

SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY



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Time to advance regional integration ...from "stated intention to actual application"

by Kizito Sikuka

THE ASPIRATIONS of southern Africa are clearly presented in the Declaration and Treaty that established the shared community of SADC.

The aspirations are a united, prosperous and integrated region.

In pursuit of these targets, the SADC Member States have signed numerous protocols and other policy documents in various key areas, ranging from trade and investment, peace and security, to transboundary natural resources and the empowerment of women and young people.

In fact, since the transformation of SADC in 1992 from the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), a total of 33 protocols have been signed by member states to push forward the regional integration agenda. (See table below on the status of the 33 Protocols signed by SADC)

However, not all the protocols have been ratified to advance the regional laws from being stated intentions to actual application at national level.

According to SADC legal statutes, any signed regional protocol should be ratified by Member States for it to enter into force at national level in the 15 member states.

At least two-thirds (10) of the member states are required to ratify a protocol 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, with some requiring approval of Parliament.

Southern African leaders meeting at the 36th SADC Heads of State and Government Summit held in the Kingdom of Swaziland on 30-31 August, expressed concern at the slow pace of advancing regional integration policies from stated intentions to actual application.

The slow implementation of strategic documents by SADC countries has affected regional integration, resulting in most people in the region failing to fully realize the benefits of belonging to a share community in southern Africa.

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Time to advance regional integration ...from "stated intention to actual application"

"Summit took stock of the status of signature, ratification and accession to SADC Protocols noting that 26 have entered into force, while seven have not yet come into force," reads part of a communique issued by the leaders soon after the summit.

The leaders "urged member states that are yet to accede to these protocols to do so," to ensure the aspirations of SADC are met.

The seven SADC protocols yet to be ratified by member states are:

- Protocol on Science, Technology and Innovation signed in 2008. The protocol aims to promote development and harmonization of science, technology, and innovation policies, advocating investment in research and development and promoting public awareness of science and technology;
- Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons signed in 2005. The protocol seeks to fulfil the objectives of the SADC Treaty, which requires member states to develop policies aimed at the progressive elimination of obstacles to the free movement of capital and labour, goods and services and of the people of the region generally among member states;
- Protocol of Trade in Services signed in 2012. The protocol provides for the establishment of "an integrated regional market for services", to unlock the potential of the region's services market so that businesses and consumers may take full advantage of the opportunities presented by a shared community in SADC;
- Protocol on Environmental Management for Sustainable Development signed in 2014. This protocol aims to harmonize all existing regional instruments that deal with environmental issues.
- Protocol on Employment and Labour signed in 2014. The

protocol provides and recognises the importance of collective bargaining; social dialogue and consultations among employers, trade unions and government, equal treatment and social protection for workers and their families in the region

- New Protocol on the Tribunal in the Southern African Development Community signed in 2014. This specifies that the new Tribunal's jurisdiction will be confined to advisory interpretation of the SADC Treaty and any other protocols adopted by member states; and the
- Agreement on Assistance in Tax Matters signed in 2012. This requires that member states draw up effective guidelines for the effective exchange of information and the implementation of mutual agreement procedures.

The 36th SADC Summit also urged member states to continue intensifying efforts to implement various regional activities, programmes and projects to ensure socio-economic development.

These include the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP), the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap and the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan.

For example, implementation of Energy Sector Plan of the RIDMP has the capacity to increase the power generation capacity of SADC from the current 56,000 megawatts (MW) and ensure that the projected demand of 96,000MW is surpassed within the next 11 years, making the SADC region energy self-sufficient.

The theme for the 36th SADC Summit was "Resource Mobilisation for Investment in Sustainable Energy Infrastructure for an Inclusive SADC Industrialisation for the Prosperity of the Region." □

Status of the 33 Protocols signed by SADC

Protocol	Year of Signature	Year of Ratification
Protocol Against Corruption	2001	2005
Protocol on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking	1996	1999
Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Materials	2001	2004
Protocol on Culture, Information and Sport	2001	2006
Protocol on Education & Training	1997	2000
Protocol on Energy	1996	1998
Protocol on Extradition	2002	2006
Protocol on Finance and Investment	2006	2010
Protocol on Fisheries	2001	2003
Protocol on Forestry	2002	2009
Protocol on Gender and Development	2008	2013
Protocol on Health	1999	2004
Protocol to the Treaty establishing SADC on Immunities and Privileges	1992	1993
Protocol on Legal Affairs	2000	2006
Protocol on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	2002	2007
Protocol on Mining	1997	2000
Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security	2001	2004
Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses	2000	2003
Protocol on the Development of Tourism	1998	2002
Protocol on Trade	1996	1998
Protocol on Transport, Communication and Meteorology	1996	1998
Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems	1995	1998
Protocol on the Tribunal and Rules thereof	2001	2001
Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement	1999	2003
Agreement Amending Article 20 of the Protocol on Trade	2008	2008
Protocol on the Tribunal	2014	2014
Protocol on Science, Technology and Innovation	2008	-
Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons	2005	-
Protocol of Trade in Services	2012	-
Protocol on Environmental Management	2014	-
Protocol on Employment and Labour	2014	-
New Protocol on the Tribunal in the Southern African Development Community	2014	-
Agreement on Assistance in Tax Matters	2012	-

New SADC political governance structure

THE 36th SADC Summit elected new members of its political governance structure to steer the integration agenda of the region for the coming year.

The SADC Summit, which is made up of all SADC Heads of States and Government of the 15 Member States will be headed by King Mswati III of Swaziland as chair.

The SADC Summit is responsible for the overall policy direction and control of functions of the Community, ultimately making it the supreme policy-making institution of SADC. It is managed on a Troika system comprising the SADC Summit chair, deputy chair, and immediate previous chair.

Therefore, the Summit Troika is now made up of King Mswati III (current chair), President Jacob Zuma of South Africa (deputy chair), and the President of Botswana, Seretse Khama Ian Khama (immediate previous chair).

The Troika System vests authority in this group of three leaders to take quick decisions on behalf of SADC that are ordinarily taken at policy meetings scheduled at regular intervals, as well as providing policy direction to SADC institutions between the regular SADC Summits.

The SADC Organ on Politics Defence and Security Cooperation, which also operates on a Troika basis, will be chaired by President John Magufuli of Tanzania.

The Organ is mandated to steer and provide Member States with direction regarding matters that threaten peace, security and stability in the region.

It is coordinated at the level of Summit, consisting of a chair, deputy chair and immediate past chair, and reports to the SADC Summit chair.

President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos of Angola is deputy chair of the Organ, while Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi is the immediate past chair.

The SADC Summit and the Organ Troika are mutually exclusive, and the chair of the Organ does not simultaneously hold the chair of Summit.

Like the Summit chair, the Organ chair rotates on an annual basis. □

Costed action plan for industrialisation to be finalised in early 2017

SOUTHERN AFRICAN leaders will hold an Extra-Ordinary Summit during the first quarter of 2017 to finalise a costed action plan for the region's industrialisation agenda.

At its meeting held ahead of the 36th Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in Mbabane, Swaziland in August, the Council of Ministers instructed the SADC Secretariat to finalise the ongoing process to cost the Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063.

"Council received a progress report on the indicative costs of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Action Plan, and directed the Secretariat to finalise the process in consultation with Member States for consideration by Council and Extraordinary Summit in February/March 2017 to enable the region to solicit investment in identified areas," Council chairperson, Prince Hlangusemphi said.

SADC has since August 2015 embarked on a process to develop a costed action plan for the Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap, which was adopted in April 2015 to allow the region to harness the full potential of its vast and diverse natural resources.

The action plan seeks to establish a coherent and synergistic implementation scheme containing strategic options and general policies towards the progressive attainment of time-bound targets set out in the strategy and roadmap.

The plan will focus on the first 15 years of the strategy timeframe, and aims to create an enabling environment for sustaining industrial development as a driver of economic transformation, and establish an enduring alliance for industrialisation consisting of the public and private sectors as well as strategic partners.

The SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063 was developed as an inclusive long-term plan for modernisation and economic transformation that should enable substantial and sustained economic development to raise living standards.

It is anchored on three interdependent strategic pillars: industrialisation as a champion of economic transformation; enhanced competitiveness; and, deeper regional integration.

Strategic interventions for each of these pillars are proposed in the action plan.

These include an improved policy environment for industrial development, increased volume and efficiency of public and private sector investments in the SADC economy, creation of regional value chains and participation in related global processes, as well as increased value addition for agricultural and non-agricultural products and services.

In order to improve the operating environment, there are plans to develop and operationalise a Protocol on Industry by 2020, which should lead

to the development of industrialisation policies and strategies at national level.

Where Member States already have such policies and strategies, these should be reviewed and aligned to the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap.

Member States will be required to develop national Industrial Upgrading and Modernization Programmes (IUMPs) by 2018 and implement these by 2020.

These should be in line with the SADC IUMP, which provides the basis for a sector-specific approach to industrialisation in the region, focusing on upgrading existing manufacturing capacities, modernising productive facilities, reinforcing the institutional support infrastructure, and strengthening regional capacity for research and innovation.

There is also a target to progressively increase the share of gross domestic investment to gross domestic product to 25 percent by 2020 and to 30 percent by 2025.

To achieve these targets, there are plans to develop a SADC Investment Promotion Framework as well as a SADC Regional Action Programme on Investment to accompany it.

To encourage the creation of regional value chains and participation in global processes, the region has identified five priority areas in which the value chains can be established and for which regional strategies should be developed by 2020.

These are in the areas of agro-processing, minerals beneficiation, consumer goods, capital goods, and services.

A detailed value chain study is proposed for specific products or services in the priority areas.

As part of the process of promoting value-chain participation, there are plans to develop model legislation and regulations for intra-SADC agro-processing, minerals beneficiation and other manufacturing activities and services.

Reduction or removal of structural impediments to industrialisation is another target being pursued by SADC. In this regard, there is need to improve power generation capacity and facilitate an increase in the development and use of renewable sources of energy as well as ensure adequate water supply.

There is also need to reduce delays at ports and border posts and shorten the duration of movement of goods across borders in the SADC region. This will involve harmonization of border-crossing procedures in SADC by 2020.

The action plan also proposes an active role for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the SADC industrialisation agenda. SMEs are an important variable in SADC development plans, representing 90 percent of all businesses and accounting for more than 50 percent of employment. □



SADC targets improved agricultural productivity

by Kizito Sikuka

THE FOOD security situation in southern Africa has remained subdued over the past few years due to a variety of factors, hampering efforts to deepen integration and promote sustainable development.

According to the SADC Early Warning and Vulnerability Assessment Systems, at least 27 million people – about nine percent of the population of the region – are food insecure this year as a result of the poor 2015/16 farming season.

The poor season has largely been due to low rainfall, mainly caused by the

strongest El Niño weather phenomenon ever in southern Africa in 35 years.

So what is SADC doing to address its food security situation to ensure sustainable development?

The region has established a regional El-Niño response team to coordinate a regional response to the impacts of the 2015/16 El-Niño phenomenon on livelihoods in close collaboration with member states.

The SADC El Niño Response Team was set up in May following a directive issued by the SADC Council of Ministers that met in mid-March.

The team has so far prepared a regional drought appeal for assistance with the aim of mobilizing resources to meet the needs of people requiring humanitarian support in the region.

Immediate past SADC chairperson, President Seretse Khama Ian Khama of Botswana launched the regional appeal amounting to US\$2.7 billion.

Significant resources have so far been realised since the appeal was launched in July.

"Following the launch of the appeal, the region has received assistance and pledges from a number of partners, including the European Union, the United States and Japan," SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax said.

SADC has also adopted a number of other measures to revolutionize the agricultural sector, which contributes between four and 27 percent of the regional gross domestic product, and about 13 percent of the total export earnings.

The measures include promotion of investment in research and improved access to financial resources for smallholder farmers.

Other strategies are measures to strengthen the capacity for the dissemination of research technologies to farmers, particularly smallholder farmers, who make up the majority of farmers in the region. Access to such information is critical for planning purposes, especially when farmers want to diversify into new crops or livestock.

With regard to water infrastructure development, SADC is investing in irrigation to enable farmers to grow crops all year round and not only depend on climatic conditions.

There is vast potential for irrigation in SADC as the region is endowed with large watercourses such as the Congo, Zambezi, Kavango, Orange-Senqu and Limpopo rivers.

The Water Sector Plan of the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan contains a total of 34 infrastructure projects aimed at improving access to water in the region.

At the national level, various SADC Member States are capacitating their farmers to embrace new technologies and ensure that they get increased productivity per unit area of land, rather than by increasing the area of cultivated land.

Individual countries are also improving their storage facilities to allow farmers to store their harvest for use in poor seasons. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, post-harvest crop losses are estimated to be as high as 40 percent in southern Africa.

SADC has finalized the Regional Agricultural Policy that was adopted in 2014. The plan seeks to ensure long-term food security and the reduction of social and economic vulnerability of the region's population by enhancing sustainable agricultural production in the changing socio-economic and climatic conditions. □

SADC establishes groundwater institute

SADC HAS established a regional centre of excellence on groundwater that will act as a platform for implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Programme in SADC Member States.

The SADC Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI) is hosted by the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa on behalf of and under the strategic guidance of SADC Secretariat's Directorate of Infrastructure and Services.

The SADC-GMI was launched on 20 September during a ceremony attended by representatives from the ministries responsible for water in SADC Member States.

The centre will collaborate with Member States to promote sustainable groundwater management and design solutions to groundwater challenges in the SADC region through building capacity interventions, training, research, supporting infrastructure development, and enabling dialogue and exchange of groundwater information.

One of the SADC-GMI's its immediate priorities will be to build on previous and ongoing achievements related to groundwater management in the region.

SADC-GMI director, James Sauramba said his vision is to ensure that groundwater management issues are granted equal priority in national and international water management discourses, and prominently featured in water legislation or policies in southern Africa. □



Regional weather experts predict good rainfall this season

by Admire Ndhlovu

THE FORECAST for the 2016/17 cropping season in southern Africa indicates that most parts of the region can expect adequate rainfall after two successive years of debilitating droughts.

In the period October to December most of the region is expected to receive a high amount of rain, characterised as "normal to above normal" rainfall, and this is expected to continue in most parts of the region in January to March 2017, according to a statement by the 20th Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-20).

However, the northern part of the region can expect "normal to below normal" rainfall at the beginning and end of this period, comprising the northernmost part of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), northern Angola, most of Tanzania, northern Mozambique, the island states of Seychelles and eastern Madagascar.

The period November to January may see a reduction in rainfall in some parts of the region, including western Botswana, eastern DRC, northern Mozambique, western Zambia, and southern Tanzania.

The predicted rainfall patterns are presented with maps that show the entire SADC region receiving normal to above normal rainfall during the period December 2016 to February 2017, with the exception of eastern Tanzania and eastern Madagascar.

However, there is often a dry spell in January, and the coming season is expected to be characterised by a short dry spell in this period in most parts of the region.

During the period of January to March 2017, the rainfall

is expected to decrease in the northern part of the region, as well as the southern parts of Zimbabwe and Mozambique, eastern Botswana, northern and central South Africa.

These predictions offer an informed estimate and do not address the consistency of rainfall during these periods.

The forecast was formulated by climate scientists from the National Meteorological and/or Hydrological Services in the 15 Member States of SADC and the SADC Climate Services Centre, with additional inputs from other global climate prediction centres.

Their statement notes that the Outlook is relevant only to seasonal timescales and relatively large areas and may not fully account for all local and intra-seasonal factors that influence climate variability, which can be interpreted and updated by national meteorological and hydrological services.

SARCOF meets every year in August to review the rainfall season in SADC, and discuss the potential impacts of the consensus seasonal climate outlook on other socio-economic sectors including disaster risk management, food security, health, water resources and hydropower management.

The statement from climate scientists said they "took into account oceanic and atmospheric factors that influence our climate over the SADC region. In particular, the El Niño-Southern Oscillation is foreseen to be shifting from the warm, through neutral to cold phase, also referred to as La Niña, during the bulk of the rainfall season."

Many regions of the global tropics and sub-tropics exhibit climate anomalies that correlate with the El Niño Southern

Oscillation, a naturally occurring phenomenon that involves fluctuating ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific.

In southern Africa, an El Niño event is characterised by drought while La Niña is associated with wet conditions and floods.

While increased soil moisture is expected to improve crop productivity, there is a risk of flooding that could destroy crops and impact on food security. Damage to infrastructure is possible. Increased incidences of malaria and waterborne diseases are often associated with higher rainfall.

Mozambique, for example, faces risks of cyclone landfalls due to increased tropical cyclones forming in the Mozambique Channel, with a possibility of displacement of people.

Governments in the region are taking proactive measures to prepare for the change in the rainfall patterns and its impact on livelihoods and economic sectors.

River Basin Organisations such as the Zambezi Watercourse Commission, Limpopo

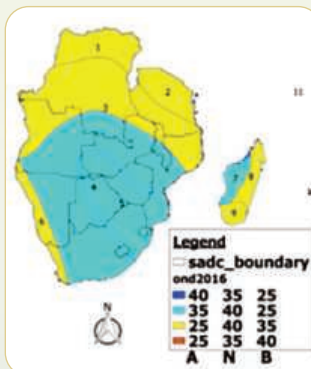
Watercourse Commission and Orange-Senqu River Commission are strengthening data and information sharing, which is crucial for early warning and preparedness, particularly in the case of floods. The commissions have already set up data and information-sharing systems.

At regional level, the SADC Climate Services Centre is establishing a Climate Data Processing Centre to provide timely early warning information such as flood and drought potential prediction, onset of rainy season, as well as climate advisories and information.

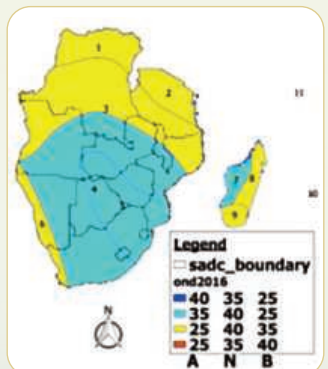
These are critical in development of effective drought and flood warning systems to maximize the opportunity for the implementation of response strategies aimed at enhancing the safety of life and property and reducing avoidable flood damage.

Climate events such as El Niño and La Niña are a slowly evolving phenomenon, whose peak can be predicted months in advance. Providing early advice and warning can help to reduce vulnerability to the impacts. sardc.net □

Rainfall forecast for October-December 2016



Rainfall forecast for January-March 2017



* A - Above Normal; N - Normal; B - Below Normal

** The figures show the likelihood (% possibility) of having Above Normal, Normal or Below

Normal rainfall in each of the regions



Towards a “unified force” on resource mobilisation

by Joseph Ngwawi

THE SADC chairperson King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Swaziland has made an undertaking to push for finalisation of the establishment of a fund to ensure sustainability of the regional integration agenda.

King Mswati said he would use his tenure to ensure that “the numerous initiatives launched by SADC over the years become a reality for the benefit of our peoples.”

In an acceptance speech soon after taking over the chair from President Seretse Khama Ian Khama of Botswana, King Mswati said lack of resources has stalled the attainment of the full potential of SADC.

“We have reached a juncture where, as Member States, we need to show commitment to our objectives by contributing to a fund that would serve as start-up capital for our programmes and projects in the various sectors,” he said, referring to the proposed SADC Regional Development Fund that has been discussed for several years.

He said when operational, the fund would be used as “collateral as we seek to raise funding from external sources to implement infrastructure projects in the region.”

During its tenure as SADC chair, Swaziland intends to focus on raising resources from SADC Member States and from International Cooperating Partners (ICPs).

The issue of a sustainable financing mechanism for SADC’s regional integration agenda dates as far back as 2006 when leaders from the region acknowledged that the march towards regional

integration has been painstakingly slow and requires greater commitment by member states in order to attain the goal of a common future for southern Africa.

Ten years later, the issue is still topical but is now being addressed with more vigour.

King Mswati said it is critical for Member States to operationalize the proposed SADC Regional Development Fund to ensure that the region is able to take full charge of its integration agenda, which currently depends on external support.

It is estimated that only nine percent of regional projects are presently funded by SADC Member States while the balance of 91 percent comes from ICPs. This situation has compromised the ownership and sustainability of regional programmes.

“We therefore, have to speak in one voice for resource mobilisation. They say a unified force is stronger than a unilateral force. SADC represents a unified force, so we hope we can strengthen our capabilities and speak as one family,” he said.

The region has during the past few years vigorously pursued an economic integration agenda involving the implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap and the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan.

Implementation of both strategic documents demands several billions of dollars, funds which the region has struggled to raise during the past few years.

According to a document released at the 33rd SADC

Summit held in Lilongwe, Malawi in August 2013, some groundwork had been done with regard to 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 would take up US\$444 million of the share capital and US\$144 million was to come from ICPs.

Under the proposal, subscription to shares would be made over five years in equal instalments. The first subscription would be due within the first year of the Fund coming into force.

Any shares not subscribed to by the end of the fifth year would be reallocated to other member states on the basis of ability to pay.

The proposal was 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 would be allocated based on economic ability.

In addition to the creation of the SADC Regional Development Fund, the region is also in the process of engaging consultants to develop a SADC Resource Mobilisation Framework (Alternative Sources of Funding SADC Regional Programmes).

The framework will explore seven different but co-related alternative sources of funding to determine how fiscal space

could be created to enable SADC Member States to finance regional programmes, projects and activities.

The possible sources include how to curb Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs); the creation of a regional lottery system; and harnessing the resources from a proposed philanthropy network and database of private sector companies.

It is estimated that Africa loses resources valued at up to US\$150 billion annually through IFFs or “illicit capital flight”, mainly through tax evasion, and mispricing of goods and services by multinational companies, according to a recent study commissioned by the African Union. □





SADC regional university on innovation

SOUTHERN AFRICA could soon have an institution to train citizens in innovation and entrepreneurship as the region intensifies efforts to transform itself into an industrialised region.

The SADC University of Transformation is one of the initiatives proposed by the new SADC chairperson, King Mswati III of Swaziland, to improve industrial productivity.

He said the establishment of the university "will be the next milestone in our journey which started in 1980."

"The University for Transformation will deliver in educational and training terms, using the technical vocational educational training model of delivery," King Mswati said.

"This initiative will give new hope and opportunity to our youth and our women. The intention is to have the first intake of students prior to the 37th SADC Summit in 2017."

The proposed university will be a timely intervention that is expected to complement the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063.

The strategy and its roadmap is being implemented in three phases, covering the three main pillars -- industrialisation, competitiveness and regional integration.

The first phase covers the period between 2015 and 2020. The second phase follows, covering a 30-year period from 2021-2050, while the final phase is proposed to run between 2051 and 2063, aligning with the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The first phase of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap will involve implementation of measures to transform the production base

SWAZILAND HAS pledged to offer scholarships for 300 students for the initial intake of the proposed university -- 20 students per member country.

of the region as well as to raise the quality of human capital and labour productivity.

Proposed interventions during this phase will include modernisation of industry and support structures; measures to upgrade science, technology, engineering and research capabilities of Member States; skills development; institutional reforms; and adoption of conducive macroeconomic policies for industrial development.

It is envisaged that the SADC economy would move from factor-driven to efficiency-driven during the second phase.

Measures will focus on diversification and productivity of sectors and increasing competitiveness of the region.

This will involve the introduction of policies targeting agro-food processing industries; introduction of value chains involving the agricultural sector; mineral beneficiation; pharmaceuticals; and transformation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Proposed specific interventions during this phase will include introduction of advanced technology in agro-food processing projects; development of agro-industrial clusters; promotion of regional value chains; prioritization of mineral beneficiation; development of mineral industrial clusters; support for mining SMEs; and access to finance.

During the third and final phase, the regional economy is envisaged to further transform, based on high levels of innovation and business sophistication.

This will necessitate increased investment in knowledge, development of unique skills, nurturing innovation as well as promoting competitiveness and deepening the entrepreneurial culture.

King Mswati noted that the proposed university would go a long way in supporting implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap as well as other regional integration initiatives in southern Africa.

He said it was important that the region adopts "thought processes that encourage positive thinking such as the blue ocean strategy."

SADC is considering strategies to embrace the blue economy concept that conceptualises oceans as "development spaces" where coordinated planning integrates conservation, sustainable use, oil and mineral wealth extraction and marine transport.

The blue economy concept is an initiative pioneered by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) but also relevant to coastal states with an interest in waters beyond national jurisdiction.

The concept emphasizes

conservation and sustainable management of oceans and complements the green economy.

It recognizes the productivity of healthy ocean ecosystems as a way to safeguard sustainable ocean-based economies, as well as to ensure that SIDS and other coastal countries benefit from their marine resources.

The protection and regeneration of marine resources are priority issues for coastal states whose marine resources significantly contribute to the socio-economic welfare of the country.

The concept is appropriate for the SADC region since more than half of its 15 Member States are coastal or oceanic countries.

Eight SADC Member States are coastal or oceanic states -- Angola, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The blue economy development strategy is timely for the SADC region, which has witnessed significant discoveries of large offshore reserves of oil and natural gas in Mozambique, Namibia and Tanzania during the past few years.

Recent findings of natural gas reserves in a number of southern African countries point to a huge potential for exploitation of the resource in a region presently grappling with a





SADC launches new publications tracking regional integration

ACCESS TO reliable and accurate information is essential to achieving regional integration and sustainable development in southern Africa, the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax said when officiating at the launch of four new SADC publications at the 36th SADC Summit held in the Kingdom of Swaziland.

She said availability of information enables citizens to participate in the integration agenda through educating and informing them about the benefits of belonging to a shared community of southern Africa.

"This is an exciting and proud moment for the region as we unveil new publications which are aimed at enabling SADC citizens, and regional and international partners to get correct and up-to-date information about progress made in implementing regional programmes in terms of achievements and emerging issues on the regional integration agenda," Dr Tax said.

"The publications are also expected to provide information that is necessary to guide informed decision-making and refocusing of efforts to increase impact and create value for money," she said.

The four publications that were launched deal with energy, gender, trafficking in persons, and managing economic transformation.

The SADC Energy Monitor, the first of its kind in southern Africa, documents progress made by Member States towards implementation of SADC energy policies and initiatives, including the SADC Protocol on Energy.

The publication focuses on the three main energy sectors of particular relevance to SADC – electricity, renewable



energy/energy efficiency, and oil and gas – and shows that significant progress has been made by Member States in implementing various policies to address the crippling energy situation in the region, despite the challenges.

If all planned energy activities, projects and programmes are implemented as per schedule, SADC is expected to be energy self-sufficient by 2020.

The SADC Gender and Development Monitor 2016, now in its sixth edition, presents an account of progress made towards implementation of regional commitments to achieve gender equality and equity in line with the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

The publication shows that most countries in the region have made progress toward gender equality and equity in various sectors, and all Member States have increased the number of women at some levels of decision-making, although falling short of the target of 50:50 by 2015.

In addition to governance, the report covers the constitutional and legal frameworks, education and training, health, productive resources and employment, gender-based vio-



lence, peace building and conflict resolution, institutional mechanisms, and media.

The baseline study on Trafficking in Persons in the SADC Region highlights the nature, extent and impact of trafficking in persons in the region.

Thirteen Member States of SADC have specific legislation that addresses the issue of human trafficking. These are Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Seychelles, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Democratic Republic of Congo and Namibia are consolidating and enacting specific legislation in this regard as they have various pieces of legislation for this purpose.

Adding Value: A Policy Toolbox for SADC Member States to Manage Economic Transformation and Value Chain Development is a publication that provides tools and guidelines to help stakeholders to promote value addition, thus increasing the benefits from their products.

The SADC Energy Monitor and the SADC Gender and Development Monitor 2016 were produced for SADC by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) with support from the Austrian Development Agency.

The other two publications were produced by the SADC Secretariat with support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

Speaking at the launch, Deputy Head of Mission at the Austrian Embassy in Pretoria, Matthias Radosztics said International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) are committed to working with SADC in advancing its integration agenda.

He said international partners are now aligning their support to SADC's Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015-2020 and the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063.

Alignment of support to the two regional documents will ensure the smooth implementation of agreed activities and programmes, thereby promoting socio-economic development and deeper integration.

The SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063 aims at accelerating the growing momentum towards strengthening the comparative and competitive advantages of the economies of the region.

The Revised RISDP is a five-year plan that guides the implementation of all SADC programmes from 2015 until 2020. □



Efforts and benefits of Mainstreaming gender in the SADC renewable energy sector

ACCESS TO affordable, reliable and modern energy is critical in promoting socio-economic development and addressing development challenges in the SADC region, such as poverty, gender inequalities and food insecurity.

Access to energy can be a liberating factor for women. Most women and girls in the SADC region spend their time on basic tasks that are time-consuming, non-remunerative and highly laborious, such as collecting biomass fuels, without access to modern energy services.

This further exacerbates gender inequalities as many women, especially in rural and peri-urban areas, are unable to access wage employment, education or business opportunities due to these responsibilities, and this also limits options for social and political interaction outside the household.

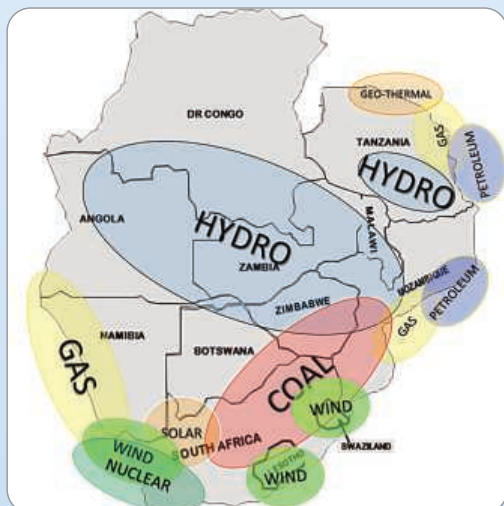
To highlight the general status of the uptake of renewable energy services in southern Africa while interrogating the gender dimensions of access to these resources, the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) in partnership with the SADC Energy Unit and with support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) produced a report on Efforts and Benefits of Mainstreaming Gender in the SADC Renewable Energy Sector.

The report – the first of its kind in southern Africa – was launched in August and aims to build a strong evidence base on the benefits of mainstreaming gender in the sector and present recommendations for SADC Member States and institutions to intensify efforts to develop comprehensive policies and guidelines for the inclusion of women and men in energy policy formulation. Some of the highlights of the publication are presented in the following report.

SADC endowed with renewable energy sources

Southern Africa is relatively well-endowed with renewable energy resources, and the Map[gives an overview of the various energy resources available in mainland SADC. However, renewable energies accounts for only 23.5 percent of total power generation in SADC with the rest generated from coal-powered stations.

Energy Resources, Mainland Countries



Women face challenges in accessing renewable energy services

One of the challenges confronting the SADC region is the provision of modern energy services to its population, and this has a very different impact on women and on men.

Women, especially rural women, continually face energy-related hurdles and are tied into servitude by the type of energy source available for their cooking and lighting needs.

Basic services such as electricity for lighting and cleaner cooking technologies are still a luxury for many rural communities, and this impacts disproportionately on women, who generally have responsibilities as the provider and end-user of energy, although on large farms the energy is also used for irrigation, mainly by men.

There is need, therefore, to invest heavily in research, resources and provision of clean energy solutions that are advantageous for women who are hardest hit by power shortages, which multiply their workload.

Need for gender-responsive institutional frameworks

For southern Africa to emerge as a competitive and effective contributor in the global economy, it has to have in place sound regional renewable energy policies among other development priorities.

Despite varying efforts to develop sound policies, there are still no clearly defined renewable energy policy frameworks and renewable energy master plans which provide for a clear and comprehensive development of this sector in most SADC Member States.

The low levels of renewable energy penetration and use across the region are largely attributed to a lack of effective implementation of legislative and regulatory frameworks that would support market development.

In addition, there are limited institutional mechanisms and technical capacity at all levels (local expertise and governmental capacity) to successfully implement renewable energy programmes and projects. For example, very few women are in key decision-making positions with regard to energy development in the region.

The Table shows the gender structure of some members of the Regional Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA). □

Governance structure of RERA Membership

Country	Regulatory body	No. of Men	No. of Women
Lesotho	Lesotho Electricity and Water Authority (LEWA)	3	3
Malawi	Malawi Energy Regulatory Board, MEW A	4	1
Namibia	Electricity Control Board	1	3
South Africa	National Energy Regulator South Africa (NERSA)	5	4
Zambia	Zambia Energy Regulatory Board	6	1
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority	3	3

Case study from West Africa

THE ECONOMIC Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) has developed a forward looking policy that prioritizes gender and women-centred approaches in all facets of energy and renewable energy development in the region. ECOWAS considers that the challenges of gender inequality in the energy sector originate almost entirely from the lack of gender considerations in the planning process, and, therefore, seeks to recognize the main challenges and constraints for gender equality in energy access at three levels:

- The political level;
- The level of the energy supplier, be it a public-purpose or private market actor; and
- The level of the energy consumer.

ECOWAS has taken steps to mainstream renewable energy into its regional activities and policies mainly through the establishment of the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE). Through the centre, the region developed and is in the process of implementing the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy (EREP) which aims to achieve universal energy access in rural areas whilst ensuring energy security,

sustainability, and access. The EREP includes the following measures relevant for gender;

- The policy identifies “support to gender equality” and women’s participation as a guiding principle for its implementation. Participatory approaches will be applied. The policy has adopted a concrete target on cooking energy (at par with electricity), “to universalize dissemination of high efficiency cook-stoves (35 percent) to the urban population by 2020.” A 100 percent penetration target has been set for 2020, and all other stoves will be removed from the market and their manufacture banned by 2020.
- EREP requires that each Member State ensure gender mainstreaming through a Gender Action Plan as part of the National Renewable Energy Policy with objectives, outcomes, activities etc. Countries are expected to undertake advocacy to include gender policy and vision in the institutional framework, and ECREEE has been mandated to develop guidelines to mainstream gender in the National Renewable Energy Policies. In national budgets, a minimum budget is to be set for renewable energy initiatives for gender/women. □

Benefits of mainstreaming gender in the renewable energy sector

CONSIDERABLE EVIDENCE has shown that mainstreaming gender makes projects more effective, and results in more benefits for women as well as men.

In the renewable energy sub-sector, projects ranging from cooking energy and energy access, to electricity and petroleum infrastructure construction, to energy policy and planning are starting to demonstrate how operationalising gender approaches can improve performance and increase benefits for both women and men.

Poverty eradication, increased food production, better health and education, economic opportunities, safer environment and

empowerment of women are critical factors that can be addressed through mainstreaming gender in renewable energy initiatives to advance economic and social development in the region.

Mainstreaming gender in renewable energy has a number of benefits that improve the livelihoods of both women and men.

The use of clean energy gives women and their families a lifeline from potentially hazardous conditions associated with burning traditional forms of biomass.

Access to modern energy services frees the time of women and girls to concentrate on other economic and social pursuits such as investing in entrepreneurial and educational activities. □



SADC adopts revised protocol on gender and development

by Nyarai Kampilipili and
Idaishe Chengu

THE REVISED protocol for advancing gender equality and equity in southern Africa that was adopted by the 36th SADC Summit in August seeks to align the protocol to new and emerging issues.

The Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development contains new provisions on emerging gender-related challenges, including climate change, child marriages, sexual reproductive health and reproductive rights, gender in media, information and communication.

The new entry on gender and climate change requires that state parties develop policies, strategies and programmes to address the gender issues in climate change in accordance with the SADC Protocol on Environment and Sustainable Development.

Article 31 of the protocol urges Member States to assess the differential gendered impacts of climate change and put in place effective measures for adaptation and resilience.

Climate change is an emerging threat to livelihoods and may also deepen environmental threats such as deforestation, water scarcity and land degradation, which often hit the poorest and the most disadvantaged groups, especially those who depend on climate-sensitive livelihoods such as farmers.

The revised protocol also addresses harmful practices such as forced and early marriages.

Article 8 of the protocol stipulates that “no child under 18 shall marry” and other articles adverse to human rights have been aligned with human rights instruments such as the Convention on the

Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This provision is in line with the African Union decision to set the minimum age for marriage at 18, in line with the definition of a child as any person under the age of 18 years.

Child marriages are one of the contributing factors to the slow progress in the reduction of maternal mortality as the majority of the women who die while giving birth are young mothers.

The revised protocol requires State Parties with provisions in their constitutions or laws that allow child marriages to review them, with the aim of reaching the target of eradicating child marriages.

To address violations that impact on women’s reproductive and sexual health, Member States are urged to develop and implement policies and programmes to address the mental, sexual and reproductive health needs of women and men.

The protocol urges Member States to ensure the provision

of hygiene and sanitary facilities and nutritional needs of women, including women in prison.

Article 5 of the revised protocol calls upon Member States to put in place special measures with particular reference to women in order to eliminate all barriers which prevent them from participating meaningfully in all spheres of life and create a conducive environment for such participation.

The protocol now has gender neutral language that ensures gender inclusive policies for both men and women. Article 10 for example exhorts legislative protection for both widows and widowers, and now speaks equal protection for both husbands and wives whilst article 11 now includes requirement for the protection of both the boy and girl child.

According to the *SADC Gender and Development Monitor 2016*, men are still dominating the news coverage and although media houses have gender mainstreamed their policies, the number of women participating in the media in

most countries still remains low.

The revised protocol addresses this issue by calling for the equal representation of men and women in decision-making structures in the media, and ownership of media houses.

Provisions of the revised protocol are aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in late September which provide essential targets and goals that seek to position gender equality and women’s empowerment at the centre of the global agenda.

The revised protocol no longer has time-specific deadlines for the implementation of specific goals. For example, the target of 50:50 for equal representation in decision-making in public and private sectors is no longer specified in the protocol.

State parties shall ensure “equal and effective” representation of women in decision-making positions in the political, public and private sectors including the use of special measures in terms of Article 5. The revised protocol now refers to “special measures” rather than “affirmative action”.

Article 5 calls upon state upon state parties to put in place special measures with particular reference to women in order to eliminate barriers that prevent women from participating meaningfully in all spheres of life, and create a conducive environment for such participation.

The promotion of gender equality is one of the main pillars of the AU’s Agenda 2063, featuring prominently in all the seven aspirations for the continent over the next 47 years. □

Status on the signing and ratification of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development

THE SADC Protocol on Gender and Development entered into force in 2013 following ratification by the requisite two-thirds of Member States.

SADC Member States that have ratified the protocol, and are thus parties to the protocol, are Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Their task now is to domesticate the Protocol through national legislation so it becomes the law at national level.

At the time of ratification, three other Member States were signatories to the Protocol but had not yet ratified (Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar and Malawi) while Botswana and Mauritius had yet to append their signature.



Edgar Lungu sworn in as Zambian

"THE ELECTIONS are over...We know that elections, like any other competitive enterprise have the ability to bring out the most selfish aspects of our humanity."

"Let us seize the opportunity to rise above the different points of view that divided us. The temptation to believe that only our solutions alone are the best is an ingrained human deficiency."

These words were said by the newly re-elected Zambian President Edgar Lungu on 13 September during his inaugural ceremony where he extended an olive branch to the opposition and called for peace and national unity.

"Prosperity for all cannot be achieved in an acrimonious environment. Without peace, there can be no development. Without peace, our current achievements can easily be undermined, without peace, there can be no stability in the nation," he said, adding that "it is only in a peaceful environment that we can build on our achievements and attain greater prosperity for all."

President Lungu said he will ensure all Zambians despite the political affiliations benefit from various socio-economic activities, programmes and projected initiated by the government.

"Zambia belongs to all of us who live and work in it... Even those who didn't vote for me, I won't let you down."

He said his priority will be on improving key areas of the economy including agriculture, health services, and education as well as diversifying the economy, which mainly depends on copper mining.

"I want to lead a green revolution that must culminate in sustainable national food security from individual actions of each one of us," he said.

"Our new mission must now also to give ourselves the ability and confidence to be masters of our own destiny. We must begin to conclusively wean our economy from the current copper mining dominated mono-economy. In this new dispensation we must promote and sustain agriculture to become one of the main drivers of our diversification programme."

On cases of violence witnessed in the pre and post-election era, he said an "an inquiry to establish the cause and perpetrators of the post-election violence" would be established "so that the nation can learn from such mistakes."

Lungu, who is leader of the Patriotic Front (PF), won the 11 August presidential elections after garnering total of 1,860,877 votes against 1,760,347 polled by his closest rival, Hakainde Hichilema of the main opposition United Party for National Development (UPND).

However, his swearing-in ceremony was delayed for about a month after Hichilema mounted a

court challenge in which he contested the outcome of the poll and wanted Lungu disqualified for rigging and inciting violence.

The Constitution Court of Zambia dismissed the application on 9 September, after which Hichilema took it to the Supreme Court of Zambia, who also rejected the application on 12 September, paving the way for the inauguration ceremony held on 13 September attended by leaders from the region and across Africa.

According to a law introduced in January, the winner of a presidential vote cannot be sworn in if their victory is contested in court.

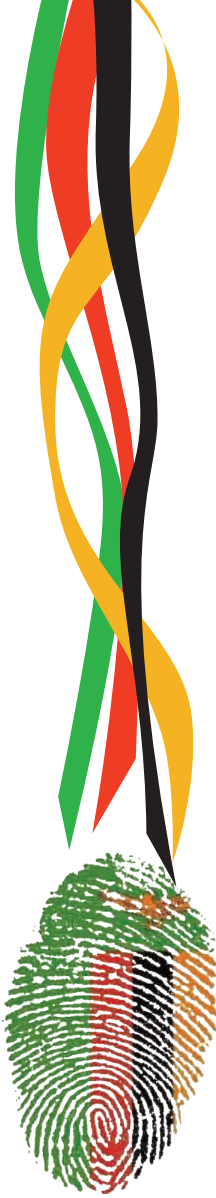
The votes garnered by Lungu were enough to secure at least 50 percent of the valid votes as per the amendment to the Zambian Constitution adopted in January.

Lungu amassed 50.3 percent of the valid votes cast against Hichilema, who got 47.67 percent of the votes.

Under the previous Zambian Constitution, the president was elected using the first-past-the-post system under which the candidate with the highest number of votes was elected, even if they scored less than 50 percent of the valid votes cast.

Lungu's running mate, Inonge Wina, was sworn-in as Vice-President, the first woman to hold the post.

In the past, a vice-president was appointed by the president. The



Opposition wins Seychelles parliamentary elections

THE PEOPLE of Seychelles voted peacefully in a historic parliamentary election on 8-10 September that saw an opposition coalition winning the majority seats in parliament for the first time in the history of the island nation.

According to final results released by the Electoral Commission of Seychelles (ECS), the Linyon Demokratik Seselwa (LDS) coalition won 15 directly elected seats and four proportionate seats while the ruling Parti Lepep won 10 directly elected seats and four proportionate seats.

A third party, the Seychelles Patriotic Movement, won zero seats.

The LDS coalition is made of four parties – the main opposition Seychelles National Party, the Lalyans Seselwa (Seychellois Alliance), the Seychelles Party for Social Justice and Democracy and the Seychelles United Party.

The result means that the sixth National Assembly will have 19 members from the LDS and 14 from Parti Lepep.

In the last parliamentary elections held in 2011, Parti Lepep held all the 25 directly elected seats and a further seven proportionate seats.

The National Assembly in Seychelles is made up of 25 directly elected seats and eight proportional seats.

A total of 62,939 people, out of 71,932 registered voters, cast votes in the historic elections in August, representing a voter turnout of more than 87 percent. Seychelles has a population of around 93,000.

As is the case with all elections in Seychelles, voters in the so-called “outer islands” voted on the first two days, followed by the “inner islands” of Mahe, Grand’ Anse and La Digue Islands which are home to more than 90 percent of the Seychellois population.

This voting set-up makes it easy for the voting to be completed on time and ensures that ballots from outer islands are delivered back to the main

island of Mahe, where the tallying of the votes and final result announcement take place.

The archipelago nation is made up of 115 islands, some as far as 1,000 kilometres from the main island of Mahe.

The election results released by the ECS mean that the ruling Parti Lepep has lost an election for the first time since the country re-introduced multiparty politics in 1993. The party has been in power for over 23 years.

In December 2015, the party’s presidential candidate, James Michel, was forced into a run-off after no candidate amassed enough votes to be declared outright winner following presidential elections rescheduled in the same month instead of the original date of 2016.

Some analysts viewed the rescheduling of elections to December 2015 as a ploy by Michel to manage instability within the party as some members of his party had openly expressed discomfort with his policies.

The December 2015 run-off was the first in the history of the island nation. In previous elections, the ruling party comfortably won every presidential election in the first round.

The disunity within the ruling party may be part of the reason behind the victory by the opposition coalition in the just-ended parliamentary elections.

LDS leader, Roger Mancienne said the result marks “a historic step” in the development of the country.

“It is historic because it’s the first time that we have a transition of power in one of the branches of government – the legislature,” he said, adding that the transition has also occurred in a peaceful and orderly manner.

Michel conceded defeat in the elections. Parliamentary elections in Seychelles are held every five years, and the next one is set for 2021. □



Seychelles president resigns

PRESIDENT JAMES Michel of Seychelles resigned in October after 12 years in office.

Michel gave no reason for his resignation, but it followed parliamentary elections where the opposition coalition Linyon Demokratik Seselwa took control of the legislature from the ruling People’s Progressive Front, called Parti Lepep, for the first time in the country’s history.

Former Vice President Danny Faure will complete the five-year term of the outgoing president. Michel resigned 10 months into his third and final mandate.

Faure was sworn in on 16 October and called for peace and unity among the Seychellois. □



president

introduction of running mates under the new Constitution will allow the vice-president to take over as president in the event of the incumbent being incapacitated to lead the country.

Under the constitutional amendment, the vice-present can assume power for the remainder of the president’s tenure.

Such a development avoids the need for early elections as was the case last year following the death of President Michael Sata in October 2014. Early elections were also held in October 2008 after President Levy Mwanawasa died in June of the same year.

Lungu, who took office in 2015 following the death of former president Michael Sata in 2014 becomes the sixth Zambian president since the country got its independence from Britain on 24 October 1964. □

ELECTIONS OBSERVERS to the parliamentary elections in Seychelles said the polls were held in conformity with regional and international standards.

The SADC Election Observer Mission (SEOM) said it was happy with the country’s level of preparedness for the 2016 National Assembly elections as well as the way people voted on Election Day.

The expectations of the SEOM were guided and measured mainly against provisions and requirements of the Seychelles Constitution, as well as the SADC Treaty, the SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.”

The African Union (AU) Observer Mission concurred saying peace and stability should always be maintained as it was the cornerstone for socio-economic development. □





Reed Dance – A cultural event that has withstood test of time

by Kizito Sikuka

ONE OF the activities held on the sidelines of the 36th SADC Summit in Mbabane, the Kingdom of Swaziland was the annual Reed Dance.

An estimated 100,000 young girls took part in this cultural ceremony commonly known as *Umhlanga*, according to the acting assistant overseer of the event, Sijabulisa Ndzinisa.

Swaziland has a population of just over 1.1 million.

But what exactly is the Reed Dance, an event that has withstood the test of time and maintained its glamour and colour, attracting more participants and visitors each year? In fact, the eight-day festival has defied the apparent decline of traditional culture in many parts of Africa and the world.

Commemorated in late August or early September each year, the Reed Dance involves the cutting of reeds by young girls, who then present them to the Queen Mother to repair her royal residence – and then dance in celebration.

This gesture by the young girls, who should be childless and unmarried, signifies the preservation of their chastity, a tribute of labour to the Queen Mother, and shows solidarity to working together.

On the first day of the festival, the girls from more than 200 chiefdoms of the Kingdom of Swaziland gather at the Queen Mother's royal village.

On the second day they are separated into two groups – one made up of girls aged between 14 and 22 years and another comprising those aged 8-13 years.

These groups are dispatched in the afternoon to go and fetch the reeds. The girls sleep in the forest.

Cutting of the reeds is done on the third day while in the afternoon of the fourth day, the girls return to the Queen Mother's royal village.

A free day is provided on the fifth day to allow the girls to rest as well as make final preparations on their attire. Presentations of the reeds, which is followed by dancing, is conducted on the sixth and seventh days.

On the eight and last day, King Mswati III orders the slaughter of cattle for the girls to eat.

Participation in the Reed Dance is optional and most young Swazi girls usually take pride in the event.

According to Swazi history, the Reed Dance developed out of a the old *umewsho* custom, where all young girls were placed in a female age-regiment, and if any of them fell pregnant outside of marriage,

her family was made to pay a fine.

This tradition was aimed at discouraging sex before marriage – an important form of campaign, particularly now when the global community is battling with challenges on how to address the HIV and AIDS pandemic and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Occasionally, the King may use the opportunity to choose a new wife. However, it should be noted that proposal to the girl would have happened many months prior to the selection, hence the Reed Dance provides a platform to introduce the new queen to the public.

Despite the Reed Dance being one of the biggest and most spectacular cultural events in Africa, it has also received its fair share of criticism, especially from the western media which tends to portray the festival as serving little purpose other than a showcasing of young virgins from which the King can select a new wife.

However, the Reed Dance, which was held on 29 August is such an experience where visitors are treated to the rich Swazi culture.

Little can prepare any visitor for the sheer scale of the pageantry across the parade grounds of Ludzidzini, where the presentations will take place, or an overwhelming immersion in noise and colour, as

the girls stamp, sing and sway in step, anklets rattling, and dazzling costumes blurring into a living, chanting kaleidoscope.

Swaziland has succeeded where many others have failed to create a nation that prides itself in its culture and heritage. sardc.net □

TO RE-ENFORCE the central role played by culture in regional integration and co-operation among countries, SADC adopted the Protocol on Culture, Information and Sport in 2001. The Protocol is guided by the following general principles:

- Strive to develop policies and programmes in the areas of culture information and sport;
- Pooling of resources (expertise, infrastructure facilities) by Members States; and;
- Commitment to enhance a regional identity in diversity and the right of access to information and participation in the areas of culture, information and sport by all citizens.

The Protocol calls for co-operation areas of training, capacity-building and research, resource mobilisation, language policy formulation, preservation of cultural heritage and arts and culture festivals. □



August - October 2016

October 24 Sept-5 Oct, South Africa	17th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES This will be the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) held in Africa since CITES came into force on 1 July 1975. Parties will take decisions on measures to end illicit wildlife trafficking as well as consider proposals to list additional species under CITES trade controls or change the status of existing CITES listings.
5-6, South Africa	SADC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan (REEESAP) Validation Workshop The workshop will bring together SADC energy stakeholders to deliberate on and validate the REEESAP document. The REEESAP seeks to increase the uptake of renewable energy and efficiency in the region.
13, Malawi	41st SAPP Executive Committee Meeting The Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) will discuss ways of improving the energy situation in the region to ensure supplies meet the demand. SAPP is a regional body that coordinates the planning, generation, transmission and marketing of electricity on behalf of utilities in SADC mainland Member States.
13-14, South Africa	SADC River Basin Organisations Workshop Representatives of river basin organisations in SADC will meet in Johannesburg to discuss pertinent issues such as climate change and to share experiences about responses to this and other challenges.
19-20, Zambia	SAPP Energy Traders and System Controllers Forum Energy traders and system controllers from SAPP members will meet to discuss various issues of energy interchange and trading and system control such as participation on the Day Ahead Market, system disturbances, and how to improve communication among utilities.
November 7-11, Lesotho	RERA Annual Conference Running under the theme "Providing Universal Access and Sustainable Development through Renewable Energy: Challenges and Opportunities for the SADC Region", the conference provides an opportunities for stakeholders to network and exchange information on pertinent electricity supply industry issues in southern Africa.
7-18, Morocco	UNFCCC COP 22 The 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 12th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 12) will bring global leaders to continue negotiations towards a global consensus on addressing the impacts of climate change.
15, Ethiopia	Tenth African Development Forum The Forum offers a multi-stakeholder platform to debate, discuss and propose concrete strategies for Africa's development. The Tenth African Development Forum will be held under the theme "Migration and Africa's Transformation" which stems from the recognition of the central role of migration as an enabler for inclusive and sustainable development premised on African-owned and African-driven developmental initiatives.
December 5-7, Nigeria	African Economic Conference This year's annual conference focuses on the theme of "Feeding Africa: Towards Agro-Allied Industrialization for Inclusive Growth." It seeks to provide an opportunity to discuss Africa's agricultural transformation by presenting the latest empirical evidence on how to leverage agro-industrialization for feeding Africa and promoting inclusive growth. Policy-makers, researchers and development practitioners from Africa and from around the world will gather to make strategic contributions for accelerating agro-allied industrial development. The conference is jointly organized by the African Development Bank, UN Economic Commission for Africa, UN Development Programme, and the African Economic Conference.



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30 years

19 October 1986



Remembering President Samora

THE FIRST president of Mozambique, Samora Moises Machel, is a symbol of freedom in his country and throughout southern Africa.

Machel supported the liberation of the region from colonial rule, before and after his own country gained independence in 1975.

Machel and 34 others, including some of his closest aides and advisors, died when the presidential plane, returning from a summit in Zambia, crashed at Mbuzini in South Africa on 19 October 1986.

The cause of the crash has not been officially determined, although significant circumstantial evidence points to a false navigational beacon placed by the former apartheid regime in South Africa to draw the plane off course.

Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosário said the truth behind the incident that claimed the life of Machel will one day become clear.

"Samora Machel was a national hero for Mozambique. He is an important historic reference for the people of Mozambique, South Africa and the world," he said during a ceremony held on 17 October at Mbuzini to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the tragic death of the Mozambican leader.

The South African Deputy President, Cyril Ramaphosa, described Machel as a true pan-Africanist who sacrificed the welfare of his own people to accommodate those from other countries who were fighting against the yoke of oppression.

"He unconditionally welcomed liberation fighters into Mozambique and dedicated his life to the complete emancipation of southern Africa. He continues to inspire us to build a society free of prejudice, racism, patriarchy and exploitation," Ramaphosa said, adding that South Africa owes an enormous debt of gratitude to the people of Mozambique for their unconditional moral, political and material support of its liberation movement.

The official ceremony to commemorate the anniversary of Machel's death is traditionally held at the Mbuzini site of the plane crash just inside South African territory.

The memorial at Mbuzini is perched on an isolated hillside and has, embedded in a cement base, 35 vertical steel pillars, one for each person who died. They cast long shadows over the base, and the wind causes a permanent whispering through small incisions in the pillars.

The commemoration for the 30th anniversary was launched in June by Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi during the 41st anniversary of the country's independence.

President Nyusi said his government will continue "to renew our commitment to preserve truth and freedom, noble gains of the struggle waged by Mozambicans." He said Machel will continue to inspire the whole nation and the rest of Africa.

"Samora Machel was much more than the founder of a free and independent nation..." he said, adding that "he remains a cornerstone of our pride in being what we are." He said even though "30 years after his physical disappearance, his lessons remain" to inspire the country.

"Machel won admiration and respect for his integrity and moral stature, as well as for his humanism, which surpassed the barriers of borders, race, tribe, gender or religion," he said.

Machel was the leader of the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo), which toppled the colonial Portuguese administration through guerrilla warfare.

Machel became the first president of Mozambique at independence on 25 June 1975, and his government accommodated liberation fighters from South Africa and Zimbabwe who were still battling to overthrow the apartheid and Rhodesian regimes. *sardc.net*



Botswana celebrates golden jubilee

BOTSWANA CELEBRATED 50 years of independence on 30 September 2016.

The road to independence was not an easy one, and can be traced back to the 1800s when Zulu invasions and Boer encroachment from South Africa led to three Batswana chiefs, Khama, Bathoen and Sebele I, making a strategic pact to seek protectorate status with Britain.

In January 1885, the British Protectorate of Bechuanaland was established under the High Commissioner for South Africa, with the British hoping it would be absorbed into the Union of South Africa. But Khama had other ideas. He kept control of governance in the large but sparsely populated country, while the British protected the borders.

The deaths of Khama in 1923 and his son, Sekgoma in 1926 set in motion the historic events that are now an integral part of the history of modern-day Botswana. Four-year-old Seretse Khama succeeded his father and his uncle, Tshekedi Khama held real power as Regent, with Khama going abroad to study.

Tshekedi began a series of events leading to the temporary disinheritance of Seretse who was forced to stand down as Chief because he married a white British woman, Ruth Williams.

Khama was banished in Britain, returning to Botswana only in 1956 where he began a political movement for change. In 1962, he formed the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) and campaigned for a non-racial and democratic society which recognised and gave role to traditional chiefs.

On 30 September 1966 the independent Republic of Botswana was born.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

October – December 2016

4 October	Peace and National Reconciliation Day	Mozambique
4 October	Independence Day	Lesotho
14 October	Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Day	Tanzania
15 October	Mothers' Day	Malawi
24 October	Independence Day	Zambia
30 October	Divali	Mauritius
1 November	All Saints' Day	Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles
2 November	Remembrance Day	Angola
11 November	National Independence Day	Angola
8 December	Immaculate Conception	Seychelles
9 December	Independence Day	Tanzania
10 December	International Human Rights Day	Namibia
16 December	Day of Reconciliation	South Africa
22 December	National Unity Day	Zimbabwe
25 December	Christmas Day	All SADC countries except Botswana, Malawi, Zambia
		Angola, Mozambique
26 December	Family Day	Botswana, Malawi, Zambia
	Christmas day	Swaziland
	Incwala Day	Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
	Boxing day	
27 December	Public holiday	Botswana, Malawi, Zambia