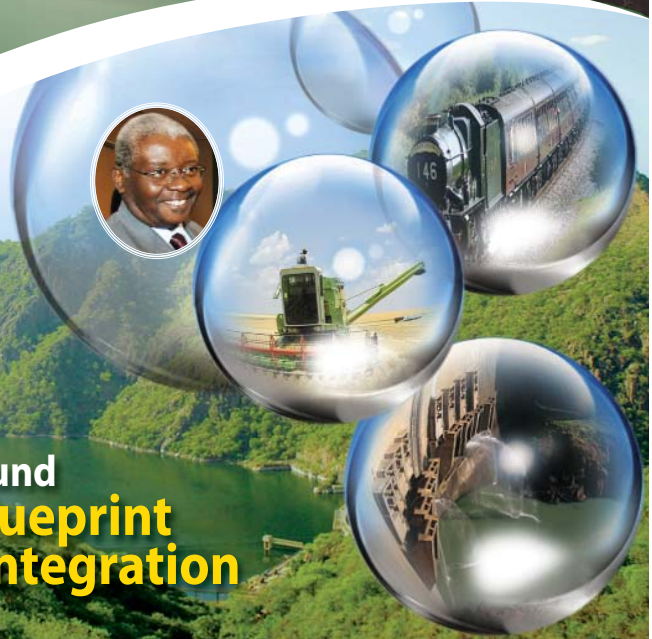
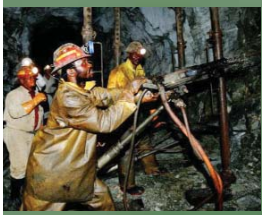




SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY



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SADC Development Fund Infrastructure blueprint key to regional integration

by Joseph Ngwawi

SOUTHERN AFRICA has taken a significant step forward in its quest for deeper regional integration following the approval of a long-awaited blueprint that outlines the region's vision for infrastructure development.

The Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government held in Maputo, Mozambique, in August endorsed a number of measures on the way forward for the region with regard to economic integration and political cooperation.

The highlight of the Summit was the adoption of the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan Vision 2027, a 15-year blueprint that will guide the implementation of cross-border infrastructure projects from 2013 to 2027.

"The plan will serve as a key strategic framework to guide the implementation of efficient, seamless and cost-effective trans-boundary infrastructure networks in an integrated and coordinated manner in all the six sectors, namely Energy, Transport, Tourism, ICT and Postal, Meteorology and Water," SADC said in a communiqué issued after the Summit.

The master plan will be implemented in three five-year phases – short term (2012-2017), medium term (2017-2022) and long term (2022-2027).

In the energy sector, for example, the plan addresses four key areas of energy security, improving access to modern energy services, tapping the abundant energy resources and up-scaling financial investment whilst enhancing environmental sustainability.

Regarding the sub-sectors of road, rail, ports, inland waterways and air transport networks, the Transport Sector Plan also addresses four critical areas, namely improving access to the seamless transport corridors value chain; reducing the cost of transportation; enhancing competitiveness and providing safe and secure transport services.

Other key areas to be targeted include the water, tourism, meteorology and information communication technology sectors to ensure socio-economic development in the region.

The master plan is in line with the African Union's Programme for Infrastructure Development of Africa (PIDA) and will constitute a key input to the proposed Infrastructure Master Plan for the Tripartite grouping covering half of the AU member states, encompassing the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and SADC.

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Infrastructure blueprint key to regional integration

Summit noted progress towards the operationalization of the SADC Regional Development Fund, a financial mechanism for mobilising resources from Member States, the private sector and development partners.

The Fund, which was approved by the Council of Ministers that preceded Summit, will be used to finance SADC programmes and projects.

Agreement was reached by the ministers on various aspects of the Fund, including windows for financing the priority areas of infrastructure and industrial development.

The Fund will have a subscribed capital of US\$1.2 billion to be raised as seed capital.

Summit directed ministers responsible for finance and investment in the region to urgently address modalities for operationalizing the Fund. These include the size of the Fund as well as voting rights and management structure.

Identified priority infrastructure projects will require about US\$500 billion to be implemented, with transport, energy and water taking up the major share of the funding requirements.

An investment conference is scheduled for between January and March 2013 to lure potential investors for the identified regional infrastructure projects while road shows are also planned in Asia, Europe and the United States for the same purpose.

Summit also received a report by the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration on the framework for the proposed SADC

Customs Union, whose launch was proposed in 2010. The report outlined a roadmap for the Customs Union, including parameters, benchmarks and a draft model Customs Union for the region.

The Task Force was mandated to work closely with the SADC Secretariat to ensure preparatory work for the Customs Union begins.

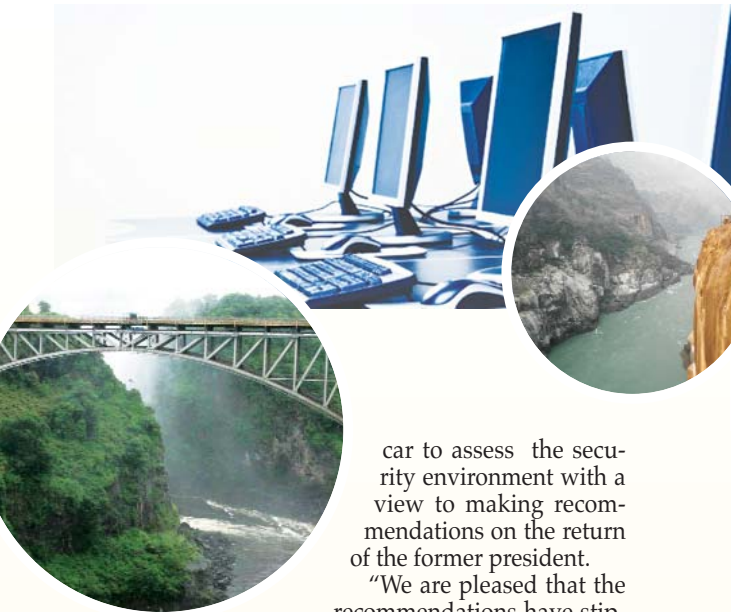
On the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA), the leaders noted that this was work in progress but acknowledged that one of the emerging issues was the need to prioritise industrialisation to address the problem of unequal levels of development among member states.

Different levels of development have been cited as an area of major concern among smaller member states who feel that larger economies stand to benefit more from the FTA.

The SADC Summit endorsed a series of recommendations on the way forward for Madagascar, following the submission of the report of the Troika on Politics, Peace, and Security.

"Since the two Malagasy leaders themselves have not come to an agreement, it has been up to the SADC Summit to map out the way forward, particularly taking into account the risk of the security situation in the country," said Seychelles President James Michel.

Seychelles played a key supporting role in the preparation of the recommendations by hosting the two meetings held between former President Marc Ravalomanana



manana and President of the Transition Authority Andry Rajoelina, and also through its participation in the SADC consultation mission to Madagascar in August.

Following the meetings in Seychelles, where no agreement was reached between the leaders, Summit mapped out the steps to be taken to ensure that the preparation of elections goes smoothly.

The key recommendations of Summit were the full endorsement of the elections calendar proposed by the United Nations and the Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante de la Transition (CENIT). Presidential elections will thus take place on 8 May 2013.

While Summit could not pronounce itself on whether Rajoelina and Ravalomanana could present themselves for the forthcoming elections or not, it took note of the report of the consultation mission that the proposal for both leaders not to stand would offer the best route towards ensuring peaceful elections.

Summit also recognized the risk of violence and instability in relation to the eventual return of former President Ravalomanana, and asked the SADC Secretariat to dispatch a team of security experts to Madagas-

car to assess the security environment with a view to making recommendations on the return of the former president.

"We are pleased that the recommendations have stipulated that great care is taken with regards to the modalities for the return of the former president to safeguard a secure environment to prepare elections," said Michel.

The return of the former President will be done in consultation with the Transition Government security forces to ensure that the stability of the country is maintained.

"We also take note that the proposal for both leaders not to stand in the election offers perhaps the simplest solution. We urge both leaders to continue discussions with a view to finding a solution that prioritizes the Malagasy people."

The Summit also called for full implementation of the amnesty in favour of Ravalomanana.

On the suspended SADC Tribunal, Summit resolved that a new Protocol on the Tribunal should be negotiated and that the court's mandate be confined to the interpretation of the SADC Treaty and Protocols relating to disputes between member states.

Summit approved and signed the Draft Agreement on Assistance in Tax Matters; Draft Protocol on Trade in Services; and a Draft Declaration on Tuberculosis in the Mining Sector. sardc.net □

SADC to accelerate gender parity

MEMBER STATES have been urged to adopt measures to accelerate progress towards the target of equal representation for women and men in political and other decision-making structures.

SADC Heads of State and Government have committed themselves to achieving gender parity and reaching 50 percent representation of women in political decision-making structures by 2015.

SADC recognizes that the equal and meaningful political participation of women, who constitute more than half of the populations of Member States, is an important democratic advancement for the region.

This was reflected in the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development signed by SADC Heads of State and Government on the 17 August 2008 in Johannesburg, South Africa where commitment was made on 28 clauses regarding gender equality, among others, to reach at least 50 percent of women representation and participation in decision-making positions by 2015.

The final communiqué from the 32nd SADC Summit in Maputo in August 2012 “urged Member States to consider adoption of appropriate measures, including legislation, policy and reform of the electoral systems, to facilitate the achievement of (the) gender parity goal.”

Some positive trends have been noted in the SADC region in terms of the movement towards gender parity, but some advances have not been sustained.

SADC Member States worked together to support the first women candidate to take the top job at the African Union Commission, and the region has had two women presidents in

current President Joyce Banda of Malawi and the former Acting President of Mauritius, Monique Ohsan-Bellepeau.

Seven countries – Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe – have had woman Speakers or presiding officers of parliament since 1994.

With three years left before the 2015 deadline for attaining gender parity, most Member

States have already instituted measures to accelerate the agreed measures, although two SADC Member States (Botswana and Mauritius) have not yet signed the Protocol.

These include the development of national roadmaps with concrete actions to be taken to implement the 50:50 Framework by 2015.

They have also initiated consultations at Member State level to galvanise national ef-

forts through domestication of various regional and international commitments made by countries with regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

There are plans 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. □

SADC Tribunal protocol to be negotiated

SOUTHERN AFRICAN leaders have directed that a Protocol on the SADC Tribunal and Rules of Procedure Thereof be negotiated and the jurisdiction of the new Tribunal be confined only to an advisory role and interpretation of the SADC Treaty and any protocols that may be negotiated among Member States.

According to a final communiqué issued at the end of the 32nd Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government, SADC leaders “resolved that a new Protocol on the Tribunal should be negotiated and its mandate should be confined to interpretation of the SADC Treaty and Protocols relating to disputes between Member States.”

The Tribunal was established through an amendment to the SADC Treaty and was constituted to ensure adherence to and the proper interpretation of the provisions of the Treaty and subsidiary instruments and to adjudicate upon disputes that may be referred to it by governments or individuals.

Summit suspended the work of the Tribunal in 2010 and ordered a review of the role and jurisdiction of the re-

gional court, after some countries objected to its constitution through an amendment rather than a separate protocol requiring ratification by due process in all member states.

In 2011, the Summit extended the suspension of the Tribunal, mandating “the Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General to initiate the process aimed at amending the relevant SADC legal instruments and submit a progress report at the Summit in August 2011 and the final report to Summit in August 2012.”

The Committee of Ministers of Justice/Attorney-Generals had during the past two years tried to develop a revised Protocol but have failed to agree on some issues.

One of the sticking issues was the introduction of a new Article 55 on Transitional Provisions. Among other issues, the Article suggested that a reconstituted Tribunal under a Revised Protocol could take over existing cases of the old Tribunal.

Some Member States opposed introduction of the Article, arguing that once the Revised Protocol entered into force, the old Protocol would no longer have effect and any

actions or cases heard previously would cease to have effect. □

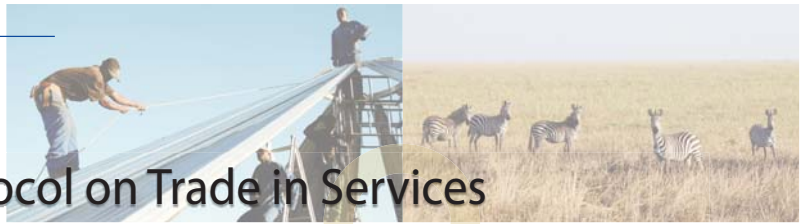
Call for increased action against HIV and AIDS

SUMMIT URGED Member States to support the implementation of regional programmes to combat the spread of HIV and AIDS.

Noting progress in the implementation of the Maseru Declaration of 2003 on combating HIV and AIDS, SADC heads of state and government called for the scaling up of efforts to reduce new infections and encourage positive behavioural change among the youth.

Ongoing regional programmes include the SADC HIV and AIDS cross-border initiative for providing preventive, care and treatment services at border points.

The increased flow of commercial traffic has resulted in a high prevalence of HIV and AIDS among high-risk and undocumented migrant populations in border towns. □



Leaders approve Draft Protocol on Trade in Services

SADC HAS approved the long-awaited Draft Protocol on Trade in Services which aims to provide a framework for progressive liberalization of trade in six priority services sectors among Member States.

The idea of a regional agreement on trade in services in SADC was first formalized in 2002 when trade ministers agreed during a meeting in Botswana to include an Annex on Trade in Services to the SADC Protocol on Trade.

Concern was then raised on whether an Annex to the Trade Protocol was the adequate legal form of responding to the needs of trade in services, necessitating the commencement of discussions on the Draft Protocol on Trade in Services.

The ministers agreed that negotiations would initially target services provided by the communications, con-

struction, energy, finance, tourism and transport sectors.

The Draft Protocol on Trade in Services was adopted by ministers responsible for trade in July 2009 but was presented for signature by Heads of State and Government at their 32nd Summit in August in Mozambique following clearance by the Committee of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General.

The draft protocol contains general obligations on Member States such as on transparency, granting of most favourite nation status, and domestic regulation.

It provides a framework for progressive removal of barriers to trade in services, initially in the six priority sectors.

At their meeting in November 2011, the Ministers responsible for trade in the SADC region approved the commencement of negotiations on the liberalization commit-

ments in the six priority sectors.

The first negotiating meeting was scheduled for April 2012 at which Member States were expected to develop a roadmap for the negotiations and agree on the organization of the negotiations.

Developments during the past few decades have necessitated the need for a regional agreement on trade in services.

Trade in services is growing at a very fast pace partly due to developments in information and communication technology.

In southern Africa, the service sector accounts for an increasing share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employment.

Services play a key role in regional integration, including infrastructure building, competitiveness and trade facilitation.



Trade in services key to regional trade

Transport, logistics and distribution services are crucial for moving goods and services from one country to another while telecommunication and financial services reduce transaction costs and support trade.

Increased trade in services can also contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals set by Member States by contributing to social development and poverty reduction.

There is, however, some overlap between the six priority areas identified for liberalization in the Draft Protocol on Trade in Services and existing agreements for harmonization within SADC.

SADC has already concluded specific protocols on tourism; energy; transport, communications and meteorology; and finance and investment.

One of the challenges in developing the draft services protocol has been to ensure that it is not in conflict with any of the provisions contained in the existing protocols. □

2012 SADC Media Awards presented

WINNERS OF the 2012 SADC Media Awards were presented with prizes during the opening ceremony of the 32nd Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in Maputo, Mozambique.

Incoming SADC chairperson, President Armando Guebuza of Mozambique presented the awards to the winners.

Three of the Awards were for excellence in reporting on water resources management in southern Africa while the other three were for excellence in promoting regional integration.

Factmore Dzobo from Zimbabwe received the award for the best print journalist for his article on the importance of involving women in the management of water.

The award in the radio water category went to Belmiro Mangaze of Mozambique for his report on the importance of water in regional and national development.

Lesotho Times photo journalist, Ramajake Monamane received the Photo Water Award for his photos depicting the plight of people in a village in Lesotho in need of clean, safe and potable drinking water.

Awards for excellence in coverage of water resources management were introduced in 2007 by the SADC Water Sector programme to strengthen awareness on water issues within the region, as well as to encourage journalists to write about Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

The awards for excellence in promoting regional integration in SADC went to Yobe Shonga from Botswana who scooped the prize for the photo category while Patson Phiri of Zambia and Jugdish Jatoo from Mauritius received the awards for the print and television categories. □

Summit discusses framework for SADC Customs Union

SADC HAS reviewed progress in the implementation of the regional economic integration agenda and resolved to continue with preparations for the launch of the proposed Customs Union.

Summit received the report of the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration on the framework for the SADC Customs Union.

The report outlined the key elements of the proposed Customs

Union such as the parameters, benchmarks, a model customs union for the region and the timing of activities leading to the launch of the union.

The overall goal of SADC's regional economic integration is to facilitate trade and financial liberalization, competitive and diversified industrial development and increased investment through the establishment of a SADC Common Market.

The SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), which is currently under review, outlined the indicative timelines to establish the SADC Free Trade Area by 2008, the SADC Customs Union by 2010, the SADC Common Market by 2015 and SADC Monetary Union by 2016.

The SADC FTA came into force on 1 January 2008 following implementation of agreed tariff phase-down commitments between 2000 and 2007. Two countries, Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo, have said they will join the FTA later.

The SADC Customs Union was not realised in 2010 as planned, with the main challenge being the overlapping memberships. Almost all

SADC Member States, with the exception of Angola and Mozambique, belong to existing Customs Unions.

Technically, a Member State cannot belong to more than one Customs Union because of the Common External Tariff. Member States, therefore, have to choose which Customs Union they want to belong to and their decisions may have overall implications for SADC.

In view of these challenges, the SADC Summit in Windhoek in August 2010 reaffirmed its commitment to establish a SADC Customs Union and recognised the need to establish synergies between the processes to consolidate the SADC FTA, the Customs Union and the proposed Tripartite FTA involving the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, East African Community and SADC.

The 2010 Summit endorsed the decision of the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration to appoint a High Level Expert Group (HLEG) on the SADC Customs Union whose mandate was to consolidate and refine previous technical work undertaken in order to reach agreement and common understanding on key elements such as the param-

eters, benchmarks and timelines of a model Customs Union and its implementation modalities.

The HLEG submitted its report on the SADC Customs Union framework to the ministerial task force in November 2011.

South African International Relations and Cooperation Minister, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane said the immediate priority for SADC was to consolidate the FTA in terms of a 15-point action plan matrix agreed by the Member States.

The action plan focuses on the review of rules of origin, completion of tariff phase downs and removal of non tariff barriers.

"It is important to ensure full implementation by Member States of the FTA while, on the other hand, resolve the issue of overlapping membership before progressing towards a SADC Customs Union," she said.

The SADC Secretariat, in partnership with Member States, is currently engaged in a review of the RISDP towards reconfiguring the SADC roadmap to guide the regional integration process aligned to realistic, measureable and deliverable milestones and timelines. □



SADC Heads of States at the Summit in Mozambique

SADC to engage Rwanda over DRC rebels

SUMMIT MANDATED incoming SADC chairperson, President Armando Emilio Guebuza of Mozambique to engage Rwandan President Paul Kagame to seek his commitment to stop military support to rebels in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The communiqué from the Summit called on Rwanda "to cease immediately its interference that constitutes a threat to peace and stability, not only of the DRC, but also of the SADC region", and mandated Guebuza to visit Rwanda in order "to engage the government of Rwanda with the aim of urging it to stop military support to armed rebels in the DRC".

The summit accused Rwanda of interfering in the DRC, by supporting the rebels of the M23 movement. □

Mozambican President Guebuza new SADC chair

MOZAMBICAN PRESIDENT Armando Emilio Guebuza is the new SADC chairperson, while his Malawian counterpart Joyce Banda has been elected deputy.

Guebuza assumed the rotating chair from President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, who hosted the SADC Summit in 2011.

Therefore, Mozambique, Malawi and Angola as the current, next and immediate

past chairpersons, make up the SADC Troika. The next summit is scheduled for Malawi in August/September 2013.

The SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation is now chaired by President Jakaya Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania, with Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba as deputy. South Africa, as the immediate past

chair is also on the Organ Troika.

In his acceptance speech, Guebuza said he will use his tenure as SADC chair to further strengthen infrastructure development in the region.

"We recognise that infrastructure plays a vital role in regional integration. It is in this regard that the SADC Infrastructure Development Master Plan should be looked at," Guebuza said. □



SADC creates fund to accelerate infrastructure development

by Joseph Ngwawi

SOUTHERN AFRICA is taking steps to accelerate investment in infrastructure, considered one of the key facilitators of regional integration.

The SADC Council of Ministers has approved the setting up of a long-awaited Regional Development Fund, one of whose main priorities will be the financing of infrastructure in the region.

The proposed fund will be used for regional integration. The first priority will be infrastructure development and the second priority will be linking infrastructure to overall development.

Although the focus for regional cooperation has shifted to investment promotion and production over the past 32 years, infrastructure

The main attraction is that the strategy basically takes advantage of the existence of proven, inherent, underutilized economic development potential within the SDIs.

The concept of SDIs was popularized in SADC with the advent of the generally successful Maputo Development Corridor in 1995.

cially on the Mozambican side where as many as 15,000 jobs were created at the aluminium smelting plant Mozal and other projects.

The development strategy has been used to inform regional development predominantly along transport or trade routes, energy transmission grids, tourism conservation areas, river basins, and regional and international telecommunication backbones.

However, most SDIs are still at planning stage waiting to be fully funded and, therefore, taken to the implementation level.

Southern Africa's long-awaited regional infrastructure development master plan was approved by the SADC Heads of State and Government Summit held in Maputo in August.

This follows the finalisation of the master plan by ministers responsible for infrastructure who met in Luanda, Angola in late June.

The master plan will guide development in key infrastructure such as road, rail and ports, and would also act as a framework for planning and cooperation with development partners and the private sector. *sardc.net* □



The SADC Regional Development Fund will guide development of key Infrastructure such as energy, water and transport

According to SADC Deputy Executive Secretary responsible for regional integration, João Caholo, the proposed fund will have a subscribed capital of US\$1.2 billion.

"We have been mandated by Council to look into issues to do with the development fund such as the voting and management structure," Caholo said at the close of the two-day Council of Ministers held ahead of the 32nd Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in Maputo, Mozambique.

He said the SADC Secretariat was also mandated by Council to ascertain how much the fund's issued capital will.

"We are looking at something between US\$10 and US\$250 million," he said.

Funding for the proposed facility is expected to come from member states, but "we will not shun away from the private sector".

"We want to bring them on board so that they show their willingness to develop the region. We also hope to bring on board our development partners," Caholo said.

development remains a key driver of regional integration in the SADC region and was prioritised in the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) in 2003 as a facilitator of intra-regional trade and economic growth.

The RISDP is SADC's 15-year development blueprint.

The main sectors of focus for the SADC infrastructure programme are Energy, Transport, Telecommunications, Water and Tourism.

The major development strategy followed by SADC is the corridor development concept, otherwise known as the Spatial Development Initiative (SDI), a strategy that recognizes the interdependence of various sectors.

For example, the SDI concept recognizes that sectors such as tourism, agriculture, mining or commerce cannot reach their full development potential without being supported by a vibrant and adequate energy, water, transport and communications infrastructure.

Hailed as a successful model that attracted private sector investment in support of the public sectors of Mozambique and South Africa, the Maputo Corridor was the first of its kind at a regional level that brought about integrated development tracing what is both a transport and trade route.

Despite its limitations, for example failing to divert traffic from the North-South Corridor (from Durban port through Johannesburg in South Africa to Zimbabwe and further north), the project was a huge success in terms of job creation, espe-

Companies bid for Shire-Zambezi waterway feasibility study

SIX COMPANIES have submitted bids to conduct a feasibility study for Shire-Zambezi Waterway Project to review the possibility of opening the two rivers to international navigation.

According to Malawian Transport Minister Sidik Mia, the purpose of the study is to assess the environmental im-

pact of navigation along the rivers from the Mozambican district of Chinde, at the mouth of the Zambezi, to the Malawian river port of Nsanje, on the Shire.

The bids are now under consideration by the Malawian government, the SADC Secretariat and the African Development Bank. *AIM* □

Normal to above-normal rainfall forecast for southern Africa

by Neto Nengomasha

WEATHER EXPERTS in southern Africa have forecast normal to above-normal rainfall in most parts of the region for the 2012/13 agricultural season.

According to the 16th Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF 16) that met in Zimbabwe in August, the coming rainfall forecast has been divided into two parts as usual, October-December 2012 and January-March 2013.

The Forum has forecast normal to above-normal rainfall in most parts of southern Africa during the first half of the season (October-December).

These areas include northern and central Mozambique, southern Tanzania, Malawi, northern-most Zambia, bulk of Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Namibia and Zambia, eastern half of Madagascar, northern half of Zimbabwe, western half of Botswana, central and western parts of South Africa and western Lesotho.

Increased chances of above-normal to normal rainfall are expected in northern Tanzania, eastern Madagascar and Mauritius.

However, northern DRC, south-western Angola, south-western Zambia and coastal areas of Namibia, southern and western parts of Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, western coastal areas and north-eastern parts of South Africa, western Madagascar and the whole of Swaziland have an increased chance of receiving normal to below-normal rainfall.

In the second half of the rainfall season, the bulk of SADC is expected to receive normal to above-normal rainfall.

This covers Malawi, Zambia, northern Mozambique,

bulk of Angola, Madagascar, Namibia and Tanzania, south-eastern DRC, western half of Botswana, most of central and western parts of South Africa, western parts of Lesotho and northern half of Zimbabwe.

Above-normal to normal rainfall is expected in the northernmost Tanzania and Mauritius.

However other parts of the region are likely to receive normal to below normal during the same period.

These include the southern half of Zimbabwe, eastern half of Botswana, central South Africa, eastern Lesotho, Swazi-

land and southern Mozambique, south-western Angola, the western fringes of Namibia and South Africa and southern-most Madagascar.

The bulk of DRC and northernmost Angola is expected to have below-normal to normal conditions in this period.

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

In developing this outlook, climate scientists used statistical and other climate prediction schemes to determine likelihoods of above-normal, normal and below-normal rainfall for each area.

Above-normal rainfall is defined as lying within the wettest third of rainfall amounts recorded during the 30 years from 1971 and 2000 while below-normal is defined as within the driest third of rainfall amounts and normal is the middle third.

The scientists also took into account that El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is going to be in a weak, warm phase projected to persist into early 2013.

El Niño is a weather condition which begins with the warming of the waters in the Western Pacific Ocean and eventually affects the global climate.

The natural warming events alter weather patterns worldwide, probably causing droughts in southern Africa or contributing to their severity.

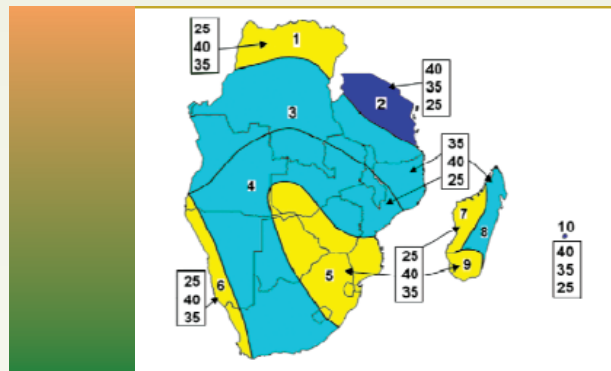
The La Niña is an opposite of El Niño where the Pacific Ocean begins with cooler waters than the Indian Ocean and wind moves from the Pacific towards the latter. The occurrence of La Niña results in unusually heavy rains and flooding in southern Africa.

The rainfall outlook was prepared by climate scientists from NMHSs, the SADC Climate Services Centre and Intergovernmental Authority on Development Climate Prediction and Applications Centre.

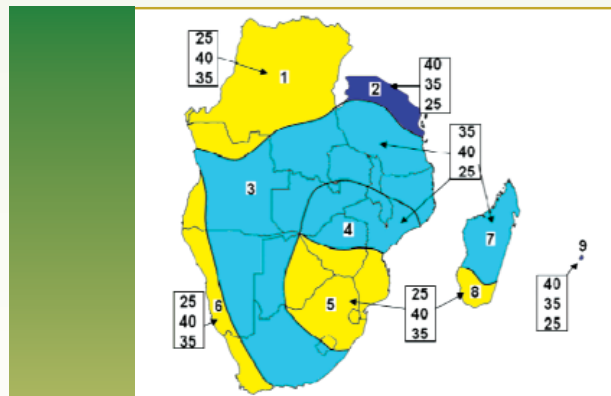
SARCOF 16 was hosted by the Meteorological Services Department of Zimbabwe.

The seasonal forecasts generated through this SARCOF process have become an important planning tool for many communities in southern Africa. □

Rainfall forecast October-December 2012



Rainfall forecast January-March 2013



The percentages in each zone indicate the probability of rainfall. The top number indicates the probability of rainfall occurring in the normal-to-above category, the middle number is normal and the bottom number is below normal.

THE SOUTHERN African Power Pool (SAPP) has identified six priority transboundary transmission projects that are expected to improve connectivity and electricity trading in the region by 2017.

The priority projects, estimated to cost US\$5.6 billion, are part of a portfolio of short to medium-term projects being pursued by SAPP with the aim of increasing the availability of electricity in the region and connecting non-participating SADC Member States to the regional power grid.

The priority transmission projects are the Mozambique-Malawi interconnector; the Zimbabwe-Zambia-Botswana-Namibia (ZiZaBoNa) interconnector; South Africa energy strengthening project; Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya interconnector; interconnection of Angola; and the Mozambique energy backbone projects.

There are three categories of priority transmission projects. The first category is made up of transmission projects that aim to alleviate congestion. The ZiZaBoNa project falls in this group.

The second group are those projects to interconnect non-operating members. This mainly concerns evacuating power to the United Republic of Tanzania from Zambia and Mozambique, as well as connecting Angola to the regional grid.

The last category involves transmission projects related to new generation projects such as Mozambique backbone project.

The interconnection of Angola, Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania to the regional grid has been one of SAPP's priorities for several years. All three Member States are presently not interconnected to the SAPP grid.

Mozambique-Malawi Interconnector

The Mozambique-Malawi Transmission Interconnection Project is expected to be completed by 2015 and will connect Malawi to the SAPP, allowing two-way energy trade between the two countries.

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

Under the project, Mozambique will build about 135 kilometres of 220 kiloVolt (kV) transmission line and extend the existing Matambo substation while on the Malawi side, approximately 75 km of 220 kV transmission line will be constructed and a new 220 kV substation installed.

The interconnection will allow Malawi to have access to the SAPP market through Mozambique interconnected grid with Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Malawian President Joyce Banda signed the agreement with her Mozambican counterpart, Armando Guebuza, during a state visit to Mozambique in May.

ZiZaBoNa

The transmission interconnector project has the capacity to increase power trading among participating utilities, as well as provide an alternative power transmission route and help decongest the existing central transmission corridor that currently passes through Zimbabwe.

The ZiZaBoNa project will help to provide another wheeling path and, therefore, increase trade between the northern and southern parts of SADC.



Interconnectors – conduits for

The initial capacity of the transmission interconnector will be 300 megawatts (MW), which will later be increased to 600MW.

The project is to be implemented in two phases. The first phase will cover the construction of a 120-kilometre 330 kilovolt line from Hwange Power Station to Victoria Falls where a switching station will be built on the Zimbabwe side. The line will extend to a substation at Livingstone in Zambia.

The second phase will involve the construction of a 300-km 330kV line from Livingstone to Katima Mulilo in Namibia, through Pandamatenga in Botswana.

The Zimbabwe-Zambia interconnector will be built as a high voltage line with a transmission capacity of 430kV. However, it will operate as a 330kV line during the first phase.

The ZiZaBoNa project will be organised as a Special Purpose Vehicle, to be incorporated as a company in Namibia. The four utilities will take 20 percent each of the equity.

According to SAPP, the project should be ready for implementation by 2016.

South Africa strengthening transmission

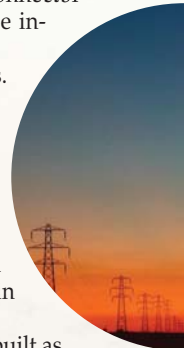
South Africa has embarked on a 10-year programme to extend or reinforce its transmission system and build new power stations as part of measures to improve the reliability of supply.

Additional power stations and major power lines are being built on a massive scale to meet rising electricity demand in South Africa. According to Eskom's Transmission Development Plan (2011 to 2020), the utility requires investment of around R166 billion up to 2020 to strengthen its capacity. This is expected to grow to more than a trillion rand by 2026. Ultimately Eskom plans to double its capacity to 80,000MW by 2026.

The project will result in several new transmission lines being added to the system, with over 6,000 km of 765kV and over 8,000 km of 400kV lines either approved or proposed over the 10-year horizon.

Major network reinforcements are proposed to increase supply to the Cape (South and West) and Kwa Zulu Natal (East) grids.

There will also be integration of new power stations in Limpopo province into the Eskom and SAPP grid.





For SADC energy integration

This will require significant investment in transmission infrastructure as the power stations are far from the main load centres.

New high-voltage direct-current (HVDC) lines are also planned to enable export of excess power from Waterberg directly to load centres in Gauteng and Kwa Zulu Natal requiring 1,700km of 800kV constructed HVDC lines.

These new transmission lines form part of the long-term strategy to develop a main transmission backbone from which regional power corridors can be supported. The backbone and regional power corridor network structure will allow for greater security of supply as power from new power stations is integrated more efficiently into the transmission network, enabling regional trade through the SAPP grid.

Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya Interconnector

To integrate its power market, the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite – comprising the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, East African Community and SADC – needs infrastructure to support additional energy generation as well as regional transmission. Existing power interconnectors in the Tripartite region are inadequate for long distance transmission and unsuited for regional systems integration.

The Tripartite, in collaboration with SAPP and the East African Power Pool (EAPP), has prioritised the development of critical interconnectors, including the Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya (ZTK) interconnector to improve regional integration and energy trade within and between the SAPP and EAPP.

Covering a distance of 1,600 km, the interconnector will have a capacity of 400MW, and will be constructed as a double circuit 400 kV line in sections from Pensulo in Zambia to Isinya in Kenya

DRC-Angola Interconnector

This is one of several projects aimed at connecting non-operating members of SAPP to the regional grid.

It will involve the construction of a 400kV transmission line from the DRC to Angola, enabling trade between the two countries.

The DRC has vast electricity generation capacity that could be useful to the fast-expanding Angolan economy, which is buoyed by massive investments in mining and construction sectors.

Mozambique backbone project

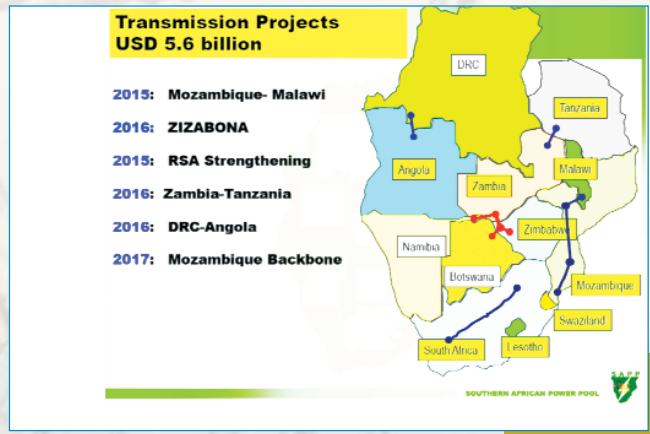
This involves construction of a new electricity transmission line from Tete, in the Zambezi Valley, to Maputo.

This line, known officially as the "Centre-South (CESUL) Project" and unofficially as "the backbone" of the Mozambican electricity grid, is crucial for carrying power southwards from planned new power stations in Tete. These include the planned dam at Mpanda Nkua, 60km downstream from the existing dam at Cahora Bassa, a second power station at Cahora Bassa, and coal-fired power stations built by the mining companies Vale and Rio Tinto.

Without a new power line, the electricity generated at these new power stations cannot reach the Maputo area or be exported to South Africa.

CESUL will involve the construction of 1,340 km of 400 KV alternating current transmission line and 1,250 km of 500 KV line, with the capacity to carry 3,100 MW of power. Eight new sub-stations will be built, and two existing ones will be expanded.

The African Development Bank has agreed to help finance the construction the transmission line, estimated to cost US\$1.8 billion. The bank has pledged to provide up to US\$ 400 million for the project. □



Botswana, Mozambique to build deepwater port

BOTSWANA AND Mozambique have agreed to build a deepwater port at Techobanine in Maputo province that will serve as an alternative exit and entry point for landlocked SADC Member States.

The port is part of a project, estimated to cost about US\$7 billion, that also includes the construction of a 1,100 km railway line and an oil pipeline linking the two countries.

Besides serving Botswana, which is looking for a faster outlet for its mineral resources, the port would also

serve other countries such as Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

The project will be undertaken on a concession basis for the various components.

The port is expected to occupy an area of 30,000 hectares, including 11,000 hectares for industrial development, and will be able to process 200 million tonnes of cargo per year.

About US\$3 billion of the financing will be invested in Techobanine for the port, residential houses, schools and a hospital. The first construction

phase should begin in 2012 and last until 2015.

Techobanine is located 70 km south of the port of Ma-

puto and 20 km from Ponta do Ouro on the South African border.

The planned railway line will link southern Mozambique to Botswana, passing through Zimbabwe. *AIM* □



Mauritius trade deficit soars

MAURITIUS' TRADE deficit rose by about 20 percent in the year to June, rising from US\$170 million in 2011 to US\$203.3 million.

According to figures from Statistics Mauritius, imports rose to US\$426.67 million in June compared to US\$366.7 million in the corresponding month in 2011.

The rising deficit was attributed to the increased importation of foodstuffs and petroleum products.

At the same time, the Indian Ocean island country's exports grew from US\$196.7 million in June 2011 to US\$220 million this year.

In terms of the export markets, Britain was the main destination for Mauritian products, with purchases worth US\$36.7 million.

The French market was the second largest destination, with US\$26.5 million worth of Mauritian imports, ahead of the United States with US\$21.6 million and South Africa with US\$17.8 million.

With regard to the country's main source markets, India accounted for US\$93.3 million worth of imports while China was second, with US\$70 million.

According to Statistics Mauritius, the trade deficit could rise to 2.83 billion dollars by end of 2012. *Xinhua* □

Seychelles, Mauritius set up commission to manage coastal zone

SEYCHELLES AND Mauritius have established a commission to manage the world's largest offshore joint management zone measuring 400,000 square kilometres of continental shelf.

This will enable both countries to jointly regulate seabed activities, including the exploration of petroleum and minerals, as well as the conservation and management of the living resources of the seabed.

Officials from both countries met in Seychelles in August to launch the commission and discuss the management and regulation of activities in the joint zone.

Seychelles Minister for Land Use and Habitat, Christian Lionnet said the new commission "has the great advantage of enabling the two countries to immediately benefit from the exploration, exploitation and conservation of the natural resources of the area". Mauritius Secretary to the Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service, Suresh Seebal-

luck noted that "a new era of cooperation, trust and mutual understanding between the two countries has emerged." □

AfDB to co-finance Mozambique electricity "backbone"

THE AFRICAN Development Bank (AfDB) says it will finance construction of a new electricity transmission line from Tete to Maputo in Mozambique.

The line, known officially as the "Centre-South (CESUL) Project" and unofficially as "the backbone" of the Mozambican electricity grid, is crucial for carrying power from the planned new power stations in Tete.

These include the planned Mpanda Nkua, 60 kilometres downstream from the existing dam at Cahora Bassa; a second power station at Cahora Bassa; and coal-fired power stations built by the mining companies Vale and Rio Tinto.

Without a new power line, the electricity generated at these new power stations cannot reach the Maputo area or be exported to South Africa.

The total cost of CESUL is estimated at US\$1.8 billion. AfDB resident representative, Joseph Ribeiro said the bank could provide up to US\$400 million.

CESUL requires the construction of 1,340 kilometres of 400 kilovolt (KV) alternating current transmission line and a 1,250 km of 500 KV line with capacity to carry 3,100 megawatts of power.

Eight new sub-stations will be built, and two existing ones will be expanded. *AIM* □



Guebuza re-elected Frelimo president

THE CURRENT SADC chairperson, President Armando Guebuza of Mozambique, has been re-elected to a second term as president of the ruling party.

Guebuza was elected unopposed by more than 1,800 delegates who attended the 10th Frelimo Congress held in September in Pemba, capital of the northern province of Cabo Delgado.

The Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo) was established in 1962 to liberate the country from colonial rule (achieved 1975), and celebrated its 50th anniversary this year.

Guebuza's re-election means that Frelimo will choose

a different presidential candidate to contest general elections set for 2014, not the party leader.

He will continue to lead the party, and another colleague will head the country if Frelimo wins the next election.

Traditionally Frelimo's leader becomes its automatic presidential candidate, but Guebuza is already serving his second five-year term as the country's president, the limit set by the constitution.

This is not the first time Frelimo has elected a president who will not be its presidential candidate in national elections.

This happened previously during the party's 8th Congress

in 2002 when Joaquim Chissano was re-elected party president even though he was not running for another term of office as Head of State.

After the 2004 elections, when Guebuza was elected president of the country, Chissano remained leader of Frelimo for a few more months before resigning to allow Frelimo to combine the posts of party leader and president of the republic in the hands of the same person.

Guebuza was sworn in as President of Mozambique in early 2005 and was elected to lead Frelimo in 2006. He will stand down as Head of State in 2015.

He is the SADC chairperson for the coming year, following the Summit held in Maputo in August. □

Zuma seeks re-election at Mangaung

PRESIDENT JACOB Zuma will seek a second and final term as leader of the African National Congress of South Africa when the party meets for its 53rd national conference in Mangaung in December.

The ANC national conference is convened every five years to elect a new leadership and chart the course for the party, which was formed 100 years ago in 1912 to oppose colonial rule and later the apartheid system when it was introduced in 1948. Majority rule was achieved in 1994.

The ANC's nine provinces are expected to field candidates for the party's top six positions of president, deputy president, national chairperson, secretary-general, deputy secretary-general and treasurer-general.

Nominations for these positions open formally in October.

Zuma was elected leader of Africa's oldest political party during the last ANC national conference held in Polokwane in December 2007.

The Mangaung conference comes in the wake of the ANC's 4th National Policy Conference held in August where the party resolved to open up discussion on current challenges facing South Africa, in particular unemployment, poverty and inequality.

The policy conference agreed to pursue the second phase of the transition from apartheid to a national democratic society. □

SWAPO prepares for elective congress

NAMIBIA'S RULING party will hold its 5th elective congress in November to elect a new leadership and formulate policies for the next five years.

President Hifikepunye Pohamba is expected to seek a second term as SWAPO leader during the congress set for 29 November to 2 December. He has led the party since 2007 when he succeeded SWAPO founding president Sam Nujoma during the 4th congress.

The South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) was formed in 1966 to liberate the country from colonial rule, achieved in 1990.

All eyes will be fixed on the position of party vice-president whose winner, according to a succession policy adopted by the SWAPO Central Committee, would automatically be the party candidate in the 2014 presidential elections.

According to the SWAPO constitution, Pohamba can remain party leader after completing his two constitutional

terms as state President in 2014. He has been President of Namibia since March 2005, and will stand down in March 2015. He served as SADC chairperson for one year during his first term.

Members of the party are expected to elect office bearers for two other top positions – the secretary-general and deputy secretary-general.

The party constitution stipulates that all positions will become vacant prior to the congress.

The Politburo will then identify a maximum of three candidates for each position, who will be subject to scrutiny and approval by the Central Committee.

In the event that there are more than three candidates for any particular post, the Central Committee will trim the number down to three through a secret vote.

A 35-member Congress Preparatory Committee was set up in April to oversee

preparations for the congress. The committee is chaired by Pohamba and includes other senior officials such as party vice-president Hage Geingob and secretary-general Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana.

Launching the Congress Preparatory Committee at SWAPO headquarters in Windhoek, Pohamba urged party leaders to recommit to the principles of unity.

"We must use the important platform of the upcoming congress to critically review our policy positions on issues that are vital to the achievement of our national development agenda," he said.

The party held a National Policy Conference in September during which 13 policy papers were discussed on matters relating to unemployment and poverty, economic growth, land and income distribution, delivery of quality healthcare and education, youth development, and generational transition. □

Art as a Vector for regional integration

by Kizito Sikuka

SOUTHERN AFRICA should intensify efforts to promote its cultural industry as the sector has the potential to alleviate poverty, create employment and contribute to the socio-economic development of the region.

Renowned arts and culture expert, Stephen Chifunyise said this at a SADC Day Celebrations Symposium held in Harare, Zimbabwe.

He said a vibrant arts and culture industry was critical in enabling the region to tell its own story as well as project its own unique cultural identities to the world.

"SADC can effectively capitalize on its rich cultural diversity by developing collaborative programmes of marketing products of its cultural diversity," Chifunyise, who is the chairperson of the Children's Performing Arts Workshop (Chipawo), a leading Zimbabwean arts and culture group, said.

He said the forthcoming United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) summit set for Zambia and Zimbabwe in 2013 provides a perfect opportunity for SADC to deepen cooperation and intensify efforts to promote the cultural industry.

To achieve this, he said there is need to identify key stake-

holders in the creative and cultural industries who will produce unique cultural products and market "our rich regional cultural diversity to the many tourism delegates that are expected to attend the global event."

Such a coordinated approach would ensure that the region fully benefits from the UNWTO summit, which is being held in Africa only for the third time after Egypt in 1995 and Senegal in 2005.

Chifunyise also noted that countries in SADC have "many arts and cultural festivals, which, when put together, will appropriately become the SADC tourism route" encompassing cultural sites such as galleries, theme parks, and museums, recreational and entertainment parks.

"The production and presentation of a SADC Tourism Route to the forthcoming UNWTO summit would be a viable strategy in the promotion of sustainable tourism in SADC," he said.

"The production of such a tourism marketing tool calls for collaboration between stakeholders in the tourism sector and stakeholders in the arts and culture including ministries, private and public institutions responsible for the arts and culture."

On the establishment of the Southern African Cultural In-

formation System (SACIS), he said "it is now possible to resuscitate" the idea in view of the rapid internet penetration in the region. SACIS was set up a few years ago, but due to various challenges, the project failed to sustain itself.

"There is no doubt that the collapse of the SACIS project was mainly due to the fact that Member States of SADC were at that time not ready to accommodate the use of information and communication technologies in building and exchanging data on the cultural sector," he said.

He said a SADC Cultural Information System would be a vital tool for providing data on the performance of the creative economy in the region to the World Creative Economy Report that is produced every two years by the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development and the United Nations Development Programme.

The SADC Day Celebrations Symposium was organized by SADC ambassadors accredited to Zimbabwe in collaboration with the Government of Zimbabwe, the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), National Arts Council of Zimbabwe, Arts Association of Zimbabwe, National Gallery of Zimbabwe and Chipawo.

The event, chaired by the Angolan ambassador to Zimbabwe, HE Henrique Vaal Neto, was aimed at celebrating the formation of SADC - formerly the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), an organization with the objective of closer regional cohesion.

The theme for the celebrations was "Art as a Vector for Regional Integration in the Southern African Development Community". □

The SADC Protocol on Culture, Information and Sports calls for, among other things:

- Cooperation in the formulation and harmonization of cultural policies of Member States;
- Promotion of an attitude that takes culture into account in regional development programmes;
- Development and promotion of institutions of cultural heritage such as libraries, museums and archives in support of the broad and specific objectives of the Protocol;
- Establishment of policy guidelines for the preservation and promotion of the region's cultural heritage in all its various facets formulated in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders;

- Member States to make cultural industries a major cornerstone of their national economies;
- Member States to take measures necessary to nurture, protect and promote their infant cultural industries;
- Member States to adopt measures designed to promote eco-tourism as a means to support the development of cultural industries;
- Member States to organize arts and cultural festivals to pursue the ideals of regional integration; and
- Member States to organize joint staging during international festivals of arts and culture. □

UNWTO summit – more than just tourism

by Kizito Sikuka

THE 2013 international tourism summit set for Zambia and Zimbabwe provides yet another golden opportunity for southern Africa to showcase its numerous tourist attractions as well as deepen regional integration.

However, there is need for more coordination among SADC Member States to ensure that they fully benefit from the opportunities presented by the global event, which is being held in Africa for only the third time.

Joint preparation by Member States is important, considering that some countries failed to adequately take advantage of a similar global event – the 2010 World Cup

“... a viable platform for marketing to the world...”

“**IN 2010**, the Soccer World Cup finals hosted by South Africa offered SADC an opportunity to collectively market its rich diversity. In August 2013, Zambia and Zimbabwe will host the United Nations World Tourism Organization Summit.

“This will present another great opportunity for SADC to effectively capitalize on its rich and huge creative and cultural diversity by developing collectively a viable platform for marketing to the world through this gathering of eminent tourism professionals and tourists a well selected and properly packaged rich variety of cultural goods illustrating the rich diversity of cultural expressions of the people of the SADC,” said Stephen Chifunyise, a prominent regional arts expert. □

tournament held in South Africa two years ago.

Despite their proximity to South Africa, a number of SADC Member States could not lure many of the thousands of tourists that descended on South Africa for the month-long tournament.

In light of this, there is need for the region to adequately prepare for the forthcoming United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) summit to be jointly hosted by Zambia and Zimbabwe in August 2013 so that southern Africa benefits from the opportunities presented by this global event.

Zimbabwean Tourism Minister, Walter Mzembe told a recent SADC Day Celebrations Symposium held in Harare that as host countries, Zambia and Zimbabwe had made significant strides in making sure that the event is a huge success.

He said latest inspections by the UNWTO had indicated that the two countries are ready to host the event in 2013.

He called on all SADC member states to “protect this event,” saying that, similar to the 2010 World Cup, the tourism summit had the potential boost tourist arrivals and trigger massive socio-economic gains for the region.

“SADC should take up the challenge,” he said, adding that Zambia, Zimbabwe and the rest of the region have a choice to either make this tourism summit “just another ordinary workshop or an international tourism conference”.

“The choice is ours,” he said, adding that SADC and the rest of Africa would probably not get another opportunity to host such a huge event in decades.

The region should, therefore, take maximum advan-

tage of the upcoming UNWTO summit to boost arrivals and deepen integration.

More than 2,000 delegates are expected to attend the 2013 UNWTO summit. These include key decision-makers in the travel industry as the summit is expected to discuss and give direction to global tourism.

Tourists from across the world are also expected to visit the two countries to sample the various attractions.

Speaking at the same seminar, distinguished Zimbabwean arts expert, Stephen Chifunyise said SADC should use its rich arts and culture as well as its attractions to market the UNWTO summit.

He said countries must develop a viable platform where “the many arts and culture events in the region can become the backbone of the SADC tourism route.”

“The production and presentation of a SADC Tourism Route to the forthcoming UNWTO summit would be a viable strategy in the promotion of tourism in the region,” he said.

Chifunyise also called for deeper cooperation between the arts and culture industry and the tourism sector.

Other participants said Zambia, Zimbabwe and SADC have the capacity to host a successful tourism summit as conditions for holding such an event already exist. The region boasts of a vibrant infrastructure base that includes hotels and roads, as well as numerous attractions.

However, Mzembe said there is need to improve on air connectivity in the region.

“Our connectivity is so poor. We need to improve this, first as individual countries and then as a region,” he said. □





Angolan polls boost SADC profile as stable economy

THE RECENT Angolan elections are expected to boost economic prospects in southern Africa and strengthen the region's profile as a stable investment destination.

Angolans gave the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) another mandate to continue with economic and political reforms that have so far ensured a smooth transition from war to stability in Africa's second largest oil producer.

Angola is the immediate past chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and has contributed significantly to the regional economy during the past decade.

The country is one of the largest economies in SADC and has outperformed other member states during the past decade, registering double-digit growth since 2004.

Large investments in infrastructure and the natural resources sector such as oil and diamonds have contributed to the country's impressive performance in which the economy has experienced double-digit growth for the past decade. Improved terms of trade due to in-



President José Eduardo dos Santos

creasing oil prices also contributed to the positive performance.

Thanks to the good performance by Angola – which at one point grew as fast as 25 percent per annum – the regional economy has averaged five percent growth for most of the past decade.

According to final results released by the National Electoral Commission (CNE), the MPLA led by President José Eduardo dos Santos, got 71.82 percent of the more than 5.6 million ballots cast in the 31

August parliamentary elections.

This was down from the 81 percent the governing party got during the previous general elections held in 2008.

The main opposition party, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), nearly doubled its tally from 2008, coming second with 18.7 percent of the valid votes cast, up from 10 percent four years ago.

The Convergence Angola Salvation Wide-Electoral Coalition (CASA-EC), a coalition of four small parties, could only manage six percent of the votes. CASA-EC was one of four coalitions that contested the elections.

Of the 220 total seats in the National Assembly, 130 were contested from closed lists by proportional representation, and the remaining 90 elected in 18 constituencies that have five seats each.

Voter turnout was about 60 percent, according to the national electoral commission.

The MPLA victory assured President dos Santos of another term in office. The new Angolan Constitution in 2010 abolished direct election of the head of state, with the majority party in the assembly gaining the right to name the president, who will then select a vice-president.

These were the third elections since Angola gained independence from Portugal in 1975. The first post-independence election was held in 1992, although it was never completed because the civil war re-ignited, while the second polls were held in 2008, six years after the end of the conflict.

The Constitution limits the presidential term in office to two five-year terms although this does not include the years already served by dos Santos; and abolishes the post of Prime Minister, with the role assumed by the vice-president.

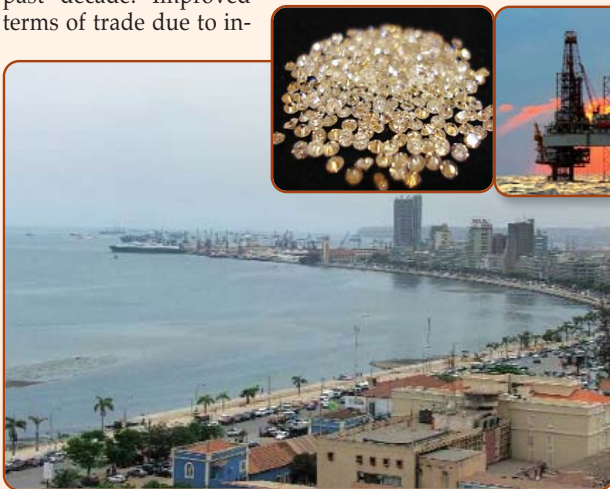
The polls were described as peaceful and orderly by observers from SADC, the African Union, Economic Community of Central African States, International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC and Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries.

In a joint statement, heads of the six observer missions said the general elections were conducted in accordance with international and regional principles and guidelines governing democratic elections.

They congratulated the Angolan people and politicians for their maturity in allowing the peaceful conduct of the polls but called on the political parties and candidates to work together in order to consolidate peace and democracy in the country.

"The observer missions do hereby congratulate the people of Angola for exercising their civic responsibility in a peaceful and orderly manner, and determination to hold the general elections on the 31st of August 2012 in ways that consolidate peace, security and stability, enhance reconciliation, boost the democratic process and strengthen the foundation for further social and economic development," the joint declaration read.

They, however, called for timely accreditation of observers and political party agents in future polls as well as facilitation of voting by Angolans living in the diaspora. sardc.net □



Angola has the Luanda Bay, minerals and oil which are key to its economy



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EVENTS

Events Diary October-December 2012

October 1-5, South Africa	24th African Hydro Symposium The African Hydro Symposium is a forum where hydro operating personnel representing electrical utilities and independent power producers from Africa meet to share ideas and deliberate on hydropower plant operation, maintenance and management.
12-13, Ethiopia	Second China-Africa Think Tanks Forum The forum serves as a high-level platform for China-Africa academic exchanges and civil dialogue. It promotes a frank and unfettered dialogue on China-Africa relations to boost mutual understanding between China and Africa.
18, Zimbabwe	33rd SAPP Executive Committee Meeting The 33rd Southern African Power Pool executive meeting will be attended by the 12 chief executive officers and managing directors of SAPP member utilities. It will chart the way forward towards the attainment of the goal of integrating the regional power generation and distribution networks.
November 30 October – 2 November, South Africa	13th WaterNet/WARFSA/GWP-SA Symposium The symposium is a platform for water professionals to share advances in research and education related to Integrated Water Resources Management. They will discuss new opportunities and developments towards the integrated management of the scarce fresh water resources.
5-7, South Africa	International Conference on Fresh Water Governance for Sustainable Development The conference will bring together policy makers, water managers, scientists and civil society in a forum where new ideas can be shared, nurtured and developed from the water sector and beyond. It is hosted by a number of local, regional and international partners.
5-9, Namibia	10th RERA Anniversary Celebrations The Anniversary to be held under the theme "Fostering electricity regulation in Southern Africa", will seek to review RERA's performance; Re-launch the Association into the next decade; Foster closer relations among members and key stakeholders; Improve the corporate image and visibility; and Recognise organisations and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to RERA. Professional interactions will involve high-level discussions and presentations from experts and stakeholders.
13-15, Mozambique	Rural Electrification Forum 2012 The Rural Electrification Forum 2012 will look at motivations for rural electrification programmes, exchange and analyze best practices, feasibility, affordability and regulatory issues and discuss new approaches and permanent solutions for sustainability in developing countries.
26 November – 7 December, Qatar	COP 18 Summit on Climate Change The 18th Conference of the Parties (COP 18) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change will be held concurrently with the Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 8). COP 18 will assess progress in dealing with climate change issues.

4 October 1992

Mozambique peace 20 years on

OCTOBER MARKS the 20th anniversary of the historic signing of the Mozambique peace accord that ended the country's 15-year civil war and ushered in a new era of economic and social development.

The General Peace Agreement (GPA) between the Mozambican government and rebels from the Mozambican National Resistance Movement (Renamo) was signed on 4 October 1992 in Rome, Italy, by former President Joachim Chissano and Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama during a ceremony also attended by the leaders of Botswana and Zimbabwe.

Negotiations, which began in July 1990, were brokered by a team of mediators from the Catholic Church and the Italian government.

The Mozambican government delegation was led by Armando Emilio Guebuza (now President of Mozambique) while the Renamo negotiators were headed by Raul Domingos.

The Mozambican civil war had its roots in the geopolitical situation that existed in southern Africa at the time.

The independence of Mozambique and Angola in 1975 challenged white minority rule in the region. First, the independence wars in Angola and Mozambique demonstrated that even through the use of great military resources it was virtually impossible for a small white minority to guarantee the safety of its members, let alone to exert control over the majority black populations in these countries.

The downfall of Portuguese rule in Angola and Mozambique, therefore, gave hope to black resistance in South Africa and the then Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe).

Second, in both countries revolutionary socialistic movements gained power. The Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) and the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) had been collaborating with the liberation movements in South Africa and Rhodesia, and now openly supported them, as well as offering a safe haven from where they could coordinate operations and train new forces.

This was especially devastating for Rhodesia whose armed forces lacked the personnel to effectively protect its 1,287-km border with Mozambique against liberation fighters.

At the same time, the apartheid government and the Smith regime lost Portugal as an ally and, with it, the thousands of soldiers that had been deployed in the Portuguese colonial wars.

The white minority position in South Africa and Rhodesia had been severely weakened by the events of 1974/75 that led to the overthrow of the Caetano regime in Portugal.

As a result, undermining the capacity of the newly independent countries to support Zimbabwean and South African liberation fighters became the main strategy of South Africa and Rhodesia to counter this new threat. This led to the Rhodesian-driven formation of Renamo in 1976. □



A Candle on Kilimanjaro

MWALIMU JULIUS Nyerere lit the flame that ignited the liberation of southern Africa from colonial rule.

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

In a famous speech that became known as "A Candle on Kilimanjaro", the United Republic of Tanzania's founding president made this commitment, even before Independence, to ensure that Africa, most of which was still under colonial rule, was liberated.

He died 40 years later on 14 October 1999. That day is commemorated in Tanzania as Mwalimu Nyerere Day to celebrate his life and achievements as father of the nation (*Baba wa Taifa*). The day marks the climax of the *Uhuru* Torch Race, after the freedom torch is carried around the country by teams of runners.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

October-December 2012

4 October	Peace and National Reconciliation Day	Mozambique
4 October	Independence Day	Lesotho
14 October	Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Day	Tanzania
15 October	Mother's Day	Malawi
24 October	Independence Day	Zambia
1 November	All Saints Day	Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius
2 November	Remembrance Day	Angola
11 November	National Independence Day	Angola
12 November	Public Holiday	Angola
8 December	Immaculate Conception	Seychelles
9 December	Independence Day	Tanzania
10 December	International Human Rights Day	Namibia
16 December	Day of Reconciliation	South Africa
17 December	Public Holiday	South Africa
22 December	National Unity Day	Zimbabwe
25 December	Christmas	All SADC
26 December	Day of Goodwill	South Africa
	Family Day	Namibia
	Boxing Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zimbabwe