

# SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY

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## 2015 Towards regional integration and industrialisation

2015 WAS an eventful year for southern Africa dominated by the historic approval of an industrialisation strategy and a recalibrated regional development plan as well as the launch of an enlarged market extending from Cape to Cairo.

SADC leaders approved the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063 at an Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government in Zimbabwe in April.

The strategy and roadmap is intended to ensure that Member States harness the full potential of their vast and diverse natural resources.

Most SADC Member States are getting very little in return from their valuable resources since these are usually exported in raw form, with most of the value-addition and beneficiation taking place outside the region, thus benefiting other countries.

The strategy and roadmap is anchored on three pillars, namely "Industrialisation, Competitiveness and Regional Integration."

During the period 2015-2020, SADC will strive to progress from being factor-driven to in-

vestment-driven, while between 2021-2050 the region aims to advance to an innovation-driven economy.

The target between 2051 and 2063 is for SADC to achieve high levels of economic growth, competitiveness, incomes and employment.

The development of the strategy and roadmap was instructive in finalizing the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), which was also approved by the Extraordinary Summit.

The RISDP is a 15-year strategic plan approved by SADC leaders in 2003 as a blueprint for regional integration and development.

The plan has been under review as part of efforts to realign the region's development agenda in line with new realities and emerging global dynamics, and has now taken into account issues of industrialisation.

The Revised RISDP identifies four main priorities to be pursued by the region from 2015-2020.



*continued on page 2...*



2015

## Towards regional integration and industrialization

Priority A seeks to promote industrial development and market integration through, among other things, strengthening the productive competitiveness and supply side capacity of Member States as well as improving movement of goods and facilitating financial market integration and monetary cooperation.

Priority B is on provision and improvement of infrastructure support for regional integration.

Priority D is on promotion of special programmes of regional dimension under clusters such as education and human resource development; health, HIV and AIDS and other communicable diseases; food security and trans-boundary natural resources; environment; statistics; gender equality; and science, technology and innovation and research and development.

The above three priorities will be underpinned by Priority C on the promotion of peace and security.

While implementation of the two regional programmes has begun, the region is finalizing a detailed costing plan to ensure that the action plans are effectively implemented.

In addition to the approval of the Revised RISDP, and strategy and roadmap, 2015 saw the creation of an integrated market covering 26 countries in eastern and southern Africa, which represents a bold move by Africa to promote internal trade.

The Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA), comprising the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the East African Community and SADC, was launched in June in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

The creation of the enlarged market is expected to boost intra-regional trade in Africa and deepen re-

gional integration through improved infrastructure development, investment flows and enhanced competition.

The TFTA creates a combined population of some 600 million people, covering half of the Member States of the African Union (AU) and a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of about US\$1 trillion.

Most importantly, the TFTA is a decisive step towards achievement of the AU vision of establishing an African Economic Community as envisioned in the Lagos Plan of Action, the Final Act of Lagos of 1980, the Abuja Treaty of 1991 as well as the Resolution of the 2006 AU Summit held in Banjul, the Gambia.

Africa aims to launch a Continental FTA by 2017 to promote the smooth movement of goods, services and people across the continent.

On energy development, southern Africa witnessed the historic approval of the SADC Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE).

Approved by the 34th SADC Energy Ministers held in July in South Africa, SACREEE is expected to change the "landscape of energy development in SADC," by allowing the region to fully harness its vast renewable energy potential.

To be hosted by Namibia, the centre would, among other things, spearhead the promotion of renewable energy development in the region.

With respect to peace, the year saw SADC once again consolidating its credentials as a stable region through various ways. These include peace mediation in countries such as Lesotho and Madagascar as

well as sending observer missions to four countries that held elections during the past 12 months.

Lesotho, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Seychelles held elections, which were endorsed by SADC and other observers as generally credible and peaceful.

There was smooth transition of power in the three countries, as well as in Namibia and Mozambique.

The SADC region hosted AMANI Africa II in South Africa. The exercise, which brought together thousands of armed forces from Africa, is a major step in shaping the continental standby force.

The purpose of the continental exercise is to test the deployment readiness of the African Standby Force, with particular reference to the ability of the Rapid Deployment Capability to deploy within 14 days of the decision by the relevant authorities.

During this year, the SADC ministers responsible for Gender and Women Affairs agreed to review targets of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development in the context of the new UN Sustainable Development Goals approved in 2015 to replace the Millennium Development Goals.

The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development was adopted in 2008 to promote the empowerment of women, eliminate discrimination, and achieve gender quality and equity through gender-responsive legislation, policies, programmes and projects.

The protocol entered into force in 2013 following ratification of the instrument by the requisite two-thirds of Member States who had signed.

The ministers reflected on progress made in the implementation of the protocol targets for 2015.

Related to water development, SADC Water Ministers

agreed to support gender focal persons in order to sustain the gender mainstreaming activities within the water sector.

This is in line with regional policy instruments which required all SADC water institutions to integrate the principles, goals and objectives of gender mainstreaming in their administration and implementation programmes.

The year also witnessed the adoption of a new climate agreement, which laid a foundation for the global community to combat the impacts of climate change. However, there was little joy for Africa as some of its key expectations, which include greater attention to agriculture, improved finance, technology transfer and adoption, and capacity building still remain unresolved.

The 35th SADC Summit held in August ushered in new leadership led by President Seretse Khama Ian Khama of Botswana, who took over the SADC chair from his counterpart, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, who is also chair of the African Union.

Among the resolutions of the Summit was a historic decision to develop a plan to honour the founding fathers, and a new book on Julius Nyerere, titled *Asante Sana, Thank You, Mwalimu*, was launched at Summit.

The year 2015 also saw the SADC region successfully host the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China Africa Co-operation (FOCAC) in South Africa.

The summit took bold steps to cement mutual benefit between the two sides while taking the ties to even higher levels, including a new US\$60 billion Chinese fund to support development on the African continent. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net) □



# Towards sustainable use and management of the environment, natural resources

**SUSTAINABLE USE** and management of the environment and natural resources for socio-economic growth is a commitment by the SADC Treaty, and this commitment is reflected in the enactment of various regional protocols, programmes and instruments, as well as the active participation by Member States in the negotiations and ratification of multilateral agreements on the environment. SADC Ministers responsible for Environment and Natural Resources met in November in Gaborone, Botswana to review progress on the implementation of these commitments on the environment and natural resources, as well as to consider and approve new regional policies, strategies and programmes in the sector. Some of the issues they discussed are the following. □

**MINISTERS URGED** SADC Member States to prepare and make submissions towards the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) set for 24 September-5 October 2016 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

CITES is an international agreement that aims to ensure that international trade in

## New strategies approved on climate change

**MINISTERS APPROVED** new programmes and strategies to advance the regional integration agenda, promote resilience to climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and

foster low carbon development pathways and resource use efficiency.

The approved strategies are the Sub-Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification (SRAP) and Strategies on Climate Change, the Green Economy, Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching.

Ministers also welcomed the inclusion of the blue economy as one of the new frontiers for SADC Member States.

Member States and other stakeholders have been urged to accelerate the implementation of the approved strategies and programmes in order to contain and, where possible, reverse the current trend of environment and natural resources degradation.

The meeting agreed that Member States should continue to implement multilateral environmental agreements of priority to the SADC region, particularly the three Rio Conventions on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Desertification.

The meeting underscored the need for the region to develop common positions to speak with one voice in order to achieve outcomes that are beneficial to the region. □

## SADC prepares for CITES

wild animals and plants do not threaten their survival.

International wildlife trade is lucrative, estimated in billions of dollars. The levels of exploitation of some animal and plant species are high and the trade, together with other factors such as habitat loss, is capable of heavily depleting their populations and bringing some species close to extinction, hence the need to regulate trade in order to safeguard these resources.

One of the topical issues SADC countries want discussed is the need to lift an international ban on trade in ivory. The international community imposed a ban on ivory trading a few years ago to protect elephants and rhinoceros, which were being rapidly depleted in some areas.

However, the ban has seriously eroded the revenue for animal conservation in most countries. Most countries with elephant populations have accumulated a stock of elephant tusks through seizures which they cannot dispose, while the ban has led to an increase in poaching as communities are no longer benefiting from ivory trade proceeds. □

## Towards TFCAs and tourism concessions

**THE DEVELOPMENT** of Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) is one of the key initiatives for sustainable management

of natural resources in the region, and the ministers noted the development of a number of TFCAs such as Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA), Greater Limpopo and most recently Malawi-Zambia.

The Ministers endorsed guidelines on tourism concessions in the context of TFCA development to facilitate equitable joint venture partnerships between local communities and the private sector.

The guidelines are expected to assist in the implementation of future projects in the TFCAs so that conservation and investment co-exist.

Tourism concessions are emerging as a powerful new tourism product in southern Africa and elsewhere in the world. A high concentration of attractions such as mountain biking, walking trails, running and canoe events, cultural events and festivals, in addition to transboundary routes, provides revenue and raise awareness for TFCAs. □

## Need to curb illegal trade in wildlife, fauna and flora

**MINISTERS RECOGNIZED** the important contribution of natural resources and the environment to the socio-economic development of the region, noting that SADC is rich

in natural resources such as fisheries, forests and minerals, and is home to the largest populations of wildlife, including elephants and rhinos.

Most of these natural resources are threatened by illegal harvesting, illegal trade, over exploitation and the impacts of climate change. As a result, these challenges undermine progress that the region is making in food security, job creation and economic development.

The ministers emphasized the need to strengthen efforts to combat poaching and control the illegal trade in wildlife to safeguard the region's flora and fauna.

They noted progress in curbing the poaching of rhinos and elephants, development of capacity in environmental education, measurement of forest carbon, and negotiation skills for effective engagement at multilateral forums.

SADC has developed various instruments to curb illegal trade in wildlife. These instruments include protocols on Forestry, Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement, Environmental Management for Sustainable Development, and Shared Watercourses, which promote sustainable management and utilization of natural resources and the environment. □





# COP 21 adopts Paris Agreement but

by Neto Nengomasha

**THE NEW** climate agreement adopted in early December has laid a firm foundation for the global community to combat the impacts of climate change although there is little joy for Africa as some key expectations were not met.

African climate change experts highlighted that the Paris Agreement adopted by the 21st Conference of Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held on 30 November to 11 December in France failed to give the issue of agriculture the attention it deserves.

"Throughout the negotiations, we have been trying to introduce agriculture so that it is mainstreamed in the negotiation text," said Estherine Fotabong, the Director of Programme Implementation and Coordination for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

The lack of attention given to agriculture in the agreement is a worrisome development considering the important role of agriculture in the developmental agenda of Africa.

The agricultural sector is regarded as an engine for socio-economic development in most African countries.

According to the African Union (AU), agriculture accounts for about one-third of the continent's Gross Domestic Product, and more than two-thirds of its citizens rely directly on the sector for their livelihood.

A related item that Africa had on the list for COP 21 was the need for clarity on financing for losses and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

Apart from recognizing the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing losses and damage and recommending for the continuation of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM), the agreement lacks clarity on how this would be financed.

The WIM for loss and damage was established at COP 19 in Warsaw, Poland to address impacts of climate change, including extreme events and slow onset events, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of the changing climate.

Washington Zhakata, Director of the Climate Change department in the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate in Zimbabwe, said "developed countries refused to accept liability for compensation, thus resulting in lack of clarity on financing for losses and damage."

Article 8.1 of the agreement only states that WIM for losses and damage "may be enhanced and strengthened as determined by the COP", leaving Africa at a disadvantage as there is no guarantee that the mechanism will in future be transformed to benefit the continent.

The agreement only gives reference to small island states and developing countries without specifically mentioning Africa, a continent that has a large proportion of its population severely affected by the impacts of climate change.

This is despite the fact that Africa is the least contributor to greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change, yet the continent is the hardest hit due to limited financial resources to adapt to such changes.

Zhakata said Africa preferred to be particularly mentioned in the Finance Article and vulnerability section. This was, however, not the case.

On provision of finance, Article 9 of the agreement states that "developed country Parties shall provide financial resources to assist developing country Parties with respect to both mitigation and adaptation in continuation of their existing obligations under the Convention and that other Parties are encouraged to

provide such support voluntarily."

This clause has left the continent doubtful of the commitment of developed countries to provide funding for adaptation and mitigation as it is on a voluntary basis and the commitment is non-binding.

The agreement states that parties resolved to "enhance the provision of urgent and adequate finance, technology and capacity building support by developed country Parties in order to enhance the level of ambition of pre-2020 action."

The agreement strongly urged developed countries to scale up their level of financial support, with a concrete roadmap to achieve the goal of jointly providing US\$100 billion annually by 2020 for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

However, past experience has shown that developed countries have failed to live up to this commitment and the pace at which developed countries are contributing to climate financing is very slow.

African countries think that the major and historic polluters must take a fair share of responsibility not only to cut their emissions but help the victims to adapt to climate impacts.

So far accessing money from the Green Climate Fund





# little cheer for Africa

has been a challenge since it was created due to the stringent conditions imposed by developed countries.

Although Article 9.9 of the agreement aims to ensure efficient access to financial resources through simplified approval procedures and enhanced support for developing countries, it still remains to be seen if this will be the case.

With regard to temperature increases, the agreement emphasises the need to keep global average well below 2°C in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

Article 4 of the agreement states that in order to achieve the long-term temperature goal, parties should aim to reach a peak of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, while recognizing that developing countries will take longer to reach peak on greenhouse gas emissions before cutting to accepted levels.

In this regard, the parties acknowledged that countries are at different levels of development. Equally important is the recognition of resilience to climate change as a global challenge faced by all at local, sub-national, national, regional and international levels.

The agreement highlights that adaptation is a “key com-

ponent of and makes a contribution to the long-term global response to climate change to protect people, livelihoods and ecosystems.”

The Paris pact emphasizes that “adaptation action should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems.”

This should be based on and guided by “the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional, indigenous and local knowledge systems, with a view to integrate adaptation into relevant socio-economic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate.”

For Africa, recognition of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in resilience is crucial considering that communities on the continent use IKS to adapt to floods and drought, and other climate challenges.

Parties agreed that the agreement shall be open for signature and subject to ratification from 22 April 2016 to 21 April 2017.

The agreement will enter into force after at least 55 UNFCCC parties have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net) □

## Common African position on climate change

**AHEAD OF** the climate change talks held in Paris, France in late November, southern Africa adopted a regional common position on the negotiations.

Key elements of the position, which was developed by climate negotiators, included emphasis on adaptation while focusing on mitigation and the measures for achieving these such as finance, technology transfer and adoption, and capacity building.

The decision, which was aligned to the Africa position, was endorsed by SADC ministers responsible for environment and natural resources, who underscored the need to speak with one voice in order to achieve outcomes that are beneficial for the region.

According to the SADC climate experts, COP 21 had to ensure that the proposed climate change agreement is results-based, outcome-oriented and legally binding.

African negotiators also stressed that the Paris negotiations should contain decisions to support implementation of the agreement, as well as declarations on finance, renewable energy and adaptation.

Climate experts further asserted that COP 21 must reinforce national adaptation plans and provide coherence to the process to allow greater access and support for implementing the strategies.

Africa experts also continued public funding for adaptation, greater South-South cooperation as well as an increase in private and blended finance for implementation.

Africa’s position noted that the agreement should stress the need for developed countries to reduce their emissions domestically and consider the principle of differentiated responsibilities on respective capabilities.

Africa called for strengthening of technical capacities in and to support information services for effective climate change risk management and resilience. □





## Michel re-elected President of Seychelles

**JAMES MICHEL** has been given another mandate to be President of Seychelles following one of the most closely fought elections in the history of the island nation.

According to final results announced by the electoral commission, President Michel of the Parti Lepep secured 50.15 percent of the total votes against 49.85 percent by Wavel Ramkalawan of the Seychelles National Party in the run-off held on 16-18 December.

This was enough for Michel to be declared an outright winner, as he had amassed at least 50 percent plus one vote required by the Constitution.

However, Ramkalawan is contesting the results

and seeking redress based on allegations of balloting irregularities in some districts.

In the first round of presidential polls held on 3-5 December, Michel and Ramkalawan garnered 47.76 and 33.93 percent of the vote, respectively, prompting a run-off since no candidate got enough votes.

This was the first time since 1993 when the country re-introduced multiparty politics that the island nation had gone for a second round of voting as the ruling party had won every presidential election in the first round since then.

A total of 63,893 people voted in the run-off, according to the Electoral Commission of Seychelles. In the first round of

voting 70,943 eligible voters took part in the vote.

Seychelles population stands at about around 93,000.

President Michel, who will now be serving his third and final term in office as per the country's Constitution, has called for national unity and vowed to continue promoting socio-economic development in the country.

"The result of the election does not mean that our nation is divided. We have always lived together, worked together in spite of our diverse opinions. And this will continue under my new administration," Michel said at his inauguration.

Regional and international election observers deployed across the island have declared the polls as in conformity of regional and international standards.

The SADC Election Observer Mission headed by Patrício José, who is the Deputy Minister of Defence in Mozambique said "there was a general adherence to the relevant national legal instruments as well as the revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections."

The presidential polls in Seychelles were initially set for 2016. However, Michel announced in October that the elections would be held earlier than expected.

He had proclaimed 19-21 November as election days but due to limited time and complaints from opposition parties, the electoral commission set 3-5 December as the dates for the elections to allow more time for the country to prepare for the polls.

Some analysts argued that the rescheduling of elections to December was a ploy by Michel to manage instability within the Parti Lepepas some party members are believed to be not happy with his policies.

This may explain the close outcome of the presidential elections as the ruling party had never been forced into a second round of voting since the re-introduction of multiparty politics in 1993. □

## SADC consolidates peace, stability in 2015

**A TOTAL** of four countries in southern African held peaceful elections in 2015, further consolidating SADC's credentials as a stable region.

First to go to the polls was Zambia on 20 January to choose a new leader following the death of President Michael Sata in October 2014.

Patriotic Front candidate Edgar Lungu garnered 51 percent of the votes against 46 percent for Hakainde Hichilema of the main opposition United Party for National Development to become the sixth president of Zambia since the country got its independence from Britain in 1964.

However, the country is once again expected to hold general elections in 2016 as per its

Constitution, and has set 11 August as the election date.

The Kingdom of Lesotho rescheduled its general elections from its original date of 2017 to 28 February 2015 as part of regional efforts to resolve political instability that had threatened socio-economic development in the country.

Opposition leader Pakalitha Mosisili, who served as prime minister from 1998 to 2012, won the election by a majority vote to reclaim the premiership.

SADC is, however, monitoring the situation in Lesotho following political challenges that arose following the killing of former army chief, General Maaparankoe Mahao in June.

In the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr John Pombe

Magufuli of Chama Cha Mapinduzi was elected the country's fifth president on 25 October.

He took over from Jakaya Kikwete, who had served his second and last term in office, as per the country's Constitution.

The other SADC country to hold elections in 2015 was Seychelles (See story above).

The year also witnessed smooth transition of power in Namibia and Mozambique.

President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique was inaugurated in January, taking over from Armando Guebuza following his election in late 2014.

In Namibia, Hage Geingob was sworn in as President in March to succeed Hifikepunye Pohamba following elections in 2014. □





## SADC monitoring political situation in Lesotho

**SADC HAS** expressed concern that the Lesotho government has launched a legal challenge to the report of a regional commission of inquiry into the killing of former army chief, General Maaparankoe Mahao in June.

The sentiments were expressed by the SADC Troika Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, which met in Johannesburg, South Africa in early December.

The SADC Troika Organ, comprising South African President Jacob Zuma, his Mozambican counterpart President Filip Nyusi, and a senior Tanzanian official representing President John Magufuli, has since tasked South African Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa "to expeditiously communicate the concerns of SADC to the Kingdom of Lesotho".

Ramaphosa is the SADC facilitator in the Lesotho crisis.

The SADC Organ on Politics Defence and Security Cooperation is managed on a Troika basis and is responsible for promoting peace and security in the region.

It is mandated with steering and providing Member States with direction on matters that threaten peace, security and stability in the region. It is co-ordinated at the level of Summit, consisting of a Chairperson, Incoming Chairperson and Outgoing Chairperson, and reports to the SADC Summit Chairperson.

In July, SADC appointed a commission of inquiry, headed by Botswana judge Mphaphi Phumaphi, to examine the killing of Mahao and other related circumstances that had threatened peace and security in Lesotho following peace mediation and the ultimate holding of elections in February.



Mahao was shot dead by soldiers who came to arrest him, allegedly for complicity in a mutiny plot against the government of Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili.

During the hearings, representatives of the Lesotho Defence Force said Mahao had been shot by the soldiers who tried to arrest him after he fired at them with his pistol.

However, Mahao's family and opposition politicians have insisted that he was shot without provocation.

Judge Phumaphi repeatedly clashed with members of the Lesotho government and senior army officers over what he implied was their evasiveness in failing to answer questions about matters they should know about or their refusal to allow soldiers implicated in Mahao's death to testify.

The government, in turn, publicly criticised the judge for hearing testimony from former Prime Minister Tom Thabane and other opposition politicians in South Africa.

They had fled there about the time of Mahao's death, saying they feared for their lives. But the Lesotho government complained that Phumaphi had violated the terms of reference of his commission by hearing evidence outside Lesotho.

Phumaphi announced in October that he was wrapping up his inquiry early because of

the lack of cooperation of government officials and army officers. It is understood his report is very critical of the government, though it has not been made public.

Mosisili had earlier asked President Nyusi, as chair of SADC's Troika Organ, to reprimand Phumaphi for flouting the terms of reference of the commission. He later challenged the validity of the commission in court.

At a press conference held soon after the SADC Troika Organ meeting, SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Taxsaid Ramaphosa would go to Lesotho "as soon as possible" to discuss the report and the court case with the government there and report back to the Troika.



The death of Mahao was part of a much wider political and military crisis in Lesotho which also led to an attempted coup in August 2014 when then army chief General Tlali Kamoli attacked the home of Thabane, who was then prime minister, forcing him to flee to South Africa.

That was after Thabane tried to fire Kamoli and replace him with Mahao. The background to the coup attempt was a split between Thabane and his then coalition partner Methotjoa Metsing, who then switched to Mosisili's opposition group.

Ramaphosa was appointed to facilitate a resolution to the crisis and brokered early elections in February, won by Mosisili and Metsing.

They immediately replaced Kamoli as army chief and analysts in Lesotho believe this precipitated the current crisis as Kamoli embarked on a "reign of terror" against Thabane and his supporters. *Africa News Agency* □

## Responsibilities of the SADC Troika Organ

**THE SADC** Troika Organ on Politics Defence and Security works closely with the SADC Secretariat and is responsible for the following six key areas:

- Politics and Diplomacy – includes cooperation of governments and disaster management;
- Defence – includes the Military;
- Police – Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization [SARPCCO] – includes security of civilians;
- State Security -- includes Regional Early Warning Centre (REWC);
- Public Security -- includes immigration, refugees, correctional services and parks and wildlife; and
- Regional Peacekeeping -- includes standby force and regional peacekeeping committee. □



# Solar water heating – a solution to SADC’s energy challenges

by Joseph Ngwawi

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** is turning to solar energy as it takes steps to address challenges caused by shortages of electricity afflicting most countries in the region.

Regarded as one of Africa’s “sunbelts” and endowed with one of the world’s best solar radiation zones, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is intensifying efforts to harness the potential provided by solar energy.

One such initiative is the Southern African Solar Thermal Training and Demonstration Initiative (SOLTRAIN), a regional initiative on capacity building and demonstration of solar thermal systems in the SADC region.

The main objective of the project is to help wean the southern African region from the use of environmentally unfriendly fossil fuels and promote usage of renewable energies, with focus on solar water heating.

Solar thermal systems such as solar water heating have a huge potential to alleviate problems of unemployment, power supply shortages, high energy costs, and pollution.

Started in 2009 with support from the Austrian Development Agency and the OPEC Fund for International Development, the initiative has benefited five countries during the first two phases – Lesotho, Namibia, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

SOLTRAIN Project Coordinator, Werner Weiss said the first phase ran from May 2009 to August 2012 while the current second phase began in November 2012 and is expected to be completed at the end of February 2016.

Weiss said the first two phases of the project had four focus areas. These were to:

- raise awareness about the potential of solar heating technology in the SADC region;
- build competence in production of solar heating technology;
- create discussion and lobby platforms in participating countries; and,
- establish demonstration project to show that the technology works.

“Between 2009 and 2015 about 2,150 people were trained in 80 training courses,” Weiss said, adding that some 187 small- to large-scale solar heating systems were installed during the first and second phase of SOLTRAIN.

The applications of these systems range from smallscale thermosiphon systems for single family houses to medium-size systems for industrial and commercial applications.

Some of the demonstration projects were installed at food and beverage companies that require a lot of hot water for their operations.

South Africa has the largest number of installed solar heating systems with 85 beneficiaries at breweries, abattoirs, orphanages, hospitals, retirement homes and tertiary institutions. It is followed

by Namibia which has 71 solar water heater installations at a low-cost government housing project, restaurants and tertiary institutions.

Zimbabwe has the third highest number of beneficiaries at 19 projects, followed by Lesotho with 10 and Mozambique with two projects.

According to Weiss, the third phase of the programme will commence in March and will see the initiative being expanded to include Botswana as the sixth country. The phase will run until July 2019.

The third phase of the project will see the implementation of plans developed by participating countries.

Three of the participating countries have developed roadmaps. These are Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa.

The roadmaps outline the strategies and targets set by the countries to be met by 2030.

For example, Mozambique plans to install at least one million solar water heaters in residential areas by 2030 as well as more than 30,000 in hotels and other tourism establishments and 15,000 in public institutions such as government offices, hospitals and schools in the same period.

The South African roadmap shows that the country plans to install at least eight million high pressure and low pressure solar water geysers in residential areas over the next 14 years.

To encourage and promote the widespread implementation of solar water heating, The South African Department of Energy, through power utility Eskom, has rolled out a large-scale solar water heating programme.

Namibia also has equally ambitious targets to install solar thermal systems in residential areas, tourism facilities, hospitals and office blocks by 2030.

This will include more than 200,000 installations in houses and at least 343 at hospitals and clinics around the country.

Even participating countries without roadmaps have their own targets to upscale the deployment of solar heating systems.

The Zimbabwean government will soon announce the launch of a national Solar Water Heating Programme (SWHP) which aims to install and retrofit 250,000 solar geysers over the next five years.

Energy and Power Development Minister Samuel Undenge said preparations for the SWHP were at an advanced stage, with efforts underway to gazette appropriate legislation to enforce the new solar water heating standards, looking at reviewing building by-laws.

The programme would compel all new housing programmes to ensure that solar heaters become mandatory at every new house before connection to the grid, with incentives being put in place. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net) □





# RGY

## ERN AFRICA



## SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency To be launched mid-2016

**THE LONG-AWAITED** SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) is expected to be officially launched by June 2016 following completion of the process of selecting a host nation and the appointment of secretariat staff.

According to Nokwazi Moyo, interim coordinator of SACREEE which is hosted by Namibia in Windhoek, the Centre will be launched in the coming months once the ongoing recruitment process for staff for the secretariat is completed.

The management team will be headed by an executive director and will have various levels of permanent staff to be complemented by consultants and seconded international staff as may be necessary from time to time.

Namibia was confirmed as host of SACREEE by the meeting of SADC Energy Ministers in July 2015 in South Africa. The Centre will be housed at the Namibia University of Science and Technology, formerly the Polytechnic of Namibia.

The SADC energy ministers commended the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and Austrian Development Agency (ADA) for their contributions during the preparatory process of the centre.

ADA and UNIDO have pledged to provide financial support to the centre for the first three years. After that, the centre should be self-sustaining.

Establishment of the centre is expected to be carried out in three phases, the first of which involves the selection of a host country and establishment of the SACREEE Secretariat.

The Preparatory Phase, that was initially expected to run from January-October 2014, would also see the creation and inauguration of the SACREEE executive board and technical committees.

The First Operational Phase was expected to run from the end of 2014-2017 during which the centre will primarily focus on developing renewable energy programmes for the region and resource mobilisation.

The Second Operational Phase, from 2018-2021, will focus on activities to ensure sustainability of the centre after the exit of international cooperating partners such as UNIDO.



The establishment of SACREEE is expected to increase the uptake of clean energy in southern Africa, enabling the region to address some of its energy challenges.

Development of a harmonized regional policy framework for new and renewable energy has been identified as an important step towards realization of SADC's goal of achieving the balance between meeting the region's energy needs and ensuring sustainability of the environment.

SADC is working on a draft Regional Renewable Energy Strategy, which seeks to promote the uptake of clean energy and ensure that southern Africa takes advantage of the numerous renewable energy opportunities that exist in the region.

According to the Energy Division of the SADC Directorate on Infrastructure and Services, almost all SADC Member States have energy policies in place while only three have so far developed renewable energy policies. These are Namibia, South Africa and Zambia.

SADC data also shows that only Mauritius, South Africa and Zambia presently have renewable energy strategies in place while Mauritius is the only Member State with an existing renewable energy master plan. □

## Global network of renewable energy centres

**THE SADC** Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency is one of five regional centres of excellence being established by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation around the world.

Head of the UNIDO Energy Division, Pradeep Monga said other centres of excellence have been established or are in the process of being set up in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the East African Community, the Caribbean islands, and the Pacific islands.

The ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), based in Praia, the capital of Cape Verde, is the oldest and most successful regional centre of excellence.

It was established in 2010 with support from Austria, UNIDO and Spain, and has several flagship projects that cover 15 ECOWAS countries.

These include a project to promote the mainstreaming of gender in the renewable energy sector as well as an online database for sharing information among member states.

Monga said SACREEE and the East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE) are expected to be functional by mid-2016 with the secretariats based in Windhoek, Namibia, and Kampala, Uganda, respectively.

The Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) based in Barbados was inaugurated in October 2015 while the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) is expected to be launched in September 2016 in Tonga.

The purpose of the centres of excellence is to increase the uptake of clean energy in the various regions. □



## Mainstreaming gender in the SADC renewable energy sector

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** is undergoing a crippling power shortage, which was first detected as early as 1999, forcing most countries to implement demand-side management programmes such as load shedding.

While load shedding has succeeded in restraining the overall electricity demand in the region, the measure has also affected socio-economic growth since the availability of energy is one of the key enablers of sustainable development and is essential to the industrialization agenda.

Constituting more than half the population of most SADC Member States, women are disproportionately affected by the challenges associated with access to modern sources of energy compared to men.

Access to energy is gendered, with women in most countries in the region experiencing energy poverty differently and more severely than men.

Women and girls are, to a large extent, responsible for household and community activities, including energy provision in most SADC countries.

While acknowledging that the energy challenges SADC is grappling with do not occur in isolation and that they are anchored within the broader development context, renewable energy (RE) services present many opportunities to facilitate the lifting of the population out of poverty, especially if targeted at women given their strategic role in society.

To promote the benefits of RE as well as gender mainstreaming in the sector, the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) is, therefore, implementing a project on Mainstreaming Gender in the SADC Renewable Energy Sector.

The project aims to encourage SADC countries to create conditions that promote gender mainstreaming in the RE sector.

It involves not only knowledge dissemination, but also promotion of changes in attitudes and behaviour, including a sense of commitment to the various regional and international policies and treaties to which SADC Member States are parties.

The project will aim to:

- provide coordination of regional action and priorities for gender mainstreaming in the RE sector;
- provide southern Africa with an integrated approach to RE;
- strengthen links between various institutions involved with RE in the region, thereby avoiding a duplication of efforts;
- enhance the involvement of women and men in knowledge and technological transfers in the region;
- build capacity within the region in RE as a sector that could generate employment for both women and men; and
- collate and disseminate RE success stories.

SARDC, which is a knowledge partner of the SADC Energy Thematic Group (ETG) tasked with raising regional awareness among stakeholders in southern Africa about key energy issues in the region, will work closely with the SADC Gender Unit and SADC Energy Division in implementing the project.

Other key partners will include the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) and the soon-to-be-launched SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE).

The project is supported by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). Austria is the lead International Cooperating Partner (ICP) for the SADC energy sector tasked with assisting SADC in facilitating coordination of energy development in the region. □



## Towards energy efficiency

**COUNTRIES IN** eastern and southern Africa are stepping up efforts towards energy efficiency, which is using less energy to provide the same service.

Energy efficiency is achieved through a number of ways including replacing an incandescent lamp with a compact fluorescent lamp as the latter uses much less energy than the former to produce the same amount of light.

Switching from traditional light bulbs to compact fluorescent lamps has been effective in most SADC countries as they have significantly reduced energy use at home and prevented greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

For example, compact fluorescent lamps have been shown

to save up to 80 per cent of the electricity consumption, compared to incandescent bulbs. Between 2010 and 2014, at about 4,561MW savings were achieved from DSM initiatives in the region, according to SADC.

It is envisaged that the SADC region will save more than 6,000MW by 2018 if such initiatives are implemented according to plan.

Energy experts from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and SADC met in November in Windhoek, Namibia for a regional energy efficiency stakeholder workshop to explore synergies and coordination in energy efficiency activities in the region



and to come up with a strategy that will create a platform for implementing energy efficiency in the region.

The workshop agreed on the formation of four thematic groups to spearhead energy efficiency in the region. These are:

- policy and action plan development;
- energy efficiency standards and support mechanisms on the demand and supply side;
- information dissemination, awareness raising and capacity building; and
- business and market development. □



## Tripartite FTA should be ratified

**COUNTRIES** IN eastern and southern Africa are starting the process of ratification of the Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement (TFTA) signed in June 2015.

The timely ratification of the TFTA agreement will ensure the smooth implementation and ultimate launch of an enlarged market extending from Cape to Cairo.

Sixteen countries have signed the TFTA to date. These are Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and

Zimbabwe. Of these, eight are SADC Member States.

The remaining countries are expected to sign the agreement soon after requesting for some time to complete their internal processes before appending their signature to the document.

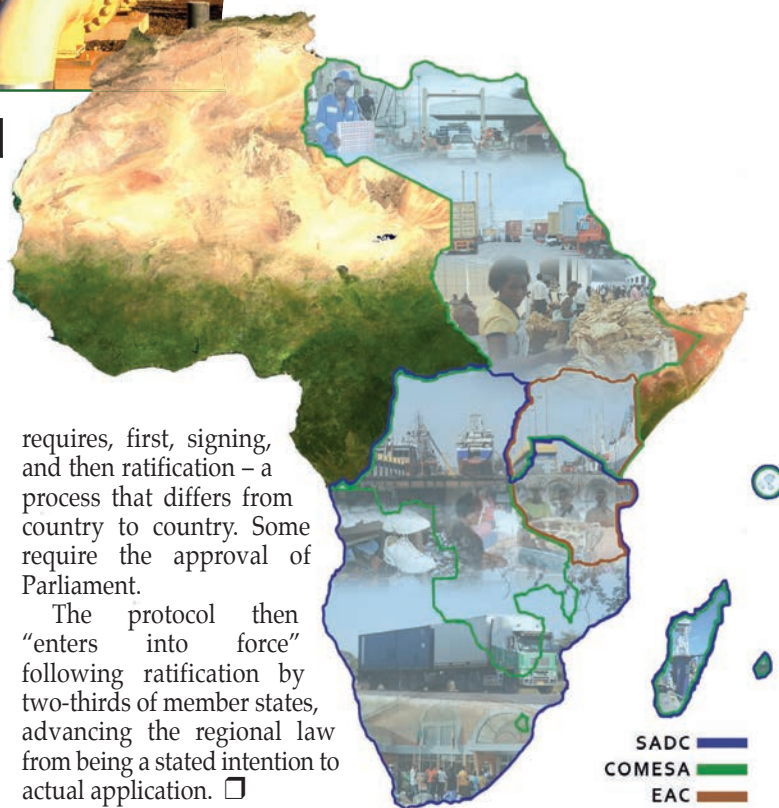
These are Botswana, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Libya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, South Sudan and Zambia.

At least 14 of the 27 countries in the tripartite arrangement are required to ratify the Agreement for it to enter into force.

The process of approval of a regional legal instrument

requires, first, signing, and then ratification – a process that differs from country to country. Some require the approval of Parliament.

The protocol then “enters into force” following ratification by two-thirds of member states, advancing the regional law from being a stated intention to actual application. □



## IMF recognizes Chinese currency as global

**THE INTERNATIONAL** Monetary Fund has recognized the reality of China's place in global finance by adding the Chinese currency to its global basket of currencies.

An IMF announcement on 30 November said the renminbi (RMB) will be added to its Special Drawing Rights (SDR) basket which includes four other international currencies.

The IMF said the value of SDR will be based on a weighted average of the values of the currencies, and other sources said the RMB would be weighted at a value of 10.92, which is below the US dollar and the euro, but above the British pound and Japanese yen.

The change in the international status of the Chinese currency in terms of the Bretton Woods financial institutions,

which is effective from 1 October 2016, recognizes the RMB (also call the yuan) as a major reserve currency.

The IMF reviews its basket of currencies at five-year intervals, and rejected the RMB five years ago in 2010, saying the currency did not meet its criteria, which are essentially two: volume of international trade and use of the currency in international trade.

China without doubt has the largest volume of international trade, but only 2.5 percent of tabulated international trade uses the Chinese currency, due to lack of recognition as a tradable currency, and RMB is used only in transactions involving China. For comparison, while the US dollar is used for US trade, it is used mainly for trade involving third parties.

But now, on 30 November 2015, the IMF says the Chinese currency meets the “freely usable” standard, and that trading is up significantly in two of three international time zones.

Recognition of the currency globally is more than symbolic and, while not an objective of Chinese economic policy, is another step towards a globally traded currency. A main result could be that countries in Africa, such as Zimbabwe and others, will accept the RMB for exchange.

A contributor to forbes.com said this announcement tells us that the IMF, and by extension the world financial community, believes in China as “an unarguable top tier player in the global economy; that it supports China's efforts to internationalize its currency; that it believes in Beijing's process of economic reform.”

Sanjiv Shah, the chief investment officer of Sun Global Investments says, “The longer term impact of the event will be more significant as it will lead to a greater use of the yuan in international transactions.”

A Japanese holding company and consulting firm, Nomura, said that it expects the RMB to

pass the yen and sterling within five years in terms of its level of usage in world trade, and join the dollar and euro by 2030.

“After years as the world's largest exporting nation,” said Nomura, “China is now attempting to export the ultimate ‘Made in China’ product: the Renminbi.”

The founder of Hao Capital, Charles Liu, while positive about the impact of the decision, told China Central Television (CCTV) that recognition of the RMB by the international financial institutions is “belated” and “begrudging”.

The IMF announcement came just hours before the Chinese President Xi Jinping touched down in Harare, Zimbabwe, the capital of President Robert Mugabe, who is the current chairperson of the African Union. President Mugabe told the media in an impromptu press conference at State House that President Xi is “our greatest friend in the international community”. □





## Chinese President makes historic visit to Zimbabwe

**TWELVE INVESTMENT** agreements have been signed by China and Zimbabwe during the State Visit of the Chinese President Xi Jinping.

President Xi and his host, President Robert Mugabe, witnessed the signing by different ministers of the agreements worth US\$4 billion covering aviation, energy, telecommunications, infrastructure, and private sector ventures.

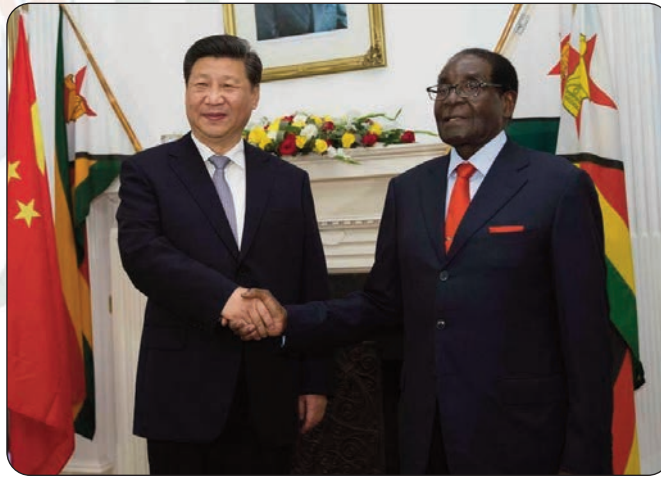
The agreements include financing for expansion of the Hwange Power Station and a national fibre optic broadband project, construction of a new Parliament building and a pharmaceutical warehouse, and provision of wildlife monitoring equipment.

During the first half of next year, the China Exim bank will begin extending loans to Zimbabwe of more than US\$1.1 billion for the expansion of Hwange Power Station and TelOne's fibre optic broadband project.

Sino-Hydro was contracted to undertake the Hwange project that will add 600 megawatts of power to the national grid, which is struggling due to low water levels at Kariba hydropower station and recurrent faults at Hwange.

The agreements include a grant of US\$65 million dollars for the construction of a new Parliament building and a pharmaceutical warehouse.

Two of the agreements are private sector driven. One was signed by International Business of China and China Africa Sunlight Energy on the development of coal and methane gas mines and a thermal power station at Gwayi. The other was signed by AVM Africa and Beijing Automobile Assembly.



The agreements will add momentum to the implementation of Zimbabwe's development plan, the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (Zim-Asset).

Other general agreements included one on economic and technical cooperation between Zimbabwe and China signed by the ministers of commerce of the two countries.

Another framework agreement on enhancement of investment was signed by the Minister in the President's Office for Policy Coordination and Promotion of Socio-Economic Ventures with China's top planning agency, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

China, as the largest developing country, and Africa, the continent with the most developing countries, are increasingly influential in global affairs and actively strengthening cooperation.

A recent symposium in Harare on China-Africa relations addressed how this "new type of strategic partnership" can benefit local development while

contributing to redefining global governance structures.

President Xi arrived in Zimbabwe on 1 December leading a delegation of more than 200 people including senior government and party officials.

President Mugabe told journalists that relations between Zimbabwe and China have reached a new high following the state visit.

"Although their stay was brief, but the essence of the visit was phenomenal and shall always be remembered by us in Zimbabwe. The Chinese and Zimbabweans are excellent friends, friends not just today, friends that have established their friendship back and our future will always be on the path of that. We are all-weather friends."

President Xi thanked Zimbabweans for the warm reception, saying, "I am satisfied by this visit."

He said the consolidation of relations with Zimbabwe and other African nations remains a cornerstone of Chinese foreign policy, adding that he values the important contribution by Zimbabwe to the solidarity and development of Africa during the past year when President

Mugabe has held the African Union chair.

"In conducting China's relations with Africa, we adhere to the principles of sincerity, practical results, affinity and good faith, and uphold the values of friendship, justice and shared interests.

He said the two leaders would meet again at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Summit that takes place in Johannesburg, South Africa on 4-5 December.

FOCAC is an increasingly influential platform that has played an important role in enhancing collective dialogue and practical cooperation since it was established at the turn of millennium 15 years ago.

In a statement on China's Africa Policy presented last year at the African Union headquarters in Ethiopia, the Premier of the State Council of China, Li Keqiang, pledged to promote major projects in six areas of cooperation – industrial, financial, poverty reduction, ecological and environmental protection, cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and enhancing peace and security.

These are key areas of focus for the FOCAC discussion and subsequent Plan of Action for the next three years 2016-2018. The Action Plan has a significant regional dimension for the first time, in supporting the regional structures that build African unity.

The 2nd FOCAC Summit, which took place in Johannesburg following the 6th ministerial meeting, will continue to improve this mechanism for cooperation, enrich its content and make the platform more practical and efficient. □





# China-Africa cooperation scales new heights

by Munetsi Madakufamba

**SINCE THE** formation of the China Africa Forum 15 years ago, relations between the two sides have continued to scale new heights in the areas of economic, cultural, political and security spheres.

The 2015 Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China Africa Cooperation on 4-5 December has taken further bold steps to cement mutual benefit between the two sides while taking the ties to even higher levels, including a new US\$60 billion Chinese fund to support development on the African continent.

Although relations between China and Africa span several centuries – from the pre-colonial relations which were largely trade driven through colonial era relations when political and military cooperation blossomed, to the post-colonial era when economic cooperation has taken centre-stage while political ties have remained important – China has recently shown unprecedented interest in Africa.

The Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) enunciated in 2000 has provided a more structured platform for deepening the ties between the two sides in a broad spectrum of fields from political to economic areas.

Latest figures indicate that trade between the two sides reached US\$220 billion in 2014 while China's direct investment in Africa topped US\$30 billion in the same year.

In an address to the opening ceremony of the Johannesburg Summit of FOCAC on 4 December, Chinese President Xi

Jinping announced 10 China Africa Cooperation Projects which will be supported by a US\$60 billion fund.

The plan covers development in a wide range of sectors of the African continent, including improvement of the continent's industrial capacity, agricultural modernisation, infrastructure development, upgrading rural and urban settlements, green development, trade and investment facilitation, poverty reduction, health improvement, culture and people to people exchange, and peace and security cooperation.

Outlining his country's vision for Africa, Xi said the fund, which consists of grants, favourable concessionary loans and other investment funds, will be channelled into areas selected by African countries as opposed to priorities imposed by others.

He said China's foreign policy on Africa is guided by five principles that include political equality and mutual trust, win-win economic cooperation, mutually enriching cultural and people to people exchanges, mutual assistance in peace and security, and solidarity and cooperation in international affairs.

Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, who is the African Union chair, led African leaders in thanking the Chinese President for his generous assistance to the continent.

"Here is a man representing a country once called poor; a country that never colonised us, doing what those who once colonised us ought to be doing," he said.

The South African President Jacob Zuma, host of the 2015 FOCAC Summit, said China has been a "consistent friend of Africa".

He said the theme of the 2015 Summit, "Africa-China Progressing Together: Win-Win Cooperation for Common Development", aligns with Agenda 2063, the continent's long term vision.

Everyone from the United States of America to Europe is seeking to do business with China, aiming for a share of the Asian giant's US\$4.3 trillion reserves.

Africa is no exception, and African leaders are seeking mutually beneficial cooperation with China. Both Mugabe and Zuma made this point quite clear.

Mugabe said some people have a distorted view of relations between China and Africa.

He said the west has "sought to portray and reduce our relations to purely commercial eyes driven in their view, as they say, by China's appetite for and desire to extract raw materials from our continent... On the contrary, reality, fortunately, does not conform to such distorted imaginative creations."

He said the "relations go much deeper than the extraction of resources."

The fear of China moving into Africa solely for the continent's resources has been allayed by Chinese authorities on many occasions. Xi in particular has spoken consistently of the "new normal" where the world is undergoing profound changes.

Part of that "new normal" has no doubt manifested itself in the maturation of the Chinese economy, which is now seeking to shift from one that is resource hungry to a new economic system that is consumer-driven with a strong middle class.

It is an economy that is seeking to export some of its labour-intensive industries into Africa, for example building industrial parks that will take advantage of the continent's demographic dividend.

Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, who is AU Commission chairperson, said Africa is set to benefit from investment by Chinese enterprises as the continent "has a young population in an aging world".

She said the move was even more welcome given the continent's quest to benefit and value-add in order to create jobs and hedge against the volatility of the prices of its primary commodities on the international market.

The Johannesburg Summit on 4-5 December was preceded by meetings of senior officials and ministers, as well as fora for the private sector, academia and the media, all of which set the momentum for the summit.

This is the 6th FOCAC meeting at ministerial level since 2000 and only the second summit. The first summit was held in Beijing in 2006. The Johannesburg Summit was attended by 50 African countries, mostly at head of state level, as well as representatives of the African Union and its regional economic communities. □



## SADC strengthens cooperation with Japan

**THE SADC** Secretariat sent a high-level delegation to Tokyo in November to strengthen relations with Japan as a significant cooperating partner.

The visit, led by SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, was part of efforts to accelerate resource mobilisation for priorities and to explore opportunities for investment in the region based on the SADC Revised Indicative Strategic Development Plan, the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap, the priority regional infrastructure projects and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) framework.

The Japanese Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Masakazu Hamachi, expressed his country's commitment to deepening relations with SADC, and affirmed that Japan intends to

utilise TICAD VI in 2016 as a vehicle for making its support to Africa more visible.

"Among other things, Japan is considering ways of increasing the participation of public and private sectors, focusing on, among other things: Transport and Energy and the Development of Agriculture through agro-processing for value-addition," he said.

Japan and SADC reaffirmed the importance of their cooperation and undertook to continue to work together, guided by the 2012 Memorandum on Cooperation, which prioritises Infrastructure Development; Promotion and Expansion of Trade, Investment and Tourism; Private Sector Development; Agriculture and Natural Resources Cooperation; and Political Dialogue.



In this regard, both sides agreed to, among other things, fast-track implementation of the newly signed SADC-Japan Regional Forestry Project and roll out the Energy Sector Master Plan for Southern Africa, currently being prepared with assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

During the visit, the SADC Secretariat met with various other stakeholders, including JICA, where major developments in the region were out-

lined, notably the revision of the RISDP and the preparation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap.

The Secretariat presented the SADC priority regional infrastructure projects which are ready for investment, and emphasised the need to deepen SADC-JICA

collaboration at the regional level through TICAD VI, and expressed the importance of regional projects to the investors.

"Regional projects enable investors to benefit from economies of scale, a bigger market and achieve greater returns on investment. They are easier to implement due to multi-country participation and ownership," Dr Tax said.

Japan reassured SADC of its commitment to the region due to its abundant natural resources, high potential for growth and political stability. For example, the proposed Energy Sector Master Plan for Southern Africa is to be used for mobilising resources for the priority energy projects.

With support from Japan and other investors, Mozambique is exploring ways of improving and developing a vibrant gas value-chain.

SADC has also benefitted from Japanese support in the establishment of the Chirundu One-Stop Border Post between Zambia and Zimbabwe, as well as plans to construct the Kazungula Bridge.

One of the main highlights of the visit was a seminar on investment opportunities in the SADC region, where SADC presented a detailed description of the targeted priority regional infrastructure projects in the energy, transport, ICT, water and tourism sectors. [sadc.int](http://sadc.int) □

## SADC, UNODC review implementation of joint regional programme

**PRIORITY AREAS** for future cooperation have been identified by SADC and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to collaborate in promoting health, justice and security in curbing the use of illicit drugs and international crime.

The priorities areas were identified in November at a regional programme steering committee meeting held to review the implementation of the SADC-UNODC Joint Regional Programme on Making the SADC Region Safer from Crime and Drugs: 2013-2016. The programme has three strategic pillars:

- **PILLAR 1. Countering Illicit Trafficking and Organised Crime.** This aims to strengthen regional border control and management capacities, support counter-narcotics efforts with special regard to precursor chemicals, support countries to address urban and emerging crimes, and strengthen anti money-laundering and forensic capacities in the region.

- **PILLAR 2. Criminal Justice and Integrity.** This supports national efforts to address corruption and to strengthen the criminal justice institutions in the region by improving the effectiveness of investigation, prosecution, access to justice, fair trial and execution of penal sanctions, and by securing the protection of vulnerable groups.
- **PILLAR 3. Improving Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Care, and HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for People Who Use Drugs, including Injecting Drug Users and in Prison Settings.** This pillar seeks to support the countries to reduce the demand for drugs, prevent drug-related HIV infections, as well as HIV and AIDS in prison settings, and promote treatment to reduce health-related and social consequences.

There are three cross-cutting areas that support the implementation of these pillars.

These are data collection and analysis, legislative assistance, and capacity development. [sadc.int](http://sadc.int) □



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**December**  
30 November –  
11 Dec, France

### UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

The 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the UNFCCC meets in Paris to continue negotiations towards a global consensus on climate change. While significant progress has been made towards a binding agreement, deep divisions remain on the way forward, particularly on carbon emissions levels, climate finance, technology, and capacity for adaptation and risk management.

4- 5,  
South Africa

### Forum on China-Africa Cooperation 2nd Summit

This is the 6th meeting at ministerial level since FOCAC was initiated in 2000, and the 2nd summit of African leaders and China. The 1st summit was held 2006 in Beijing. Meeting under the theme "Africa-China Progressing Together: Win-Win Cooperation for Common Development", the Summit is expected to improve China-Africa cooperation, enrich its content and make the platform more practical and efficient.

10-11,  
Botswana

### Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism for Eastern and Southern Africa

The stakeholders' meeting seeks to provide a forum for consultations on how to achieve the objectives of the Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism (SRCM) Business Plan by incorporating it as a crucial component of work plans and strategic orientations for regional economic Communities and inter-governmental organisations. Theme: "Towards Effective Mainstreaming of the SRCM Business Plan into Stakeholders' Planning Process and Priority Setting".

15-18, Kenya

### 10th WTO Ministerial Conference

The highest decision-making body of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is the ministerial conference, which meets at two-year intervals, bringing together all members of the WTO. The ministerial conference takes decisions on matters under any of the multilateral trade agreements.

**January**  
11-13, France

### Brainstorming Workshop on Regional Cooperation on Renewable Energy

The objective of this invitation-only workshop is to initiate exchange between regional data providers and topical renewable energy experts about ongoing initiatives and future strategies to foster rapid deployment of renewable energy.

18–21, United  
Arab Emirates

### World Future Energy Summit 2016

The summit will be dedicated to renewable energies, energy efficiency and clean energies. WFES 2016 will present energy stakeholders with a unique opportunity to meet with their peers, exchange technology, share best practices and form business partnerships.

30-31,  
Ethiopia

### 26th Ordinary Session of the African Union

African Heads of State and Government will gather for the 26th Ordinary Session of the African Union, preceded by ministerial and technical meetings of officials. The AU theme for this year is "2016: African Year of Human Rights with particular focus on the Rights of Women".

**February**  
2, Global

### World Wetlands Day

This date marks the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar, now widely known as the Ramsar Convention.

16-17,  
South Africa

### Africa Energy Indaba 2016

The indaba will bring together international and continental experts to share insights and solutions to Africa's energy challenges, while simultaneously exploring the vast energy development opportunities on offer for Africa.

**March**  
9, Botswana

### SADC Energy Thematic Group

The SADC ETG is a coordination meeting of cooperating partners, experts, SADC and its subsidiary organizations to discuss ways of assisting the region in tackling energy challenges.



# 40

## ANGOLA @40

### 1975-2015

**NOVEMBER 11** is the date that Angola won back its independence 40 years ago, in 1975, following a war of national liberation against Portuguese colonialism.

Portuguese ships arrived in Angola in 1483 flaunting the banner of Christianity but in truth, geared to consign millions of Africans into slavery across the sea in the Americas. Some four million slaves were shipped overseas from Angola during the next 300 years to work on plantations in Brazil and mines in Mexico.

Resistance grew as indigenous Angolans were ruthlessly repressed through to the middle of the 20th century while Portugal, the metropolis in Europe, considered territories such as Angola and Mozambique, as its provinces.

Angolan nationalists created and sustained clandestine political movements through the 1950s. Inspired by the rise of the anti-colonial sentiments throughout Africa, they conducted a series of violent upheavals in 1961, aimed at liberating political prisoners and protesting the abuses of farm labour. This became the spark for the start of the liberation war, fought by the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), led by Dr António Agostinho Neto.

Despite two western-backed movements created to collaborate with the colonial power and fight against the MPLA, the liberation movement held the capital and sufficient territory to claim independence. On 11 November 1975, the Portuguese administration boarded its ships waiting in Luanda harbour and sailed away back home.

The National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA), led by a Congo émigré Holden Roberto, fought the MPLA in the north; while the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) led by Jonas Savimbi, fought in the south, supported by apartheid South Africa.

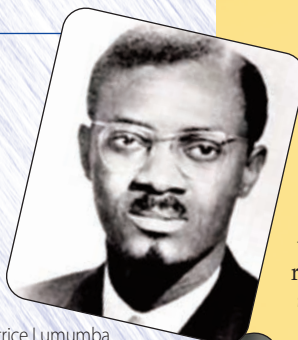
The new MPLA government received material support from the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Cuba, and Cuban troops fought as allies in southern Angola after the country was invaded post-independence by the South African Defence Force. The joint forces held them off at a strategic bridge and prevented the apartheid objective of marching to Luanda.

Fullscale war at the time of independence, continued South African army attacks, invasions and occupations and, perhaps more significantly, the intense interest shown by the United States of America in Angola's destiny are factors that mark Angola's recent history. Multi-party elections were held in 1991 the midst of a ceasefire that soon broke down, and the war continued until Savimbi was defeated and killed in February 2002.

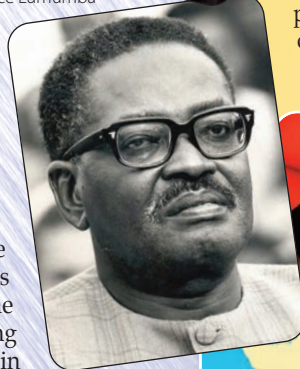
Western and particularly US involvement in Angola dates back to the start of the independence struggle in the early 1960s. The reason is now apparent. Angola is rich in minerals including diamonds but most important, has vast petroleum reserves offshore.

Angola is now the second largest oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa after Nigeria and has been a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) since 2007, supplying a significant portion of US petroleum imports.

Oil production in Angola gradually increased from the 1960s to the 1990s, reaching almost 750,000 barrels/day by 2000. The first deepwater fields came on-line at Kuito in 1999 and grew by 15 percent per year from 2002-2008, mainly operated by US and European firms. Angola holds 9 billion barrels of proven crude oil reserves, according to the latest estimates from the *Oil & Gas Journal*. □



Patrice Lumumba



Agostinho Neto

## DRC remembers liberation pioneers

**JANUARY 4** is celebrated as Martyrs Day in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) commemorating the mass action on that date in 1959 that was the beginning of the end of Belgian colonial rule in the Congo. "Immediate independence", the slogan of the Kinshasa protesters, soon became a non-negotiable demand of the national independence movement and marked the beginning of the radicalisation of the struggle. The course of Congolese history was changed by this event.



## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

December 2015-February 2016

8 December	Immaculate Conception	Seychelles
9 December	Independence Day	Tanzania
10 December	International Human Rights Day	Namibia
16 December	Day of Reconciliation	South Africa
22 December	National Unity Day	Zimbabwe
25 December	Christmas	All SADC except Angola and Mozambique
	Family Day	Angola, Mozambique
26 December	Day of Goodwill	South Africa
	Family Day	Namibia
	Boxing Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
29 December	Incwala Day	Swaziland
1 January	New Year's Day	SADC
2 January	Public Holiday	Botswana, Mauritius, Seychelles
4 January	Martyrs Day	DRC
12 January	Zanzibar Revolution Day	Tanzania
15 January	John Chilembwe Day	Malawi
16 January	Heroes Day (Laurent Kabila)	DRC
17 January	Heroes Day (Patrice Lumumba)	DRC
1 February	Abolition of Slavery Day	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes Day	Mozambique
4 February	National Armed Struggle Day	Angola
8 February	Chinese Spring Festival	Mauritius