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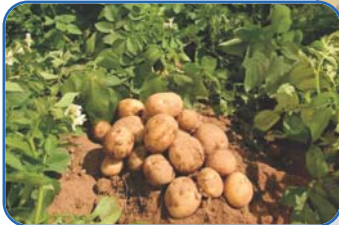
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2016 eventful year for SADC

by Joseph Ngwawi



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THE CURTAIN comes down on 2016 amid great optimism in southern Africa over an expected improvement in food security and the dawn of the official countdown to a continental free trade zone set for 2017.

Other key issues this year were that of energy demand and access, equal opportunities for women and men, protection of the region's rich resource of wildlife, plans for greater self-reliance by SADC, and a new SADC university.

The year started on a gloomy note, with fears of food shortages in many parts of southern Africa and concern over political instability in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Lesotho.

Combined food-relief efforts by SADC Member States, with support from the international community, averted food shortages in most countries.

According to the SADC Early Warning and Vulnerability Assessment Systems, the region

faced an estimated cereal shortfall of 9.3 million metric tonnes.

The poor season was due to the worst drought in 35 years caused largely by a strong El Niño weather phenomenon that refers to the warming of the Indian Ocean waters off South America. This cyclical event is associated with extreme global weather patterns, including drought in southern Africa.

Energy issues continued to dominate the regional integration discourse in SADC during the past year. Significant progress was made towards development of a regional strategy that will allow the uptake of cleaner, alternative energy sources as well as developing innovative ways of using less energy to power the development agenda.

Energy experts from the region approved the Regional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan in October in Johannesburg, South Africa.

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2016 eventful year for SADC

The 36th SADC Summit held in Swaziland in August witnessed the launch of the inaugural *SADC Energy Monitor* as well as the sixth edition of the *SADC Gender and Development Monitor*, both produced by a SADC knowledge partner, the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC).

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

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

Other publications launched at the summit were a baseline study on *Trafficking in Persons in the SADC Region*, and a policy toolkit to assist member states on managing economic transformation and value chain development, as well as a booklet on the *Efforts and Benefits of Mainstreaming Gender in the SADC Renewable Energy Sector*.

The 36th SADC Summit approved the Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, which contains new provisions on emerging gender-related challenges such as climate change, child marriages, sexual reproductive health and reproductive rights, and addresses gender disparities in media, information and communication.

The 36th SADC Summit approved a landmark agreement that is expected to go a long way in allowing the region to take full charge of its integration agenda by funding its own developmen-

tal plans – the Agreement on the Operationalization of the SADC Regional Development Fund.

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

The SADC chairperson, King Mswati III, announced plans to establish a regional institution to train citizens in innovation and entrepreneurship as part of efforts to transform southern Africa into an industrialised region.

The SADC University of Transformation scheduled to have its first intake in 2017, is one of initiatives proposed by King Mswati III to improve industrial productivity. He offered to host the proposed university in Swaziland and pledged to offer scholarships for 300 students – 20 each per Member State for the initial intake.

The past year witnessed the commencement of the process to develop a costed action plan for the industrialisation strategy and roadmap for finalization in the first quarter of 2017 when southern African leaders plan to hold an Extra-Ordinary Summit.

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.

Another major development during the past year was the commencement of the process to review the organisational structure of the SADC Secretariat to ensure that it adequately responds to new and

emerging issues in the region's revised development blueprint.

The past year was also eventful on the trade front with cooperation between SADC and the European Union being strengthened with the signing in June of a trade agreement between the two blocs.

Six SADC Member States – Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland – signed an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), the first of its kind between the EU and an African region pursuing the objective of economic integration.

The six were negotiating for the EPAs under the SADC Group banner. Angola is expected to join this SADC Group in future. The other mainland SADC countries negotiated for EPAs under the Eastern and Southern Africa banner, while the island nations are negotiating under the Pacific Group.

The year also witnessed the commencement of preparatory work on negotiations for the establishment of a continent-wide market that will promote the smooth movement of goods, services and people across Africa.

Negotiations for the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) are expected to conclude by the end of 2017. When operational, the CFTA will bring together all 54 African countries, creating a combined population of more than one billion people and a combined Gross Domestic Product of more than US\$3.4 trillion.

Efforts to operationalise the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) gathered momentum during the year, with Zambia becoming the ninth SADC member state to sign the TFTA Agreement in June.

Since a historic agreement was signed in June 2015 by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Com-

munity (EAC) and SADC to make the "Grand" FTA a reality, a total of 18 countries have signed the pact, although none have yet ratified the instrument.

The region hosted the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which was held in South Africa in late September. (*More on pages 4*)

On the political scene, southern Africa strengthened its credentials as a relatively stable region following the holding of elections in Seychelles and Zambia.

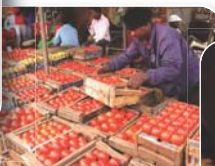
Incumbent President Edgar Lungu of Zambia was declared winner of presidential elections held on 11 August, while the Seychellois opposition coalition, Linyon Demokratik Seselwa, won parliamentary elections in Seychelles in September.

President James Michel resigned in October after 12 years in office, just 10 months into his third and final mandate. Former Vice President Danny Faure will complete the five-year term.

During the past year, SADC remained seized with finding a lasting solution to the political stalemates in the Kingdom of Lesotho and the DRC.

In November, SADC deployed members of the Oversight Committee on Lesotho to support the country in implementation of constitutional and security sector reforms.

SADC was part of the African Union-led Inter-Congolese National Dialogue that was instrumental in facilitating the Congolese national dialogue agreement by the DRC government, opposition parties and civil society groups in October to pave the way for a transition leading to provincial, parliamentary and presidential elections by April 2018. □



SADC adopts disaster response strategy

THE SADC Regional Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy could be a milestone in southern Africa, as the region does not have a specific protocol on disaster risk reduction or disaster management.

Each time a natural disaster occurs, such as a flood or an earthquake, there is loss of life and destruction of property and infrastructure.

As a response to better prepare for such disasters, SADC has adopted the disaster management strategy and the creation of a fund to strengthen coordinated interventions to disasters in the region.

The multi-disciplinary nature of disaster risk management has seen SADC use several existing legal documents to deal with disaster management, such as the Protocol on Health, Regional Water Policy and Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation.

The SADC disaster strategy and the proposed fund was adopted by ministers responsible for disaster risk management in November at their annual meeting held in Balaclava, Mauritius, and will be presented to the next SADC Council meeting for consideration.

Modalities of the fund are expected to be finalized in the first quarter of 2017.

The disaster strategy and fund are aimed at strengthening preparedness and response to natural

disasters in the region by increasing the capacity of Member States to share information, expertise and personnel before, during and after disaster situations.

Speaking at the meeting of SADC ministers responsible for disaster risk management, the Minister responsible for Environment and Sustainable Development and Disaster and Beach Management in Mauritius, Alain Wong Yen, said the adoption of the strategy and fund will help the region to prepare and manage natural disasters.

"We have all witnessed that frequent natural disaster and unprecedented climate change are becoming

significant game-changers in the SADC sub-region," said Wong Yen, who is also the Civil Service, Administrative Reforms Minister.

"As such, the adoption of the SADC Regional Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy and Fund will be an integral part of the global and regional efforts deployed to enhance resilience in line with the objectives of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction."

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda that commits the global community to reducing disaster risk.

The South African Minister for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, David Douglas Van Rooyen agreed, adding that the strategy and fund "demonstrates our genuine and collective commitment to ensuring the strategic reductions of the impacts of disasters in the SADC region and proactively building the resilience of our people."

Once approved by the SADC Council of Ministers, which is expected to meet in March 2017, the strategy and fund will be forwarded for adoption to the SADC Heads of State and Government Summit set for August 2017 in South Africa. □

Election observer manual

AN ELECTION observer manual is being developed by SADC to serve as a reference resource for election observers on mission.

The SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC) is overseeing the development of the SADC Reference Manual for Election Observers, which is intended to serve as a tool to assist observers when deployed in the field during SADC Election Observation Missions (SEOMs).

The draft manual was subjected to a review and validation process during a consultative workshop organised by SEAC in December in Cape Town,

attended by representatives of Member States.

Feedback from the workshop will be used to revise the draft before its finalisation, adoption and dissemination.

The manual is expected to be submitted to the meeting of the Ministerial Committee of the SADC Organ in June 2017 for consideration and possible adoption.

SEAC, which was established in April 2011 to advise SADC on electoral matters and issues pertaining to democracy and good governance, oversaw the review of the Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections in

SADC. The revised guidelines were adopted in July 2015.

The principles and guidelines contain procedures to be followed by SADC observer teams, and minimum standards that Member States should follow if their elections are to be credible.

The guidelines aim to enhance the transparency and credibility of elections as well as ensuring the acceptance of election results by all contesting parties.

The document was first adopted in August 2004 at the Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in Mauritius. □

Humanitarian appeal US\$757m raised to support regional food security

SADC HAS mobilised close to US\$760 million as part of a humanitarian appeal to avert food shortages in some parts of the region.

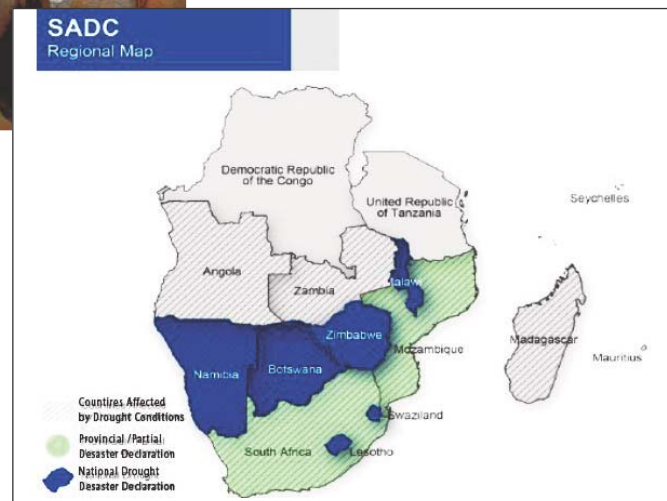
According to the SADC Secretariat, US\$757 million was raised through contributions of US\$222 million from Member States and US\$535 million from International Co-operating Partners (ICPs). This is about 26 per cent of the US\$2.9 billion humanitarian appeal launched in July.

Most SADC countries experienced lower yields in the 2015/16 season due to low

rainfall caused by the regional drought cycle and a strong El Niño weather phenomenon. The drought in the region was the worst in 35 years.

At least six countries declared national disasters due to the drought -- Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

According to the SADC Early Warning and Vulnerability Assessment System released early this year, the region faced an estimated cereal shortfall of 9.3 million metric tonnes, and it was estimated that at



least 28 million people re food insecure, about nine per cent of the SADC population.

To address this situation, SADC established a team to coordinate a regional response to the impacts of the 2015/2016 El-Niño phenomenon on livelihoods in close collaboration with member states. It is made up of the SADC Secretariat and United

Nations agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization, World Food Programme, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and UN Children's Fund.

The response team was established following a directive by the SADC Council of Ministers that met in mid-March in Gaborone, Botswana.

The team developed the regional humanitarian appeal to mobilize resources to meet the needs of people requiring such support in the region.

The former SADC chairperson, President Seretse Khama Ian Khama of Botswana, launched the regional appeal in July. □

Towards smooth transport of food across the region

SADC COUNCIL approved a transport plan that contains specific measures to be undertaken by Member States to ensure the timely and efficient delivery of supplies in response to the regional humanitarian appeal.

Some of the key measures approved by Council include the following:

- Introduction of special cross-border permits for drought relief transport operators;
- Introduction of expedited customs procedures for drought relief cargo;
- Minimization of sabotage restrictions and suspension of third party rule for drought inputs/exports;
- Provision of military escorts for road and rail convoys; and,
- Nomination of Focal Points to handle operational matters.

The SADC Ministers responsible for Information, Communication, Technology, Transport and Meteorology have urged member states to implement these measures to ensure the smooth movement of food across the region.

The ministers have said that all drought-affected countries should provide the SADC Secretariat with reports on their national plans and coordination arrangements for drought relief transportation.

The reports must include volumes of anticipated

commodity volumes and timelines, ports and routes planned, and coordination structures including contact details of key officials. Such information is critical to ensure easy coordination of transport and other logistics arrangements. □



Good rainfall predicted for the 2016/17 farming season

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 drought.

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 northernmost Democratic Republic of Congo, northern Angola, most of the United Republic of Tanzania, northern Mozambique, the island states of Seychelles and eastern Madagascar.

The period November 2016 to January 2017 may see a reduction in rainfall in some parts of the region, including western Botswana, eastern DRC, northern Mozambique, western Zambia, and southern Tanzania.

During this period, that part of the region often experiences a dry spell, but the current season is expected to be characterised by a short dry spell in most parts of the region. □



COP22 Consensus on climate financing remains elusive



THE RECENT global negotiations on climate change brought little cheer for Africa as the issue of finance remains largely unresolved.

Although developed countries promised again to mobilize US\$100 billion annually by 2020, Africa worried about the validity of the offer as financing for climate resilience is still based on pledges rather than binding commitments.

This is despite the earlier position by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment calling on developed countries to honour their pledge to provide adequate, predictable and sustainable climate finance to developing countries.

While developed countries agreed to fulfil their financial pledges at the recent 22nd Conference of Parties (COP 22) to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in November in Morocco, Africa viewed the US\$100 billion as well below the scale of financial resources required for implementation of the convention and the Paris Agreement.

Another challenge for Africa is that, since the establishment of the Green Climate Fund, developing countries have had difficulty in accessing funds due to the stringent conditions imposed by developed countries.

The failure by to provide climate finance is likely to negatively affect resilience efforts in Africa as global temperatures continue to rise at unprecedented rates.

In southern Africa, projections already indicate that rising temperatures are having adverse effects on agriculture and farmer livelihoods.

According to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2014), warming over land across southern Africa and the rest of the continent has increased during the last 50 to 100 years.

The report indicates that temperatures in the region are expected to warm by between 1.0°C and 3.0°C by 2080.

As the agricultural sector remains the backbone of most economies in the region, any rise in temperatures will have an impact on food security and development.

COP22 produced the Marrakech Action Proclamation on Climate and Sustainable Development which expresses commitment by Parties to move towards a new era of action and sustainable development under the Paris Agreement.

COP22 called for additional climate action and support well in advance of 2020 while taking into account the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries.

Parties called for the highest political commitment in combating climate change, underscoring the need to support efforts aimed at strengthening resilience capacity and reducing vulnerability.

The move to strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability is aligned with the SADC position which favours adaptation over mitigation.

SADC contends that major and historic polluters must take a fair share of responsibility to cut their emissions and should help victim countries to adapt as the continent remains the least contributor of greenhouse gas emissions.

Under the Marrakech Action Proclamation, the signatories agreed to move towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions and foster adaptation efforts that will benefit and support countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Climate negotiators at COP 22 further agreed to develop a rule book that will operationalize the Paris Agreement to promote confidence and cooperation, and ensure successful implementation of the Paris Agreement. Parties expect to have completed the rule book by 2018.

The Paris Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016 after 55 parties accounting for more than 55 percent of the total GHG emissions, ratified the agreement. As of 14 Decem-

ber, 117 of the 197 parties to the UNFCCC Convention had ratified the agreement.

Its main aim is to strengthen global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise well below 2°C and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to below 1.5°C.

The agreement requires all parties to come up with Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) which outlines measures to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions at national level.

INDCs indicate steps to be taken to adapt to climate change and what support the country requires or will provide to address the impacts.

In 2018, Parties to the UNFCCC will take stock of the collective efforts made in relation to progress towards the goals set in the Paris Agreement.

Parties agreed to have a global stocktake every five years to assess progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and to inform further individual actions by states.

COP 22 took place in Marrakech, Morocco from 7-18 November 2016 marking the fourth time for an African country to host the climate change conference, following Morocco in 2001 (COP7), Kenya in 2006 (COP13) and South Africa in 2011 (COP17). □





Little joy for SADC as ban on ivory trade is maintained

THE INTERNATIONAL Conference on Trade in Endangered Species held in South Africa offered little joy for southern Africa as key expectations were not met.

Despite consensus from most SADC countries to lift a ban on trade in ivory, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) maintained the restrictions.

CITES, which is an international agreement that aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival, argued that the ban is still necessary to protect the elephants from extinction.

This decision is a great setback to SADC as countries hoped that CITES would either regularize international trade of ivory or at least allow them to sell off their ivory stockpiles, now valued at millions of dollars.

Prior to the meeting, SADC countries challenged CITES to finalize and approve the development of a decision-making mechanism for a process of trade in ivory.

In particular, Namibia and Zimbabwe submitted a proposal to CITES seeking amendment of the present Appendix II listing of their elephants by removing restrictions that bar them from selling stockpiles on the international market. The meeting voted against this proposal.

Appendix 1 of CITES lists species that are threatened with

extinction while those in Appendix II are not necessarily threatened.

Southern Africa argues that the ban in ivory trade will seriously erode the revenue base for wildlife conservation and can lead to increased cases of poaching as communities are not benefiting from ivory trade proceeds.

SADC countries have always contested the move to maintain and reinforce global ban in ivory trade, saying that their elephant population have grown way above the carrying capacity of their forests.

For example, the elephant population in Botswana stands at more than 130,000 while in Zimbabwe, it is above 80,000 -- nearly three times its sustainable carrying capacity.

In Namibia and South Africa the elephant population stands at over 22,500 and about 28,000 respectively.

According to CITES, southern Africa has the largest number of elephants in Africa at about 350,000 -- double that for East Africa, which boasts of about 166,500 elephants, mostly in the United Republic of Tanzania, which is also counted as part of southern Africa.

The rising elephant population in southern Africa has worsened cases of human-wildlife conflict, and has led to extensive environmental degradation, in the form of increased soil erosion, vegetation damage and loss of biodiversity.

For example, the elephant



population in Namibia is found in Etosha National Park in the north-central part of the country with serious challenges of water.

The growth of elephant population in Zimbabwe has added pressure on available water resources as most of these populations are concentrated in drought prone areas forcing the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority to use borehole water as an alternative though it is very expensive to pump.

South Africa is facing challenges in managing the increasing elephant population in the Kruger National Park.

In Botswana, incidents of poaching have increased, forcing the government to set up a full-time anti-poaching unit to deal with the situation.

The increase in poaching continues to threaten the security and livelihoods of the local people, particularly the vulnerable communities within elephant ranges in southern Africa.

In 2010, the SADC Technical Committee on Wildlife

pronounced that human-wildlife conflict was one of the main problems for Africa's rural populations in terms of human security and economic loss.

Based on these strong arguments, the region had expected the convention to consider the proposals submitted by Member States and at least allow a once off sale of ivory stockpiles in order to promote sustainable conservation of the elephant populations.

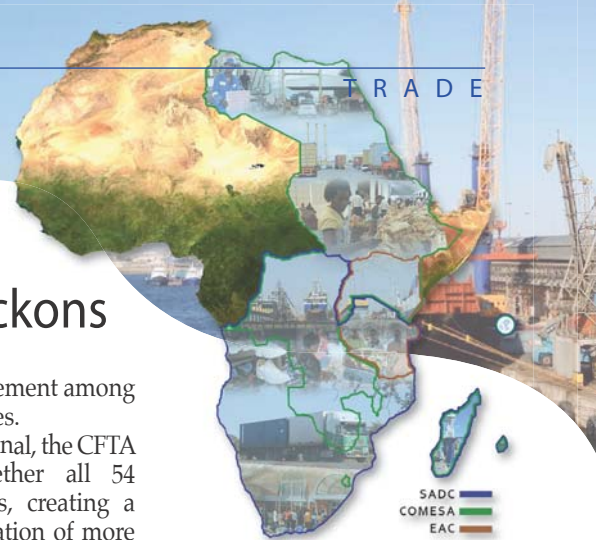
South African Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa, said there is need for parties to understand that elephant populations in southern Africa do not meet the criteria to be listed in Appendix I.

She said for any species to be included in Appendix I of CITES, its population should either be in decline or that it is small and fragmented -- which is not the case in most SADC countries.

Countries supporting the total ban of ivory, such as Kenya, had proposed for the inclusion of all populations of the African elephant in Appendix I through the transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I of the populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. This was, however, rejected.

The 17th Conference of Parties to CITES (COP 17) was held from 24 September-4 October in Johannesburg. sardc.net □





Towards a continental FTA

Experts intensify negotiations as 2017 beckons

THE DREAM of a single continental market for goods and services in Africa is slowly taking shape amid heightened efforts to lay the groundwork ahead of the expected launch in 2017.

Since the official launch of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) negotiations by the African Union (AU) Summit in South Africa in June 2015, the AU Commission has been facilitating preparatory work ahead of the commencement of the negotiations.

This work has included studies and consultations on issues for negotiations, institu-

tional frameworks for the negotiations and their terms of reference, draft rules of procedures, draft work plans and schedule of negotiations.

The CFTA Negotiating Forum held its third meeting in October in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and adopted the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for technical working groups on Rules of Origin; Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures; Trade Remedies; and Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation.

The forum also adopted modalities for the CFTA negotiations in trade in goods and trade in services.

The meeting was attended by chief trade negotiators from AU member states as well as trade officials from the eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs) recognised by the continental body.

The RECs are the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), East African Community, Economic Community of Central African States, Economic Community of West African States, Intergovernmental Authority on Development and SADC.

The 25th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union which was held in Johannesburg, South Africa in June 2015 launched the negotiations for the establishment of the CFTA.

The launch of the negotiations marked a major milestone in the implementation of the Summit decision to establish a single African market by 2017.

The objective of negotiating the CFTA is to achieve a comprehensive and mutually ben-

eficial trade agreement among AU member states.

When operational, the CFTA will bring together all 54 African countries, creating a combined population of more than one billion people and a combined Gross Domestic Product of more than US\$3.4 trillion.

The CFTA Negotiating Forum was established by the AU Assembly in 2012 and is composed of officials from AU member states.

It has the responsibility of conducting trade negotiations at the technical level and it reports to the Committee of Senior Trade Officials on its negotiation activities.

The forum also has the responsibility of preparing quarterly reports on progress made in the negotiations highlighting areas requiring higher level intervention to the Com-

mittee of Senior Trade Officials, Ministers of Trade, the High Level African Trade Committee (HATC) and the AU Assembly. HATC comprises the chairpersons of the eight RECs.

The CFTA process also includes the Continental Task Force, made up of members from RECs. The task force manages negotiations and helps to prioritize issues for discussion.

The CFTA intends to engage the Pan-African Parliament as well as a range of stakeholders such as civil society, parliamentarians and the private sector. Meetings will be held to garner diverse perspectives during the CFTA process. □

Objectives of the CFTA

The Continental Free Trade Area aims to:

- Create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of businesspersons and investments, thereby paving the way for establishing the Continental Customs Union;
- Expand intra-African trade through better harmonization and coordination of trade liberalization and facilitation regimes and instruments across Regional Economic Communities and across the continent in general;
- Resolve the challenges of multiple and overlapping memberships and expedite the regional and continental integration processes; and
- Enhance competitiveness at industry- and enterprise-level through exploitation of opportunities for scale production, continental market access and better reallocation of resources. □

CFTA timeline

BELOW IS the timeline towards establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area:

2012	Endorsement of the Action Plan on Boosting Intra African Trade (BIAT) during the Summit of Heads of States and Government. Decision to establish a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)
2014	Finalization of the EAC-COMESA-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area
2015	Summit of the African Union that led to the launch of CFTA negotiations: adopted negotiation principles, institutional arrangements, terms of reference and indicative roadmap for the CFTA negotiations
2015-2016	Consolidation of the Tripartite and other regional FTAs into a CFTA
2016-2017	Meetings of the CFTA Task Force and Negotiation Forum. Agreement on Phase 1 of the CFTA
2017	Establishment of the CFTA
Post-2017	Legal scrubbing, ratification, entry into force; agreement on Phase 2 of the CFTA.



Source African Union



Towards a SADC strategy for renewable energy

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS has been made to develop a regional strategy that will allow southern Africa to increase the uptake of cleaner and alternative energy sources, as well as develop innovative ways of using less energy to power its development agenda.

Energy experts from SADC approved the Regional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan (REEESAP) at a validation meeting held in October in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The REEESAP, which spans the period 2016-2030, aims to provide a framework for SADC Member States to develop renewable energy strategies, leading to the greater uptake of RE resources as well as mobilization of financial resources in the sector.

This will be achieved by a variety of measures, including establishing renewable energy agencies in all 15 SADC Member States that will have specific mandate for off-grid systems, as well as developing and adopting guidelines to meet the SADC target of cost-reflective tariffs by 2019 while ensuring that the poor are not prejudiced.

Other proposed measures include raising awareness on the value and benefits of renewable energy and introducing sustainable energy issues in school curricula and tertiary education.

The REEESAP also proposes to create a special purpose regional investment fund for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects of less than 10 megawatts (MW). The fund is expected, among other things, to support packaging of bankable projects.

The adoption of the REEESAP will not only change the landscape of renewable energy development in SADC, but is also critical to encouraging the region to adopt innovative ways of using less energy to support development initiatives.

This is because SADC has vast renewable energy sources, ranging from wind, solar and gas to hydro and biofuels.

Approval of the REEESAP is expected to attract significant investment into the SADC renewable energy sector, allowing the region to increase energy access and availability.

It is also expected to promote technological innovation in the sector that will ensure that the region uses less energy to provide the same service.

This will be achieved through various measures including the use of remote electric geyser switches, water sensor dispatching equipment and time-controlled shower units for institutions, as well as banning the use of incandescent light bulbs, electric geysers, boilers and other inefficient water heating and lighting equipment.

Implementation of these energy efficiency measures in southern Africa has resulted in savings of about 4,561MW of electricity between 2009 and 2015. It is envisaged that the

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

Speaking at the validation meeting of the REEESAP, director in Swaziland's Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Henry Shongwe said it is critical for the region to improve access and availability of energy to promote socio-economic development.

He said without energy, the industrialisation agenda of SADC will not be accomplished, hence "sustainable energy is key as an enabler" in the regional integration agenda of the region.

Senior Programme Officer responsible for Energy at the SADC Secretariat, Moses Ntlamelle, concurred adding that the development of REEESAP "is a step forward" as it will help the region mobilize resources in a coordinated and structured manner.

Following its endorsement, the REEESAP is now expected to be presented to SADC Energy Ministers for consideration at their annual meeting scheduled for June 2017 in Malawi.

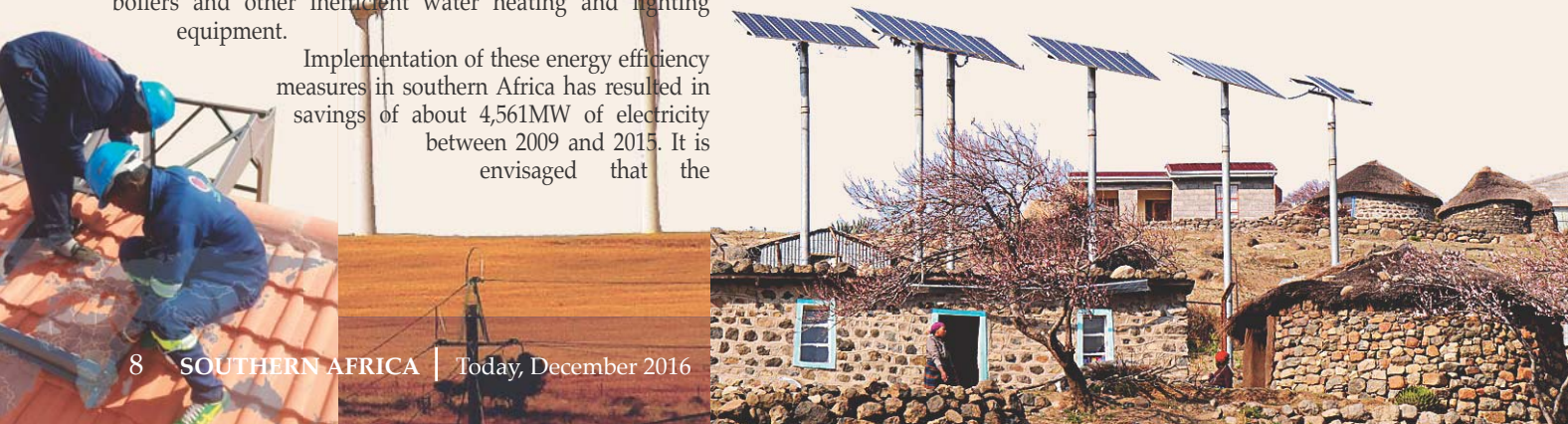
Once approved by the energy ministers, the REEESAP will then be sent to the SADC Council of Ministers and ultimately to the SADC Heads of State and Government Summit for final adoption at their annual summit scheduled for South Africa in August 2017.

The main implementation agency of the REEESAP will be the newly established SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) based in Namibia.

The validation meeting of the REEESAP was attended by various stakeholders, including representatives of the SADC Secretariat, energy ministries and departments from SADC Member States and the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre, which provides information support to the SADC Energy Thematic Group; as well as international cooperating partners.

The development of the REEESAP was initiated some time ago, but accelerated after the 34th SADC Energy Ministers meeting held in South Africa in 2015 tasked the Secretariat to conclude the development of the strategy.

In April 2016, the SADC Directorate of Infrastructure and Services launched a broad consultative process on the development of the strategy with the support of the European Union Technical Assistance Facility for the "Sustainable Energy for All" Initiative (SE4ALL) – Eastern and Southern Africa. The lead consultant is Atkins International. sardc.net □





SACREEE appoints executive director

THE PROCESS of setting up the long-awaited centre to spearhead the promotion of renewable energy development in the SADC region is reaching the climax following the appointment of an executive director for the organisation.

Kudakwashe Ndhlukula assumed duty in September and is expected to lead the process of operationalising the Southern African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE), which is based in Namibia.

Ndhlukula possesses an MSc in Renewable Energy Engineering and a Master of Business Administration, among other qualifications.

Prior to joining SACREEE he was an energy infrastructure expert with Manketti Energy Solutions operating in Zimbabwe and Namibia. Previously he was Programme Officer (Capacity Building) for IRENA in Abu Dhabi.

Before joining IRENA, Ndhlukula was the director/coordinator of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Institute (REEEI) in Namibia where he formulated and executed various projects, including managing the off-grid energisation programme, wind mapping, development of renewable energy and energy policy and regulatory frameworks.

He also worked for the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority as an electricity trader and has more than 15 years of experience in the energy sector.

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

The management team will report to an executive board, which will be the highest decision-making body for SACREEE, providing strategic guidance to the centre and approving its annual work plans and budgets.

The executive board would comprise representatives of Member States, the SADC Secretariat and SADC energy subsidiary organisations such as the Southern African Power Pool, the Regional Electricity Regulatory Association of Southern Africa as well as civil society organisations and the private sector. □



Experts to assess SOLTRAIN progress

ENERGY EXPERTS from southern Africa and cooperating partners will meet in Namibia in February 2017 to discuss ways of improving a coordinated approach to harnessing the energy potential from the sun.

Regarded as one of Africa's "sunbelts" and endowed with one of the world's best solar radiation zones, the SADC region has intensified efforts during the past few years to harness the potential provided by solar energy.

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

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

The focus on solar thermal or heating systems is deliberate because solar radiation levels in SADC are high, and these systems can readily be manufactured or assembled in the region.

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

Energy experts from SADC and other regions will converge in the Namibian capital Windhoek from 22-24 February for SOLTRAIN Conference 2017, an annual platform to exchange notes and share experiences from the six participating countries.

Started in 2009 with support from the Austrian Development Agency and the OPEC Fund for International Development, the initiative is being implemented in six countries – Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The first phase of SOLTRAIN ran from May 2009 to August 2012 while the second phase began in November 2012 and ended in February 2016.

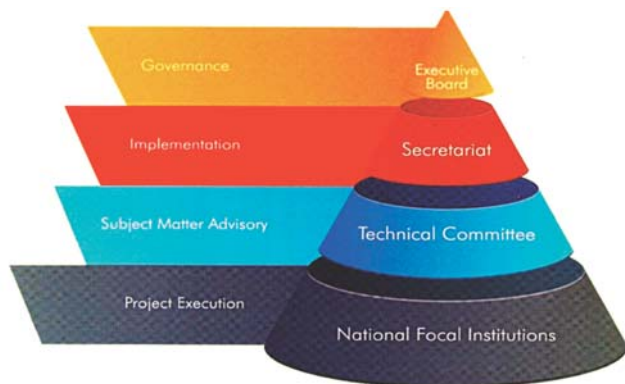
The third phase of the programme commenced in March and will run until July 2019.

The conference is expected to discuss the implementation of roadmaps by those countries that already have these in place – Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa – as well as progress in the development of such plans by the remaining three countries. The roadmaps outline the strategies and targets set by the countries and to be met by 2030.

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

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

Namibia also has equally ambitious targets to install solar thermal systems in residential areas, tourism facilities, hospitals and office blocks by 2030. This will include more than 200,000 installations in houses and at least 343 at hospitals and clinics around the country. □





SADC parliamentarians call for a regional assembly

by Danai Majaha

THE ESTABLISHMENT of a regional parliament has the capacity to accelerate integration of decision-making in southern Africa.

This was said by Parliamentarians from SADC who met in Harare, Zimbabwe recently and reiterated their call for a regional parliament to strengthen integration among member states.

The initiative to set up a regional assembly was proposed a few years ago and has the support of many SADC leaders.

However, little progress has been made to ensure the project becomes a reality.

The establishment of a regional parliament is considered important for development as it has potential to widen SADC citizenry participation in regional integration as well as guiding ratification, domestication and implementation of SADC Protocols and other decisions.

The Vice-President of Zimbabwe, Hon. Emmerson Mnangagwa, told the 40th session of the Plenary Assembly of the SADC Parliamentary Forum that the region would consider the proposal as parliamentarians have a critical role to play in the regional integration agenda.

"We value the role and importance of parliaments and are, therefore supportive of the ultimate transformation of

the Forum into a SADC Regional Parliament," said Mnangagwa, who also has responsibility for the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs.

"We need a collective regional decision on this matter and Zimbabwe will continue to engage other Member States to ensure the acceleration of the SADC regional consensus on this matter."

Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia, Hon. Professor Peter Katjavivi said a regional parliament is an important instrument in facilitating regional integration.

"A regional parliament will certainly play a pivotal role in the regional integration and enhancing the implementation of capacity within our region."

"We need to build institutions and systems that will advance the needs and aspirations of the people of this region," said Katjavivi.

Vice President of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, Hon. Joseph Njobvuyalema, said it is sad to note that the region was among the first in Africa to come up with a regional parliamentary framework, yet remains the only regional economic community without a regional parliament.

"While we were the front-runners in establishing the first regional parliamentary framework, we are now the only region in Africa without a

formal regional parliament," Njobvuyalema said.

"Noting our contribution to the SADC development and integration agenda, I have no doubt to confirm that SADC parliamentarians are ready and willing to do much more once we are formally transformed into a SADC Regional Parliament."

Established by the SADC Summit in Malawi in September 1997, the SADC Parliamentary Forum is a regional inter-parliamentary body composed of Members of Parliament from SADC Member States, representing more than 3,500 parliamentarians in the SADC Region.

The forum is made up of all SADC Member States except Madagascar and provides a platform to support and improve regional integration through parliamentary involvement, and promote best practices in the role of parliaments in regional integration and cooperation.

The SADC Parliamentary Forum is not affiliated to the SADC Secretariat nor other SADC institutions such as the Summit of SADC Heads of States and Government, hence their decisions are not binding on any member states.

At the meeting, the parliamentarians deliberated other issues including the need to promote the smooth movement of people across the region.



Running under the theme "Statelessness in the SADC Region", the forum said it is also critical for SADC citizens to have easy access to legal and personal documents such as national identification cards and passports.

Stateless means that no country considers a person as its own national under the operations of its laws and this situation affects an estimated 12 million people worldwide.

Stateless people normally face a number of challenges including traveling, marrying, as well as accessing education and healthcare facilities.

Some of the major causes of stateless are discrimination and arbitrary deprivation of nationality, inadequate civil registration practices and gaps in nationality laws.

At the regional level, issues of statelessness are covered under the Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons which aims to make it easy to access proper documentation, including national identities and passports that are basic requirements when traveling within or across borders.

The 40th session of the Plenary Assembly of the SADC Parliamentary Forum was held from 3-15 November. □



National focal points to support regional standby force

MEMBER STATES have agreed to establish national focal points to facilitate the work of the Civilian Component of the SADC Standby Force.

The agreement was made in early December in Gaborone, Botswana by representatives of SADC Member States and non-state actors.

It was agreed that each country should appoint national focal points who will be responsible for SADC Standby Force Civilian Component affairs.

Furthermore, Member States committed to identify potential experts to be included in the roster; coordinate the SADC Standby Force civilian activities and implement the reviewed Draft SADC Standby Force Civilian Rostering Manual, once it is approved by the relevant structures during the course of 2017.

The SADC Standby Force was officially launched at the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government in Lusaka on 17 August 2007.

The motivation behind its formation is the need to build the capacity of African armed forces to intervene and resolve conflicts throughout the continent without undue interference from external parties who may not understand the complexities of the conflict.

It is in line with the self-sufficiency goal underlined in all the major SADC agreements and declarations and brings the ideal of the African Standby Force a step closer.

Consisting of military, police and civilian components, the force relies on resources pledged by Member States on a standby arrangement.

The regional military, police and civilian staff on secondment to SADC from contributing member states are on

rotation in Gaborone, while the troops and personnel for the SADC Standby Force remain in their home countries in an "on call" status to ensure rapid response times.

The Planning Element (PLANELM) is the only permanent SADC structure related to the force. It is an autonomous organization that is not intended to be incorporated into the SADC Force structure during actual missions.

It operates on a daily basis as a tool of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and receives its guidance from the SADC Committee of Chiefs of Defence

Staff and the Committee of SADC Police Chiefs. Its authority is drawn from the Organ and the SIPO.

The mandate of the SADC Standby Force is fairly wide and covers:

- Observation and monitoring missions;
- Peace support operations;
- Interventions at the request of a member state to restore peace and security;
- Preventative deployment (in order to stop the escalation of a conflict, or to prevent a conflict from spilling over into neighbouring states);
- Peace-building in a post-conflict situation (including dis-

armament and demobilisation);

- Humanitarian missions in aid of civilians (conflict or natural disaster related); and
- Any other functions as may be authorised by the SADC Summit.

The thinking is that by creating a regional force that draws troops and resources from all Member States, the burden of conflict resolution does not fall heavily on any one state. It also gives credibility to interventions, and increases the likelihood of success as troop rotation can occur more regularly with the larger standby force in place. □

Oversight Committee to monitor situation in Lesotho

SADC HAS deployed members of the Oversight Committee to Lesotho to support the country in consolidating peace and stability.

The Oversight Committee was constituted by the SADC Summit to act as an overall monitoring body and early warning mechanism in the event of signs of instability, and intervene as appropriate in consultation with the SADC Facilitator, Cyril Ramaphosa, the Deputy President of South Africa.

The main aim of the Oversight Committee is to support the country in implementing various agreements including the Constitutional and Security Sector Reforms in a bid to return the country to stability following years of internal conflict.

The Oversight Committee was first deployed to Lesotho from 18-26 November.

In its discharge of duties, the Oversight Committee is expected to consult with all relevant stakeholders in Lesotho including Government officials, non-governmental/civil society organisations, and faith-based

organisations with respect to the implementation of SADC decisions.

Retired Justice Frederick Mwita Werema of the United Republic of Tanzania is chairperson of the OC. Tanzania is the current chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

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



Chairperson of the SADC Oversight Committee on Lesotho, Retired Justice Frederick Werema (far left); SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax (middle) and former MP for Botswana, Hon. Patrick Balopi (right), during a briefing meeting held on 7 December 2016 in Gaborone, Botswana

Lesotho army chief steps down

THE LESOTHO army chief accused of launching an attempted coup in the mountain kingdom in 2014 stepped down this month in a move that could aid efforts to end instability.

Lt-Gen Tlali Kamoli was fired by the former Prime Minister, Thomas Thabane, who accused him of attempt-

ing to overthrow his government.

When he was fired, soldiers attacked police headquarters, looted weapons and killed one officer in the reported coup attempt.

He was reinstated by the current Prime Minister who maintained that he is a good officer. □

Meeting the challenges of migration

SADC HAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and the parties emphasised the need for access to reliable and accurate information in developing strategies to address immigration issues.

The agreement was signed in November in Gaborone, Botswana by the SADC Exec-

utive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, and the IOM Regional Director for Southern Africa, Josiah Ogina.

The main objective of the agreement is to provide a framework for cooperation between SADC and the IOM for migration, poverty reduction, promotion of economic growth, support for human development and responses to

emergencies and disaster risk management

The two organizations noted the complexity of the challenges of migration which is linked to poverty and other socio-economic problems as well as to conflict and insecurity.

Unplanned migration impacts on host nations in terms of costs, while the countries

where people come from lose key personnel, impacting on socio-economic development.

In this context, SADC and IOM underscored the need for reliable data and information to facilitate the development of interventions to effectively deal with the various forms of migration. □



SADC, Japan strengthen cooperation

SADC WILL soon develop a comprehensive plan of action detailing the scope of cooperation with Japan under the 6th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI).

The SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, and Mr Hiroyuki Kinomoto, the chief representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), met in November and agreed that the plan of action should be ready by the first quarter of 2017.

The scope of cooperation should be on SADC priorities as outlined in the revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan, as well as exploring how the region could fully implement its Industrialization Strategy and

SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan.

It was also agreed that the plan of action will prioritize the establishment of One Stop Border Posts (OSBP) to promote the smooth movement of goods, services and people across the region.

There is still only one OSBP in SADC, at the Chirundu border post between Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Since the introduction of the OSBP at Chirundu, the time and efficiency for clearing immigration and customs

procedures have been greatly improved. Travellers can now go through immigration and customs processes in a matter of minutes compared to several hours or even days before the introduction of the OSBP.

Under TICAD VI, Japan announced commitment to invest some US\$30 billion under Public Private Partnerships through developing quality infrastructure, building resilient health systems and laying the foundations for peace and stability.

The three pillars of cooperation under TICAD VI are Eco-

nomics Diversification and Industrialization; Promoting Resilient Health systems for Quality Life; and Promoting Social Stability for Shared Prosperity.

SADC and Japan share a long history of cooperation, and some of the joint collaboration includes technical support towards the establishment of the SADC Development Finance Resource Centre and the project for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Resources in southern Africa. □



SADC, Germany identify areas of cooperation

THE PRIORITY areas of focus between SADC and Germany over the next few years will be on trade and industrialisation, water management, natural resources and climate change as well as peace and security.

This was agreed during their policy consultations on regional development cooperation held in November in Gaborone, Botswana.

These areas of cooperation are expected to be submitted for approval at the next bilateral negotiations between the SADC Secretariat and the Government of Germany scheduled for mid-2017.

The two parties agreed to strengthen their longstanding technical and financial cooperation with a view to foster sustainable socio-economic development, durable peace and security, promotion of democracy, good governance and the advancement of global objectives such as environment and mitigation of climate change, and addressing the migration challenge.

The policy consultations were co-chaired by the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, and Benjamin Sneider, Senior Policy Officer for SADC at the Federal



Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The German Ambassador to Botswana, Rolf Ulrich, and Head of the European Union Delegation to Botswana, Ambassador Alexander Baum, attended the meeting. □

Regional pharmaceutical strategy gets ministerial approval

MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE for health and HIV and AIDS in SADC have agreed to accelerate the implementation of strategies and interventions for public health and HIV prevention, including measures to promote the production of essential medicines and health commodities in the region.

Meeting in Mbabane, Swaziland in November, the ministers approved the Strategy for Regional Manufacturing of Essential Medicines and Health Commodities in SADC (2016-2020).

The strategy supports the pharmaceutical component in the SADC's Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063.

The ministers called for the development of a resource mobilisation roadmap to support the operationalization of the SADC Pharmaceutical Business Plan as well as the establishment of the proposed SADC Pharmaceutical Procurement Services (SPPS) within a selected Member State.

The proposed SPPS will manage the implementation of the Strategy for Pooled Procurement of Essential Medicines and Health Commodities (2013-2017) while relying on the guidance from relevant SADC structures for policy development, monitoring and evaluation functions, general oversight and implementation processes.

The strategy aims to facilitate regional cooperation in the procurement of essential medicines and health commodities, thus ensuring access to affordable, safe, effective and quality-assured products.

The meeting, focussing on the prevention, control and management of diseases, made a number of recommendations including the development of a resource mobilisation roadmap to support the operationalization of the SADC Pharmaceutical Business Plan.

The objective of the SADC Pharmaceutical Business Plan, approved in 2007, is to ensure the availability of essential medicines – including African Traditional Medicines – to reduce the disease burden in the region.

This business plan seeks to improve sustainable availability and access to affordable, quality, safe, efficacious essential medicines.

The ministers also agreed to develop and update national nutrition plans with targets in

line with Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition, the ministers agreed to strengthen collaboration between the SADC Military Health Service and the SADC Secretariat for a joint regional response to emergencies in line with Article 25 of the SADC Protocol on Health focusing on emergency health services and disaster management.

The Protocol on Health was signed in August 1999 to coordinate regional efforts on epidemic preparedness, mapping prevention, control and where possible the eradication of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Among other things, the protocol promotes cooperation among SADC Member States on key health issues and

recognises that this is essential for the control of communicable and non-communicable diseases and for addressing common health concerns.

The meeting was officially opened by the Prime Minister of Swaziland, Dr Barnabas Dlamini who called for accelerated efforts by Member States to harmonise policies to improve the health sector in SADC the region.

Dr Dlamini underscored the need to address the gaps in efforts to harmonise measures to improve the health sector in the region.

This is critical in attaining SADC's aspiration of reaching an acceptable standard of health for all citizens as well as specific targets within the objective of "Health for All" by 2020. □

SADC records a decline in new HIV infections

HIV AND AIDS are widely recognised as a threat to development and coordinated efforts among countries remains essential in addressing the problem.

For southern Africa, these efforts are paying off as key milestones in response to HIV have been achieved including reduced transmissions and infections.

According to data presented to Ministers of Health and Ministers responsible for HIV and AIDS who met in in Swaziland in November, the region experienced a decline of 13.3 percent in new HIV infections from 880,000 in 2010 to 763,000 in 2015.

SADC has also recorded a high coverage of prevention of mother-to-child transmission.

Efforts to combat the spread of HIV in SADC are covered under Priority D of the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan which centres on promotion of special programmes of regional dimension under clusters such as education and human resource development; health, HIV and AIDS, and other communicable diseases.

In addition, SADC has recorded significant progress in the provision of services and products for healthcare of children. This has achieved, for example, a 40 percent

reduction in the number of children under the age of five who are stunted.

In addition, a 30 percent reduction has been achieved in low birth-weight when compared with the baseline of 2006-2010.

However, despite the various milestones achieved by the region towards improving health outcomes, the mortality ratio remains high, although there are favourable maternal and child health indicators such as prevention of mother-to-child transmission coverage, and number of deliveries by skilled labour. □





From left, Dr. Abdoulaye Bathily; Dr. Pelonomi Venson-Moitai; H.E. Agapito Mba Mokuy; Dr. Amina Mohammed and Dr. Moussa Faki Mahamat.

Packed agenda for 28th African Union Summit

by Kizito Sikuka

AFRICAN LEADERS are meeting in late January 2017 to chart the continent's development agenda, including the appointment of a new leadership team for the African Union secretariat, based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The 28th Ordinary Assembly of the African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government is set for 30-31 January 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

According to a draft agenda, one of the key issues for discussion is the appointment of a new leadership at the AU Commission to steer deeper integration in Africa. The commission is responsible for the running and delivery of the AU agenda aimed at advancing greater continental integration for a more prosperous Africa.

All members that make up the top leadership at the AU

Commission have reached their first or second term limits or resigned, hence the need to appoint a new team. As per the AU Commission Constitution, the terms are for four years, renewable once.

The summit will elect a new chairperson, deputy chair and eight commissioners. The eight commissioners are responsible for peace and security; political affairs; trade and industry; infrastructure and energy; social affairs; rural economy and agriculture; human resources, science and technology; and economic affairs.

A total of five candidates are vying for the position of Africa's top civil servant. These are Botswana's Foreign Affairs Minister and SADC candidate, Dr. Pelonomi Venson-Moitai; Dr. Moussa Faki Mahamat of Chad; Agapito Mba Mokuy of Equatorial Guinea; Dr. Amina Mohammed of Kenya; and Dr.

Abdoulaye Bathily of Senegal. Candidates from southern Africa are also contesting other posts on the Commission.

The election of a new chairperson follows the decision of Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma of South Africa to resign after her first term of office came to an end in June 2016.

Dlamini-Zuma, who was a SADC-sponsored candidate when she etched her name in history books after becoming the first southern African to head the AU Commission in 2012, has decided to re-join active politics in South Africa.

A key achievement of the AU during the leadership of Dlamini-Zuma was the continental vision of the future, titled Agenda 2063, and related planning documents such as the "Concept Note on Domestication of Agenda 2063 in Member States of the Union".

The concept document defines the proposed role of individual countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), such as SADC, in achieving the targets and goals of Agenda 2063. The roles assigned to the RECs include:

- Being the focal points for the facilitation of the adoption, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all continental frameworks related to Agenda 2063 by member states;
- Issuing regional specific Agenda 2063 implementation, monitoring and evaluation guidelines to member states; and;
- Organizing annual forums for member states to review regional implementation performance on Agenda 2063.

Agenda 2063 is a continental strategy adopted by the AU in 2013 and aims to optimize the use of Africa's resources for the benefit of all Africans.

The AU Summit, which will run under the theme "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend

through Investments in the Youth" will also deliberate on a report to reform the AU.

The idea to reform the AU follows a decision made during the 12th AU summit held in Ethiopia in 2009 where it was agreed to set up a committee to look into the modalities of turning the AU secretariat into an authority.

The decision to transform the AU Commission into an authority was reached as a compromise step toward eventually forming a continent-wide government. The proposed authority would have a broader mandate than the existing commission.

Another major issue for the leaders at their annual summit is the establishment of a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) by 2017.

Negotiations to launch the (CFTA) whose main aim is to promote the smooth movement of goods and services across the continent began in June 2015 and are progressing well.

When operational, the CFTA will bring together all African countries, creating a combined population of more than one billion people and a combined Gross Domestic Product of more than US\$3.4 trillion.

The summit is also expected to consider a request by Morocco to rejoin the AU. Morocco withdrew from the OAU 32 years ago in protest at the continental body's support for the Polisario Front and its recognition of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic as an independent state.

The re-admission of Morocco would bring the AU membership to 55 countries.

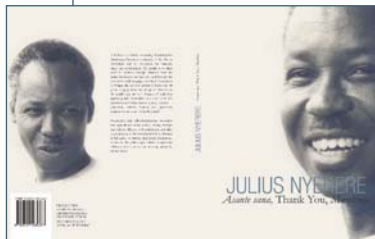
The political situation in some hot spots in the continent including the Democratic Republic of Congo, will also be discussed. Other issues on the summit agenda include trade, food security and climate change. *sardc.net* □



AU commissions Julius Nyerere Peace and Security Building

THE JULIUS Nyerere Peace and Security Building at AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was commissioned in October, named after a leading Pan-Africanist and peace-builder, and the architect of liberation in southern Africa, whose country hosted the continental body's Liberation Committee.

The new building, which hosts the AU Peace and Security Department and provides a base for the operation of the continental early warning system and the coordination of AU-led peace support operations, was funded by the government of the Federal Republic of Germany at a cost of about €31 million.



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December
5-7, Nigeria

African Economic Conference 2016

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.

8-9, Ethiopia

5th AU Ministerial Retreat of the Executive Council

This is an important forum for increasing cooperation among African countries on the key steps to advance continental integration projects, strengthen effectiveness of AU institutions and assess implementation of Agenda 2063. The retreat takes place at least twice a year and is convened by the AU Commission in consultation with the chairperson of the Executive Council.

9, Ethiopia

AU Commission chairperson election debate

The AU, through its African Union Leadership Academy, will convene the first-ever leadership debate for candidates contesting for the position of chairperson of the AU Commission. The debate will be conducted before a live audience comprising members of the AU Executive Council; Permanent Representatives Committee, AU commissioners; media personnel and invited guests. It aims at popularizing the African Union and giving the candidates an opportunity to speak to African citizens and present their plans for the fulfilment of the AU vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa.

January
16-19, UAE

World Future Energy Summit 2017

The summit will be dedicated to sustaining the clean energy consensus as well as promoting and empowering new players in the sector. It will present energy stakeholders with a unique opportunity to exchange technology and share best practices.

30-31, Ethiopia

28th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly

African Heads of State and Government will gather for the 28th Session of the African Union Assembly, preceded by ministerial and technical meetings of officials. The AU theme for the year is "2017: Harnessing Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth".

February
21 – 22,
South Africa

Africa Energy Indaba 2017

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

23, South Africa

4th IPP and Power Purchase Agreements Conference

The conference brings together Independent Power Producers (IPPs), utilities, investors, governments and energy regulators to discuss solutions on increasing power capacity and how to strengthen linkages between governments and private players in the power sector.

22-24, Namibia

SOLTRAIN Conference 2017

Energy experts from southern Africa and cooperating partners will discuss ways of improving a coordinated approach to harnessing the energy potential from the sun. The Southern African Solar Thermal Training and Demonstration Initiative (SOLTRAIN) is a regional programme on capacity building and demonstration of solar thermal systems in the SADC region.

55

years



Independence of Tanganyika Support for southern Africa's freedom

NINE DECEMBER has particular significance in the liberation history of Africa as it the day that Tanganyika gained independence from Britain in 1961.

Under the founding father, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, Tanganyika united with Zanzibar in 1964 to form the United Republic of Tanzania, giving action to his firm belief in African unity.

Tanzania hosted the Liberation Committee of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) from 1963 until its mission was accomplished in 1994 following majority rule and the end of institutionalized apartheid in South Africa.

Nyerere was the father of southern African liberation, and one of the founding fathers of SADC.

He worked tirelessly in support of the goal of non-violent means of attaining political freedom, resulting in the independence of Zambia in 1964, Malawi (1964), Botswana (1966), Lesotho (1966), Mauritius (1968), Swaziland (1968) and Seychelles (1976).

When the other countries of southern Africa were forced into wars of liberation to eventually achieve the same end, Tanzania provided political, material and moral support until independence and majority rule were achieved in 1975 (Mozambique, Angola), 1980 (Zimbabwe), 1990 (Namibia) and finally, 1994 (South Africa).

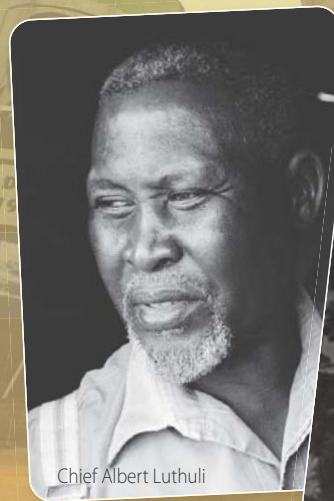
Nyerere pursued the ideals of liberation, democracy and common humanity into the rest of the continent and, with the leaders of the other few African countries that were independent in 1963, established the OAU, which later became the African Union.

The main objective was political liberation for the rest of the continent. Their tool for achieving this, the OAU Liberation Committee, was hosted by Tanzania, and most liberation movements were based there at one time or another.

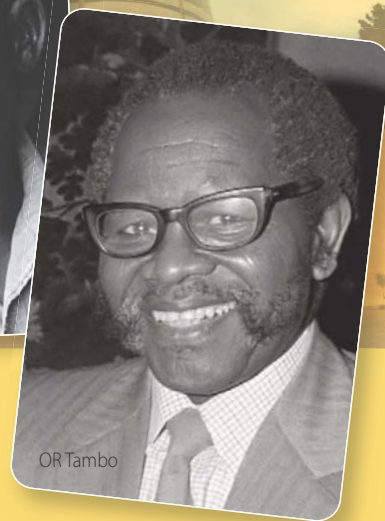
Nyerere was one of nine leaders who came together in 1980 to establish the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), which later became SADC.

The leaders of Tanzania, Zambia and Botswana formed the Front Line States in 1974 to work together in a united front for common security and for majority rule in neighbouring countries, under the chairmanship of Nyerere, and this was a forerunner of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

The political changes in Namibia and South Africa in 1990 and 1994, changed the face and future of the African continent, and completed the work of the OAU Liberation Committee, but socio-economic development has remained a vision. □



Chief Albert Luthuli



OR Tambo

ANC turns 105

THE AFRICAN National Congress (ANC) celebrates its 105th anniversary in January 2017, marking another milestone for Africa's oldest political movement and one of the longest existing parties worldwide.

On 8 January 1912, chiefs, representatives of people's and church organisations, and other prominent individuals gathered in Bloemfontein and formed the South African Native National Congress (SANNC) whose main aim was to campaign for the rights of all Africans to defend their rights and freedoms.

One year after its formation, the ANC confronted one of its biggest challenges when the Native Land Act of 1913 was enacted. It stripped the African people of their homeland by racist statute, a move that could be called ethnic cleansing in current terminology.

From its humble beginnings at a Waaioek church in Bloemfontein, the ANC has over the past 105 years become a mature political movement that confronted apartheid and its global supporters, and won.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

December 2016 – February 2017

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	SADC
	Family day	Angola, Mozambique
26 December	Day of Goodwill	South Africa
	Family Day	Namibia
	Boxing Day	Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
27 December	Public Holiday	Botswana, Malawi, Zambia
1 January	New Year's Day	SADC
2 January	Public Holiday	All SADC except Angola, DRC, Lesotho, Madagascar and Tanzania
4 January	Martyrs Day	DRC
12 January	Zanzibar Revolution Day	Tanzania
15 January	John Chilembwe Day	Malawi
16 January	Heroes' Day (Laurent Kabila)	DRC
17 January	Heroes' Day (Patrice Lumumba)	DRC
28 January	Chinese Spring Festival	Mauritius
1 February	Abolition of Slavery	Mauritius
3 February	Heroes' Day	Mozambique
4 February	National Armed Struggle Day	Angola
9 February	Thaipusam Cavadee	Mauritius
24 February	Maha Shivaratri	Mauritius
28 February	Carnival	Angola