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Infrastructure investment SADC seeks US\$64 billion

by Joseph Ngwawi

SOUTHERN AFRICA is seeking investment and finance for a US\$64 billion programme to improve transport, energy and other infrastructure over the next five years.

The plan for 106 cross-border infrastructure projects covering the priority sectors of energy, transport, tourism, water, information communication technology and meteorology was presented to an infrastructure investment conference hosted by SADC in the Mozambican capital Maputo in late June.

Projects cover the development of trans-boundary infrastructure including alternative energy sources, information communication technology and civil aviation, and are expected to be implemented by 2017.

The transport sector had the largest number of projects showcased during the one-day investment conference, with 40 projects for improvement of road, railways, ports and border posts, valued at about US\$16.3 billion, presented to potential investors.

Priority transport infrastructure projects include those targeting the expansion, rehabilitation and modernisation of Durban and Walvis Bay ports; new rail projects and rehabilitation of existing ones; new road links connecting An-

gola and the Democratic Republic of Congo and rehabilitation of others around the region; and introduction of one-stop border posts at Beitbridge between South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Soft infrastructure projects under the transport sector include plans to introduce a uniform road user charging system for all countries in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and SADC as well as the establishment of a regional transport competition authority for the three regional economic communities.

It was noted that while the development of physical infrastructure was essential, effective access to infrastructure services required regulatory reform and regional harmonisation of regulations.

COMESA-EAC-SADC are implementing regional integration programmes in trade and economic development that include regional infrastructure development programmes in transport, information communications technology, energy and civil aviation as a first step towards the realisation of continental integration.

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A total of 16 energy projects estimated to cost more than US\$12 billion were marketed at the conference, including the flagship ZiZaBoNa Interconnector Project to be implemented by Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia as well as the proposed Namibia-Angola Interconnector that will connect the latter to the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

The conference also discussed infrastructure projects for SADC island states such as Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles.

These include establishment of a maritime corridor for oceanic states as well as the development and marketing transnational tourism products for the island states.

SADC chairperson President Armando Guebuza of Mozambique set the tone for the dialogue between SADC and potential investors by highlighting that the region is ready for partnerships to drive forward its infrastructure development agenda.

"We propose to leave here with a sustainable strategy that allows us to accelerate investment in infrastructure in the SADC region," said Guebuza.

He said the approval of the master plan by SADC last year was recognition of the vital role played by cross-border infrastructure in the regional integration agenda.

Infrastructure development is an important pillar for regional integration, trade competitiveness and development.

"Therefore, we are pleased to see that we leave here with the feeling of being on the right track and we made advances that allow us to steadily advance the implementation of the agenda for investment in infrastructure SADC," he said.

The conference provided constructive dialogue between SADC and its cooperation partners, investors and financiers of the regional infrastructure.

The dialogue included fruitful discussions at country round tables dedicated to infrastructure in the sectors of energy, transport, water, tourism, meteorology and information technology and communication.

Each SADC Member State was allocated a table where interested financiers and cooperating partners had the opportunity to get first-hand information about projects in that country.

This provided an opportunity for representatives of development finance institutions and the private sector to interact and network with SADC Member

States and policy makers to discuss opportunities in infrastructure development.

A representative of a Brazilian mining firm Vale, Ricardo Saad welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the SADC infrastructure programme, pointing out that cross-border infrastructure, in particular transport, energy and water, has the potential to facilitate intra-regional trade and investment as well as unlocking national and regional comparative advantages.

"There is need for concessions for private sector investment in infrastructure in the region," he said.

As an example, he said SADC Member States could consider an option where for every dollar invested by mining firms, governments invest a fraction towards infrastructure in the respective areas or districts.

The conference was held under the theme "Accelerating Infrastructure Investment Through Sustainable and Innovative Financing" and attended by more than 200 delegates, including government officials, representatives of cooperating partners, development finance institutions and investors from the region and beyond. *sardc.net* r

SADC leaders meet in Malawi for 33rd summit

SADC LEADERS assemble in the Malawian capital of Lilongwe in August for the 33rd annual summit of Heads of State and Government.

Summit is expected to receive a report on the regional economic integration agenda from the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration.

The report is expected to highlight the status of a framework for the proposed SADC Customs Union and progress towards the establishment of the Tripartite Free Trade Area, especially preparatory work to facilitate negotiations between the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and East African Community (EAC).

The ministerial task force reported to Summit last year that some progress had been made in developing the parameters, benchmarks, a model customs union for the region and the timing of activities leading to the launch of the Customs Union.

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

Summit is expected to review progress in the implementation of a regional infrastructure development programme estimated to cost US\$64 billion over the next five years.

In this regard, the leaders are expected to review progress towards the operationalization of the SADC Regional Development Fund, a financial mechanism intended to mobilize resources from Member States, the private sector and development partners to finance programmes

and projects to deepen regional integration.

One of the main priorities of the proposed fund will be the financing of infrastructure in the region.

The food security situation in southern Africa is expected to feature on the Summit agenda amid indications that the region is set to have a relatively higher cereal output this year compared to the 2011/12 season.

Statistics show that overall cereal production in the SADC region is projected at 33.7 million metric tonnes for the 2012/13 season, marginally up from the 32.6 million tonnes recorded the previous season.

The SADC leaders are also expected to discuss a common regional position ahead of the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP19) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in November in Poland.

The chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete will table a report on the political situation in the region.

This includes SADC efforts at constitutional normalcy in Madagascar following a 2009 coup that saw former disc jockey Andry Rajoelina unconstitutionally remove former president Marc Ravalomanana from power with the support of the army.

Madagascar is currently suspended from SADC.

Summit will also receive a report on harmonized elections held in Zimbabwe in July.

Malawian President Joyce Banda is expected to assume the rotating SADC chair from President Armando Guebuza of Mozambique. r

RISDP review recommends protocols realignment

AN INDEPENDENT review of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) has recommended a revision of most SADC protocols to align them with the new challenges and emerging issues affecting regional integration.

The independent mid-term review carried out by Trade and Development Studies (Trades) Centre, based in Zimbabwe, found that despite the several challenges ranging from limited financial and technical resources, volatilities in the global economy and crisis, the SADC region has made significant progress in implementing the RISDP in most of the thematic areas.

SADC Member States have signed 27 protocols and a number of declarations, charters and memoranda of understanding on various matters, ranging from trade, mining and finance and investment to illicit drugs, forestry and shared water-courses.

Most of the 27 protocols have been ratified and entered into force. However, the final stages of enforcing these regional laws are the most challenging as this requires action at national level to “domesticate” the laws and their implementation.

It was noted that this process does not have a roadmap to enable a systematic approach to implementation of protocols at both regional and national levels.

The review observed that most protocols pre-date RISDP and have not been revised to include new and emerging issues. It noted that one shortcoming of most of the existing protocols is that they have obligations that are neither legally binding nor obligatory.

“Most protocols do not have obligations but principles... In cases where obligations are clear, they are not measurable, unrealistic and unattainable and do not have timeframes,” the review said. Some protocols need to be reviewed “to add value and take into account the needs of the peoples of the region.”

“For example, the SADC Trade Protocol and Finance and Investment Protocol neither address employment creation nor promote social dialogue with labour movements,” said the review.

The independent review also observed that there were challenges in the implementation mechanisms and coordination, notably the non-functional SADC National Committees and the absence of a platform for policy engagement between the SADC Secretariat and non-state actors such as regional think tanks, the private sector and non-governmental organisations.

SADC National Committees are not functional in most Member States, a development that creates a critical oversight weakness in terms of regional policy formulation, domestication, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The review established that the committees are only functional in four Member States and exist on paper in seven other countries. Three other Member States do not have national committees.

In addition, the review bemoaned the absence of an independent regional institution to provide oversight over the integration programme. This has meant that a number of RISDP targets have been missed or have not been implemented.

Another key recommendation by the review team is that SADC should broaden partic-

ipation and become people-driven. The review called for the creation of a platform for policy engagement between the SADC Secretariat and non-state actors.

Participation of all stakeholders in the regional integration agenda is provided for in the SADC Treaty but most Member States have excluded some non-state actors in the formulation of protocols, either as members of SADC National Committees or in advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns.

Existing engagement between the Secretariat and non-state actors is on a programme-by-programme and activity-by-activity basis without any clear strategic collaboration and specific goals to be achieved.

The findings of the RISDP mid-term review were presented during a validation workshop held in Johannesburg, South Africa in July.

A roadmap was agreed for the process of completing the RISDP review process (see table), leading to the expected final submission of a revised blueprint to the Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in August 2014.

A multi-stakeholder task force, including representatives of the SADC Secretariat, Member States and non-state actors, is expected to be formed this year to implement the recommendations of the independent review team.

The task force will formulate new priorities to guide the regional integration agenda for the remainder of the RISDP timeframe.

A series of cluster meetings is planned between March and May 2014 to validate new priorities to be developed by the task force.

A 15-year development blueprint for southern Africa, the RISDP is expected to run until 2020. r

RISDP review roadmap to Summit 2014

Activity	Timeframe
Independent consultants to submit final report	9 August
Progress report submitted by SADC Secretariat and consultants to the Council of Ministers	August
Multi-stakeholder task force formed to finalise process	September
Summary report developed by task force on key recommendations and priorities	September 2013-February 2014
Cluster meetings held to validate proposed and recommended new priorities	March-May 2014
Consolidation of inputs from cluster meetings and development of a strategy for implementation for remaining period of the RISDP	By end of June 2014
Presentation of final reviewed and prioritised RISDP for recommendation to Summit for approval	August 2014

SADC-EU trade talks commence in September

ECONOMIC AND trade negotiations between SADC and the European Union are due to commence in September to thrash out outstanding issues blocking conclusion of an economic agreement between the two sides.

EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht said during a visit to Botswana in July that negotiators from the two sides will meet for an “extended session” as they seek a breakthrough in deadlocked Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) talks.

“We agreed to organise a new negotiating round in September. I hope that this will be the final round in which we can resolve the outstanding issues,” De Gucht said following a meeting with Botswana’s Vice-President Ponatshego Kedikilwe and Trade and Industry Minister Dorcas Makgato-Malesu.

Botswana holds the chair in the SADC EPA group, which also includes Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The EU has set an October 2014 deadline for the conclusion of negotiations with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries that have not yet signed EPAs with the European bloc.

EPAs provide duty-free and quota-free access to the EU market for products from ACP countries, which will, in turn, be required to gradually open their markets to European markets over a 15-year period.

The EPA negotiations in southern Africa have been fragmented, with some Member States negotiating under the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) banner.

Five SADC Member States which are part of the ESA

group – Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Zambia and Zimbabwe – have already reached an agreement with the EU. Other ESA members are the Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Seychelles and Sudan.

The Democratic Republic of Congo is negotiating in the Economic Community of Central African States (CEMAC).

Various issues have stalled negotiations, including how to navigate the complex and nu-



merous 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. r

North-South Corridor taking shape

by Kizito Sikuka

PLANS TO unlock the economic potential of landlocked countries in eastern and southern Africa are taking shape with various cross-border projects being implemented along the North-South Corridor to promote the smooth movement of goods and persons in the region.

The North-South Corridor (NSC) spans eight countries in eastern and southern Africa, namely Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Initiated in 2009 by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and SADC, the North-South Corridor Aid-for-Trade programme aims to improve infrastructure and increase intra-regional trade by reducing the cost of cross-border trade.

More than US\$1.2 billion has been raised as initial funding to implement the NSC project, which has been identified as the most extensive cor-

ridor in the region, linking the largest number of countries in eastern and southern Africa.

It interlinks to other corridors including the Trans-Kalahari, Beira, Lobito, Dar es Salaam and Nacala corridors.

This corridor is critical to regional trade and integration because South Africa is the largest African trading partner for most of the countries in the region and the port of Durban handles a significant portion of transit traffic for the landlocked states.

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 Tanzania – one of the biggest and busiest ports in Africa.

Other initiatives include increasing power generation and energy trading potential in the region, with new power generation and transmission investments.

The priority power generation and transmission projects are the construction of the Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya Interconnector, the Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya Interconnector and the Zambia-Democratic Re-

public of Congo (DRC) Interconnector project.

The landmark achievement of the NSC programme was the historic launch of the first one-stop border post in Africa at Chirundu between Zambia and Zimbabwe in November 2009.

Under the One Stop Border Post concept, travellers are cleared just once for passage into another country compared to the present situation at most entry points where travellers have to complete immigration and customs formalities on both sides.

This has reduced clearing time, and improved the smooth movement of goods, services and people across the border.

NSC projects nearing completion in various countries include the constructing of the Lusaka-Chirundu road to link with the Chirundu border post.

Another major project is the Kafue weighbridge being constructed on the only bridge across the Kafue River and expected to improve commercial traffic between the Copperbelt of Zambia and DRC as well as other southern ports. r

Africa50 infrastructure endorsed

by Joseph Ngwawi

SADC AND other development institutions have endorsed an innovative African fund expected to facilitate large-scale mobilisation of resources and unlock international private financing for infrastructure projects on the continent.

Heads of the African Union Commission, regional economic communities and key economic and financial institutions pledged during a meeting in Tunisia in July to work together towards making a success of the Africa50 Fund, promoted by the African Development Bank (AfDB) to address the infrastructure gap on the continent.

In addition to the AU Commission and AfDB, the meeting was attended by representatives of Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), NEPAD, SADC, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of West African States, Economic Community of Central African States, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Arab

Maghreb Union and the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA).

“We, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr. Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of the ECA, Dr. Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), regional Development Financial Institutions (DFIs) and NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency take forward our cooperation in search of new and innovative ways for substantially scaling-up investments in regional and continental infrastructure to support Africa’s transformation,” said a statement after the meeting.

They commended the initiative as an “essential vehicle for ensuring that the vision and goals of the Africa Agenda 2063 on the delivery of regional transformational infrastructure projects is achieved.”

Dlamini-Zuma emphasised the critical role of infrastructure for effective integration, noting that Africa Agenda 2063 could only be achieved if countries on the continent are inter-connected.

“We can integrate economically only when we are integrated physically.”

The Africa50 Fund will be innovative in its design and structure, leveraging infrastructure financing resources from African central bank reserves, pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, the African Diaspora, and high net worth individuals on the continent.

This means that African RECs will be able to utilise the resources from national finan-

cial institutions and individuals on the continent and in the African Diaspora to finance transboundary infrastructure without worrying about equity issues.

One of the proposals being considered is the introduction of an African Infrastructure Bond to which national central banks would be asked to contribute a certain percentage of the reserves.

According to the AfDB, African central banks are estimated to collectively hold about US\$500 billion of reserves, some of which are invested in ultra-secure but low yielding instruments.

The benchmark 10-year US Treasury Bills are presently attracting around 1.4 percent interest and the proposed Africa50 Fund will target to offer a better return.

According to the Global African Diaspora Summit held in South Africa in 2012, another untapped source of financial resources for development projects on the continent is the African Diaspora.

It is estimated that the continent would require an estimated US\$100 billion investment a year for the next decade to close the infrastructure gap that has constrained efforts towards deeper regional integration.

Under the Fund, the AU Commission is expected to provide leadership on regional and international advocacy, with strong engagement of African heads of state and government.

This is essential to ensure support for the Fund at the highest political level on the continent.

The NEPAD Agency will be expected to ensure the momentum of the Fund during

the forthcoming Financing for Development Conference scheduled for Senegal in November while the ECA is expected to contribute to the strengthening of the capacity of RECs to undertake studies, monitor and evaluate implementation of projects.

On their part, the RECs agreed to collaborate on necessary financial, policy and regulatory actions to enable the development of the regional infrastructure projects.

The AfDB will provide financial expertise to create the structure of the Africa 50 Fund, while regional development financial institutions such as DBSA will serve as relays for the Fund at sub-regional level, and the mobilization of additional resources.

The Fund, endorsed in May by African finance ministers during the AfDB Annual Meetings in Marrakech, is a new initiative that will partner with regional institutions for transformational projects.

The focus will be trans-continental infrastructure, including priority projects under the AU Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA).

The SADC Regional Infrastructure Master Plan approved at Summit in 2012 is in line with the PIDA and constitutes a key input into the proposed tripartite Free Trade Area made up of SADC, COMESA and the EAC.

The SADC master plan will guide implementation of coordinated, integrated, efficient, trans-boundary infrastructure networks in the six priority sectors of energy, transport, tourism, information technology, meteorology and water. r





Southern Africa hosts conference on desertification

by Neto Nengomasha

NAMIBIA WILL host a major international conference in September to discuss land degradation and desertification.

The 11th Conference of Parties (COP11) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will take place from 16-27 September in Windhoek, Namibia.

To be held under the theme "A Stronger UNCCD for a Land-Degradation Neutral World," the conference will assess progress made in the implementation of the convention's 10-Year Strategy (2008-2018) and develop a way forward for the next five years.

Delegates will discuss measures to reduce land degradation and slow rapid desertification as well as alleviating the challenges of people living in dry lands through solutions that restore soil productivity.

In the 10-Year Strategy, governments committed to scaling up national, regional and global processes to reduce land degradation and slow down desertification.

Among other issues, the UNCCD parties agreed to report regularly on national efforts to contain land degradation and desertification as well as set up a Global Environment Facility by 2018 to mobilize funds for programmes and projects under the convention.

In addition, COP11 sessions will reflect on financing, knowledge brokering and the UNCCD vision after Rio+20 outcome on land degradation, desertification and drought, considered one of the successes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2012.

According to the Rio+20 Outcome Document, governments underline the economic and social significance of good land management, including soil.

World leaders agreed to strive for a land degradation neutral world and reaffirmed their commitment to take co-ordinated action nationally, regionally and internationally to monitor land degradation and restore degraded lands in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas.

The conference has much significance for southern Africa where land is an essential resource, covering a total area of almost 10 million square kilometres, of which less than 25 percent is arable.

The region's arable and domesticated land is used for agriculture, forestry, wetlands and wildlife conservation and human settlements.

Crop production is the most dominant land use. However, due to factors such as low soil fertility and erratic rainfall patterns, an estimated five percent of southern Africa is under permanent cropland.

Grazing lands, covering 45 percent of the region's total land, and woodlands are diminishing due to land pressures resulting from population growth, land tenure and ownership

regimes, and limited use of technologies suitable for intensive production.

Soil erosion is the most widespread form of land degradation, accounting for a substantial amount of the region's degradation.

Land degradation caused by erosion is expected to continue due to population pressure, skewed land tenure systems, and increasing demand for land.

Communal grazing is the norm over most of rural southern Africa and accounts for more than 50 percent of land degradation in the region due to overgrazing from cattle, sheep and goats, some of which are bred and grazed in unsuitable areas.

Land degradation comes with a huge opportunity cost for society. The hectares of land lost annually in the region and globally have the potential to produce several millions of tonnes of grain-food that would minimize growing food insecurity and alleviate hunger.

The decision to have the conference held in Namibia was made at the 11th session of the UNCCD's review committee convention held in Bonn, Germany in April this year.

Namibian Minister of Environment and Tourism, Ua-

hekua Herunga said the review meeting had given Namibia and the rest of southern Africa the opportunity to present its capacity to host COP11 and to give a brief overview of what the region has to offer.

"I find it extremely fitting for Namibia, itself facing the threats of desertification, to host this conference, as this further solidifies our commitment to addressing the threats and challenges of land degradation," Herunga said.

Namibia will assume the UNCCD chair during the conference, enabling it to drive the global process towards COP12 to be held in 2015.

The two-year term as president is expected to offer southern Africa a unique opportunity to drive the global agenda on issues of desertification, land degradation and drought.

The conference is expected to attract up to 3,000 delegates, including heads of state and government, cabinet ministers and environmental experts from the 195 parties to the UNCCD.

All 15 SADC Member States are parties to the UNCCD as they have all signed and ratified the convention.

Established in 1994, the UNCCD is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.

This will be the second major United Nations conference to be hosted by SADC in as many months following the 20th Ordinary Session of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) to be jointly hosted by Zambia and Zimbabwe in August. r



Construction of the grand Inga Dam to commence in 2015

CONSTRUCTION OF the much-awaited Grand Inga hydropower station in the Democratic Republic of Congo is expected to start in October 2015.

The Inga project has the capacity to generate more than 40,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity, enough to meet the bulk of the power needs of the SADC region.

DRC and South Africa are implementing the power project together with other cooperating partners.

Initially, the construction of the hydropower station was to be implemented through a regional development approach involving five other SADC countries namely Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland and South Africa in what was dubbed the Western Power Corridor (WESTCOR) project.

However, due to various challenges, the WESTCOR project failed to materialize.

DRC and South Africa announced at their recent meeting that “the first foundation stone” of the power station will be laid in October 2015.

The construction is expected to be done in different phases. The first phase will involve construction of Inga 3 Low-Head, which will have a capacity of 1,800MW and does not require damming of the Congo River.

The next phase – called the Inga 3 High-Head – will add an additional 3,000MW and involves construction of the Grand Inga Dam.

Five other hydropower plants are expected to be built on the same dam, eventually raising its cumulative capacity to about 40,000 MW.

When completed, the Grand Inga would surpass the Three Gorges hydroelectric project of China as the largest

hydropower project in the world.

Funding for the Grand Inga project is coming from a number of investors that include the African Development Bank, World Bank, French Development Agency, European Investment Bank and Development Bank of Southern Africa. r



SAPP invites tenders for the ZiZaBoNa transmission project

THE DEVELOPMENT of an electricity transmission interconnector linking Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia could soon become a reality following the invitation of investors to establish the transmission link.

The Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), which coordinates the planning, generation, transmission and marketing of electricity on behalf of utilities in the region, completed the tendering process in May and a number of investors are reported to have expressed interest in developing the electricity transmission interconnector.

Commonly known as ZiZaBoNa, the transmission interconnector project has the capacity to increase power trading among participating utilities, as well as providing an alternative route to decongest the existing central transmission corridor that passes through Zimbabwe.

The ZiZaBoNa project is an example of regional cooperation and integration, and its completion would go a long way in ensuring that most SADC countries are able to share surplus energy.

Under the ZiZaBoNa agreement signed in 2008, all four countries' respective power utilities –

Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA), Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO), Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) and Namibia Power Company (NamPower) – are expected to finance parts of the project that fall within their national boundaries.

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

The project is to be implemented in two phases. The first phase will cover the construction of a 120-kilometre 330 kilo-

volt 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.

When fully operational, the ZiZaBoNa transmission interconnector will, among other things, make it possible for NamPower of Namibia to import power directly from Hwange in Zimbabwe.

Currently electricity from the Hwange Power Station is being routed to Namibia through South Africa. r

Angola targets seven-fold power generation increase

ANGOLA PLANS to increase its electricity generation capacity from the present 1,200 megawatts (MW) to 8,400 MW by 2025.

Minister of Energy and Water, João Baptista Borges said the goal is to double the

country's electrification rate from about 30 percent to 60 percent over the same period.

He said between 2002 and 2012, Angola focused on the rehabilitation of infrastructure destroyed by the long civil war the country had suffered,

with a particular focus on power transmission and distribution.

The second period of development has been earmarked for the period 2013-2015, which includes the increase of access to electricity. r



Global Tourism Summit

All eyes on southern Africa

by Kizito Sikuka

SOUTHERN AFRICA will be the global focus this August as Zambia and Zimbabwe host the first ever international tourism summit to be held on regional soil.

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) 20th General Assembly, scheduled for 24-29 August, will be held jointly in Livingstone and Victoria Falls.

The event will mark only the third time that Africa is hosting the global tourism summit after Egypt and Senegal hosted it in 1995 and 2007, respectively.

According to the UNWTO, more than 2,000 delegates from 180 member countries are expected to attend the assembly, offering Zambia and Zimbabwe as well as the rest of the SADC region an opportunity to market their numerous tourist attractions.

Tourism is one of the key drivers of socio-economic de-

velopment in the region due to its strong multiplier effects.

As a result, SADC countries are determined to take advantage of the summit to accelerate the growth of the tourism industry in the region.

Various initiatives will be implemented by Member States during the global tourism event, including scrapping of visas for tourists that want to visit more than one SADC country.

While modalities are still being finalized by Member States on how to effectively implement the UNIVISA system, a number of countries in the region have already started scrapping visa requirements for delegates and visitors to the region.

As joint hosts, Zambia and Zimbabwe have come up with an open border system and there are no visa fees for delegates to the general assembly.

This development will not only ensure the success of the tourism summit, but also allow the smooth movement of delegates between the two countries.

Other initiatives embarked on by SADC countries include joint marketing of their attractions, presenting prospective tourists with a wide range of opportunities and experiences.

Such cooperation will ensure that tourists and delegates to the summit sample the very best of what SADC has to offer.

The region boasts of various attractions such as the Victoria Falls between Zambia and Zimbabwe, the San rock paintings in Botswana and the absorbing wildlife population in the region.

This high concentration of attractions is expected to create an entirely new assortment of tourism opportunities in southern Africa, presenting new opportunities for socio-economic development in the region, resulting in deeper integration among Member States.

"To most of us, this is not just an event. It is rather a flawless attempt by Zambia and Zimbabwe to enrich positive perceptions about southern Africa's tourism sector," the chief executive officer of the Mozambique Tourism Board, Hiane Abacar said.

"This exemplifies how best the region can work together as a single regional tourist destination to realize a common and shared vision."

Regional airlines are already working together to reap maximum benefits from the summit by creating linkages, with some introducing regular flights to Zambia and Zimbabwe as well as other neighbouring countries.

Airlines that have launched flights to Zambia and Zimbabwe include Air Namibia and Air Botswana, while the South African Airways has increased flights to these and other countries.

Such developments would boost tourist arrivals, and according to the UNWTO regional director for Africa, Osman Ndiaye, "also allow Africa to increase its market share".

"Africa presently bears only about six percent of the global tourism market and we are hoping to take advantage of the summit to increase the percentage to double digits by the year 2020," he said.



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Southern African countries back Seychelles for UNWTO executive seat

A NUMBER of countries in southern Africa are backing Seychelles to assume the African seat in the United Nations World Tourism Organization's Executive Committee.

Elections to the UNWTO executive committee will be conducted at the global tourism summit to be held in Zambia and Zimbabwe in August. SADC countries that are backing Seychelles include South Africa, Madagascar, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Seychelles Minister for Tourism and Culture, Alain St.



Ange welcomed the support, saying his country is ready to serve Africa.

"We are an archipelago that depends on tourism; the pillar of our economy for our islands is tourism. For our industry to continue to grow and to be consolidated, we need our region, as we need Africa to be more seen and to be more recognized as the new destination offering unrivalled potential for the discerning travellers," he said. r



Zambian Tourism and Arts Minister, Sylvia Masebo said the event has spurred massive infrastructure developments in the two countries.

For example, Livingstone town in Zambia has witnessed rehabilitation of roads, trading markets, bus stations, street lights, and border and airport facilities.

Her Zimbabwean counterpart, Walter Mzembe concurred, urging the private sector to join forces with governments to ensure that the event is a major success.

He said the global tourism showcase would present enormous spin-off benefits for companies partnering governments.

"By supporting the conference, the corporate world can enhance Victoria Falls' reputation as a green, connected and regional town towards sustainability in tourism. The corporate world will be acknowledged for its sponsorship support," he said.

He called on all SADC countries to "protect this event," noting that, similar to the 2010

Soccer World Cup held in South Africa, the tourism summit had the potential of boosting tourist arrivals and triggering 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."

The general assembly is held after every two years, rotating among UNWTO Member States. The last general assembly was held in South Korea in 2011.

The UNWTO is the UN agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.

As the leading international organisation in the field of tourism, the UNWTO promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability and offers leadership and support to the sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide. r

Tourism carnival set for August

ZIMBABWE WILL host a tourism carnival in Victoria Falls to welcome delegates to the United Nations World Tourism Organization General Assembly in August.

The Chief Executive of the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority, Karikoga Kaseke has announced that the carnival will be held on 23 August.

The carnival follows the successful holding of a similar event in Harare earlier this year. "Most of the local artistes who performed during the Harare carnival have already confirmed their participation while we are still waiting to hear from the targeted international artistes," he said.

A carnival is a period of public revelry, partying and festivities all around a common theme.

Carnivals offer an opportunity to delve into the colourful

aspects of local cultures, with people able to sample local foods, music and related artistic performances.

Zimbabwe and Zambia will co-host the 20th Session of the UNWTO general assembly from 24-29 August in Victoria Falls and Livingstone, respectively. r



SADC, Germany deepen cooperation

SADC AND Germany have agreed to extend their development cooperation and signed an agreement estimated at €56.9 million for bilateral technical and financial cooperation projects.

This comprised €16.4 million for technical cooperation and €40.5 million for financial cooperation from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The agreement was reached in the intergovernmental negotiations which took place in July in Bonn, Germany.

The SADC team was led by Executive Secretary, Tomaz Augusto Salomão while the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany was headed by In-golf Dietrich, head of the southern Africa division at BMZ.

All technical cooperation will be implemented by the five GIZ programmes supporting SADC. These are in the areas of conservation and sustainable use of natural resources; regional economic integration; transboundary water resources management; strengthening of SADC institutions; and support in peace-building, security and good governance.

International and regional advisors from GIZ work closely with the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, which acts as a facilitator and coordinator, programme manager and think tank in promoting regional integration.

They also work closely with SADC Member States, the private sector, non-governmental organisations and think tanks in the region to build regional capacity in the priority areas.

In the area of natural resources conservation, SADC and Germany are implementing a project called Programme on Transboundary Protection and Use of Natural Resources:

Managing Transboundary Natural Resources that started in 2012 and runs until 2015.

The programme supports implementation of relevant SADC protocols and strategies for the sustainable management of natural resources by regional and national stakeholders.

BMZ has commissioned GIZ to facilitate implementation of SADC Protocols and strategies at a regional and national level. These include the Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement, the Protocol on Forestry and strategies for biodiversity and forest-management.

The Programme on Transboundary Protection and Use of Natural Resources: Managing Transboundary Natural Resources has three components:

- implementation of the SADC Regional Programme for Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs);
- support to the regional SADC programmes for cross-border fire management and Reducing Emission from Deforestation and

Degradation (REDD); and

- integration of climate change and biodiversity conservation into regional and national programmes.

The first component supports the FANR Directorate in implementing the agreed TFCAs programme. Joint standards and trainings for regional and national stakeholders have been developed and will be piloted in three national parks in the SADC region.

The second component focuses on the effective coordination and implementation of regional programmes for cross-border fire management and REDD.

The SADC Support Programme on Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) commits Member States to, among other things, coordinate inter and intra-sector activities and push for policy harmonization for national REDD programmes as well as develop systems to monitor forests and carbon emissions.

It also commits SADC countries to aim for the establish-

ment of reference emission and other REDD targets and creates a common regional framework on how to implement REDD+ activities on similar forest ecosystems, including those whose distributions straddle political boundaries.

The third component of the German-funded Programme on Transboundary Protection and Use of Natural Resources takes stock of international climate and environment negotiations and seeks to implement innovative instruments such as climate-proofing or ecosystems valuation in some TFCAs.

Germany is also lead International Cooperating Partner for the SADC water thematic group and has funded a transboundary water management programme for the region covering the period 2005-2015.

The programme has sought to strengthen the human, institutional and organisational capacities of the SADC water sector.

Key achievements of the programme to date include strengthening of institutional and organizational capacity of the SADC Water Division; and development of basin-wide integrated water resources management plans.

Germany has supported the implementation of the SADC integration agenda since 1985. In total, there are around 25 seconded staff and regional experts and 20 development workers working in Gaborone, supported by some 40 national staff.

There are also 18 volunteers deployed in the country under the Weltwärts programme, a development-aid policy programme for volunteers launched by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in 2008. r

SADC, ASEAN states to deepen cooperation

SADC AND the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have agreed to explore ways of deepening their cooperation.

This followed a visit to the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia by Deputy SADC Executive Secretary, João Samuel Caholo in July 2013.

The two institutions exchanged information and updated each other on the progress in their efforts to deepen regional integration.

ASEAN is a geo-political and economic organisation of 10 countries located in southeast Asia. These are Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. r





Mugabe wins 61% in Zimbabwe poll

PRESIDENT ROBERT Mugabe has won another mandate to govern Zimbabwe following watershed elections held on 31 July that saw his party winning more than two-thirds majority in the National Assembly.

Mugabe won 61 percent of the 3,410,767 ballots cast against 34 percent for closest rival Morgan Tsvangirai of the Movement for Democratic Change-Tsvangirai (MDC-T).

Welshman Ncube of the MDC formation polled 2.7 percent of the vote, and the other two candidates together gained one percent.

"Mugabe, Robert Gabriel of Zanu-PF party is, therefore, declared duly elected President of Zimbabwe from today, the third of August," Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) chairperson, Justice Rita Makarau said.

Messages of congratulations came from fellow African lead-

ers including the Presidents of Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania, who chairs the SADC Troika on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

The MDC-T, however, rejected the election outcome, alleging a faulty voters roll, vote rigging and intimidation of voters in some rural constituencies, saying they will mount an electoral challenge through the courts but will not participate in government structures.

The multi-party electoral commission was made up of commissioners nominated by all of the main political parties, and the main parties had their party agents at all of the polling stations during voting and counting.

More than 10,000 national and regional observers were spread across the country to all polling stations, and the

African Union long-term observers were in the country from the time the election was called.

The elections were praised as peaceful and in conformity with regional standards and principles by observers from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), as well as the Election Commissions Forum of SADC, the SADC Parliamentary Forum, the African Union (AU), and others.

Head of the SADC Election Observer Mission (SEOM), Hon. Bernard Membe, said parties and candidates were able to freely undertake their political activities unhindered prior to the holding of the elections.

"The electoral process was characterised by an atmosphere of peace and political tolerance. Political parties and candidates were able to freely undertake their political activities unhindered," said Membe, who is the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania.

SADC, which had 573 observers deployed to the 10 administrative provinces in Zimbabwe, issued an interim statement and is expected to release a final report within 30 days after the announcement of the election results in line with the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.

The AU observer mission, headed by the former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, concurred, saying that the voting and counting processes took place in a peaceful and tranquil environment.

"The poll followed a generally peaceful campaign period for which the mission commends Zimbabwean citizens and political parties who con-

sistently conveyed messages of peace and non-violence to their supporters and the public at large. The voting was carried out in an atmosphere devoid of violence, harassment and disturbances," reads part of the AU preliminary statement.

The SADC and AU missions as well as observers from the Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC (ECF-SADC) urged ZEC to address some of the challenges that accompanied the electoral process.

These included the need to clean-up the voters roll, strengthen voter education for the harmonized polls, and ensure impartial media coverage and transparency in the printing of ballot papers.

According to the final tally of results released by ZEC, Zanu-PF won 160 (76 percent) of the 210 elective seats in the National Assembly, giving it more than two-thirds majority. The MDC-T got 49 seats (23 percent).

Therefore, ZANU PF got the largest portion of the 60 seats reserved for women in the National Assembly, based on the proportion of votes won by each political party in the constituency elections, by province.

This Mixed Member System is similar to the system used in Tanzania and Lesotho, but is implemented by province, with six women elected per province.

Women won 46 percent of the seats in the Senate, using proportional representation based on party lists with alternating names of women and men, and a woman at the top of each list. *sardc.net* r

Party	National Assembly			Senate			
	No. of Seats	No. of women for reserved seats	No. of women for elective seats	% Women in National Assembly	No. of seats	No. of Seats for women	% Women in Senate
Zanu-PF	160	37	18	20.4	37	22	27.5
MDC-T	49	21	7	10.4	20	12	15
MDC	0	2	0	0.7	3	3	3.8
Independent	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-party	-	-	-	-	20	-	-
TOTAL	210	60	25	31.5	80	37	46.3

Swaziland elections set for September

KING MSWATI III of Swaziland has announced that parliamentary elections will be held on 20 September.

The system of government is based on the "*Tinkhundla*" system, which is the Swazi name for a constituency.

Under this system, candidates in the parliamentary election are shortlisted in their chiefdoms, and a total of 55 parliamentarians are elected through this process. The King nominates a further 10, bringing the total number to 65.

Members of the 30-member Senate are also appointed, with the King appointing 20 while the remaining 10 are selected by the House of Assembly. The Prime Minister is appointed by the King.

In all these processes, participation is by an individual and not by a political party. r





SADC calls for electoral calendar for Madagascar

SADC HAS called on Madagascar to develop a new electoral calendar that will ensure that elections are urgently held in the Indian Ocean country.

The SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation agreed during an Extraordinary Summit held in Pretoria, South Africa in July that the Independent National Election Commission (CENIT) should “come up with a new electoral calendar in order to allow the electoral process to commence as a matter of urgency”.

Presidential elections in Madagascar have been postponed several times due to a dispute over who should stand.

The island nation was scheduled to hold its landmark elections in July, which are expected to give the country a fresh start after four years of constitutional crisis.

However, disputes over presidential candidates has affected the electoral process, and SADC has now tasked the CENIT to come up with a new roadmap in order to allow the electoral process to commence as a matter of urgency.

The disputes emanate from the refusal of key political players to abide by earlier decisions regarding the forthcoming presidential election.

Arany Rajoelina and Marc Ravalomanana – the two main rivals in the Madagascan political landscape – had initially agreed not to stand in the July presidential elections to prevent any repeat of the turmoil that accompanied the 2009 coup.

However, the two have disregarded their agreements, with Rajoelina ignoring a request by SADC not to run in the upcoming elections, but instead filing his nomination



papers with the Special Electoral Court.

Ravalomanana has backed his wife, Lalao Ravalomanana, to stand in the forthcoming election.

The African Union has demanded that Rajoelina, Lalao Ravalomanana and ex-president Didier Ratsiraka announce their withdrawal from the polls or face sanctions.

Ratsiraka is a former Malagasy president who was ousted from power by Ravalomanana in a similar method to that used by Rajoelina in 2009 to oust Ravalomanana.

This constitutional crisis has affected socio-economic development as well as peace and stability in Madagascar, where SADC has led mediation efforts to try to agree on a lasting solu-

tion. Former Mozambican president Joaquim Chissano is the SADC mediator.

Although the exact date for the presidential elections is yet to be announced, the CENIT has said the polls would be held in August. According to the electoral laws of Madagascar, if there is no outright winner, a run-off should be held at least one month after the polls. r

Concern over DRC humanitarian crisis

SOUTHERN AFRICAN leaders have warned of the deteriorating humanitarian situation in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo where renewed fighting has left thousands of people displaced.

In a statement after an Extraordinary Summit of its Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation in South Africa, SADC called for the intervention of the international community as the humanitarian situation in eastern DRC worsens following clashes between the Congolese government troops and M23 rebels.

“The Summit further noted the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Eastern DRC following the recent clashes and called on the international community and all partners to

assist the general population which has suffered from this conflict,” said the Organ led by President Jakaya Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania, which has a long border with the eastern DRC.

Other leaders who attended the Summit were President Jacob Zuma of South Africa, Mozambican President Armando Guebuza and Namibian Foreign Minister Netumbo Ndwandwe.

Many of the displaced people in eastern DRC are said to be taking shelter in schools. The United Nations has claimed that close to one million people had been displaced in North Kivu province by the end of June.

Humanitarian agencies have also warned of an acute food crisis in the province,

voicing concern that some of those displaced are farmers who may not return to their homes and embark on farming activities before the start of the planting season which begins in the middle of August.

The DRC slid into political turmoil last year when anti-government rebels invaded and captured the city of Goma, causing the displacement of people and loss of lives and property.

The rebels have since threatened to march on Kinshasa, the capital of the vast, mineral-rich country.

Eight other SADC Member States have pledged personnel to be deployed in the DRC. These are Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. r

SADC Gender Monitor 2013 to be launched at Summit

The SADC Gender Monitor 2013 to be launched during the 33rd Summit of Heads of State and Government in Lilongwe, Malawi, in August looks at the progress made by Member States in terms of the representation and participation by women in political and decision-making processes and structures as well as the impediments to participation by women.

Gender equality is firmly rooted in SADC's regional integration agenda and Member States support the fundamental principle that both women and men must be equally engaged in decision-making at all levels and in all positions of leadership.

The *SADC Gender Monitor 2013* gives special attention to Governance, which is Part 3 of the Protocol on Gender and Development, and specifically to Article 12 Representation and Article 13 Participation. This is strategic since a number of SADC Member States are preparing for elections between 2013 and 2015.

The latest edition of the SADC Gender Monitor shows that SADC Member States have made progress towards ensuring equal representation by women and men in political and decision-making positions at various levels of government and the three institutions of State, which are the Legislature (Parliament), the Executive (Cabinet) and the Judiciary (Courts), but there is much to be done to reach the 50:50 target by 2015.

While all SADC Member States show significant achievements towards gender parity in some part of the spectrum of governance, the goal of reaching 50 percent representation

by women in political and decision-making structures by 2015 remains a major challenge in all Member States.

This target was agreed by leaders of the African Union. That led to a decision by SADC Heads of States and Government at their 2005 Summit held in Gaborone, Botswana to upgrade the original target of 30 percent representation and participation of women in politics and decision-making positions contained in the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development in 1997.

The 50:50 Gender Parity goal is a key component of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development signed by SADC Heads of States and Government at their 28th Summit, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 17 August 2008.

- Thirteen SADC Member States have signed the Proto-

col, except Botswana and Mauritius.

- Eleven SADC Member States have ratified the Protocol: Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- Therefore, the Protocol has entered into force in line with Article 41 of the Protocol that requires two-thirds of SADC Member States to have deposited their instruments of ratification.
- Among the signatories, only Madagascar which is currently suspended, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, have not yet acceded to the Protocol. r

Mlambo-Ngcuka lands top UN job

FORMER SOUTH African deputy president, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka has been appointed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon as the executive director of the UN Entity for Gender, Equality and Empowerment of Women, commonly known as UN Women.

She takes over in August from Michelle Bachelet, the former Chilean president who resigned in March to run for office again.

"Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka brings to this position a wealth of experience in advocating for women's issues with a combination of strategic leadership, consensus building and hands-on management experience," Ban said.

Mlambo-Ngcuka became a Member of Parliament following the first democratic elections in South Africa in 1994, becoming deputy minister in the department of trade and industry two years later and energy minister in 1999.

She was appointed deputy president in 2005, the highest office occupied by a woman in South Africa, and she remained in the post until 2008. r



SADC PROTOCOL ON GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

PART THREE GOVERNANCE

ARTICLE 12 REPRESENTATION

1. States Parties shall endeavour that, by 2015, at least fifty percent of decision-making positions in the public and private sectors are held by women including the use of affirmative action measures as provided for in Article 5.

2. States Parties shall ensure that all legislative and other measures are accompanied by public awareness campaigns which demonstrate the vital link between the equal representation and participation of women and men in decision-making positions, democracy, good governance and citizen participation.

ARTICLE 13 PARTICIPATION

1. States Parties shall adopt specific legislative measures and other strategies to enable women to have equal opportunities with men to participate in all electoral processes including the administration of elections and voting.

2. States Parties shall ensure the equal participation of women and men in decision-making by putting in place policies, strategies and programmes for:

- building the capacity of women to participate effectively through leadership and gender sensitivity training and mentoring;
- providing support structures for women in decision-making positions;
- the establishment and strengthening of structures to enhance gender mainstreaming; and
- changing discriminatory attitudes and norms of decision-making structures and procedures.

3. States Parties shall ensure the inclusion of men in all gender-related activities, including gender training and community mobilisation.

SADC at forefront of digital TV migration

by Talent Mbedzi

SOUTHERN AFRICAN countries are taking bold steps to meet a regional target of switching over from analogue to digital broadcasting.

The global deadline set by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) is 17 June 2015.

However, SADC Member States are targeting analogue switch-off by 31 December 2013. This is meant to give countries in the region ample time to address teething challenges that may arise in the migration process ahead of the global deadline.

Digital broadcasting involves the use of digital signals rather than analogue waveforms to transmit television broadcast channels on assigned radio frequency bands.

Thanks to the use of data compression, digital links generally have more efficient bandwidth usage than analogue, which makes it possible for more services and improved television picture quality than had been previously possible.

Speaking at the 5th SADC Digital Broadcasting Migration Forum held in Windhoek, Namibian Minister of Information and Communications Technology, Joel Kaapanda urged regional broadcasters to draw up recommendations to ensure the migration to Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) was completed on time.

"It is, therefore, critical that the SADC Digital Terrestrial Television Forum review our preparations and determine what is necessary for SADC to meet the deadline and thereby ensure that the benefits of digital broadcasting are enjoyed

by our citizens," Kaapanda said.

The main objective of the 5th SADC Digital Broadcasting Migration Forum was to review implementation of the SADC Roadmap for Digital Broadcasting Migration approved in June 2009.

The forum considered measures to address challenges in implementation of the roadmap.

It discussed the issue of digital sound broadcasting standards as requested by the SADC ICT Ministers in their meeting convened in November 2012 in Mauritius.

Among other measures introduced by SADC is the introduction of a DTT Project Management Office (PMO) at the SADC Secretariat to coordinate the regional programme.

The DTT PMO will be a special desk at the Secretariat that is intended to be a one-stop shop for coordinating, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the implementation of the SADC Roadmap for Digital Broadcasting Migration to ensure that all Member States meet the migration deadline.

The forum also approved a Harmonised SADC Digital Dividend Strategic Plan that outlines, among other things, specifications for low-cost free-to-air decoders and a digital licensing framework for the region.

SADC is leading other African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in terms of progress towards meeting the global deadline for the migration from analogue to digital broadcasting.

Two SADC Member States – Mauritius and the United Re-

public of Tanzania – are the first African countries to migrate to the new system.

Mauritius was the first African country to fully digitalise television broadcasting for all regions and islands in 2007, after initiating its migration process in 2005 with a "soft launch" of its first digital services offering six free-to-air channels.

Two digital channels were launched in 2008 to speed up consumer purchases of digital TV sets and the appropriate Set-Top Boxes. Full analogue switch-off is expected in December 2013.

Tanzania completed the migration at the end of 2012 and immediately commenced a staggered programme of switching off analogue broadcasting in December in an exercise that has so far seen six of the regions now accessing DTT services. These are Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Mwanza and Arusha.

The Tanzanian Minister of Communication, Science and Technology, Makame Mbarawa said the next phase of the pro-

gramme to switch-off analogue transmission would start later this year, targeting 14 regions in the country.

Key success factors for the migration programmes in both Mauritius and Tanzania included effective regulatory environments and introduction of subsidies to enable consumers to acquire DTT receivers.

The success of the Tanzanian digital migration exercise is attributed to an effective awareness campaign conducted parallel to the implementation of the programme. The Tanzanian government also exempted taxes on decoders and set-top boxes.

However, challenges encountered by most SADC Member States include lack of funding to roll out the migration programme and standardisation of receivers available on the market and their affordability.

To pursue a smooth DTT migration, SADC Member States resolved to reflect on financing models that provide for an efficient process for disseminating information about the DTT migration process. r



Events August-October 2013

August 5-7, Angola	Southern Africa Internet Governance Forum The forum is responsible for developing a coordinated and coherent approach to dealing with Internet governance issues in SADC.
14-16, Malawi	SADC Council of Ministers The Council is responsible for supervising and monitoring the functions and development of SADC and ensuring that policies are properly implemented. Council comprises foreign affairs, international cooperation, economic development or planning and finance ministers from each Member State. Council precedes the Summit and prepares policy recommendations for adoption by the leaders.
17-18, Malawi	SADC Summit The Summit of Heads of State and Government is the ultimate policy-making institution of SADC. The Lilongwe Summit will witness the official handover of the rotating SADC Chair from President Armando Guebuza of Mozambique to President Joyce Banda of Malawi.
24-29, Zambia/ Zimbabwe	20th UNWTO General Assembly The General Assembly is the supreme organ of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation and the most important meeting of senior tourism officials and high level representatives of the private sector from all over the world. Its ordinary sessions are held every two years. This is the third time that the Assembly will be held in Africa, jointly hosted by Zambia and Zimbabwe at Mosi oa Tunya/ Victoria Falls, to promote tourism in SADC.
TBA	Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum Scientists from the national meteorological services in SADC Member States meet to review the regional climate outlook. They will use indicators of seasonal rainfall to produce a regional forecast for the 2013/2014 rainfall season.
26, Tanzania	SADC Regional Water Supply and Sanitation Programme Workshop The SADC Regional Water Supply and Sanitation Programme is an integral component of the Regional Strategic Action Plan on Integrated Water Resources Planning, Development and Management. The aim of the programme is to enable Member States to improve the provision of safe water supply and sanitation.
September 2-5, South Africa	Solar Power Indaba The conference will provide information on the financial mechanisms necessary for solar energy to offer an extensive solution to current energy shortages in Africa and the infrastructure developments needed to support an effective supply chain between independent providers and the grid.
23, New York	High Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities.
TBA	The High Level Political Forum (HPLF) on Sustainable Development will hold its inaugural meeting alongside the 68th session of the UN General Assembly, replacing the Commission on Sustainable Development, with the objective of providing "political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development".
24-26, Zimbabwe	Symposium on 50 Years of China-Africa Cooperation: Background, Progress and Significance The objective of the symposium is to share African perspectives on China-Africa relations and China's development experience with the goal of accelerating development and integration in Africa through better understanding of the application of the Chinese development experience. The seminar is one of the activities in 2013 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the OAU/African Union. Participants are scholars, researchers, officials and policy-makers from African countries and China.



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15 Years

The Second Congo War

THIS MONTH marks the 15th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second Congo War in August 1998.

A little more than a year after the end of the First Congo War in which a multinational force led by Laurent Kabila removed former Zairean leader Mobutu Sese Seko from power, tensions began to rise between Kabila and his foreign allies, Rwanda and Uganda.

After gaining control of the capital Kinshasa in May 1997, Kabila faced obstacles in governing the vast country, renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The foreign troops were unwilling to leave, with the Rwandan presence in Kinshasa annoying many Congolese who began to see Kabila as a pawn of foreign powers.

Tensions reached new heights on 14 July 1998 when Kabila dismissed his Rwandan chief of staff, James Kabarebe, and replaced him with a native Congolese, Celestin Kifwa.

Two weeks later he expelled all Rwandan and Ugandan military forces from the DRC, in the process angering the Banyamulenga of eastern Congo whose tensions with neighbouring ethnic groups had been a contributing factor to the First Congo War. The group were used by Rwanda to destabilise eastern DRC.

The Congolese civil war, which was also known as Africa's First World War, broke out on 2 August 1998 when a well-armed rebel group, the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD) emerged, composed primarily of the Banyamulenga and backed by Rwanda and Uganda.

Many considered the DRC conflict to be intimately connected to several other conflicts in the Great Lakes region. Its genesis was in the Hutu-Tutsi conflict that resulted in the 1994 Rwandan genocide in which the United Nations failed to halt the death of almost a million people.

Many members of the former Rwanda regime fled into DRC.

One of the deadliest wars in modern African history, the Second Congo War directly involved nine African nations, as well as about 20 armed groups.

Three SADC Member States – Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe – provided troops to support Kabila while the 15-member regional group used its diplomatic clout to broker and maintain the Lusaka Accords of which former Zambian president Frederick Chiluba was the principal mediator.

It took several months of hard bargaining by Chiluba to get the warring parties to sign a peace agreement, popularly known as the Lusaka Accord, in the Zambian capital in August 1999.

Presidents Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Sam Nujoma of Namibia, and the Angolan foreign minister, on one side, and Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and then Rwandan leader Pasteur Bizimungu, on the other, all signed in the presence of representatives from the then Organisation of African Unity, SADC and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

According to the Lusaka Accord, the cessation of hostilities would have come into force within 24 hours of signing of the peace agreement by all parties including the rebels who signed the accord almost two months later.

The parties were to release detainees and the document also called for a mechanism for disarming the militias and other armed groups.

But the war raged, until it officially ended in July 2003 when the Transitional Government of the DRC took power. These are the roots of the continuing conflict in eastern DRC to this day. r

Heroes and Unity Namibia, Zambia



HEROES' DAY is a national public holiday in Namibia, recognized by

the United Nations as Namibia Day and celebrated annually on 26 August, the day on which the first shots were fired in northwestern Namibia in 1966 marking the start of the armed liberation struggle that would bring Independence 23 years later on 21 March 1990.

In 1974, 10 years after Independence in Zambia, President Dr. Kenneth Kaunda presented a gift to the nation to honour its heroes: a statue of a man with no shirt or shoes and defiantly raising a chained hand into the air after breaking the chains. The monument has become the rallying point for any holiday or remembrance in which freedom plays a role.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

August-October 2013

1 August	Parents Day Umhlanga Reed Dance	DRC Swaziland
5 August	Farmers Day	Zambia
8 August	Nane Nane Peasant Day	Tanzania
9 August	National Women's Day Eid Ul Fitr**	South Africa Malawi, Mauritius, Tanzania
12 August	Heroes Day	Zimbabwe
13 August	Defence Forces Day	Zimbabwe
15 August	Assumption Day	Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles
17 August	SADC Day*	All
26 August	Heroes Day	Namibia
6 September	Somhlolo Independence Day	Swaziland
7 September	Victory Day	Mozambique
10 September	Ganesh Chaturthi	Mauritius
17 September	National Heroes Day	Angola
24 September	Heritage Day	South Africa
25 September	Armed Forces Day	Mozambique
30 September	Botswana Day	Botswana
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

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

** Exact date depends on sighting of the new moon