

# SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY



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## Harnessing human capital to promote industrialization

by Kizito Sikuka

**INDUSTRIALIZATION HAS** been identified as one of the key priorities in the regional integration agenda of southern Africa.

This is because an industrialized SADC will enable countries in the region to unlock their full potential and realize maximum benefit from their vast natural resources.

For example, value addition and beneficiation of resources such as diamond and gold would allow the region to get more in return when exporting finished or processed goods, unlike the current situation where the profits are being realized outside the region since value addition is taking place in other industrialized countries and not in SADC.

However, the process of developing and strengthening industries in the SADC region is not an easy task. It depends on a number of enabling factors including infrastructure development and availability of technology and energy.

Another critical factor is investing in human capital, which is in abundance throughout the region.

According to the SADC Secretariat, the region has a population of more than 277 million, with the majority being the youth – a key component of the labour force that needs to be harnessed.

A SADC region with a developed, knowledgeable and skilled human resource base is well-equipped to exploit its natural resources,

promote socio-economic development and push the regional integration agenda forward.

In fact, the SADC Treaty, which laid the foundation for the establishment of a shared community of southern Africa acknowledges the important role of developing a strong and vibrant human resource base to achieve the longstanding goals of a “prosperous, integrated and united” region.

The theme of the 35th SADC Summit held in Gaborone, Botswana in August last year that ran under the banner “Accelerating Industrialization of SADC Economies, Through Transformation of Natural Endowment and Improved Human Capital” highlights the strong importance that the region is placing towards investing in human capital to promote industrialization.

The theme takes into cognisance the natural resource endowment that prevails across the region and the need to utilize such resources for industrial development, contribute towards human capital growth, and engender a climate of progress.

In this regard, the SADC region is putting in place a variety of strategies to develop and improve human capital so as to improve investment, efficiency and competitiveness of the region in the global economy, as well as improve the quality of lives of its citizens.

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## Harnessing human capital to promote industrialization

One such strategy is mainstreaming human capital in all regional programmes, projects and activities including the recently approved SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063 and the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015-2020.

The SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap adopted by the SADC Extra-Ordinary Summit held in April 2015 in Harare, Zimbabwe aims at accelerating the growing momentum towards strengthening the comparative and competitive advantages of the economies of the region, and is anchored on three pillars, industrialization, competitiveness and regional integration.

The Revised RISDP is a five-year plan that guides the implementation of all SADC programmes from 2015 until 2020, and focuses on four priority areas: Industrial development and market integration; Infrastructure in support of regional integration; Peace and Security cooperation as a prerequisite for regional integration; as well as Special programmes of regional dimension.

Harnessing human capital and establishing a workforce that is prepared for the demands of competitive economies is critical for the success of both the Revised RISDP and SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap.

For example, one of the main targets contained in the Revised RISDP is the development, approval and implementation of a Regional Qualifications Frameworks (RQF) by 2017.

The RQF, which was initiated a few years ago seeks, among other things, to enable SADC countries to compare

and recognize qualifications obtained in the region.

In the long run, the establishment of a standardized educational system should promote deeper regional integration as it would help facilitate the movement of students and professionals in southern Africa, allowing the region to share experiences and skilled labour.

Significant results of harmonizing educational standards in the region has promoted student mobility, especially in higher education across the region, with a number of countries now treating SADC students as locals in terms of tuition and accommodation.

With regard to employment, considerable progress has been made in the free movement of labour from one country to another.

Another key intervention by SADC to tap its human capital is adopting a collective approach to addressing the "brain drain" that has seen well-trained professionals including nurses, teachers and engineers being lured to work outside the region.

In this regard, SADC countries are crafting mechanisms to ensure that professionals remain in the region such as providing better remuneration and other attractive perks such as allowances, as well as training and study opportunities.

SADC countries including Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe are working with the International Organisation for Migration to create a database on the number of professionals who have left the region, in the hope of luring them back.

Parallel to this, SADC is engaging those in the diaspora who are not able to return home to assume a more active

role in the development agenda of southern Africa.

Related to this, SADC is exploring ways on how the region could tap into the knowledge of think tanks and others experts on advancing its regional integration agenda.

One country that has recorded impressive results from engaging think tanks in socio-economic development is China, where research institutions take an active role in policy formulation and implementation.

Investment in education and health is also a top priority for SADC to develop its human capital.

With regard to education, the average expenditure on the education sector has been increasing over the years with enrolment rates at all levels namely primary through to tertiary and post-graduate reaching higher levels.

For example, from 1960 to 2010, enrolment rates in primary education increased at an average annual rate of 1.5 percent, with female enrolment increasing slightly faster at 1.6 percent, according to the SADC Secretariat. Tertiary enrolment rates were estimated at 6.3 percent in 2010.

In addition, SADC has intensified efforts to better link

higher education and training so that people are better equipped to carry out their duties when on the job.

In this regard, the region is strengthening its technical and vocational education and training programme.

The region is addressing the shortage of critical skills in key areas vital for higher productivity and competitiveness by making the cost of education and training cheaper in specialized fields such as medicines.

For example, Zimbabwe is implementing the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programme that sees the government pay full school and boarding fees for students in public schools who register for science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects.

STEM is part of a long-term strategy to invest and harness human capital.

Another strategy that SADC has put in place to maintain a strong human resource base is improving the health sector so that citizens live longer and stay healthier.

A healthy SADC population is a necessary catalyst for socio-economic development and regional integration, particularly now that the region is moving towards industrialization. □

**SADC HAS** approved a budget for the implementation of various regional projects, programmes and activities aimed at advancing integration.

The budget was approved by the SADC Council of Ministers that met in Gaborone, Botswana in mid-March.

The Council approved the SADC budget for the 2016/17 financial year of about US\$72 million. The budget for the 2015/16 financial year was US\$79.4 million.

SADC has identified priority areas for implementation during the year, including key milestones on industrialization, trade, infrastructure development, as well as peace and security. □

# SADC intensifies efforts to combat wildlife poaching

**SADC HAS** put in place a variety of measures aimed at curbing wildlife poaching.

The SADC Council of Ministers approved the measures in mid-March at their meeting held in Gaborone, Botswana.

One of the measures is a proposal by SADC Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources to convene a joint meeting with the Ministerial Committee for the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation (MCO) to discuss on a wide range of issues, including how to police and implement regional wildlife activities, programmes and projects.

The joint meeting will also focus on the implementation modalities for the SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy developed in November 2015 to:

- Control and minimize poaching in the SADC region;
- Strengthen communication among relevant law enforcement agencies at national, regional and international levels;
- Strengthen capacities of law enforcement agencies, customs and immigration to detect and combat illegal wildlife trade;
- Improve dialogue among relevant national, regional and international stakeholders to detect poaching and illegal wildlife trade; and
- Establish a Regional Anti-Poaching Monitoring Centre to coordinate and monitor poaching and illegal wildlife trade activities in the SADC region.

Another issue for discussion is the establishment of a

SADC Wildlife Crime Prevention and Coordination Unit, which is aimed at coordinating efforts of national task forces to curb wildlife poaching as well as strengthen trans-boundary cooperation in law enforcement and intelligence gathering.

SADC efforts to combat poaching of wildlife are in line with international treaties in-

cluding the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

CITES is an international agreement that aims to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

The 17th CITES is scheduled for 24 September-5 Octo-

ber in Johannesburg, South Africa.

One of the topical issues at the 17th CITES is the need to lift an international ban on trade in ivory, which has seriously eroded the revenue for animal conservation in most countries in the region, and has led to an increase in poaching as communities no longer benefit from ivory trade proceeds. □

## Regional technology, innovation framework on cards

**SADC IS** in the process of developing a regional framework to promote innovation and the transfer of technology to support industrialization and other regional integration priorities.

The proposed Regional Framework and Action Plan on Innovation and Technology Transfer is expected to outline the appropriate economic, social and political environment required to facilitate the creation of knowledge, innovation and technology to realise the goals of the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015-2020 and SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063.

In 2015, the region approved the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap and the Revised RISDP. Both blueprints underscore science, technology and innovation as one the important enabling factors for Industrialization.

The industrialization strategy and roadmap is anchored on three pillars: industrialization as champion of economic and technological transformation; competitiveness as an active process to move from

comparative advantage to competitive advantage; and regional integration and geography as the context for industrial development and economic prosperity.

The strategy and roadmap outlines 14 essential elements or prerequisites for industrialization. These include technological upgrading and innovation as enablers and creators of employment and competitiveness as well as recognition of possible impact of the emerging global technological evolution and trade patterns.

The primary focus of the strategy and roadmap is to facilitate structural transformation of the SADC region through industrialization, modernization, upgrading and closer regional integration.

In seeking to meet both its social and economic aspirations, SADC recognises the important role and contribution of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in political, economic and social development of the region in order to, among others, facilitate industrial development, competitiveness, regional integration and cooperation.

As a result, promotion of STI is one of the broad strategic objectives of the SADC regional integration and cooperation agenda.

Areas of focus by the region include STI policy support and development, promotion of public private partnerships investment in STI and research and development infrastructure; development and promotion of research, innovation and technology transfer; promotion and awareness of STI, enhancing and strengthening the protection of intellectual property rights; and promotion of women and youth participation in science, engineering and technology.

Strategies for achieving these and other areas of focus are the domestication of the Protocol on Science, Technology and Innovation; establishment of collaborative regional research, development and innovation programmes in priority areas; setting up and strengthening regional centres of excellence as well as networks in priority areas of STI; and developing and strengthening regional STI capacities. □





## Tripartite FTA: Time to turn commitment into action

by Kizito Sikuka

A **BOLD** statement was made in June 2015 when countries in eastern and southern Africa signed an agreement to launch the largest integrated market on the continent.

The message was that Africa is ready to reform its internal trade, which was structured in such a way that countries from the continent trade more with the outside world than among themselves.

For example, countries agreed to jointly work together in improving infrastructure, industrial development, as well as eliminate non-tariff barriers among countries.

While some progress is being made to integrate the continent, it is time for the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and SADC, which make up the enlarged market, to expeditiously conclude all negotiations to launch the Tripartite Free Trade Area (FTA).

So far, only 16 out of 27 countries have signed the agreement to launch the Tripartite FTA involving the three Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

These are Angola, Burundi, Comoros, the 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 members of the three RECs – Botswana, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Libya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, South Sudan and Zambia – are yet to append their signatures to the agreement after requesting for some time

to complete internal processes before signing.

Furthermore, none of the 27 countries that make up the Tripartite FTA have ratified the agreement. The process of ratification advances the agreement from being a stated intention to actual application.

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

This situation means that COMESA-EAC-SADC are racing against time to meet the deadline of 30 June 2016 when all countries are expected to have at least signed the agreement and ratified it to ensure that the Tripartite FTA becomes a reality.

Meeting in mid-March in Gaborone, Botswana, the SADC Council said it is critical for all Member States to conclude all outstanding issues on the establishment of the Tripartite FTA.

“Council urged Member States to expedite conclusion of outstanding Phase 1 negotiation issues, which include rules of origin, trade remedies, and finalization of tariff negotiations in order to fully operationalize the Tripartite Free Trade Area,” reads part of a statement released by the SADC Council.

To ensure the plan to operationalize the Tripartite FTA is back on track, the SADC Council “endorsed the proposal by the Tripartite Task Force to convene a Tripartite Council of Ministers, preceded by the Sectoral Ministerial Committee meeting on 9-14 May to facilitate unlocking of all outstanding Phase 1 issues.”

In this regard, the Council directed the SADC Secretariat as current chair and coordinator of the Tripartite Task Force “to facilitate the legal scrubbing of all completed Annexes before the proposed Sectoral

Ministerial Committee; and mobilization of resources for Phase 2 Tripartite FTA issues.”

Negotiations for the Tripartite FTA have been conducted in three different phases – preparatory phase, phase one and phase two.

The preparatory phase mainly covered the exchange of all relevant information, including applied national tariffs as well as trade data and measures.

Phase one of negotiations focused on core FTA issues of tariff liberalization, customs procedures and simplification of customs documentation, transit procedures among other issues. Facilitating movement of business persons within the region was negotiated in parallel with the first phase.

The last stage of negotiations deals with trade in serv-

ices and trade-related issues, including intellectual property rights and trade development, cooperation in trade and development and competitiveness. Negotiations are still to be finalized on some of the issues.

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

Africa aims to launch a Continental FTA by 2017 to promote the smooth movement of goods, services and people across the continent, and negotiations for this enlarged market began in June 2015. □

Status on the Implementation of the Tripartite FTA Agreement

Country	Regional Economic Community	Signed	Ratified
Angola	SADC	✓	×
Botswana	SADC	×	×
Burundi	EAC & COMESA	✓	×
Comoros	COMESA	✓	×
DRC	SADC & COMESA	✓	×
Djibouti	COMESA	✓	×
Egypt	COMESA	✓	×
Ethiopia	COMESA	×	×
Eritrea	COMESA	×	×
Libya	COMESA	×	×
Lesotho	SADC	×	×
Kenya	EAC & COMESA	✓	×
Malawi	SADC & COMESA	✓	×
Madagascar	SADC & COMESA	×	×
Mauritius	SADC & COMESA	×	×
Mozambique	SADC	×	×
Namibia	SADC	✓	×
Rwanda	EAC & COMESA	✓	×
Seychelles	SADC & COMESA	✓	×
Sudan	COMESA	✓	×
South Africa	SADC	×	×
South Sudan	EAC & COMESA	×	×
Swaziland	SADC & COMESA	✓	×
Tanzania	SADC & EAC	✓	×
Uganda	EAC & COMESA	✓	×
Zambia	SADC & COMESA	×	×
Zimbabwe	SADC & COMESA	✓	×

## SADC targets sustainability of regional integration agenda

**OPERATIONALIZATION** OF the proposed SADC Regional Development Fund is expected to provide alternative financing modalities for southern Africa to support its integration agenda.

Ultimately, the fund should allow the region to take full control of its regional integration agenda, which currently depends on external support.

It is estimated that more than 70 percent of the SADC budget comes from International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) – a situation that compromises the ownership and sustainability of regional programmes.

In this regard, the decision by the SADC Committee of Ministers of Finance and Investment to finalize the establishment of the SADC Development Fund is a posi-

tive step towards accelerating regional integration in southern Africa.

Speaking during a meeting of the SADC Committee of Ministers of Finance and Investment on 12 March in Gaborone, chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers, Kenneth Matambo said it was time the region took charge of its development agenda.

“Committing our own resources to dealing with these issues is important while we seek the support of our International Cooperating Partners to complement our limited funds,” said Matambo, who is Minister of Finance and Development Planning of Botswana.

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax concurred, saying the establishment of the fund will pro-

mote development in the region.

“I believe that the stage has been set for the region to move forward and establish the needed mechanism for resource mobilisation and take its rightful place in the global arena,” she said.

The SADC Regional Development Fund is 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.

The process of establishing the fund has been going on for a long time, albeit with challenges related to administrative and logistical issues.

However, a SADC document released at the 33rd SADC Summit held in Lilongwe, Malawi in August 2013, indicated that a lot of groundwork has been done with regard to the establishment of the fund.

At the time there were suggestions that Member States should take up 51 percent of the shares in the facility, against 37 percent for the private sector and 12 percent for ICPs.

It was also proposed that the fund will have seed capital of US\$1.2 billion, with Member States expected to contribute US\$612 million while the private sector will take up US\$444 million of the share capital and US\$144 million will come from ICPs.

Under the proposal, sub-

scription to shares will be made over five years in equal instalments. The first subscription will be due within the first year of the Fund coming into force.

Any shares not subscribed to by the end of the fifth year will be reallocated to other Member States on the basis of ability to pay.

The proposal is to have the first 25 percent of the shares divided equally among Member States and members will be obliged to contribute. The remaining 26 percent will be allocated based on economic ability.

In terms of the administrative structure, the facility will have a board of governors comprising ministers responsible for finance in Member States as well as a board of directors tasked with its day-to-day operations.

The board of governors will be the highest decision-making organ for the Fund and will have powers to admit new members; increase or decrease the share capital; amend the statutes governing the facility; as well as appoint directors.

The fund will have a chief executive officer who will be responsible for the daily running of its operations.

The creation of the facility comes at a time when there has been concern about the slow pace of implementation of regional programmes and projects, largely due to lack of funds and over-reliance on ICPs for support. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net) □

## Regional technology, innovation framework on cards

**THE SADC** Development Fund will be operationalized through a two-phased approach, with phase one focusing on project preparation and development. Phase two will deal with infrastructure development, industrial development, integration and economic adjustment and social development windows. Each window will focus on:

- The infrastructure window will provide financial support for implementation of regional infrastructure projects, mainly emanating from the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan;
- The integration and economic adjustment window will support and facilitate efforts by Member States to implement the SADC economic integration agenda;
- The industrial development window will support the industrialisation process in the region; and
- The social development window will support the human and social aspects of the regional agenda and incorporate all other related funds such as the SADC Regional HIV and AIDS Fund. □





# Gender mainstreaming is critical for socio-economic development

by Nyarai Kampilipili

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** could fully achieve socio-economic development and deeper integration if gender development is mainstreamed in all regional activities, programmes, policies and projects.

This was said by the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax in her statement to mark International Women's Day on 8 March.

She said that gender development constitutes an important aspect in the regional integration agenda of SADC, adding that it is disappointing to note that some regional activities, programmes, policies and projects are silent on gender development.

This situation has resulted in the sidelining of women from actively taking part in key developmental initiatives including poverty alleviation, yet women make up the majority of the population in the region.

"As we commemorate this very important day (International Women's Day), I wish to remind ourselves that empowering women is empowering humanity as women are the backbones of our economies and pillars of our economic productivity."

The Executive Secretary said that since women are the poorest sector of the population in the SADC region, there is no doubt that the empowerment of women will make a difference in addressing poverty and reaching the set targets of poverty reduction.

"It is, therefore, important that we should endeavour to integrate a gender perspective in our different policies, programmes and activities across all sectors of regional integration so that we can re-

alize the SADC vision of ensuring economic well-being and improvement of the standards of living and quality of life of the people of southern Africa."

SADC has made significant progress in promoting gender development, and achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, and has realized an increase of women representation and participation in the public and private spheres.

According to the SADC Gender Monitor 2013, representation of women in the Lower House of Parliament ranges from more than 40 percent in Seychelles and South Africa to around 10 percent in Botswana and Democratic Republic of Congo.

Average SADC representation by women in parliament was 25.8 percent as of mid-2013, marginally up from 20.6 percent in 2005 and 23 percent in 2011, but still short of the 50 percent target.

Improvements in women's health, especially the reduction of maternal mortality rates have also been recorded and in education, with most countries on course to achieving the gender parity in enrolment rates of boys and girls at both primary and secondary school levels.

Gender mainstreaming of sectors such as agriculture, trade, energy, water, peace building and security is progressing well at both regional and national levels.

However, a lot still needs to be done for women and girls to enjoy the full fundamental rights, freedom and dignity.

International Women's Day is held annually on 8 March to celebrate achievements made by women in various socio-economic spheres

including cultural, economic and political.

This year's celebrations were under the theme "Pledge for Parity" which makes a call to action to international and national leaders and communities to bridge the gap between men and women.

The year 2016 marks the 105th anniversary that the global community is celebrating International Women's Day, and the African Union Commission (AUC) has paid tribute to the determination of women around the world to fight for equal rights and the opportunity to have their voices heard.

AUC chairperson Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said the fight is far from over as there are persistent gender in-

equalities that hinder women from fully enjoying their human rights and without the equal and effective participation of women in all spheres of socio-political and economic life, the vision of Agenda 2063 might not be realised.

She called for African countries to implement at least two high-impact actions in 2016 that support gender equality and women's empowerment in furtherance of Agenda 2063 and play a role in unlocking the continent's vast wealth by ensuring women's rights are upheld in their respective constitutions.

Agenda 2063 is a continental strategy by the AU that aims to optimize the use of Africa's resources for the benefit of all Africans. □

## SADC appoints new head of Gender Unit

**DR JOSEPH** Pitso is the new head of the SADC Gender Unit.

He was previously with the United Nations Population Fund in Botswana as Programme Specialist for Gender from 2011 to February 2014 and lectured at the University of Botswana for 20 years prior to that.

He has many years of experience in promoting evidence-based policy-making for social development as well as providing technical support to strengthen programme and strategies to address gender-based violence and gender mainstreaming in the region.

He served as UNFPA Botswana's gender focal point in national technical committees, inter-agency groups and regional forums. In addition, he provided gender-related coordination, technical and logistical support to the United Nations Country Team and Country Coordination Working Groups in Botswana.

He has extensive experience in research, training, monitoring and evaluation in the areas of gender and development, sexual and reproductive health and rights, population and development, and health research system strengthening.

Dr Pitso has a PhD in Demography from the Australian National University. He joined the SADC Secretariat in November 2015, replacing Magdeline Mathiba-Madibela who left the SADC Secretariat at the end of 2014 after serving 10 years as head of the Gender Unit. □





## SADC, ICPs set up ICT Thematic Group

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** has established a platform to promote coordinated approaches to bilateral and multilateral support for information communication technologies activities, projects and programmes in the region.

The platform, called the SADC Information Communication Technologies (ICT) Thematic Group was launched on 18 March in Gaborone, Botswana.

SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, Dr Theminkosi Mhlongo said establishment of the group emphasised the important role that the region places on ICTs in facilitating socio-economic development and transformation.

Dr Mhlongo noted that while some progress has been made in the ICT sector, albeit with limited resources, the SADC region was yet to create an effective and enabling regulatory environment as well as affordable access to ICT infrastructure.

In this regard, the newly launched ICT Thematic Group is expected to play a major role in creating this enabling environment, which is critical in the current drive towards industrialization.

The thematic group will, among others, facilitate resource mobilisation, planning and monitoring of the implementation of the SADC's ICT initiatives, programmes and projects.

It will act as a platform for dialogue as well as the interface between SADC and International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) with the main purpose of improving the coordination of all stakeholders in the ICT Sector in the SADC region.

During the launch, the stakeholders reviewed the various priority programmes in the thematic area of ICT, among them, ICT infrastructure development; science, technology and innovation related activities; regulatory harmonisation and strengthening; support to research institutions and other non-state actors.

This is the sixth thematic group established by SADC and



ICPs to date. Other groups are in the areas of Agriculture and Food Security; Energy; HIV and AIDS; Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment; Transport; and Water.

SADC thematic groups represent the technical, programmatic level of the partnership

dialogue between SADC and its ICPs.

Each thematic group is chaired by a SADC Secretariat Director/Head of Unit and co-chaired by representative of the Lead-ICP for the group, and meets at least twice a year. □

## Towards digital broadcasting

**SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS** is being made by SADC Member States to make a smooth migration from analogue to digital broadcasting.

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

Such broadcasting usually has more efficient bandwidth usage than analogue, which makes it possible for more services and channels, and improved picture quality than previously possible.

The global deadline set by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) to make the switch-over was 17 June 2015.

Only two SADC countries – Mauritius and the United Republic of Tanzania – were able to meet the deadline, although others had made significant progress.

Mauritius was the first African nation to fully digitise television broadcasting in 2007, while Tanzania completed the migration in 2012.

Key success factors for the migration programmes in both Mauritius and Tanzania included effective regulatory envi-

ronments and introduction of subsidies to enable consumers to acquire Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) receivers, as well as an effective awareness campaign conducted parallel to the implementation of the programme.

SADC countries are borrowing some of the successes and lessons from Mauritius and Tanzania to move towards digital broadcasting.

As a result some countries have managed to make the switchover, albeit in phases, while efforts are underway in other countries to make the migration by December 2017.

For example, in Malawi, people have been encouraged to buy the necessary free-to-air decoders as, starting 1 July, those without the decoders will not be able to access transmission.

This follows the launch of the first digital station in the country in April – the Malawi Digital Television.

The situation is similar in Botswana where the country is exploring for potential international suppliers, manufactures or local decoders to enable households and other users to receive transmission after the migration.

In Angola, the country has created an inter-ministry working group to, among other things, set up an initial pilot project, as well as assess the investment required for the migration to ensure that this is achieved by December 2017.

With regard to Zimbabwe, the country is expected to launch its first digital television trials by March, and a total of US\$125 million has been set aside to fund this exercise.

To coordinate regional migration towards digital broadcasting, SADC has introduced a DTT Project Management Office at the SADC Secretariat.

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

In addition to this, SADC has 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 strategizes on averting food crisis

**SADC HAS** taken steps to alleviate the impact of food shortages caused by the current drought situation in the region.

SADC says the 2014/15 rainfall season was generally poor across the region, with prolonged dry spells in some parts and both floods and prolonged dry spells in other areas, resulting in an unsatisfactory overall food security situation for the 2015/16 marketing year.

Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, southern Angola and Zimbabwe experienced prolonged dry spells while Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique experienced both floods and prolonged dry spells.

The poor rainfall led to an unsatisfactory overall regional food security situation for the 2015/16 marketing year, with an overall cereal (maize, wheat, rice, millet and sorghum) deficit of 7.9 million tonnes compared to a surplus of 1.21 million tonnes in 2014/15 marketing year.

The regional cereal availability at the beginning of the 2015/16 marketing season in April 2015 was estimated at 40.4 million tonnes, representing a drop of 11.4 percent from 45.62 million tonnes the previous year.

In response to this challenge, SADC has put in place various measures aimed at reducing the impact of food shortages.

The SADC Council of Ministers that met in mid-March in Gaborone, Botswana approved a Declaration of the Regional Drought Disaster to acknowledge the level of the challenge as well as come up with ways of addressing it.

Council chairperson and Botswana Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Kenneth Matambo said response to the challenge requires cooperation among Member States.

He said Council "approved the establishment of a regional Logistics Team to coordinate a regional response in close collaboration with Member States and International Cooperating Partners."

"Furthermore, Council invited Member States to provide immediate relief to meet the food and non-food requirements of more than 28 million vulnerable populations who are affected by the previous poor season," he said.

Council requested Member States to provide preliminary data to the SADC Secretariat by 30 March on cereal and other food requirements for the 2016/17 marketing year "in order to facilitate planning logistics and resource mobilization; and scale up appropriate climate smart technologies on agriculture, energy, water and other relevant areas in order to adapt and mitigate against the impact of climate change."

A recent SADC Consultative Meeting on Preparedness and Response to the Impact of the 2015/16 El Niño on Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Security in Southern Africa held on 25-26 February in Johannesburg, South Africa, also agreed that the region should collaborate in reducing the impact of the El Niño weather phenomenon.

As a short-term measure, Member States agreed to provide preliminary data on the number of people affected as well as cereal and other food deficits for planning and resource mobilization purposes.



## FOOD SECURITY

With the support of cooperating partners, SADC Member States agreed to provide immediate relief to meet the food and non-food needs of the vulnerable population and increase their budgetary allocation for disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response.

In particular, countries agreed to expand ongoing social protection or safety nets and ensure swift imports of food and essential non-food items.

Some of the proposed safety net programmes include the provision of weather insurance to smallholder farmers against drought as well as promoting the growing of drought-resistant crops such as sorghum, millet and rapoko.

The weather insurance has been successfully implemented in Malawi. (*See box*).

Member States and partners also agreed to establish an El Niño mitigation coordination centre at the SADC Secretariat. If implemented, the centre will support efforts by the SADC Climate Services Centre in strengthening the early warning system in the region.

In the medium to long-term, Member States and partners will promote and scale-up appropriate technologies for climate resilience as well as strengthen disaster risk reduction strategies.

**DROUGHT INSURANCE** is a scheme that was introduced in Malawi by the World Bank in partnership with the Malawi Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services in order to safeguard small holder farmers against drought risks. The insurance works through provision of contracts to farmers, written against an index for example that describes an established relationship between lack of rainfall and crop failure. If rainfall turns out to be low, falling below an agreed trigger point, farmers receive payouts. The key benefit of drought insurance is that when rainfall is low enough to cause crops to fail, insurers will pay out farmers quickly, so that they do not need to sell their assets to survive. The money will see them through the drought period, and they will be able to continue farming when the rains resume. The farmers are, however, insured only against drought. If crops fail due to other reasons such as pests, diseases and floods, there is no compensation.

Source SARD and HBS 2010: *Responding to Climate Change Impacts: Adaptation and mitigation strategies as practised in the Zambezi River Basin*



# IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

## Irrigation holds key to SADC food security

by Fortious Nhambura

**AGRICULTURE IS** an engine for socio-economic development in most countries in southern Africa.

However, the sector is experiencing some challenges to fully contribute to sustainable development. For example, extreme weather conditions such as drought, high temperatures and low rainfall, mainly caused by the strongest El Niño weather phenomenon ever in southern Africa, has resulted in crop failure and low harvest.

These changing weather conditions have made it difficult for SADC to rely on rainfall to conduct its agricultural activities because lower precipitation would mean lower yield.

The low rainfall received by SADC in recent years, therefore, calls for an urgent need to invest in regional water infrastructure such as irrigation to ensure that farmers are cushioned from the effects of the changing climate.

Development of irrigation infrastructure will allow the region to grow crops all year round and not only depend on climatic conditions.

Such a situation will enable the region to boost production and meet growing demand for food. Furthermore, it will improve the incomes of farmers as they will be able to grow high-value crops.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), irrigation has the capacity to increase yields of most crops by between 100 and 400 percent.

The potential impact of irrigation in Africa is huge as the continent is home to more than half of the world's arable land and is endowed with vast water resources.

The SADC region alone has some of Africa's largest rivers such as the Congo and Zambezi.

Furthermore, nine SADC Member States have access to oceans. The coastal countries are Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa and United Republic of Tanzania.

It is important, therefore, for SADC countries to take advantage of their proximity to the oceans to draw the water for agricultural use. To achieve this, appropriate technologies must be designed to desalinate the water for use to enhance food security in the region.

While significant progress is being made by SADC to increase the use and uptake of irrigation infrastructure, there is need for the region to fully embrace irrigation in a bid to address the food security situation.

According to available figures from selected SADC countries, the use of irrigation in the region is still very low. In fact, it is estimated that less than 10 percent of arable land in Africa is under irrigation.

For example, in Zambia the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock projects that out of an irrigation potential of three million hectares in the country, only 156,000 hectares is under irrigation.

The situation is the same in South Africa, where only 1.3 million hectares is under irrigation, compared to more than 18 million hectares of arable land.

In the SADC region, Swaziland has the highest ratio of irrigated land. It is estimated that about 95 percent of the available 90,000 hectares of land is under irrigation.

To promote the use of irrigation, SADC in 2012 developed the Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan, which outlines plans for infrastructure development up to 2027.

The Water Sector Plan, for example, identifies 34 infrastructure projects to be implemented over that period, including increasing the irrigated area from the current 3.4 million hectares to 10 million hectares by 2021.

The SADC Irrigation Investment Plan, drawn from the infrastructure master plan, is estimated at US\$2.4 billion.

Some of the major projects planned include the Shire Valley Irrigation Project in Malawi, the Ruhuhu Valley Irrigation Scheme in Tanzania and the Upper Okavango Food Security Project in Angola and Namibia.

It is expected that the development of irrigation capacity will enable the region to mitigate the effects of low rainfall and long dry periods that are now a common feature in southern Africa.

According to the SADC Early Warning and Vulnerability Assessment systems, more than 28 million people, which is about 10 percent of the population of the region, are already food insecure due to the lower harvest recorded last year as a result of poor rains.

In this regard, investment in irrigation is the way to go for SADC as it will wean the region from over-dependence on rainfall for agriculture. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net) □



## SAPP to commission 3,059MW new generation capacity

**THE SOUTHERN** African Power Pool plans to commission new projects that will add 3,059 Megawatts (MW) to the regional grid this year.

The majority of the new power is expected to come from South Africa, where at least three projects with a combined output of 1,624MW will be commissioned.

Another significant contribution is expected to come from Zambia which is due to add 1,000MW this year from three projects. (See table on SADC generation projects planned for 2016).

Gas will contribute the largest share of the new generation capacity in the region with five projects – three in Mozambique and two in South Africa -- expected to add 1410MW by the end of this year.

Unlike previous years where coal-fired plants contributed the largest share in new generation capacity, 2016 will witness only two new projects coming on board with a combined capacity of 390MW (12.74 percent).

The move towards renewable energy follows a resolution made in 2012 by SADC Member States to increase the uptake of cleaner and alternative energy sources that result in reduced carbon emission.

The long-term target set by SADC is to achieve a renewable energy mix in the regional grid of at least 32 percent by 2020 and 35 percent by 2030.

This year will witness a major share of planned capacity coming from Independent Power Producers (IPP) who are expected to contribute about 71.06 percent of new generation.

For example, the new power to be commissioned in Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zambia will be produced by IPPs.

This is a major step forward compared to last year where IPPs, all from South Africa, were responsible for only 29.83 percent of new generation capacity.

According to SAPP, southern Africa plans to commission 21,793MW of power between 2016 and 2019. This development will see the region finally meeting its power needs after several years of shortages. □



## Towards energy efficiency,

**THE PROVISION** of reliable and sustainable energy continues to be a priority for SADC's development agenda after experiencing energy shortfalls for more than a decade due to growth in demand, forcing most Member States to implement demand-side management programmes such as load shedding. While load shedding has succeeded in restraining the overall electricity de-

### Construction of Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya interconnector underway

**CONSTRUCTION OF** a power line linking southern to eastern Africa is progressing well, with the first phase of the project expected to be completed by December.

The power line, commonly known as Zambia-Tanzania and Kenya (ZTK) interconnector, will link the three countries and ultimately allow southern and eastern Africa to share surplus electricity.

The construction of the interconnector, initially identified as a Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) project, is now being handled jointly by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and SADC.

This new arrangement has been necessitated by the fact that the project is of significant continental importance as it covers all three regional economic communities.

According to COMESA-EAC-SADC, feasibility studies for different sections in the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia are expected to be completed in July, with the first phase of the 2,300km interconnector set for completion by December.

"This project has been taken up by the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite grouping which is fast tracking the implementation process and they have managed to secure funding for the preparatory activities," said COMESA Energy Expert, Dr Seif Elnasr Mohamedain.

Preparations are underway for a conference to secure funding for the construction of the remaining sections of the ZTK interconnector -- the Iringa-Mbeya-Tunduma line (Tanzania) and Nakonde-Kasama-Pensulo-Kabwe link (Zambia). The conference is set for the second half of 2016.

Once the ZTK interconnector project is successfully completed, it will help meet the immediate and future power demand in the region by linking SAPP and the East African Power Pool. □

Generation Projects-2016 Target

No.	Utility	Country	Name	Type	Capacity (MW)
1	RNT	Angola	Cambambe 1 & 2	Hydro	350
2	RNT	Angola	Cambambe 3 & 4	Hydro	350
3	RNT	Angola	Cambambe 1 Rehabilitation	Hydro	80
4	IPP	South Africa	OCGT IPP	Gas	1070
5	IPP	South Africa	Renewable Round 3	PV,CSP,Wind	454
6	NamPower	Namibia	Ruacana	Hydro	15
7	IPP	Mozambique	Gigawatt	Gas	100
8	IPP	South Africa	Cogen	Gas	100
9	IPP	Zambia	Maamba Colliery	Coal	300
10	IPP	Mozambique	Kuvaninga	Gas	40
11	IPP	Mozambique	Nacala Power Ship	Gas	100
12	BPC	Botswana	Morupule A	Coal	90
13	IPP	Malawi	Diesel	Diesel	10

TOTAL

3 059

Source SAPP







# sustainable development

mand to some extent, the measure has also affected socio-economic growth since the availability of energy is a key enabler of sustainable development and is essential to the industrialization agenda. This issue of *Energy in Southern Africa* profiles some key activities, programmes and projects being implemented by SADC to address the energy situation. □

## RERA develops draft framework on IPP

**THE REGIONAL** Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa has developed a draft framework for Independent Power Producers that is expected to promote and increase power generation in the region, and will be submitted to SADC Energy Ministers for consideration at their next meeting.

The proposed framework is divided into five sections:

- proposed electricity trading arrangements at the wholesale level;
- regulatory framework to enable these trading arrangements;
- technical framework to enable these trading arrangements.
- financing framework to enable these trading arrangements; and,
- proposed stages of market development.

The major objective of the framework is to stimulate increased access to modern energy services and investment in distributed renewable generation capacity in fulfilment of regional and international goals for environmentally, economically and socially sustainable development.

Once approved, the framework will set the tone for market participation by Independent Power Producers which is crucial in expanding regional energy supply.

RERA is a formal association of electricity regulators which provides a platform for cooperation between independent electricity regulators within the SADC region. Its membership is open to all the electricity regulatory bodies in SADC. □

## Zambia commissions Itezhi-Tezhi power plant

**COMMISSIONING OF** the Itezhi-Tezhi Hydropower Station is expected to significantly boost electricity generation in Zambia and the rest of the region.

Zambian President Edgar Lungu commissioned the 120 Megawatt (MW) plant in March. The new power station has increased the installed capacity in the country to 2,206MW with operating capacity now at 2,175MW.

However, Zambia's peak demand currently stands at about 2,616MW, meaning that the shortfall is about 441MW.

President Lungu said the country is working towards addressing the power situation by implementing "several key projects aimed at improving the entire power system infrastructure including generation, transmission and distribution."

"The commissioning of the 120MW Itezhi-Tezhi hydropower project demonstrates government's unwavering efforts to ensure the country has the much needed energy security," he said.

## SAPP sets up new trading markets for electricity

**THE SOUTHERN** African Pool has established a new platform that allows countries in the region to easily sell and buy surplus electricity to meet local shortfalls.

The new platform -- Intra-Day Market (IDM) -- was launched in April, and will operate alongside other platforms including the Day-Ahead Market (DAM) launched in December 2009.

The IDM is open for trading of power after DAM and up to a configurable time before real-time -- typically one hour ahead.

The role of the IDM is to allow each individual market participant to adjust the power balance and be a tool for them to manage incidents and failures in the power system between the closing of the DAM and delivery the next day.

IDM is a continuous market, and trading takes place 24/7 on every day until one hour before delivery and is based on a continuous trading model that means a continuing matching of the orders submitted to the market.

Trading on IDM is based on "first-come, first-served".

On the other hand, the Forward Physical Market (FPM) is open for market participants for trade of monthly and weekly products.

FPM is based on physical delivery of the traded power volume. Its principle is that all participants trade on equal terms and that they have a physical grid point in a given market area for delivery of production or withdrawal of consumption.

The objective of the FPM is to facilitate trading of longer term physical contracts. The FPM is an auction-trading model just as the DAM. It was commissioned in August 2015, with live trading expected to start on 1 April 2016.

Electricity market platforms are in line with the SADC Protocol on Energy that calls for "cooperation in the development of energy and energy pooling to ensure security and reliability of energy supply and the minimization of costs." □





## Tribute to Dr Lawrence Musaba – Energy sector icon

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** was engulfed in mourning following the death of Dr. Lawrence Musaba – one of the region's top energy experts who was instrumental in establishing a regional energy market that allows most SADC countries to share surplus power to address their energy challenges.

Dr Musaba was the Coordination Centre Manager of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP). He died on 14 March in Harare, Zimbabwe.

SAPP is a regional body that coordinates the planning, generation, transmission and marketing of electricity in southern Africa on behalf of Member State utilities.

The energy sector received the news of Dr Musaba's death with shock, saying his loss has not only robbed the SADC Energy Thematic Group (ETG) of a dedicated member, but also deprived southern Africa of a courageous campaigner who always believed that deeper cooperation among SADC countries will enable the region to address its energy challenges.

"It is with great sadness that we have to learn about the passing away of Dr. Lawrence Musaba. He was a cherished and well-respected member not only of this group but of the southern African energy community as a whole," the Deputy Head of Mission at the Austrian

Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa Matthias Radosztics, who chairs the ETG, said on behalf of the coordinating group of cooperating partners within the SADC Energy Sector.

The SADC ETG is a regional platform made up of the SADC Secretariat, its energy related subsidiary organisations and partners, as well as International Cooperating Partners to discuss energy developments in southern Africa.

The Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), which is tasked with raising regional awareness among stakeholders in southern Africa about key energy issues in the region, said Musaba was a respected figure in the SADC energy sector.

"SARDC is deeply saddened by the untimely passing of Dr Lawrence Musaba," the SARDC Executive Director Munetsi Madakufamba said, adding that Musaba's "level of professionalism, deep knowledge of issues, dedication to duty and personal warmth was quite unparalleled."

Dr Musaba was a respected and results-oriented energy expert. He believed that the region has the capacity to resolve its energy crisis through working together.

One of his biggest achievements and contribution towards energy development in SADC

was the establishment of the regional competitive electricity trading market, commonly known as the Day Ahead Market (DAM), which allows SADC countries to easily sell and buy surplus electricity to meet local shortfalls.

Launched in December 2009, the DAM is in line with the SADC Protocol on Energy that calls for "cooperation in the development of energy and energy pooling to ensure security and reliability of energy supply and the minimization of costs."

All power utilities in mainland SADC, with the exception of Angola, Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania, are interconnected to the main regional grid through SAPP.

The competitive trading market has allowed SADC countries to address some of the crippling power shortages that were first detected as early as 1999.

Power traded on the market has minimized load shedding by offering some flexibility for countries to be able to switch off some of their power generation stations to carry out maintenance work without cutting off power for its consumers since they can buy surplus power from other regional countries.

Dr Musaba also played a critical role in the implementation of various energy projects in the region.

In his first 10 years as SAPP Coordination Centre Manager, more than 12,000 megawatts (MW) of power were installed. The target for SAPP is to commission a massive 23,580MW by 2019, a situation that will see the region become self-sufficient.

Despite his huge contribution to the SADC energy sector, Dr Musaba always remained a humble man and not even the turbulent energy sector changed his character.

Dr Musaba was a holder of numerous degrees including a Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) degree from the University of Zambia with distinction, a Master of Science (MSc) Power Engineering degree and PhD (Electrical Engineering) in 1996, both from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology in England.

Prior to his appointment as the SAPP Coordination Centre Manager in February 2002, he was the SAPP Deputy Coordination Centre Manager since June 2000, and he held a number of other high profile positions in his illustrious career.

His contribution to the development of the energy sector as well as the socio-economic growth of the southern African region will forever be cherished as the region moves forward to address its energy needs. [sardc.net](http://sardc.net) ■



## SADC endorses candidate for UNWTO post

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** has endorsed the candidature of Zimbabwe's Tourism and Hospitality Minister, Walter Mzembi for the post of secretary-general of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).

The SADC Council of Ministers made the endorsement at their meeting in Gaborone, Botswana in mid-March.

"Council endorsed the candidature and nomination of Hon. Walter Mzembi by the Government of Zimbabwe to the position of secretary-general of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation," reads part of a statement released by the SADC Council of Ministers.

Elections for the new UNWTO head are scheduled for 2017 at the UNWTO General Assembly set for China.

This follows the end of term for the incumbent secretary-general, Talib Rifai, who is serving his second and last term as per the constitution of the UNWTO.

Rifai, a Jordanian and former Foreign Minister, was elected head of the UNWTO in 2010 and was unopposed for a second four-year term at the 20th Session of UNWTO General Assembly co-hosted by Zambia and Zimbabwe in August 2013.

The UNWTO secretary-general is appointed by the general assembly for a period of four years. The winning candidate needs at least two-thirds majority of the full members present and voting.

The current membership of the UNWTO is 157 member states, who vote through a secret ballot.

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

As the leading international organisation in the field of tourism and paying particular attention to developing countries, 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.

If elected Mzembi will become the first African to assume the position of secretary-general of the UNWTO.

Expectations are high that Mzembi, who has been chairperson of the UNWTO's Africa Commission since 2013, will fare well during the elections.

During Mzembi's tenure as Zimbabwe's Tourism and Hospitality Minister, he successfully co-hosted the 20th General Assembly of the UNWTO together with his Zambian counterpart. The 20th assembly was held in August 2013 in a joint venue of Livingstone, Zambia and Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

The co-hosting of the event by Zimbabwe and Zambia was an honour for SADC and Africa, and it was the third time that the event was held in Africa after Egypt in 1995 and Senegal in 2005.

Mzembi also oversaw the launch of the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) visa between Zambia and Zimbabwe in November 2014, which is a first step towards the introduction of the SADC Univisa to allow visitors to access more than one country using one visa.

In the first three months of the pilot phase of the KAZA Visa more than 7,000 visas were issued, highlighting the success of the programme.

It is expected that in the next few years, the visa will be extended to other countries in the region.

The aim is to eventually extend this arrangement to all 15 SADC Member States, thereby implementing a Univisa that allows tourists to move effortlessly across the region. (See table on stages of implementation of the Univisa) □



## Tourist arrivals on the increase in Africa

**AFRICA HAS** recorded an increase in the number of tourists visiting the continent by four percent in 2014 making it the second fastest-growing tourist destination after Southeast Asia which grew by 6 percent.

According to the 2015 Africa Tourism Monitor published by the African Development Bank (AfDB), a total of 65.3 million international tourists visited the continent in 2014, which is a significant leap from 17.4 million in 1990.

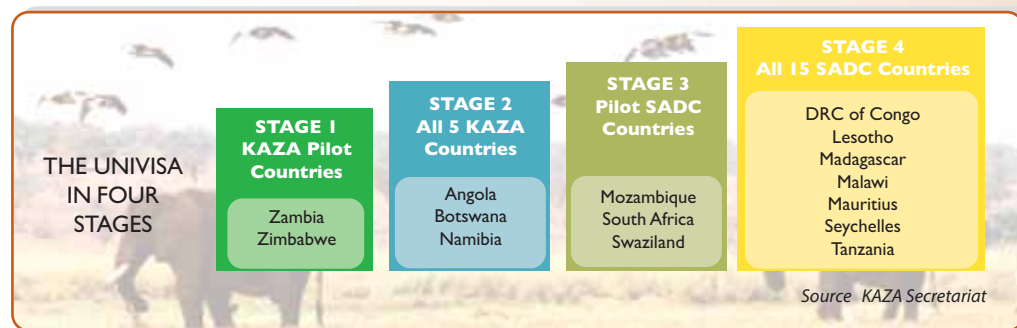
This increase is attributed to various initiatives aimed at boosting the industry which include the simplification of visa systems and regional cooperation mechanisms through the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) Visa and East African Community Univisa.

Studies by the AfDB reveal that visa simplification schemes have the potential to further boost tourism revenue and job creation by between five percent and 25 percent.

According to the report, South Africa and Zimbabwe were in the

top five most visited African destinations, occupying the third and fifth place respectively. Other countries in the top five are Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia.

Africa is endowed with a variety of attractions that range from the Victoria Falls on the Zambezi river between Zambia and Zimbabwe, pyramids in Egypt to the Namib Desert in Namibia, Serengeti in the United Republic of Tanzania, and the rock paintings of Botswana, as well as thousands of kilometres of ocean coastline with pristine beaches. □





## Health a pillar in regional integration

**SADC RECOGNISES** that close cooperation in the area of health is essential for the effective control of communicable and non-communicable diseases and for addressing common health concerns in the region.

SADC Member States thus adopted a SADC Protocol on Health in 2004 to coordinate regional efforts on epidemic preparedness, mapping prevention, control and where possible the eradication of

communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Other notable regional instruments, policies and strategies on health include the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan; SADC Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategic Plan (2006-2015); and the SADC Policy and Analysis Programme.

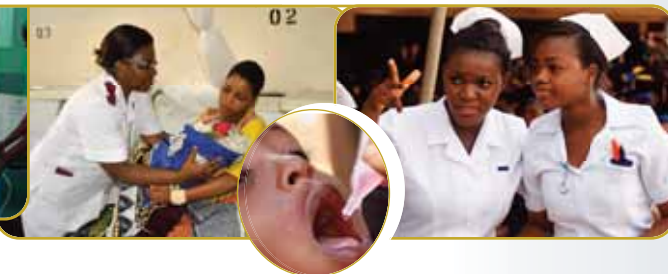
The main objective of the SADC Protocol on Health is to facilitate cooperation among

SADC Member States in addressing health challenges through effective regional collaboration and mutual support.

Education and training, efficient laboratory services and common strategies to address the health needs especially of women, children and vulnerable groups are discussed within the Protocol.

The Protocol encourages the establishment of institutional mechanisms within the regional health sector to effectively implement the Protocol. Other objectives of the Protocol are to:

- Identify, promote, co-ordinate and support those activities that have the potential to improve the health of the population within the region;
- Co-ordinate regional efforts on epidemic preparedness, mapping, prevention, control and where possible the eradication of communicable and non-communicable diseases;
- Promote and co-ordinate the development, education, training and effective utilisation of health personnel and facilities;
- Facilitate the establishment of a mechanism for the referral of patients for tertiary care;
- Foster co-operation and co-ordination in the area of health with international organisations and co-operating partners;
- Develop common strategies to address the health needs of women, children and other vulnerable groups;
- Progressively achieve harmonisation and standardisation in the provision of health services in the region; and
- Collaborate and cooperate with other relevant SADC sectors. □



## Southern Africa free from Zika virus

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** is free from the Zika pandemic that has affected parts of South America, however, SADC stands ready to protect the region from the disease.

This was said by the SADC Senior Programme Officer for Health and Pharmaceutical (Social Human Development & Special Programmes Directorate), Joseph Mthetwa on the sidelines of the SADC Council of Ministers meeting in Gaborone, Botswana in March.

Mthetwa said southern Africa is safe from the disease, adding only one case was recorded in the region through a Colombian citizen who had travelled to South Africa in February 2016. There has been no other cases of the disease in the SADC region.

The Zika virus disease is usually relatively mild and requires no specific treatment. The symptoms include fever, skin rashes, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise,

and headache. These symptoms are usually mild and last for a few days.

A mother already infected with Zika virus near the time of delivery can pass on the virus to her newborn around the time of birth.

The alert on Zika was raised in May 2015 by the Pan American Health Organization after an alert regarding the first confirmed Zika virus infection in Brazil.

Further alerts were raised in February by the World Health Organization (WHO) when it declared Zika virus a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

Frequent travellers, especially expectant women should take basic precautions measures to protect themselves from mosquito bites.

"Prevention and control relies on reducing mosquitoes through source reduction (removal and modification of breeding sites) and reducing

contact between mosquitoes and people," he said.

He said a number of measures will be taken by SADC to protect the region from the Zika Virus related diseases. These measures include:

- Working with partners to strengthen capacity in risk communication to help Member States meet their commitments under the International Health Regulations such as enhancing surveillance of the Zika virus and disorders that could be linked to it, improve vector control, effectively communicate risks, guidance and protection measures;
- Facilitating the development of response guidelines on Joint Operations Control measures in accordance to WHO Standards; and
- Coordinating regional effort through the existing Elimination 8 (E8) Cross Border Initiative for Malaria Elimination. □



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**April**31 March-  
5 April, Ethiopia**African Union Commission-ECA Annual Meeting**

The 9th Joint AUC-ECA Annual Meeting attended by African ministers responsible for finance, planning and economic development will deliberate on how African countries can harmonise frameworks and establish common mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the collective goal of sustainable development and transformation.

5-8,  
South Africa**Agricultural Research for Development**

The 3rd Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development brings together government ministries, researchers and private sector to discuss the new sustainable development agenda and tackle some topical issues emerging in agri-food research and innovation.

10-12, USA

**Africa Energy Investment Summit**

This summit brings together policy makers, academics, government representatives, energy sector professionals, investors and investment bankers to discuss investment promotion and development of the energy sector in Africa. The summit theme is "Unleashing Africa's potential through energy sector investment".

11, Ghana

**Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme**

The 12th CAADP Partnership Platform, with the theme "Financing African agriculture and implementation support for accelerated agriculture growth and transformation", will reflect on African socio-economic development strategies to stimulate agriculture-led growth and commitment to put agriculture at the top of national development agendas, as well as facilitating exchange of experiences and strengthening investment and financing for agriculture.

May  
2-5, Zimbabwe**African Capacity Building Foundation**

The ACBF celebrated its 25th anniversary in conjunction with the 3rd Africa Development Forum held in Harare. The theme of the Forum is "Developing Capacity for Africa's Economic and Social Transformation". Since its inception, ACBF has invested over US\$1 billion, building institutions in 45 countries and supporting Regional Economic Communities, continental organisations and over 41 Policy Units and Think Tanks.

4-6,  
Mozambique**Southern Africa Energy & Infrastructure Summit**

The Southern Africa Energy & Infrastructure Summit provides an opportunity to discuss regional co-operation in infrastructure development in the energy sector.

17- 19,  
South Africa**African Utility Week**

Africa Utility Week will bring together professionals from the water and power utilities to discuss best practices for effective management and supply, and other emerging issues.

23-27, Zambia

**African Development Bank Meetings**

The 2016 AfDB annual meetings will convene under the theme "Energy and Climate Change," drawing on one of the bank's priority areas, "Light up and Power Africa". The meetings provide an opportunity for representatives of government, business, civil society and media to discuss the social and economic development of Africa.

31 May- 3 June,  
Tanzania**Safeguarding African World Heritage as a Driver for Sustainable Development**

This international conference will bring together stakeholders in African heritage to discuss heritage conservation and sustainable development, reflecting concern for "planet, people, prosperity and peace", which is identified as an area of critical importance in the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development.

June  
1, TBA**African Forum for Utility Regulators**

The 37th Executive Committee Meeting of AFUR is expected to discuss the regulatory environment that is required for the development of infrastructure; improvement of quality of service and supply; as well as promotion of access to basic infrastructure services on the continent.





Kwame Nkrumah and Julius Nyerere

## Africa Day Consolidating African solidarity

**AFRICA DAY** is an important part of the continent's heritage, past, present and future, and should be remembered with respect and vision.

The day traces its origin to the first-ever conference of independent African states hosted by the founding President of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah on 15 April 1958.

The conference was the first Pan-African conference held on African soil, representing the collective expression of African resistance to colonialism, and was hosted by the first sub-Saharan African country to gain independence from a colonial power in March 1957.

The First Conference of Independent African States was attended by eight African leaders from Egypt, Ethiopia, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia and Ghana, who comprised the total representation for Africa at the United Nations.

Representatives of the National Liberation Front of Algeria and the Union of Cameroonian Peoples also attended.

The conference called for the founding of African Freedom Day, a day to "mark each year the onward progress of the liberation movement, and to symbolise the determination of the people of Africa to free themselves from foreign domination and exploitation."

Five years later – on 25 May 1963 – another historic meeting took place in Ethiopia, after many more countries had gained political independence.

Leaders of 32 independent African states met in Addis Ababa on that historic day on 25 May 1963 to form the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which is now the African Union (AU).

At this historic meeting, the date of Africa Freedom Day was changed from 15 April to 25 May and Africa Freedom Day was declared African Liberation Day, now celebrated across the continent as Africa Day.

The founding President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Julius Nyerere, who is a symbol of freedom in Africa was instrumental together with other African leaders in the formation of the OAU.

Nyerere played a critical role in supporting the liberation of the continent from colonial rule as Tanzania hosted the Liberation Committee of OAU that provided diplomatic support and materials to the liberation movements, who now govern several independent countries in Africa.

At his country's own independence..... ready to delay the independence until the neighbouring countries of Kenya and Uganda could gain independence at the same time, but they reached this goal a few years later.

As the continent celebrates Africa Day, what does it mean for the present and future generations?

The commemoration provides a platform for remembering African history, from the rich pre-colonial development period through the dark days of slavery and colonialism right up to the liberation of southern Africa and the end of the apartheid system in South Africa in May 1994, more than 30 years after the formation of the OAU and its Liberation Committee.

It also presents an opportunity for Africa to take stock of its achievements and challenges to ensure that its aspirations are reality.

Africa's longstanding vision is a united, prosperous and integrated continent. Significant progress is being made to achieve these goals. □

## Swaziland celebrates National Flag Day

**NATIONAL FLAG DAY** is celebrated in Swaziland on 25 April each year. The day commemorates the date when Swaziland's flag was raised and the British flag was lowered after the country gained independence in 1968. The flag tells the story of the struggle for independence. The flag comprises of three horizontal stripes – the top and bottom stripes are blue, representing stability and peace, with a red central stripe signifying past battles. The red stripe has edges with two thin yellow stripes representing the resources of the country. In the centre of the red stripe, there is a black and white shield. The shield is the symbol of protection from enemies, while its colours represent the peaceful coexistence of the black and white population of Swaziland. The shield lies on two spears and a staff decorated with feather tassels, which symbolize royal power.



## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

April-June 2016

4 April	Peace and Reconciliation Day	Angola
7 April	Sheikh Abeld Karume Day	Tanzania
	Women's Day	Mozambique
8 April	Ougadi	Mauritius
18 April	Independence Day	Zimbabwe
19 April	King's Birthday	Swaziland
25 April	National Flag Day	Swaziland
26 April	Union Day	Tanzania
27 April	Freedom Day	South Africa
1 May	Workers' Day	Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe
	Labour Day	Angola, Botswana, DRC, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius
2 May	Public Holiday	Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe
4 May	Cassinga Day	Namibia
5 May	Ascension Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Namibia
14 May	Kamuzu Day	Malawi
16 May	Whit Monday	Madagascar
17 May	Liberation Day	DRC
25 May	Africa Day	Angola, Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe
	Heroes' Day	Lesotho
26 May	Corpus Christi	Seychelles
14 June	Freedom Day	Malawi
18 June	National Day	Seychelles
25 June	Independence Day	Mozambique
26 June	Independence Day	Madagascar
29 June	Independence Day	DRC
	Independence Day	Seychelles
30 June	Public Holiday	DRC