opportunities for people to prosper.

### **Energy and poverty eradication**

Access to modern energy facilitates economic development by providing more efficient and healthier means to undertake basic household tasks and undertake productive activities more generally, often



## **Millennium Development Goals Access to Energy – the “missing”**

more cheaply than by using the inefficient substitutes, such as candles and batteries.

Modern energy can power water pumping, providing drinking water and increasing agricultural yields through the use of machinery and irrigation. Improving access to clean energy fuels will also ensure that women’s burden to provide water and food for their families is reduced.

### **Energy and access to education**

In rural communities in SADC, as in other developing regions of the world, children commonly spend significant time gathering firewood, fetching water and cooking instead of attending school.

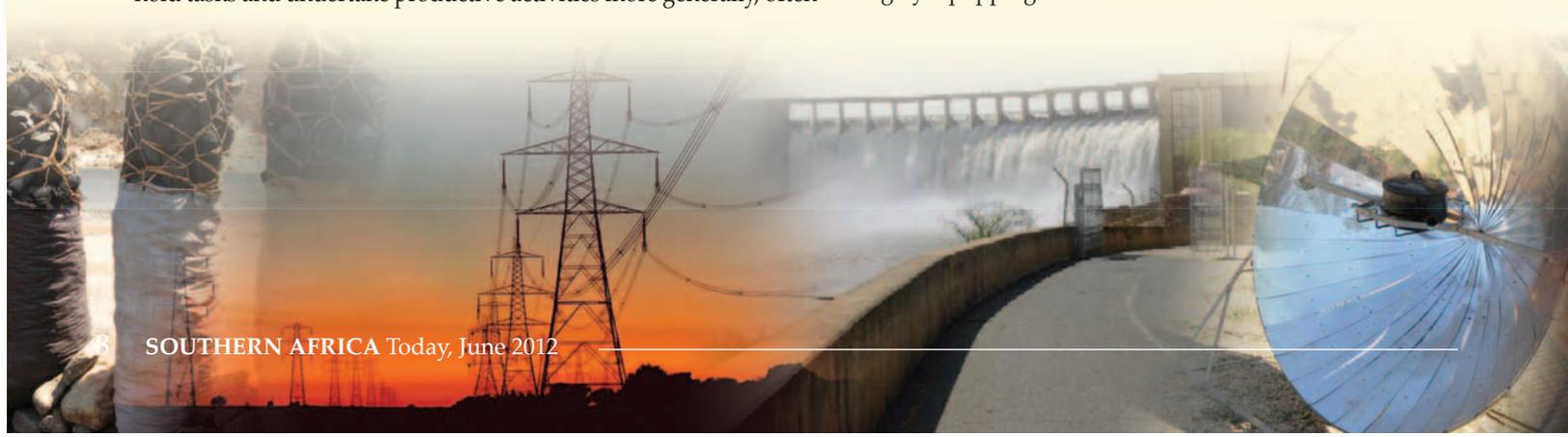
Access to improved cooking fuels or technologies would, therefore, facilitate school attendance. Electricity is also important for education since it improves communication, particularly through information technology and by ensuring availability of basic needs such as lighting.

### **Energy and gender equality**

Improved access to electricity and modern fuels reduces the physical burden associated with carrying wood and frees up valuable time, especially for women, widening their employment opportunities.

In addition, street-lighting improves the safety of women and girls at night, allowing them to attend night schools and participate in community activities. Data from the Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA) shows that more men than women enrol for tertiary education, despite the fact that the latter makes up more than half of the SADC population.

Education facilitates the empowerment of women and men to participate more fully in development processes and decision-making by equipping them with these skills.





# ENERGY AFRICA

## Energy MDG

### Energy and health

Most foods require adequate cooking and improved access to energy allows households to boil water, thereby reducing cases of water-borne diseases.

Reducing household air pollution through improved cooking fuels and stoves decreases the risk of respiratory infections, chronic obstructive lung disease and lung cancer which have been linked to the fumes from burning coal.

Improved access to energy advances communication and transport services, which are critical for emergency health care.

Electricity and modern energy services support the functioning of clinics and hospitals, which can reduce maternal and child mortality, improve healthcare and address other diseases such as malaria, cholera and HIV and AIDS.

### Energy and the environment

Traditional stoves and open fires are the primary means of cooking and heating for about 70 percent of SADC's population and exposure to smoke causes thousands of deaths annually, with women and young children the most affected.

This smoke also affects the environment and contributes to climate change. Modern cooking fuels and more efficient cook stoves can relieve pressures on the environment caused by the unsustainable use of biomass.

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

Experience in Malawi has shown that half a drum of cooked nshima, a thick maize meal porridge that is the staple food in most SADC countries, can use up to 170kg of firewood on an open fire while the same quantity of nshima uses 14 kg of wood when prepared on the energy-efficient stoves promoted by ProBEC. □



### Goals and Targets

#### Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

*Target 1:* Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than US\$1 a day

*Target 2:* Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

#### Goal 2 Achieve universal primary education

*Target 3:* Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

#### Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women

*Target 4:* Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education no later than 2015

#### Goal 4 Reduce child mortality

*Target 5:* Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

#### Goal 5 Improve maternal health

*Target 6:* Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality rate

#### Goal 6 Combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases

*Target 7:* Have halted by 2015, and begin to reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS

*Target 8:* Have halted by 2015, and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

#### Goal 7 Ensure environmental sustainability

*Target 9:* Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

*Target 10:* Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water  
*Target 11:* Have achieved, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

#### Goal 8 Develop a global partnership for development

*Target 12:* Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system (includes commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally)

*Target 13:* Address the special needs of the least developed countries

*Target 14:* Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing states

*Target 15:* Deal comprehensively with debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long run  
*Target 16:* In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth

*Target 17:* In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable drugs in developing countries

*Target 18:* In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially for information communication.

[www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)

# Africa and its Diaspora take steps to strengthen cooperation

by Danai Majaha

**THE AFRICAN** Union (AU) and representatives of the African Diaspora have agreed to set up multi-stakeholder working groups to strengthen cooperation in the fields of economics and technology collaboration, including measures to promote widespread use of renewable energy products and technologies and research in agriculture.

This came out of the first Global African Diaspora Summit organised by the AU Commission and held in South Africa from 23-25 May.

It was agreed that working groups, comprising experts from the continent and its Diaspora, be set up before the next summit, focusing on measures to strengthen economic cooperation and science and technology.

Some of the areas identified requiring cooperation included infrastructure development in Africa, improvement of transport links among African countries as well as measures to bolster trade and investment into and among member states.

Another working group would also be formed to tackle challenges faced by Africa in the area of tourism promotion against the backdrop of the negative international publicity about the continent.

In the area of science and technology, the summit resolved to set up a committee to promote research into renewable energy technologies, infectious diseases and agricultural production.

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

The uptake of renewable energy products and technologies has been slow in Africa despite abundant resources to produce such products. For instance, research has shown that most countries on continent receive more than 2,500 hours of sunshine per year since there is sunshine all year round.

It has been noted that while knowledge on solar energy technology is widespread on the continent, its use is still limited due to prohibitive installation costs.

With all their advantages, solar systems are not cheap to install; a typical home system in the region costs anywhere between US\$500 and US\$1,000, according to the African Development Bank.

Held under the theme "Towards the Realisation of a United and Prosperous Africa and its Diaspora", the summit also came up with a programme of action that will see the direct involvement of the African Diaspora in development efforts on the continent and its cooption as the continent's sixth region.

It was also resolved to explore the possibility of creating an African Investment Fund to address development challenges confronting Africa. The continent's total infrastructure needs alone are estimated at about \$60 billion in the next 10 years.

The summit agreed to encourage AU member states to establish more formal relations with Caribbean and Latin American nations, which are home to millions of people of African descent.

A proposed Diaspora Advisory Board would address overarching issues of concern to Africa and its Diaspora such



Members of AU and African Diaspora

as reparations and follow up on commitments made by the West at the 2001 World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR).

The rich Western nations and multilateral financial institutions pledged, among other issues, to promote investment in their former African colonies in order to eradicate poverty among victims of racism, and to develop capacity-building programmes for Africans and people of African descent in the Americas and around the world.

Speaking during the closing session of the summit, South African President, Jacob Zuma said the outcome of the meeting should serve to motivate continent's citizens that the destiny of Africa lies in the hands of Africans, whether at home or abroad.

"The resolutions we have taken in the summit demonstrate that Africans are more than capable of successfully taking their destiny into their own hands," Zuma said.

The summit and the subsequent programme of action

developed sought to build on the resolutions of the 18th AU Summit held in Ethiopia in February where African leaders agreed to speed up infrastructure development, which is regarded as one of the pillars of the continent's economic integration agenda.

According to the Declaration on the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa issued in February, African leaders agreed to increase public financing of infrastructure, implement major power projects such as hydro-electricity, oil refinery and gas pipelines, accelerate the construction of missing links and modernization of railways, and increase the capacity of ports.

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

The AU has also identified increased intra-African trade as another important pillar of its regional integration agenda, and targets the establishment of a continental free trade area by 2017. □



# Member States develop national action plans towards gender equality targets

by Mukundi Mutasa

**SADC MEMBER** States have agreed on measures to accelerate progress towards the target of equal representation for women and men in political and other decision-making structures by 2015, including the development of national action plans.

During a two-day workshop organized by the SADC Gender Unit in Johannesburg, South Africa with the theme of "Balancing the Scale towards 50:50 by 2015", the delegates deliberated on how SADC Member States can better address the issues of gender inequality national decision-making.

The gender parity goal of equal representation by 2015 is provided for in the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and, although the protocol is yet to enter into force, this is aligned with targets set by the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government in 2004 and the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government in 2005.

The workshop aimed to facilitate the sharing of experiences by Member States on measures that have been put in place to accelerate the achievement of gender parity by 2015, while providing a platform for the Member States to develop their National Roadmaps with concrete actions to be taken to implement the 50:50 Framework by 2015.

Delegates were drawn from 14 SADC Member States excluding Madagascar which is currently suspended. The SADC Gender Unit's development partners were also represented.

The meeting resolved to initiate consultations at Mem-

ber State level to galvanise national efforts through domestication of various regional and international commitments made by countries with regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Member States also resolved to finalise the process of developing national roadmaps that outline activities and programmes they plan to embark on as they move towards meeting the 2015 deadline.

The process towards developing the national roadmaps commenced during the workshop when the stakeholders from Member States developed drafts that were discussed there.

Member States agreed to further develop the draft roadmaps through a process of national consultations to ensure input is sought from all stakeholders and key partners.

*"Balancing the Scale towards 50:50 by 2015"*

Most countries identified lobby and advocacy as the main activity they would embark on during the next three years to ensure there is national consensus on the need for equal representation and participation of women and men in decision-making structures.

They also agreed to strengthen capacity-building programmes for women and gender training for key national structures and institutions, as well as engage all political parties to adopt gender parity strategies, actively share best practices, and ensure tracking of results.

The SADC Secretariat and its cooperating partners such as the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) and SADC Parliamentary Forum were encouraged to strengthen research to address impediments to the full and equal participation of women in decision-making; en-

sure systematic collection, collation, analysis and presentation of data on women in political and decision-making positions; intensify efforts to share good practices and experiences; and strengthen advocacy and lobbying programmes through parliaments in the region. □

## Profile

### Monique Ohsan-Bellepeau

**MONIQUE OHSAN-Bellepeau**, GOSK, was appointed acting President of Mauritius on 31 March 2012 following the resignation of former President Anerood Jugnauth, becoming SADC's first woman Head of State.

The second is H.E. Joyce Banda, the new President of Malawi, who was sworn into office just one week later, on 7 April, and was profiled in a previous edition of Southern Africa Today.

Madame Bellepeau is a former journalist, born in Mauritius in 1942, and was the first newsreader and reporter of the national television, from 1965-67, returning to that post from 1987-93.

During a 30-year career in the public and private sector, she worked for various agencies and organizations including the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce, and was a company director until her appointment as Vice President on 13 November 2010.

She became the country's first woman vice-president when she was elected unani-



H.E. Monique Ohsan-Bellepeau



H.E. Joyce Banda

ously by all members of the National Assembly following the death of Vice President Angidi Chettiar.

She joined the Mauritian Labour Party in 1990 and became a member of the Central Executive Committee. She was a Member of Parliament 1995-2000, and Principal Parliamentary Secretary 1997-2000. She was President of the Labour party from 2007-2010.

Mrs Bellepeau was educated in Quatres Bornes, Mauritius, and is the daughter of Bartholomée Ohsan, who was a founding member of the party.

She was married to Mr. Joseph Yves Bellepeau and has two sons.

In 1997, she was awarded the insignia of Grand Officer of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (G.O.S.K.). □

## SADC to review Windhoek Declaration on a New SADC-ICP Partnership



**SADC HAS** revealed plans to review its 2006 agreement with International Cooperation Partners (ICPs) as part of efforts to strengthen SADC-ICP cooperation and facilitate more effective functioning of the partnership structures.

The review of the Windhoek Declaration on a New SADC-ICP Partnership, announced by SADC Executive Secretary Tomaz Augusto Salomão during a midterm review workshop of the SADC-European Development Fund regional strategy held in Botswana, aims to bring non-state actors into the mainstream of regional integration.

"We will accelerate efforts towards a comprehensive review of the Windhoek Declaration with a view to strengthening SADC-ICP cooperation and to facilitating the effective functioning of the partnership structures. A greater level of conversations would be required to place the Non State Actors into the mainstream of regional integration," Salomão said.

He, however, did not disclose when the planned review would start and how long it is expected to take.

The Windhoek Declaration on a New SADC-ICP Partnership was adopted at a SADC Consultative Conference in Namibia in 2006 and has guided cooperation between SADC and the ICPs by establishing an institutional structure for dialogue on political, policy and technical issues, thus improving coordination between the parties to ensure more effective development cooperation.

This has also ensured alignment, harmonisation and streamlining of operational procedures, rules and other prac-

tices in the delivery of development assistance to SADC, as well as synergies and complementarity of support provided at national and regional levels.

The partnership framework was necessitated by a shift in the European Union's development policy. The EU has since 2005 had a new development policy, the European Consen-

sus on Development, that defines the values, objectives, principles and modalities of EU development aid.

Under the new development policy, EU member states resolved to increase national aid budgets to at least 0.7 per cent of Gross National Incomes of the respective donor countries by 2015, a target that was

not realized previously and may now be out of reach due to the financial crisis in Europe.

SADC and the ICPs have made various commitments in terms of implementation of SADC's Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation (SIPO).

The RISDP and SIPO are SADC's 15-year development blueprints outlining regional priorities in the area of trade and economic liberalisation; infrastructure development; food security; human and social development; conflict prevention; and stability, peace and security. □



## SADC, Japan strengthen cooperation

**SADC HAS** signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Government of Japan that provides a framework for deeper ties and closer cooperation.

"The scope of cooperation under this memorandum will cover various areas that include infrastructure, trade, investment, tourism, energy, information communication technology, agriculture, environmental issues and political dialogue, among others," SADC said in a statement after the agreement was signed in Gaborone in April.

Japan is already actively involved in SADC's water and sanitation programme as well as in science and technology, and infrastructure development.

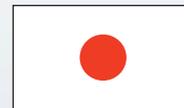
The memorandum follows the Japan-SADC Infrastructure Investment Seminar held in Tokyo in March during which

the two parties agreed to set up a project identification and follow-up mechanism as part of measures to strengthen the implementation of infrastructure projects in southern Africa.

It was agreed, among other issues, that the project identification and follow-up mechanism would consist of representatives from the Group of SADC Group of Ambassadors based in Tokyo (assisted by the SADC Secretariat) and the Japanese government (assisted by the Japanese business community).

The follow-up mechanism should be developed and incorporated into the annual planning cycle of the SADC Secretariat in order to ensure continuity of projects.

The Japanese government reaffirmed its support for



SADC infrastructure within the framework of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) IV and the Yokohama Declaration and Action Plan of 2008.

The projects were to be presented to the TICAD Ministerial Follow-up Meeting held in May in Senegal as well as to the next SADC Council of Ministers meeting scheduled for Mozambique in August.

The long-awaited launch of the SADC Regional Infrastructure Master Plan later this year is expected to guide development of key infrastructure such as road, rail and ports.

The master plan would allow the region to develop an efficient, seamless and cost-effective trans-boundary infrastructure network that promotes socio-economic growth in Member States. □

## Experience Southern Africa SADC to review role of RETOSA

**SADC HAS** resolved to review the role of the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA) to ensure that the body becomes more effective in promoting tourism in the region.

RETOSA is a SADC body responsible for the promotion and marketing of tourism in the region.

It brings together 14 Member States – Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa,

Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe – to provide a unified platform to market the region's tourist attractions.

Meeting in Grand Baie, Mauritius at their annual meeting, SADC ministers underscored the importance of regional cooperation in joint marketing of SADC within the framework of RETOSA.

The ministers said there is need to re-examine, among others, the structure of RETOSA, its financing, resourc-

ing, priorities and institutional positioning to ensure that it serves Member States and the sector effectively in order to deliver on its mandate.

The ministers approved and directed that a study be conducted to provide an in-depth analysis of how to restructure the organisation to become more effective, with a view to improving the region's competitiveness as a tourism destination.

As a way forward it was resolved that an extraordinary ministerial meeting be con-

vened by December 2012 "to review the outcomes of the RETOSA evaluation process, with the view to implementing its resolutions on the matter without delay."

SADC has an abundance of natural wonders that give the region a comparative edge. However, little has been done to harness this potential and boost arrivals.

For example, most SADC Member States still have gaps in tourism infrastructure and lack the capacity to invest in such facilities. Some countries also have poor international flight frequencies and internal transport links.

Meanwhile, a report on southern Africa tourism sector performance presented to the ministers has called for a review and harmonization of the existing frameworks and strategies for tourism growth and development in the region.

This is in light of the fact that the regional tourism environment is facing growing competition from emerging tourist destinations. It is, therefore, imperative that the region confronts such challenges faced by formulating and implementing a regional tourism growth and development strategy.

The ministers said there is need to expand the joint marketing of the SADC region as a single but multi-faceted destination in emerging markets such as Brazil, China, India and Russia, for which a roadmap has to be developed showcasing SADC tourism packages in those markets.

The ministers also approved the new RETOSA destination brand with the catch-line "Experience Southern Africa" to be launched and rolled out by September 2012. □



## SADC making progress to liberalise air transport

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** is making significant progress towards the full implementation of the Yamaoussoukro Decision (YD) on Air Transport Liberalisation, according to SADC tourism ministers meeting in Grand Baie, Mauritius.

The ministers noted that enactment of policies that endorse the YD implementation is necessary to boost tourism in the region, as well as appropriate legal and institutional reforms that facilitate the liberalisation of the skies.

"Member States have made substantial progress with reforms leading to the enacting of policies that endorse YD implementation, appropriate legal and institutional reforms to facilitate the liberalisation process, and that further liberalisation of the skies

was necessary if efficient and cost effective access to tourism destinations is to be realised," the ministers said in a statement after their meeting.

Adopted some few years back, the YD encourages countries to deregulate their air services and promote regional air markets open to transnational competition.

However, there have been some fears that this liberalisation of the skies could expose non-competitive national carriers to operational standards that they are unlikely to meet,

hence push them out of business.

In spite of this, SADC countries have continued to implement the YD to improve air safety and promote economic growth.

With regard to arrivals, the YD has the capacity to boost tourist arrivals as an open-skies policy would ensure that visitors from other source markets do not encounter any travel challenges caused by fewer airlines servicing a particular route because a country is not open to foreign airlines.

The ministers urged Member States to continue implementing other infrastructure development and border facilitation projects along SADC corridors to boost tourism in the region. □





## Opposition alliance forms new government after inconclusive Lesotho elections

by Joseph Ngwawi

**THE DEMOCRATIC** Congress (DC) of former Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili swept to victory in national elections held on 26 May in Lesotho but failed to secure a wide enough margin to form a government.

The DC won 41 of the 80 contested constituencies against about 26 seats for the main opposition All-Basotho Convention (ABC) led by former Foreign Minister Thomas Thabane, according to final results published by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of Lesotho.

The former ruling party, Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) could only manage 12 seats while the Popular Front for Democracy (PFD) led by Lekhetho Rakuoan got one seat.

However, due to Lesotho's complicated electoral system, the DC failed to win enough votes to form a new government.

Lesotho has a "mixed member proportional representation" electoral system under which most Members of Parliament are chosen in constituencies, but the remainder are allocated according to party lists.

Under this system, 80 parliamentarians in single-member constituencies are chosen using the first-past-the-post system while the remaining 40 are elected from one national constituency using party-list proportional representation.

The latter is used to determine the number of seats each party would receive if the system was fully proportional. The total number of votes cast on the party ballot is divided by the 120 seats at stake in the



Voters in Lesotho

National Assembly to determine how many seats each party deserves to receive.

Using this system, the DC got an additional seven seats to bring its total to 48 or just 40 percent of the 120 parliamentary seats. This fell short of the 61 needed to form a government.

Mosisili resigned after the leaders of ABC, LCD and Basotho National Party (BNP) agreed to form an alliance that gave them an absolute majority in parliament and the right to form a coalition government.

The agreement saw ABC leader Thomas Thabane becoming prime minister while LCD president Mothetjoa Metsing became deputy prime minister. BNP leader Thesele Maseribane, whose party got five seats, was appointed Minister of Youth, Sports and Recreation in a 19-member cabinet announced on 15 June.

The 67-year-old Mosisili has been the Prime Minister of Lesotho since May 1998.

More than 900 candidates, comprising of 942 who were nominated by 18 parties and 21 independents, took part in the elections.

The elections were described as credible, free and fair by the SADC Election Observer Mission (SEOM).

"It is SEOM's overall view that the elections were conducted in an open and transparent manner. SEOM was impressed by the patience of voters who were able to express their franchise peacefully, freely and unhindered in all polling stations," the head of the mission and South African Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim, said.

### Angolan elections set for 31 August

**ANGOLAN PARLIAMEN-**TARY elections are set for 31 August, according to a decree by President Eduardo dos Santos.

Dos Santos also announced the appointment of Edeltrudes Costa as interim president of the National Electoral Commission (CNE). The former CNE president had to step down after opposition parties challenged her appointment since she was not a judge. Angolan law requires that a judge leads the commission.

Nomination of candidates was expected to run from 31 May to 19 June, according to the country's Constitutional Court.

Some of the concerns raised by Lesotho stakeholders on the electoral process included allegations of discrepancies regarding party acronyms and candidate names on ballot papers, problems with the voters' roll, intimidation during the electoral process and media polarisation.

The SEOM was officially launched on 12 May 2012, by Ebrahim in the presence of SADC Executive Secretary, Tomaz Augusto Salomão and other stakeholders in Lesotho.

More than 70 observers from the SADC Secretariat, Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe were deployed in all the districts of Lesotho.

The SEOM launch was at the invitation of the IEC and was consistent with provisions of the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections. □

Angola's National Assembly has 220 members, elected for a four year term, 130 members by proportional representation and 90 members in provincial districts.

A new Constitution adopted in 2010 stipulates that the president is no longer elected directly, but by the National Assembly, and that he or she is always the president of the party that obtained the highest number of votes in the parliamentary elections.

The last parliamentary elections held in September 2008 were won by dos Santos' Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). □

## Events Diary June-August 2012



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June  
7, Ethiopia

**Launch of 5th Global Environment Outlook (GEO 5)**  
GEO 5, published by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), provides an analysis of the state of and trends in the global environment, and the world's performance in meeting key internationally agreed goals to promote the environment. The analysis for the SADC region was produced by Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), UNEP's Collaborating Centre for Southern Africa.

13-22, Brazil

**UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)**  
The conference in Rio de Janeiro offers an opportunity for the global community to renew its commitments to promoting sustainable development and address new and emerging challenges such as climate change. The conference will review progress since the first Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002.

26-28, Germany

**Africa Energy Forum**  
Energy experts will explore ways that Africa, as one of the fastest emerging markets in the world, can meet increased demand for energy to ensure sustainable development.

July  
2-5, South Africa

**Bridges Africa**  
The conference will discuss the opportunities and challenges in the development and maintenance of bridges and road networks in Africa.

6-13, Seychelles

**49th RETOSA Board Meeting**  
The Regional Tourism Organization of Southern Africa (RETOSA) will meet to discuss strategy for promoting tourism in southern Africa. Delegates from 14 RETOSA member states will discuss issues relating to regional tourism growth and strategy, including regional tourism infrastructure and a tourism master plan for the region.

11, Namibia

**ZIZABONA conference**  
The conference seeks to attract investors to the ZIZABONA project. The transmission lines link four SADC countries – Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia – and seek to reduce congestion on the central corridor.

15-16, Ethiopia

**19th African Union Summit**  
African Heads of State and Government will meet for the 19th Ordinary Session of the African Union, preceded by conferences on "Boosting Intra-African Trade" and "2012 Year of Shared Values".

16-19, South Africa

**Africa Mining Congress**  
The congress will focus on mining projects and accessing funding and finance in Africa and ensuring effective production and implementing best practice in mining.

19-20, China

**5th FOCAC Meeting**  
The 5th Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) is expected to adopt a series of new measures and targets for China-Africa development cooperation for the period 2013-2016 and a stronger focus on regional development and youth development.

August  
TBA, Mozambique

**SADC Summit**  
SADC leaders meet annually in August/September to discuss issues aimed at promoting regional integration and development. The Summit is preceded by meetings of senior officials and Council of Ministers.

27-30, South Africa

**Solar Africa**  
Energy experts will converge and discuss on how to increase the uptake of solar energy.

# 50 Years

## Mozambique independence 50 years since formation of FRELIMO in 1962

**THE FRONT** for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO) was founded in Dar es Salaam in then Tanganyika in June 1962 when three nationalist organisations merged into one broad-based liberation movement under the leadership of Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane.

FRELIMO launched the armed struggle for independence from Portugal two years later, on 25 September 1964, when cadres trained in Algeria went into action for the first time in the northern province of Cabo Delgado after infiltrating across the border from Tanganyika (which had merged with Zanzibar a few months earlier to form the United Republic of Tanzania).

By 1965, the military action against the Portuguese colonial army had been extended to neighbouring Niassa province, and FRELIMO was able to open fronts in the Tete region two years later.

In response, Portugal committed more and more troops, military supplies, and military aid funds to the territory.

Mondlane was assassinated on 3 February 1969 with a parcel bomb sent to him in Dar es Salaam by the Portuguese security police, the PIDE. Samora Machel became president of FRELIMO in 1970 and directed the liberation struggle to its completion, negotiations, transition and independence on 25 June 1975, becoming the first President of Mozambique.

He affirmed Mozambique's support for the liberation movements in Angola, South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe, and his FRELIMO government provided a rear base and other facilities, especially for neighbouring Zimbabwe and South Africa.

His unrelenting support for liberation of neighbouring countries caused him to be a target of apartheid South Africa, and he was killed when his plane crashed just across the South African border on 19 October 1986, believed to have been drawn off course by a false beacon.

FRELIMO and the other liberation movements received support from the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Liberation Committee based in Tanzania, which coordinated international financial and material support.

A turning point in the struggle for Mozambique's independence was the coup d'état in Portugal on 25 April 1974 when the Portuguese Movement of the Armed Forces overthrew the military regime in Lisbon.

This was caused in part by the discontent of conscripts sent to fight in Portugal's "overseas territories" in Africa, particularly because they were losing the war against FRELIMO in Mozambique.

Negotiations between Portuguese and FRELIMO representatives led to the conclusion of an independence agreement signed in Zambia on 7 September 1974, now commemorated as Victory Day, marking the start of a transition headed by Prime Minister Joaquim Chissano, who was later President from 1986 to 2005.

H.E. Armando Emilio Guebuza, now President of Mozambique, joined FRELIMO at age 20 and rose quickly to become a member of the top leadership, the Politburo, and a top commander in the war. Guebuza was elected President in 2004 and re-elected in 2009.



## Remembering Seretse Khama

**SIR SERETSE** Khama Day is a national holiday to honour the founding President of Botswana, Seretse Khama, who was born on 1 July 1921 at Serowe, the son of Sekgoma Khama and grandson of Kgosi (Chief) Khama III of the Bangwato people. He became the Chief after their deaths, at the age of four, with his Uncle Tshekedi Khama acting as regent.

He led his country to independence on 30 September 1966, ending its status as a British "protectorate" and becoming Botswana's first President. He was active in the Frontline States grouping of southern African leaders who opposed apartheid in neighbouring South Africa and supported the liberation movements in the region. He was a leading advocate of regional integration and the SADC headquarters is located in Gaborone, Botswana.

Khama died on 13 July 1980, soon after participating in the formation of SADC's precursor, the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) on 1 April that year. He was survived by his wife, Ruth, and four children, one of whom, his eldest son Chief Seretse Khama Ian Khama, became President of Botswana in 2008.



## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

June-August 2012

5 June	Liberation Day	Seychelles
16 June	Youth Day	South Africa
18 June	National Day	Seychelles
23 June	Corpus Christi	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
2 July	Public Holiday	Botswana
	Heroes Day	Zambia
3 July	Unity Day	Zambia
6 July	Independence Day	Malawi
7 July	Saba Saba Industry Day	Tanzania
16 July	President's Day	Botswana
17 July	Public Holiday	Botswana
	King's Birthday	Lesotho
22 July	Birthday of late King Sobhuza	Swaziland
6 August	Farmers Day	Zambia
8 August	Nane Nane Peasant Day	Tanzania
9 August	National Women's Day	South Africa
13 August	Heroes Day	Zimbabwe
14 August	Defence Forces Day	Zimbabwe
15 August	Assumption Day	Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles
		All
17 August	SADC Day*	Mauritius, Tanzania
19 August	Eid-UI-Fitr**	Namibia
26 August	Heroes Day	Namibia
27 August	Public Holiday	Namibia

\* SADC Day is not a public holiday but a commemoration of signing the SADC Treaty on 17 August 1992

\*\*Exact date depends on sighting of the new moon