

SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY



SADC TODAY VOL 19 NO. 4 JUNE 2017



Post-2020



Beyond Revised RISDP SADC strategises on post-2020 development agenda

by Joseph Ngwawi

SADC HAS commenced the process of formulating a new cooperation and regional integration strategy to succeed the current development blueprint that is expected to end in 2020.

The Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), which was approved in 2015, is expected to end in 2020 and the wheels have already been set in motion to craft a new development blueprint to shape southern Africa's regional integration agenda post-2020.

To kick-start the process, the SADC Secretariat recently convened a Consultative Conference on the Post-2020 SADC Development Cooperation and Integration Strategy in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The purpose of the conference was to obtain expert assessments and analysis of the implementation of the Revised RISDP and the blueprint governing SADC cooperation in the political sector, the Revised Strategic Indica-

tive Plan for the Organ on Defence, Peace and Security Cooperation (SIPO).

The conference, which was attended by SADC officials, academia and researchers, provided the experts with an opportunity to "critically exercise the facilitative issues in regional cooperation and integration", and to identify priorities for post-2020 SADC regional development cooperation and integration.

The consultative process is expected to lead to the development of a framework for a post-2020 regional strategy that takes into account SADC Principles and Common Principles as well as global and continental processes such as the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

The experts noted that there is need to maximise synergies in the implementation of the two pillars of SADC activities – political and security cooperation as identified under SIPO, and developmental integration as covered by the RISDP.

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Beyond Revised RISDP SADC strategises on post-2020 development agenda



SIPO is a five-year strategic document that establishes SADC's institutional framework for policy coordination and implementation in politics, defence and security cooperation, and was first developed in 2003.

The core objective of SIPO is to create a peaceful and stable political and security environment through which the region will realise its objectives of socio-economic development, poverty eradication, and regional integration.

The RISDP was first approved by SADC leaders in 2003 as a blueprint for regional integration and development.

It was revised in 2015 as part of efforts to realign the region's development agenda in line with new realities and emerging global dynamics.

It is envisaged that the post-2020 SADC development cooperation Vision 2050 should provide a framework for a long-term vision for SADC as the region seeks to position itself in a context of emerging global and continental issues such as climate change, democratisation of the United Nations and increasing financial instability.

According to SADC chairperson, King Mswati III of Swaziland, the intention is to set in motion a development agenda that takes into account the dynamics of events and issues affecting not only the southern African region, but also the rest of the world.

Such dynamics include current regional efforts to introduce measures aimed at strengthening implementation of the integration agenda and promoting inclusive participation by citizens in regional programmes.

Among the measures agreed by the SADC Strategic Ministerial Retreat on the "SADC We Want" held in Ezulwini, Swaziland in March is the need to develop a mechanism for improving implementation of the regional integration agenda.

"What is important at this stage is to ensure that the conclusions of the Retreat assist in further defining the direction that SADC should take after the expiry of the Revised RISDP in 2020," King Mswati said during a visit to the SADC Secretariat in May.

"The time to start thinking about the future of SADC post-

2020 is now, and this process should be as consultative as possible for both the Member States and the various relevant stakeholders," he added.

The ministerial retreat directed the SADC Secretariat to develop effective compliance, monitoring and assurance mechanisms to track progress on implementation of SADC programmes as well as compliance to protocols and legal instruments.

Since the transformation of SADC in 1992 from the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, a total of 33 protocols have been signed by Member States to push forward the regional integration agenda.

However, only 26 protocols have been ratified and entered into force to date.

According to SADC legal statutes, any signed regional protocol must be ratified for it to enter into force as a legal entity. At least two-thirds of the member states (10 countries) are required to ratify a protocol for it to enter into force.

The 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.

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

The retreat called on the SADC Secretariat to prioritise programmes by focusing on infrastructure development, industrialisation and market integration, with peace and security as a prerequisite for economic development.

The ministerial retreat called on the Secretariat to undertake a comprehensive review of SADC organs, including the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, in order to rationalise and streamline decision-making and enhance effectiveness and efficiency.

It was noted that the review should propose delegation of decision-making to lower levels. For example, only key decisions should be taken to the Council of Ministers and the Summit of Heads of State and Government while other decision-making should be delegated to lower organs when it is cost-effective.

The retreat recommended that the SADC Secretariat should develop an effective engagement mechanism to strengthen participation of the private sector at all levels. It was noted that the lack of direct involvement by the private sector is a barrier to economic development. □

THE REVISED Strategic Plan of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation (SIPO II) covers five key sectors of politics, defence, state security, public security and police. Since its adoption in 2003, a number of achievements have been realised under the auspices of SIPO, and these include:

- Facilitation of cooperation among SADC Member States in various defence and security areas;
- Enabling SADC to develop the SADC Mutual Defence Pact;
- Strengthening of regional commitment towards collective self-defence and the preservation of peace and security in the region through the establishment of the SADC Standby Force;
- Contributing immensely to the promotion and advancement of police cooperation in the region through the integration of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation into the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee;
- Enabling the establishment of Regional Early Warning Centre, which is tasked with helping to anticipate, prevent and manage conflicts; and
- Establishment of the SADC Electoral Advisory Council and a mediation unit, which are institutions dealing with political governance and the observation of elections. □

THE REVISED Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan identifies four main priorities to be pursued by the region from 2015-2020.

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

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

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

Priorities A, B and D are underpinned by Priority C on the promotion of peace and security. □

SADC Administrative Tribunal operationalised

THE RECENT appointment of regional judges to resolve labour issues between the SADC Secretariat and its staff signifies an important step in creating a conducive environment for the regional organization to effectively coordinate and implement regional programmes aimed at promoting sustainable development.

Since the suspension of the SADC Tribunal in 2010, labour disputes between the SADC Secretariat and its employees were heard by different national courts.

This situation presented its own challenges as the national courts settled the cases in terms of their local laws, and at times came up with different judgments for similar cases.

Hence, the operationalization of the SADC Administrative Tribunal (SADCAT) is regarded as a key milestone in providing common and standardized legal services to the Secretariat and its employees.

The 35th SADC Summit held in August 2015 in Gaborone, Botswana “approved the resolution on the establishment of the SADCAT”, whose sole mandate is to resolve labour disputes between the SADC Secretariat and its staff.

Seven Judges were appointed by the SADC Council of Ministers that met in March in Mbabane, Swaziland. These are:

- Justice Ivy Kamanga – High Court judge from Malawi;

- Justice Pedro Nhatitima – Supreme Court judge from Mozambique;
- Justice Kuto Van Niekerk – retired High Court judge from Namibia;
- Justice Mbutfo Mamba – High Court judge from Swaziland;
- Justice Regina Rweyemamu – retired High Court judge from the United Republic of Tanzania;
- Justice Fulgency Chisanga – judge of the Court of Appeal in Zambia; and
- Justice Francis Bere – High Court judge from Zimbabwe.

Speaking during the swearing-in ceremony held on 9 May in Gaborone, Botswana, SADC chairperson King Mswati III of Swaziland said the SADCAT is an important regional institu-

tion in integration agenda of southern Africa.

“We wish to congratulate the judges on their appointment to these important positions,” King Mswati III said.

“Their role is critical to the successful execution of SADC initiatives, so they deserve our full support and cooperation.”

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Lawrence Stergomena Tax concurred, saying the operationalization of the SADCAT will go a long way in providing SADC staff with the required appeal mechanism.

She said together with the establishment of the Staff Association of SADC Secretariat that was launched in August 2016, the SADCAT “will contribute positively to the productivity, tranquillity and welfare of staff of organization.”

The SADCAT judges were sworn-in by the Acting Chief Justice, Justice Lakhvinder Singh Walia of Botswana.

The SADCAT will work independently from the pending SADC Tribunal which was disbanded in 2010.

The new Protocol on the SADC Tribunal, which was adopted by the 34th SADC Summit held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe directed that the SADC Tribunal’s role will be confined only to an advisory role and interpretation of the SADC Treaty and any protocols that may be negotiated among Member States.

This is different to the previous mandate that allowed individuals to approach the court with their cases against their governments.

The SADC Tribunal is based in Windhoek, Namibia. □

SADC to profile agro-processing sector

SOUTHERN AFRICA has begun the process of profiling its agro-processing sector in a bid to provide a comprehensive description of the sector and the related agri-business industry in the region.

This exercise is in accordance with the revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) Implementation Framework, which calls for the development and implementation of agricultural value chains.

For the period of 2015-2020, the SADC Secretariat has been tasked to develop three profiling studies for the pharmaceutical, mining beneficiation and agro-processing sectors.

The Secretariat is now in the process of engaging a consultant to profile the agro-processing sector.

The main aim of the profiling is to provide a comprehensive description of the SADC agro-processing industry, focusing on the relevant commodity groups and the selected representatives commodities, containing some of the following descriptions:

- The potential for agriculture and agri-business given the agro-ecological zones in the SADC region;
- The current production and consumption levels and the estimated post-harvest loss;
- The geographical and physical aspects of agricultural production systems, such as the distribution of land use by different forms of agri-businesses;
- The most relevant elements of farming systems and practices such as irri-

gation and infrastructure, storage, handling, and marketing, as they relate to barriers to developing agro-processing industries;

- Trade within and from the region by volumes, main export and import markets and main commodities, and the geography of supply and demand by product; and;
- Investment flows for agribusiness by country and product/function.

The profile is expected to be developed through a desk-study analyzing primary data from databases such as those maintained by the Food and Agricultural Organization, and primary data available directly from the SADC Member States and secondary data from existing studies. □

Empowerment of women vital to sustainable development

by Nyarai Kampilipili

THE GLOBAL community continues to make progress in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment as a key factor in sustainable development.

However, a number of challenges still hamper efforts by most countries to fully advance gender empowerment in all spheres of development including political, economic and social.

The 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) held in New York in March acknowledged some of the challenges and said there is urgent need to address them to ensure sustainable socio-economic development.

The CSW61 noted that most of the structural barriers that hinder gender parity and equality are usually found at the work place.

These barriers include unbalanced terms and conditions of employment, recruitment, retention, re-entry, promotion and progression to senior management positions and the retirement and dismissal of women.

Although access to decent, good quality paid work is critical for women's economic empowerment, gender gaps at work remain persistent and pervasive across all regions including southern Africa.

The economic empowerment of women is fundamentally dependent on the empowerment opportunities in both the private and public sector, and the terms and conditions of paid and unpaid work.

The CSW61 recognised that despite some positive trends in closing gender gaps and improving labour conditions for

women over the past few decades, gender inequalities in labour markets prevail worldwide and inhibit women's economic empowerment.

These gender gaps require policy action to strengthen opportunities and outcomes for women.

The commission said there is need to address the contradiction between legal provisions and practice in gender laws; breaking down harmful social norms and transforming discriminatory institutional settings; and securing women's economic, social and political participation.

The commission acknowledged that structural barriers to gender equality and gender-based discrimination persist in labour markets worldwide, which impose greater constraints on women in balancing work and family responsibilities and that these structural bar-

riers need to be eliminated in order for women to be able to participate fully in society and equally in the world of work.

In southern Africa, gender inequalities are manifested in the world of work as gender gaps in labour force participation and pay, occupational segregation, unequal working conditions and women's burden of unpaid domestic and care work, which characterize both the formal and informal economies.

According to the *SADC Gender and Development Monitor 2016* launched at 36th SADC Summit held in August 2016 in Swaziland, the economic empowerment of women is prerequisite for sustainable development and requires sound public policies, a holistic approach and long-term commitment.

Gender inequality in the labour market has cost sub-Saharan Africa about US\$ 95 bil-

lion annually between 2010 and 2014, peaking at US\$ 105 billion in 2014, according to the *Africa Human Development Report 2016*.

Thus, persistent discrimination against women can substantially hinder development and could slow the pace of economic growth.

In southern Africa as elsewhere in the world, most women manage multiple role responsibilities, including woman, wife, mother and paid worker.

Results confirm that Africa is failing to achieve its full growth potential because a sizeable portion of its growth reserve – women – is not fully utilized.

Accelerating gender equality is a core function of government, involving multi-sectoral efforts that include national and local government entities, non-governmental actors, civil society organizations, men and women. □

SADC commemorates "Girls in ICT Day"

THE SADC Secretariat commemorated the International Girls in ICT Day, which was held under the theme, "Expand Horizons, Change Attitudes."

The commemoration was held on 27 April in Gaborone, Botswana, where SADC headquarters is located.

The International Girls in ICT Day is an International Telecommunications Union initiative that aims to create a global environment that empowers and encourages girls and young women to consider careers in the growing field of ICTs, enabling girls and technology companies to reap the benefits of greater female participation in the ICT Sector.

International Girls in ICT Day is celebrated on 4 in April every year.

Botswana Assistant Minister of Basic Education, Moiserale Goya said there was gender gap between boys and girls regarding accessing the ICTs.

He encouraged the learners to take the opportunity provided to them through these various initiatives by government to become distinct cohorts in development of policy and innovations in the ICT industry in Botswana.

SADC Senior Programme Officer for Communications and ICT, Cecilia Mamelodi-Onyadile urged learners not to shy away from ICTs and technologies.

The celebrations also included a panel discussion from leading women in ICT and motivational talks under a panel discussion entitled "Empowering the Girl Child in the Digital Era."

The panellists were drawn from Policy makers, operators, the Communications Regulators Association of Southern Africa and young motivational speakers. sadc.int □

Botswana signs revised SADC gender protocol

by Nyarai Kampilipili

A TOTAL of 14 countries in southern Africa out of the 15 have now signed a regional protocol that aims to advance gender equality and equity.

On 10 May Botswana became the latest SADC member state to sign the Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

President Seretse Khama Ian Khama signed and acceded to the revised protocol at a ceremony in Gaborone witnessed by the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax.

Mauritius is now the only SADC member state yet to append its signature to the protocol.

The Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development provides for the empowerment of women, elimination of discrimination, and the promotion of gender equality and equity through gender-responsive legislation, policies, programmes and projects.

The protocol was revised last year so that its objectives are aligned to various global targets and emerging issues.

Some of the new global targets are contained in the post-2015 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063. The protocol was already aligned to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

SDG 5 deals with the Promotion of Gender Equality and Empowerment of all Women and Girls, and sets nine targets to be met by 2030.

These include ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls; elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls in the public



President Ian Khama signing the Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, witnessed by SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax

and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation; elimination of all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation; and ensuring the full and effective participation of women and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

Other SDG 5 targets include universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action, and the outcome documents of their review conferences; and a committee to undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

The revised protocol captures emerging issues such as climate change and child marriages. Child marriages are one of the contributing factors to the slow progress in the reduc-

tion of maternal mortality, but the definition of a child by age remains controversial.

The revised protocol that was approved by the 36th SADC Summit held in Swaziland in August 2016 sought to align the protocol with provisions of other instruments such as those relating to sustainable management of the environment, and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Nationality Immigration and Gender Affairs, Banny Molosiwa said it took time to sign the protocol as the country was engaged in various consultations on some clauses of the Protocol.

"I can only thank the SADC member states for agreeing with us, after engaging them with regard to the reservations we were having," she said.

Despite not being a party to the protocol, the Government of Botswana remained committed and has been implementing a number of commitments contained in the legal instrument.

According to the *SADC Gender and Development Monitor 2016*, the country has made

significant strides towards advancing women in decision-making positions.

In the region, Botswana is among the SADC member states with the highest number of women occupying leadership positions in central government, with women comprising 31.2 percent of permanent secretaries, 40.4 percent of deputy permanent secretaries, 40 percent of directors and 76.2 percent of heads of department as of 2016.

Dr Tax said the signing of the protocol by Botswana is a testimony that the country is committed to gender empowerment and equality. She called upon member states to abide by the requirements of the protocol.

The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development entered into force in 2013 following the ratification of the instrument by the requisite two-thirds of member states.

A total of 11 member states ratified the protocol – Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar signed the protocol but are yet to accede.

The process of approval of a regional legal instrument requires, first, signing, and then ratification, a process that differs from country to country.

A protocol "enters into force" following ratification by two-thirds of SADC member states (at least 10 countries). This advances the regional law from being a stated intention to actual application.

Those member states that join after a protocol has entered into force are said to "accede" to the protocol. sardc.net □



by Joseph Ngwawi

SOUTHERN AFRICA has stepped up efforts to ensure electricity grids of all mainland countries are interconnected and that the regional power network taps into the East African network.

The Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) is making strides in ensuring that the power grids of all its 12 member states are interconnected to allow utilities in these countries to trade in electricity.

All mainland SADC countries, with the exception of Angola, Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania, are interconnected to the regional grid through SAPP, allowing them to trade in electricity.

New generation capacity installed in any of the three non-participating countries is, therefore, not accessible to the nine other members of SAPP – Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

SAPP has embarked on 10 transmission projects aimed at ensuring that all its members are interconnected by 2020 and that the regional grid is strengthened to facilitate greater power trading by 2024.

SAPP steps up efforts to

Priority power transmission projects include the construction of the ZiZaBoNa Interconnector Project linking Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia, as well as the establishment of the Angola-Namibia interconnector that will connect the former to SAPP.

SAPP said in its monthly report for March 2017 that it has “secured funding from DBSA (Development Bank of Southern Africa), Government of Norway and Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) for transaction advisory services for the project

scoping and preparation of the Angola-Namibia Interconnector.”

It said South African engineering, project management and consulting firm Aurecon has now been appointed as transaction advisors.

The proposed interconnector involves the construction of power transmission lines from the proposed Baynes Hydropower Plant in Lower Kunene, Namibia, to link to the national power grid of Angola. This project involves the section in Angola.

The objective of the project is to evacuate power from the Baynes Hydropower Plant in Namibia to Angola and the SAPP grid.

Once completed, the new interconnectors are expected to promote regional power trade, enhance security of electricity supply and foster regional trade.

They are expected to decongest existing transmission corridors and provide another wheeling path that will fully integrate all mainland SADC countries to the regional power grid.

To facilitate the interconnection between its power grid and that of the Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP), SAPP is in the process of commissioning studies to assess the technical impact of connecting the EAPP and SAPP.

EAPP is made up of seven countries in eastern Africa and central Africa – Burundi, DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Sudan. Its secretariat is based in Ethiopia.

SAPP Coordination Centre acting manager Alison Chikova told the recent Southern African Development Community (SADC) Energy Thematic Group meeting in Botswana in March that the SAPP-EAPP Transmission Integration Studies will also assess the stability of

ZTK interconnector report due in July

THE FINAL draft report of the feasibility study for the 2,300km power line connecting Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya (ZTK) is expected to be ready by July.

Consultants working on the study revealed during a progress review meeting recently that most of the work has been done and a report will soon be issued in order to push the project forward.

The meeting was organized by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in Livingstone, Zambia on 20-21 April for purposes of planning and reviewing the status of the project.

The meeting agreed that mobilization of financing for the remainder of the project will begin once the study report is done. To this effect, a financiers' roundtable is planned for August.

At the Livingstone meeting, Zambia and Kenya gave updates on the ongoing

construction works on some of the sections of the project; the Kenya-Tanzania section was fully financed and construction work is ongoing.

On the Zambian side, construction of a 300km 330 kilovolt (kV) line connecting Kabwe and Pensulo is expected to begin in 2018 at a cost of US\$132 million. The same will apply to the 200km-long 330kV Kasama-Nakonde section that is expected to cost US\$288 million.

The ZTK interconnector is a high-voltage power transmission line connecting Zambia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya.

It is a COMESA-SADC-EAC Tripartite Priority project as well as a NEPAD project under the Programme for Infrastructure, Development in Africa (PIDA) and the Africa Power Vision which have been endorsed by the African Union Heads of State and Government Assembly. □



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ERN AFRICA



Southern Africa braces for power tariff hikes

SOUTHERN AFRICA should brace for massive electricity tariff increases as power utilities in the region gear up for the 2019 cost-reflective tariffs deadline.

A cost-reflective tariff is one which reflects the true cost of supplying electricity and removes the reliance on state government subsidies to cover the variance between the current tariff and the true cost of supply of electricity.

Currently, most power utilities are relying on government subsidies to stay afloat but a collective decision made by SADC Energy Ministers encouraged utilities to have cost reflective tariffs by 2013, a deadline which was later pushed forward to 2019.

Power utilities in SADC are now working towards meeting the new deadline and are approaching their respective energy regulatory bodies to approve new electricity tariffs.

In Zambia, the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has approved a 75 percent increase commencing this year.

ERB acting chairperson Francis Yamba said the increase will be effected in phases, with 50 percent taking effect on 15 May, and the remaining 25 percent on 1 September 2017.

Eskom of South Africa is proposing a 20-percent increase in 2018.

In Namibia, the Electricity Control Board has already rejected a bulk tariff increase of 31.24 percent for the 2016/17 financial year, instead slashing that to 16.71 percent.

The Botswana Power Corporation has increased its tariffs by 7.5 percent.

The Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company had its proposal to hike the tariffs in 2016 rejected by the Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority (ZERA).

However, Energy and Power Development Minister Dr Samuel Undenge told the Senate in February that the decision by ZERA to refuse an electricity tariff increase ought to be revisited. *Southern Times* □

Link up SADC

connecting the EAPP and SAPP trading mechanisms.

SAPP operates number of power trading platforms such as the Day Ahead Market (DAM) and the Intra-Day Market (IDM).

DAM is an auction-type market that allows power utilities in the SAPP to weigh their options and ensure that they buy from the market when it is cheaper to get power than to generate.

This helps SAPP members to bid on and sell electricity a day before transactions are made.

The IDM came into force in 2016 with the aim of offering the utilities more flexibility in terms of the availability of trading options.

This trading platform offers monthly, weekly and hourly trading options in addition to the day ahead option.

Chikova said funding for the SAPP-EAPP Transmission Studies has been secured from the World Bank and that contract negotiations have been completed between the two power pools.

The studies are expected to take 12 months to complete. *sardc.net* □

SADC to attract energy investment

PLANS TO host a regional energy conference aimed at attracting investment in the sector are progressing well.

The hosting of the conference was approved by the SADC Extraordinary Summit held in March in Swaziland.

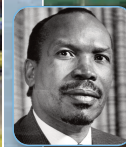
The conference, which will be jointly held with a ministerial workshop in Swaziland in July, is intended to showcase investment opportunities in the energy sector in SADC and is expected to open up opportunities for investment in the energy sector as well as leverage additional resources, focusing on specific flagship projects.

Most of the energy projects to be presented are contained in the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP) approved by SADC leaders at their 32nd Ordinary Summit held in August 2012 in Maputo.

The Energy Sector Plan of the RIDMP estimates the total cost of additional electricity generation capacity for the region to be in the range of US\$114 billion to US\$233 billion.

The related transmission investment costs to support new generation capacity are about US\$540 million. This transmission investment does not, however, include planned transmission interconnectors and national backbone lines.

The Energy Sector Plan identifies 89 energy infrastructure projects, some of which will be showcased during the planned High-Level Ministerial Workshop and Regional Investors' Conference on Regional Energy Projects. □



"Legacy of SADC Founding Fathers should b

by Kizito Sikuka

SOUTHERN AFRICA has come a long way and the region should continue to uphold the ideals of the founding fathers for the benefit of future generations.

This was said by King Mswati III of Swaziland, the current chairperson of SADC, during his familiarization tour of the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana.

This golden generation of selfless leaders includes the founding Presidents of Tanzania, Zambia and Botswana, respectively Julius Nyerere, Kenneth Kaunda and Seretse Khama, who sacrificed the economic freedom of their countries to ensure that the rest of the region achieved political independence. They formed the core leadership of the Frontline States

Nyerere had to bear the greatest burden of freeing Africa by hosting the Liberation Committee of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and accommodating liberation fighters in his country, providing them with logistics, training and diplomatic support.

The Founding Fathers of SADC, namely leaders of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe met in Lusaka, Zambia on 1 April 1980 to establish the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) – precursor to SADC – after a series of consultations by representatives of the Frontline States to forge closer alliance.

Since its establishment, SADC has achieved a number of milestones aimed at advancing political and economic freedom.

Speaking during a tour of the SADC Secretariat on 9 May, King Mswati III said it is important for SADC to uphold the aspirations of the founding fathers of the organisation who believed in a united region where all the citizens enjoy high living standards and peace.

King Mswati III's father, King Sobhuza II, was a strong supporter of liberation, and quietly fought the apartheid system in his giant neighbour, South Africa, through al-



SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, takes King Mswati III of Swaziland on a tour during his visit at the SADC Secretariat in Botswana

lowing access and support for trained cadres of the African National Congress, passing from Mozambique to South Africa.

"SADC as a regional body was established with a solid foundation because of the vision that our founding members had to liberate the peoples of the region and offer them sustainable peace, stability, prosperity and sustainable development," King Mswati III said.

"In this regard, we cannot let down the founding fathers. We have a greater responsibility, more than ever, to ensure that the foundation pillars of this organization are sustained and we are able to deliver beyond what was initially expected."

King Mswati III said while significant progress has been made to consolidate the gains of independence, it was also critical for SADC member states to continue to render full support to the Secretariat and ensure that the region remains a reference point for regional cooperation, integration and prosperity.

The SADC Secretariat is the principal executive institution of SADC, responsible for strategic planning, facilitation and coordination and management of all regional activities, programmes and projects.

The integration agenda of southern Africa, therefore, depends on the effectiveness of the SADC Secretariat to coordinate and implement regional programmes aimed at promoting sustainable development.

"As leaders we urge you (SADC Secretariat) to continue with the selfless and hard-working spirit in executing the SADC programmes and activities in unity so that all the dreams and goals of SADC are realised," King Mswati III said.

The SADC Secretariat is headed by an Executive Secretary with two deputies – one for Regional Integration and another for Finance and Administration – and is made up of eight directorates and eight stand-alone Units responsible for cross-cutting issues.

The Secretariat is currently undergoing reforms that involve the restructuring of its organisational set-up.

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax said the Secretariat is committed to delivering and implementing regional programmes in its quest to deepen integration and development.

"I would like to assure, Your Majesty, that the management is committed to operationalize these reforms diligently and profession-

e maintained"

ally in order to ensure that the transition does not have adverse effects on the delivery of the Secretariat and welfare of staff," she said.

Dr Tax paid tribute to the leadership of King Mswati III, saying a lot of achievements have been made since he became SADC chair at the 36th SADC Summit held in Swaziland in August 2016.

These achievements include the approval of a Costed Action Plan for the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063 during SADC Extra Ordinary Summit that took place in March, also in Swaziland.

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 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.

Other major achievements include the convening of a ministerial retreat to review the pace and level of the implementation of the SADC integration agenda and the creation of a "SADC We Want" that ensures that the people of the region fully enjoy the benefits and opportunities and benefits of belonging to a shared community in southern Africa. sardc.net □



SADC to honour Founding Fathers

SADC PLANS to establish a mechanism to honour the legacy of the founding fathers, as agreed by SADC leaders at their 2015 Summit in Botswana.

The Interstate Politics and Diplomacy Committee (ISPDC) of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, meeting in February at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, considered proposals to operationalize the mechanism to honour the Founding Fathers of SADC.

The Committee reviewed a number of SADC policy instruments that will further strengthen its capacity to resolve conflicts and consolidate democracy, and considered, among other issues, the establishment of a date for the commemoration of Southern Africa Liberation Day to celebrate the attainment of independence in SADC Member States. □



Although the founding President of Namibia, Dr Sam Nujoma, was not yet in government when the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) was formed in 1980, because Namibia was not yet independent, his country hosted the Summit that transformed SADCC into the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in Windhoek in 1992, two years after independence. This article illustrates just one example of how the founding fathers can be honoured in their lifetime.

Diamond exploration ship launched MV SS NUJOMA

THE "WORLD'S largest and most advanced diamond exploration and sampling vessel" has been launched to explore diamond deposits in the waters off the coast of Namibia, and named after the founding father and first President of Namibia, Dr Sam Shafishuna Nujoma.

The \$157 million vessel is owned by Debmarine Namibia, a 50-50 joint venture between the Government of Namibia and the De Beers Group, and the only company in the world to mine diamonds offshore (since 2002).

Debmarine says the mining of Namibia's diamonds takes place at 120 to 140 metres below sea level, and the advanced exploration capability of the MV SS Nujoma is expected to increase resource development for the mining fleet.

Dr Nujoma was present at the launch in mid-June at Walvis Bay, Namibia, with Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and the Minister of Mines and Energy, Obeth Kandjoze. *Forbes* □





SADC disaster fund on the cards

SADC PLANS to establish a fund that can support regional efforts to rapidly respond to natural disasters and other emergencies.

The proposed SADC Disaster Preparedness and Response Fund is expected to create a pool of resources from which the region can rapidly mobilise funds in the event that the Member States experience a natural disaster or emergency situation.

The fund is expected to be functional by the end of 2019; the modalities of how it will work are still being developed.

The regional fund is intended to complement the budgets of Member State for disaster preparedness and response as national governments remain the first-line responders to local emergency situations.

Taking adequate measures to prevent, reduce and respond to the impact of disasters has become a critical issue for southern Africa following an increase in the number of natural hazards affecting the region.

Natural hazards such as droughts, floods, cyclones and occasional earthquakes occur in southern Africa and the impacts continue to threaten livelihoods and socio-economic development.

To address increasing vulnerability, the region has approved the SADC Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy 2016-2030.

The strategy is aimed at strengthening the preparedness and response mechanism for early warning as well as recovery from disasters in the region by 2030.

Through the strategy, southern Africa will focus on three main priority areas:

- improvement of risk and disaster management information systems;
- strengthening of disaster preparedness and response planning; and,

- establishment of a Regional Disaster Preparedness and Response Fund.

According to the implementation plan for the response strategy, SADC has set a deadline of 2020 to agree and operationalize the use of standardized early warning symbols that are understood by all Member States and communities that are at risk of natural disasters.

It is envisaged that by end of 2017 SADC Member States will have put in place a simple and accessible early warning system in the three official languages – English, French and Portuguese.

Furthermore, SADC plans to develop and operationalize by the end of next year a regional database to record losses from disasters, with regular updates.

Apart from the Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy, the SADC region has proposed a number of projects aimed at strengthening regional preparedness to respond natural disasters.

Some of the projects are contained in the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan and aim to strengthen the regional weather observation system as well as improve the meteorological early warning system.

Southern Africa has suffered from extensive droughts in 1967-73, 1981-82, 1986-87, 1991-92, 1994-95, 2001-03, 2004-05 and in the 2014-16 agricultural seasons. For example, a series of droughts that occurred from 1981 to 1992 caused water levels in Kariba Dam between Zambia and Zimbabwe to drop by 11.6 metres, affecting the dam's capacity to generate electricity.

In the 2015/16 agriculture season, an estimated 40 million people were left food-insecure in due to a drought that continued to affect southern Africa.

Floods and cyclones have had serious impacts in southern Africa. For example, the 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 rainfall

seasons were dominated by cyclonic activity which caused considerable human suffering across parts of the region, with Cyclone Eline having the most devastating effects during this period.

In Mozambique alone, Cyclone Eline affected 150,000 families, resulting in physical damage valued at US\$273 million, and a loss of agricultural production valued at US\$295 million.

More recently, torrential rains caused by Cyclone Dineo during the 2016/17 agricultural season caused floods in Mozambique, resulting in an estimated loss of more than 29,000 hectares of crops including maize, groundnuts, cassava and beans.

In Madagascar, floods caused by Cyclone Enawo devastated the country during the 2016/17 season, leaving more than 50 people dead and almost 329,000 people homeless.

The increasing frequency of earthquakes has become another issue of concern in the region.

Southern Africa was this year hit by a strong earthquake with a magnitude of 6.5 on Richter scale. That earthquake on 3 April had its epicentre in Botswana and was felt as far as South Africa, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

Southern African countries often have many small tremors annually that are recorded by the meteorological services but go unnoticed by the general population.

Major earthquakes in the region are believed to result from the movement of tectonic plates in the East African Rift System, large-scale mining, and changes in the water level in large dams such as Kariba.

The East African Rift system is a 50-60 km wide zone of active volcanic and faulting that extends north-south in eastern Africa for more than 3,000km from Ethiopia to central Mozambique in the south. □



Profiling the SADC industrialisation strategy

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION is a challenge confronting most of the SADC region, and one of the factors impacting on the effective implementation of regional projects and programmes is a lack of communication.

If a particular policy or programme is not well understood by stakeholders, then it is likely there will be obstacles in the policy implementation. In this regard, communication is an essential ingredient for effective implementation of regional policy.

As a result, Member States are expected to take an active role in communicating the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap that was adopted by the SADC Extraordinary Summit held in 2015 in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap aims to accelerate the momentum towards strengthening the comparative and competitive advantages of economies of the region.

The Industrialization Strategy 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 pillars -- industrialization, competitiveness and 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.

To publicise the strategy, SADC and its Member States are holding various national and regional meetings that are aimed at educating various stakeholders on the strategy.

For example, Zimbabwe held a national meeting in April with the private sector, research institutions and academia on the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap.

The SADC Secretariat held a meeting in May with the media in Botswana to raise awareness and build partnerships on the implementation of the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap.

The acting SADC Director for Industrial Development and Trade, Dr. Lomkhosi Mkhonta-Gama said, with proper understanding of the Industrialization Strategy, the media can play an important role in raising awareness about the strategy.

"We consider the media as a critical stakeholder in moving the industrialization programmes in the SADC region forward," she said, adding that the engagement with the media is meant to ensure that journalists are "more knowledgeable" about the industrialization agenda.

To further publicise the strategy, SADC, in collaboration with the Southern Africa Business Forum, will host a SADC Industrialization Week. This is set for 10-14 July in Johannesburg, South Africa.

According to a statement, the industrialization week will be a prelude to the SADC Summit, "bringing together public and private sector representatives



from the 15 SADC Member States to accelerate regional integration, enhance intra-African trade and increase levels of investment."

The first-ever SADC Industrialization Week was held in August 2016 on the margins of the 36th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government in Mbabane, Swaziland.

The objective is to popularize the strategy and identify industrialization projects that can be implemented jointly by public and private sector within SADC Member States.

Such projects include infrastructure development, regional trade and industrial capacity.

The main focus is on three spheres -- Strengthening Value Chains, Corridor Development and Enhancing Infrastructure.

Regarding value chain projects, priority is placed on mining and mineral beneficiation, agro-processing and pharmaceuticals.

Corridor development involves various enabling factors such as standards and quality infrastructure, trade facilitation and transport infrastructure.

With regards to infrastructure development, special focus is on water and energy projects. □

TO PROMOTE the smooth implementation of the Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap, SADC approved a Costed Action Plan, which was adopted by the SADC Extraordinary Summit held in Mbabane, Swaziland in March.

Implementation of the action plan is estimated to cost US\$103 million at regional level over the first 15 years of the strategy timeframe.

Member States are expected to develop their own implementation cost estimates by the end of June 2017.

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.

It 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. □



Angola prepares for general elections in August

GENERAL ELECTIONS will be held in Angola on 23 August to choose members of the National Assembly for the next five years.

Angola uses a single constituency electoral system of First-Past-The-Post and the party or coalition with the most seats in the National Assembly

then chooses the President, usually the leader of that party or coalition.

Before the Constitution was amended in 2010, the President was directly elected by the voters.

President José Eduardo dos Santos has announced that he will not seek another term in

office, having served the country as President since 1979, following the death of the country's founding father and first President, Dr. Agostinho Neto.

The August election will thus produce the third president since independence in 1975.

The People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), which has been in power since independence, has chosen João Lourenço, the current defence minister, as its presidential candidate.

Lourenço will contest for the presidency against four other candidates from the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita); the National Liberation Front of Angola (FNLA); Social Renova-

tion Party (PRS); and National Patriotic Alliance (APN).

Unita will field Isaías Samakuva as its presidential candidate, while Lucas Ngonda will represent FNLA and PRS will be represented by Eduardo Kuangana. António Quintino Moreira will be APN's presidential candidate.

The Angolan Parliament has 220 seats, plus two for the President and Vice President.

In the last elections held in 2012, the MPLA won 175 seats, followed by Unita with 32 seats and the Broad Convergence for Angola's Salvation-Electoral Coalition (CASA-CE) with eight. The remaining seats went to PRS and FNLA with three and two seats respectively. □



Kabila names coalition government, no poll date yet

THE PRESIDENT of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Joseph Kabila, named a new coalition government in April following a multi-party agreement, in preparation for national elections scheduled for later this year.

According to *Agence Congolaise de Presse*, the new government led by Prime Minister Bruno Tshibala consists of three deputy prime ministers, 32 ministers, two ministers of state and 10 deputy ministers.

The deputy premiers are Evariste Boshab, who also serves as Minister of Interior and Security; Thomas Luhaka, also the Minister of Post and Telecommunications; and Willy Makiashi the Minister of Employment, Labour and Social Welfare.

Boshab belongs to the People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy led by Kabila while

Luhaka is secretary general of the opposition Congolese Liberation Movement and Makiashi is a member of the opposition Unified Lumumbist Party.

Another opposition leader included in the coalition government is Michel Bongongo of the Union of Forces for Change.

Only three of the 35 full ministers are women, which is less than nine percent of the cabinet, far below the representation specified by the relevant SADC Protocol. The three are Bijou Kat who is Minister of Gender, Family and Children; Trade Minister Kudianga Bayokisa; and Louise Munga Mesozi, Minister without Portfolio.

President Kabila appointed Tshibala, a former member of the largest UDPS as Prime Minister. Tshibala was expelled from the UDPS in March after he contested the designation of successors for veteran leader Etienne Tshisekedi, who died in February.

According to the DRC Constitution, presidential and legislative elections should have been held in 2016 when the second and final term of the current President ended. Kabila came to power in 2001 following the as-

sassination of his father, Laurent Kabila.

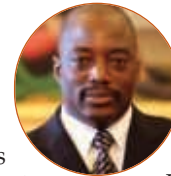
Under his leadership, the DRC has emerged from the darkest years of war, although internal conflict continues in the eastern part of the country.

Kabila led a transitional government that in 2006 oversaw first democratic elections in more than 40 years, which he won. He was re-elected in 2011.

With support from fellow SADC Member States, DRC government forces have managed to contain rebels who had taken over some sectors in the eastern part of the country in 2012.

At their extraordinary summit held in Swaziland in March, SADC Heads of State and Government called upon the International Community to support the DRC in the electoral processes that are expected to facilitate peaceful and successful elections.

The Communiqué of the Extra Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government held at Lozitha Palace (Mandvulo) Kingdom Of Swaziland on



18 March 2017 stated that, "Summit commended the President of the DRC, H.E. Joseph Kabila Kabange, the Government of the DRC, CENCO, political parties and other stakeholders for the continued efforts in addressing the political and security challenges."

The Interstate Politics and Diplomacy Committee (ISPDC) of the SADC Organ on Politics Defence and Security Cooperation which met in February in Dar es Salaam, chaired by the United Republic of Tanzania as the current chair of the SADC Organ Troika, received a report on the political and security situation in DRC.

In his opening remarks, Hon. Dr Augustine P. Mahiga, who is the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tanzania, commended the DRC for the agreement that facilitated the signing of the Political Agreement on 31 December 2016. He said that it is only through peaceful co-existence and stability that we can achieve all the goals of the community. □



Lesotho – Time to address political instability

by Kizito Sikuka

SPEAKER AFTER speaker spoke from the same script at the inauguration of Thomas Thabane as the new Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

The message was that it is time for Lesotho to find a lasting solution to its political instability and ensure that the country focuses on socio-economic development.

Lesotho has experienced recurring political instability since 2012, and has held three national elections within five years.

The elections were prompted by votes of no-confidence passed on the respective Prime Ministers by the Parliament.

Speaking soon after being sworn in as the new Prime Minister on 16 June, Thabane said the recent election should finally promote cooperation among all Basotho to find a lasting solution to the challenges facing the country.

"We need to rescue Lesotho from the current downward spiral into lawlessness, conflict, political instability, stagnation, and degradation of democracy, to work for lasting peace and stability of the nation; and to lead the nation on the path of reconciliation and unity.

"Let us all support this government to create an enabling environment for Lesotho to become a lawful country," he said, adding that no Basotho will be left out in the rebuilding process.

He assured the country that his government "will be for Basotho without any form of discrimination, a government that is committed to rule of law, rebuilding and strengthening of the pillars of democracy, and abhors corruption in all its forms."

The SADC Chairperson, King Mswati III of Swaziland



Prime Minister Thomas Thabane taking his oath of office; outgoing Premier Phakalitha Mosisili; and SADC Facilitator, South African Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa

concluded, saying peace and security are cornerstones for regional integration and development.

"There is need for economic reforms, not only in Lesotho but by the whole SADC region in order to improve the lives of our people," King Mswati said in a speech read on his behalf by the Swazi Prime Minister Barnabas Dlamini.

The SADC chair paid tribute to the critical role played by the region in mediating in the Lesotho political situation through the Oversight Committee and the Facilitator, the South African Deputy President, Cyril Ramaphosa.

The Zambian President Edgar Lungu, who was also present at the inauguration ceremony, said the destiny of Lesotho can only be truly achieved if Basotho take an active role in shaping their own future.

"Democracy is a very expensive game, but I will leave it up to you the people of Lesotho to decide how best to make democracy a bit cheaper so that you can focus resources to develop this country," Lungu said.

Thabane was elected Prime Minister after his All Basotho Convention (ABC) won a total of 48 seats compared to 30 seats for the Democratic Congress (DC) led by immediate past Premier, Pakalitha Mosisili.

According to final results released by the Lesotho Independent Electoral Commission, the Lesotho Congress for Democracy won 11 seats, Alliance of Democrats (9), Movement for Economic Change (6), Basotho National Party (5), and the Popular Front for Democracy (3).

The Reformed Congress of Lesotho, National Independent Party, Democratic Party of Lesotho, Marematlou Freedom Party and the Basutoland Congress Party all got one seat each.

Lesotho has a bicameral Parliament consisting of a Senate with 33 seats and a National Assembly with 120 seats, and as per the Constitution, a winning party should attain at least 61 seats to form a government. In this regard, the ABC formed a coalition government with the Alliance of Democrats, Basotho National Party and the Reformed Congress of Lesotho.

The coalition by the four parties has reversed the result of an election held in 2015 when the DC ousted the ABC by uniting with smaller parties to pass a vote of no-confidence in Thabane.

Most election observers, including the SADC Election Observer Mission (SEOM) and African Union Election Observation Mission, said Lesotho's national parliamentary elections held on 3 June were in conformity with regional and continental standards and principles.

The elected Members of Parliament are expected to serve a five-year term. However, Mosisili has raised concern over the way the elections were conducted, claiming that the electoral process was rigged in favour of Thabane.

He has called for the intervention of SADC to carry out a forensic audit of the elections and subsequently facilitate the establishment of a unity government.

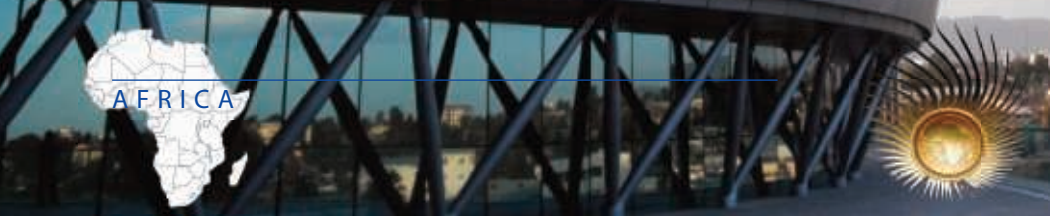
Members of the Lesotho National Assembly are elected by direct popular vote using the mixed member proportional system.

Under this system, 80 parliamentarians are chosen in single-member constituencies using the First-Past-The-Post system while the remaining 40 are elected from one national constituency using party-list Proportional Representation.

The latter is used to determine the number of seats each party would receive if the system was fully proportional.

The total number of votes cast on the party ballot is divided by the 120 seats at stake in the National Assembly to determine how many seats each party deserves to receive.

This number is then compared to the seats a party won in the constituency list to determine how many seats should be awarded in the party list. sardc.net □



Africa Day - Towards a united continent

by Kizito Sikuka

"OUR LIBERTY is meaningless unless all Africans are free. Our brothers in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), in Mozambique, in Angola, in South Africa cry out in anguish for our support and assistance."

"We must urge on their behalf their peaceful accession to independence. We must align and identify ourselves with all aspects of their struggle."

These words were said by His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie, the Emperor of Ethiopia, on 25 May 1963 at the historic launch of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) – precursor to the African Union (AU).

Selassie was the first President of the OAU, which was established to rid the continent of the remaining vestiges of colonization and apartheid, as well as to promote unity and solidarity among African countries.

At its inception, the AU had a total of 32 independent countries, and today there are 55 sovereign member states.

To celebrate the African narratives of the past, present and future, the continent has set aside 25 May each year as Africa Day.

The day is an important part of the continent's heritage and should be remembered with respect and vision.

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

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

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

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

The conference called for the founding of African Freedom Day, a day to "mark each year the onward progress of the liberation movement, and to symbolise the determination of the people of Africa to

free themselves from foreign domination and exploitation."

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

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

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

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

Nyerere played a critical role in supporting the liberation of the continent from colonial rule as Tanzania hosted the Liberation Committee of OAU that provided diplomatic support and materials to the liber-

OAU FOUNDERS



ation movements, who now govern several independent countries in Africa.

At his country's own independence in December 1961, Nyerere was ready to delay the independence until the neighbouring countries of Kenya and Uganda could gain independence at the same time, but they reached this goal a few years later.

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

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

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

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

An African to lead World Health Organization

SADC HAS congratulated Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus for being elected the first African director-general of the United Nations World Health Organization.

"With his vast experience at national level as Ethiopian Federal Minister of Health and subsequently Foreign Minister, and at international level as Chairperson of the

Global Fund Board, Dr Tedros has the technical expertise and the breadth of perspective to lead WHO in the era of Sustainable Development Goals," SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax said in a statement.

She said as a region that is highly affected by the HIV and AIDS epidemic, tubercu-

losis and malaria, SADC is "optimistic and with unwavering confidence, that our Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan will attract the attention of WHO as we embark on the Industrialization Programme that has a Multi-sectoral approach to poverty alleviation and elimination of TB, Malaria and HIV by 2030". □

SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY
SADC TODAY Vol. 19 No 4 JUNE 2017




SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY is produced as a reference source of activities and opportunities in the Southern African Development Community, and a guide for decision-makers at all levels of national and regional development.

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SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY is supported by the Austrian Development Agency, in support of the SADC Energy Thematic Group of International Cooperating Partners, which is co-chaired by Austria.

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SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY welcomes contributions from individuals and organizations within the SADC region in form of articles, photographs, news items and comments, and also relevant articles from outside the region. The publishers reserve the right to select or reject items, and to edit to fit the space available. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official positions or opinions of SADC or SARDC.

SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY is published in English, Portuguese and French, and is available electronically at www.sadc.net Knowledge for Development, linked to www.sadc.int

DESIGN & LAYOUT
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PHOTOS AND ILLUSTRATIONS
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This document was produced in the context of a project funded by the Austrian Development Agency/the Austrian Development Cooperation. The responsibility of the content of this publication lies entirely with the author; the information and views expressed do not reflect the official opinion of the Austrian Development Agency/the Austrian Development Cooperation.





June – August 2017

June 3, Lesotho	Lesotho Parliamentary Elections The people of Lesotho will vote in national parliamentary elections, the third in five years, following another vote of no-confidence in the sitting Prime Minister.
7-9, Denmark	Africa Energy Forum 2017 The forum brings together representatives of governments, power utilities and other major players in the energy sector to discuss ways of improving the delivery of power infrastructure projects in Africa.
21-22, Ethiopia	Africa-China High-Level Dialogue and Think Tank Forum This forum co-hosted by the African Union Leadership Academy and Zhejiang Normal University of China is intended to facilitate the sharing of experience in poverty alleviation and development, exchange cooperation ideas, deepen Africa-China strategic and cooperative partnership, and support implementation of the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).
26-28, Swaziland	SADC Gender Ministers Meeting SADC ministers responsible for gender and women affairs meet to review progress on implementation of policies intended to achieve gender equality and equity in the region as agreed in the Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.
27 June-4 July, Ethiopia	29th African Union Summit The 29th Ordinary Session of the Summit of the African Union will be held under the theme "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth". African heads of state and government are expected to discuss the development agenda for the continent, including progress towards the establishment of a Continental Free Trade Area.
July 10-16, South Africa	SADC Industrialization Week The week-long event aims to popularize the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap approved in 2015. Now in its second year, the annual event comprises a high-level conference to discuss ways of accelerating the SADC industrialisation agenda as well as an exhibition by governments, companies, research institutions and other stakeholders.
TBA, Swaziland	SADC Energy Investors Conference The High Level Ministerial Workshop and Regional Investors Conference on Regional Energy Projects is intended to showcase investment opportunities in the energy sector in SADC. Convening of the conference is one of the outcomes of the SADC Extraordinary Summit held in Swaziland in March.
August 9-20, South Africa	37th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government SADC Leaders will meet for their annual Summit to discuss issues aimed at advancing regional integration and development. The Summit, set for 18-19 August is preceded by meetings of senior officials and Council of Ministers. President Jacob Zuma of South Africa will assume the SADC chair from King Mswati III of Swaziland. The theme of the Summit is "Partnering with the private sector in developing industry and regional value-chains".
23, Angola	General Elections in Angola Angolan voters will go to the polls on 23 August to choose their leadership for the next five years. Incumbent president, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, has announced that he will not seek another term in office.
TBA	Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum Climate experts from SADC Member States meet to review the regional climate outlook, using indicators of seasonal rainfall to produce a regional forecast for the 2017/18 rainfall season.

55 years



SINCE FORMATION OF FRELIMO

THIS YEAR marks 55 years since the formation of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO), the national liberation movement that won independence from Portuguese colonial rule.

FRELIMO was founded in Dar es Salaam in then Tanganyika in June 1962 when three nationalist organisations merged into one broad-based liberation movement under the leadership of Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane.

The party launched the armed struggle for independence from Portugal two years later, on 25 September 1964, when cadres trained in Algeria went into action for the first time in the northern province of Cabo Delgado after infiltrating across the border from Tanganyika (which had united with Zanzibar a few months earlier to form the United Republic of Tanzania).

By 1965, the military action against the Portuguese colonial army had been extended to neighbouring Niassa province, and FRELIMO was able to open fronts in the Tete region two years later.

In response, Portugal committed more and more troops, military supplies, and military aid funds to the territory.

Mondlane was assassinated on 3 February 1969 by a parcel bomb sent to him in Dar es Salaam by the Portuguese security police, the PIDE.

Samora Machel became president of FRELIMO in 1970 and directed the liberation struggle to its completion, through negotiations, transition and independence on 25 June 1975, becoming the first President of Mozambique.

He affirmed Mozambique's support for the liberation movements in Angola, South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe, and his FRELIMO government provided a rear base and other facilities, especially for neighbouring Zimbabwe and South Africa.

His unrelenting support for liberation of neighbouring countries caused him to be a target of apartheid South Africa, and he was killed when his plane crashed just across the South African border on 19 October 1986, believed to have been drawn off course by a false beacon.

FRELIMO and the other liberation movements received support from the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Liberation Committee based in Tanzania, which coordinated international financial and material support.

A turning point in the struggle for Mozambique's independence was the coup d'état in Portugal on 25 April 1974 when the Portuguese Movement of the Armed Forces overthrew the military regime in Lisbon.

This was caused in part by the discontent of conscripts sent to fight in Portugal's "overseas territories" in Africa, particularly because they were losing the war against FRELIMO in Mozambique.

Negotiations between Portuguese and FRELIMO representatives led to the conclusion of an independence agreement signed in Zambia on 7 September 1974, now commemorated as Victory Day, marking the start of a transition headed by then Prime Minister Joaquim Chissano, who was later President from 1986 to 2005.

H.E. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, now President of Mozambique, was brought up in the national liberation movement where both his parents were veterans of the war. □



Remembering Khama, Masire

SIR SERETSE Khama Day is a national holiday officially designated to honour Botswana's first President. This is celebrated on the birthday of Seretse Khama who was born on 1 July 1921 and became the first leader of Botswana at independence on 30 September 1966. He died of pancreatic cancer on 13 July 1980. Seretse Khama was father to the current President, Seretse Khama Ian Khama, and he was one of the founding fathers of the Southern African Development Community. He was succeeded by Ketumile Masire who had been his deputy since 1965. Masire became the second President of Botswana from 1980 to 1998. He passed away on 22 June 2017 at age 91. He was widely respected in Africa and a key figure in Botswana's economic prosperity.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

June-August 2017

1 June	International Children's Day	Angola
5 June	Liberation Day	Seychelles
15 June	Corpus Christi	Seychelles
16 June	Youth Day	South Africa
18 June	National Day	Seychelles
25 June	Eid Ul Fitr*	Malawi, Mauritius, Tanzania
	Independence Day	Mozambique
26 June	Independence Day	Madagascar
29 June	Independence Day	Seychelles
30 June	Independence Day	DRC
1 July	Sir Seretse Khama Day	Botswana
3 July	Heroes Day	Zambia
4 July	Unity Day	Zambia
6 July	Independence Day	Malawi
7 July	Saba Saba Industry Day	Tanzania
17 July	King's Birthday	Lesotho
17 July	President's Day	Botswana
18 July	Public Holiday	Botswana
22 July	Birthday of late King Sobhuza	Swaziland
1 August	Parents Day	DRC
7 August	Farmers Day	Zambia
8 August	Nane Nane Peasant Day	Tanzania
9 August	National Women's Day	South Africa
14 August	Heroes Day	Zimbabwe
15 August	Defence Forces Day	Zimbabwe
15 August	Assumption Day	Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles
17 August	SADC Day**	All
26 August	Heroes Day	Namibia
31 August	Umdlango Reed Dance	Swaziland

* Exact date depends on sighting of the new moon

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