

SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY



SADC TODAY VOL 19 NO. 6 OCTOBER 2017



Funding regional development through self-reliance

by Joseph Ngwawi

SOUTHERN AFRICA should move with speed to develop regional capacity to fund its own development programmes and reduce dependence on external resources.

This was stated by the incoming SADC chairperson, President Jacob Zuma of South Africa, at the opening ceremony of the 37th Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government held in Pretoria on 19-20 August.

Delivering his acceptance speech after assuming the rotating SADC chair from King Mswati III of Swaziland, Zuma said the current model of funding regional integration in southern Africa favoured the funding partners at the expense of Member States.

"Currently, the nature of funding or loans from the International Cooperating Partners is such that the conditions imposed ensure that benefits yield to the lending countries," he said.

President Zuma said the loans usually come with conditions "that dictate which companies to use in project implementation and sometimes even dictating the sourcing of raw materials."

This state of affairs, therefore, demands the urgent need to "mobilise regional resources to fund regional projects."

Recent studies commissioned by the SADC Secretariat revealed that the region has potential to raise more than US\$1.2 billion annually from alternative and innovative sources of funding as part of efforts to wean the region from over-reliance on donor support.

According to the studies, SADC could access a huge pool of resources available in the region if it adopts some or all of six options on alternative and innovative sources of funding that have been considered.

The options are the introduction of an export and import tax; a tourism levy; a financial transaction tax; a lottery system; philanthropy; and income from the hosting of regional events.

For example, the study on the introduction of an Export and Import Levy found that regional taxes on exports and/or imports are a common practice for raising revenues by some Regional Economic Communities (RECs) elsewhere in the world.

continued on page 2...

POLICY	3
SADC SUMMIT	4-5
PEACE & SECURITY	6
ENERGY	7-10
AGRICULTURE	11
GENDER	12
COMMUNITY	13
ELECTIONS	14
EVENTS	15
HISTORY TODAY	16





Funding regional development through self-reliance

It noted that the use of such taxes is the most commonly pursued form of raising funds for African RECs, such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

ECOWAS has operationalised a 0.5 percent import levy on all imports originating from outside its region while ECCAS has adopted a 0.4 percent regional integration tax on all goods originating from outside the block.

The African Union (AU) is in the process of introducing a similar tax. The AU Summit in 2016 approved a 0.2 percent levy on eligible imports, with each AU region expected to contribute about US\$65 million per year.

The study said a simulation on a potential SADC import tax showed that, based on 2014 SADC trade figures, the imposition of a 0.2 percent levy on all member state imports from outside the region could generate at least US\$331.3 million revenue annually.

For this to happen, the study recommended the introduction of a dedicated legal instrument in the form of a protocol or agreement to strengthen the legal and policy framework provided by the SADC Treaty.

It will also be necessary that each Member State puts in place national legislation to enable revenue authorities to collect the import tax.

Another study showed that a Regional Tourism Levy is a possible viable source of domestic resources for funding SADC regional integration.

While there are several ways of introducing such a levy, the study noted that two options – tax on international travel tickets or tourism levy – are most viable. It is estimated that US\$123 million per

annum could be raised through levies on air tickets alone.

The main challenges with this option, however, are that it is only viable in countries with significant tourist and other travel activities, and that the sector is sensitive and unpredictable.

The proposed Regional Tourism Levy is in line with continental and international best practices.

The AU Assembly has approved a tourism levy on tickets amounting to US\$2 for short trips and US\$5 for long trips. It also approved a 0.5 percent tourism tax on income from tourism activities by Member States.

France and Germany implement similar levies and provide the current example of effective practice.

Based on the study, it is recommended that SADC considers adopting a 5-10 percent levy on tourism activities by SADC Member States.

A study on Regional Financial Transaction Taxes showed that such taxes are and can be a viable source of resource mobilisation. They have considerable potential for SADC to harness in order to fund its development programmes.

Similar taxes have been used in a number of African, Asian and Latin American countries as well as in the United Kingdom.

The study recommended that SADC focuses on remittances sent through money transfer agencies.

It is projected that a 0.1 percent levy on these transactions has a potential of raising US\$691 million per annum, enough to fund the implementation of the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan.

Although a legal framework is required, it is already generally provided for under the SADC Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Taxation and

Related Matters of 2002, and also appears in Annex 3 of the SADC Protocol on Finance and Investment.

Philanthropic initiatives are fast emerging as another innovative way of mobilising resources for development.

These are on the rise in Africa as new sources of innovative financing. Several studies show that there are huge amounts of money from high net worth individuals, foundations and private sector that flows from and to Africa. It is estimated that Africa gets between US\$1.25 billion and US\$3 billion from philanthropic activities.

The United Nations and AU have taken advantage of this by forming the United Nations Foundation and the African Union Foundation, respectively, to mobilise resources in this regard.

The proposal is for SADC to also establish a SADC Foundation as a platform for mobilising resources from the private sector, philanthropic foundations and individuals.

The Foundation could be used as a fundraising instrument for the proposed SADC Regional Development Fund.

According to a Global Gambling and Consultants Report of 2002, SADC has the potential to raise over US\$30 million per annum from lottery games.

A legal framework is required to provide for a lottery-based revenue sharing formula amongst Member States.

The institutional arrangements for collection at national and regional levels as well as the format of the lottery governance would need to be worked out.

A separate study on the possibility of raising resources through regional events showed that a number of events that can be un-

dertaken at regional level to generate funding for regional integration development projects.

These include organisation of regional trade fairs, sports events, business summits and other exhibitions.

As in the cases of philanthropy and lottery, this option of funding requires a professional managerial institutional mechanism in the form of a foundation or a similar institution.

Other long run possible sources of funding that the SADC region can consider for funding its regional integration agenda include the introduction of a carbon levy, blended finance, transport levy, venture capital and curbing illicit financial flows.

The need to look for alternative and innovative sources of financing SADC programmes was one of the major decisions of the 35th SADC Summit held in Botswana in August 2015.

This was in realisation of the fact that the current situation – where most SADC activities, programmes and projects are supported by development partners – is not ideal nor sustainable.

It is estimated that less than 10 percent of regional projects are currently funded by SADC Member States while the balance comes from International Cooperating Partners, according to the SADC Secretariat. For operational costs, the proportion is much better, with 60 percent of the SADC Secretariat budget coming from Member States.

The SADC Secretariat was tasked earlier this year to assess the impact of the various options on Member States.

The over reliance on donor funding has compromised the ownership and sustainability of regional programmes. sardc.net □

SADC considers establishing regional risk insurance

SOUTHERN AFRICA is set to establish a regional risk insurance scheme aimed at improving its rapid response to natural disasters.

Risk financing and insurance is one of the several measures that most countries and regions around the world use to limit the impact of disasters such as droughts and floods.

Other options include improving and harmonizing contingency planning, collaborating in transboundary disaster risk reduction and establishing regional disaster funds.

Speaking at a recent SADC Disaster Risk Management and Financing workshop held on 7-8 August in Johannesburg, South Africa, head of the SADC Disaster Risk Reduction Unit, Clement Kalonga said it is critical for the region to come up with innovative mechanisms to address the impact of disasters.

He said SADC is in discussions with the African Union (AU) and other stakeholders to examine the spectrum of options available.

"The proposals and recommendations regarding disaster risk financing including regional risk insurance once developed will be submitted for consideration and approval by the relevant SADC structures," he said.

SADC Finance Ministers have since directed the Secretariat to expedite the development of a regional risk insurance scheme to assist Member States to address both humanitarian and infrastructure reconstruction and recovery needs caused by natural disasters.

The Secretariat is expected to present a progress report to SADC Finance Ministers at their next meeting scheduled for March 2018.

African Union (AU) Commission Technical Coordinator for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, Gatkuoth Kai, concurred, saying the region should invest in disaster risk reduction since it is cheaper than responding to emergencies.

Kai said the AU established the African Risk Capacity (ARC) in 2012 as a specialized agency aimed at assisting member states to deal with various challenges.

"The ARC's risk insurance pool provides African governments with an opportunity to protect their populations from adverse effects of extreme weather events and other environmental hazards," he said.

A total of 32 countries, including six from SADC – Comoros, Malawi, Madagascar, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe – are signatories to the ARC.

The ARC has so far released US\$34.4 million in pay-outs to Niger, Malawi, Mauritania and Senegal.

ARC Director General, Mohamed Béavogui said there is need for countries to come up with responses that transcend national boundaries as climate perils are not limited by borders.

"Although we cannot stop natural disasters or climate change, we can be proactive and prepare for them," Béavogui said.

Disaster risks financing and insurance are tools and strategies that individuals, communities, countries and regional organisations can utilise to protect and assist citizens in the event of disasters.

Affected countries can use the insurance pay-outs to replenish their strategic grain reserves and distribute to affected regions. In some cases cash transfers are done.

The quest to embrace disaster risk financing and insurance is in line with regional, continental and international strategies on disaster risk reduction.

For example, one of the priorities of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is to focus on investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, emphasising on risks transfer and insurance.

Options on disaster response have come at a time when southern Africa continues to be negatively affected by floods and droughts.

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.

The drought experienced in southern Africa in 2015/16 resulted in an estimated 40 million people being food-insecure in the region, with Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe declaring state of national disasters.

In the 2016/17 season, Cyclone Dineo in Mozambique resulted in an estimated loss of more than 29,000 hectares of crops, including maize, groundnuts, cassava and beans.

In Madagascar, Cyclone Enawo severely affected the country and left more than 50 people dead and almost 329,000 people homeless. ▢

Protocol for protection of new plant varieties approved

THE 37TH SADC summit approved a new legal instrument that aims to establish an effective system of plant variety protection and promote the development of new varieties of plants for the benefit of the region and protection of breeders' rights.

The Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants in the SADC Region was signed by the heads of

state and government during the summit held in Pretoria, South Africa on 19-20 August.

The summit noted the improvement in the overall 2017/18 food security situation in the region and urged Member States to take measures to improve storage facilities in order to minimise post-harvest losses and put in place contingency plans. ▢



Union of Comoros

PARTNERING WITH THE In developing industry and r

THE 37TH SADC Summit was held on 19-20 August in Pretoria, South Africa, focusing on the role of the private sector in developing industry and regional value-chains." This issue was discussed by the summit

Comoros becomes 16th SADC Member State

SUMMIT FORMALLY admitted the Union of Comoros as the newest member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The admission of Comoros brings the membership of SADC to 16.

"Summit admitted the Union of Comoros as a new member of SADC and noted that the assessment of Burundi is work in progress," read part of the communiqué released after the summit.

The two countries – Comoros and Burundi – have for the past few years expressed interest in joining SADC, which is regarded as one of the most stable and attractive regional economic communities in Africa.

Special envoy for DRC

SUMMIT APPROVED the appointment of a special envoy to help to resolve the political situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Summit mandated the SADC Chairperson, President Jacob Zuma of South Africa and the immediate past chair, King Mswati III of Swaziland to finalize consultations on the appointment of the special envoy.

The special envoy to DRC is expected to be a former Head of State or Government from the region.

The appointment of special envoys has been effective in resolving conflicts in the region. The former South African President Thabo Mbeki successfully mediated in the then political impasse in Zimbabwe in 2008, while the former Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano did the same in Madagascar.

The DRC has experienced some instability since 2012, particularly in the eastern part of the country. Furthermore, there is some uncertainty about the holding of elections, which were initially due in 2016 but were moved to December this year. □

SADC Chairperson, President Jacob Zuma of South Africa said the admission of a new member is an indication of the confidence shown by others in the regional organisation.

As per the requirements, various assessments were conducted by the Ministerial Committee of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation before the Comoros was admitted.

The newest member of SADC is an archipelago island nation in the Indian Ocean located at the northern end of the Mozambique Channel, off the eastern coast of Africa between north-eastern Mozambique and north-western Madagascar.

At 1,660 square kilometres in size, excluding the contested island of Mayotte which is claimed by France, the Comoros is the third smallest African nation by area, and has a population of about 798,000 people.

As a nation formed at a crossroads of different civilisations, the archipelago is noted for its diverse culture and history.

It consists of three major islands and numerous smaller ones, all in the volcanic Comoros archipelago. It became part of the French colonial empire in the 19th century before becoming independent in 1975.

Other SADC Member States are Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. □

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Tax, takes second terms

THE SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax and her Deputy Executive Secretary-Regional Integration, Dr Thembinkosi Mhlongo were sworn in to serve for the second terms.

Dr Tax is the sixth Executive Secretary of SADC and the first woman to occupy the position. She was appointed at the 33rd SADC Summit held in Malawi in August 2013 while Dr Mhlongo was appointed in October of the same year.

Dr Tax expressed appreciation for the trust and opportunity bestowed upon her and Dr Mhlongo to serve the region at the Secretariat for another term.

Dr Tax said the Secretariat is committed to deliver and implement regional

SADC to hold Solidarity Conference with the Western Sahara

TO SHOW support and commitment to resolving the territory disputed in the Maghreb region of North Africa, SADC will hold a Solidarity Conference with the Western Sahara.

SADC leaders said the outcomes of the solidarity conference will be shared with the African Union Commission for its consideration and implementation.

Western Sahara is commonly known as the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic but has been under occupation by Morocco, who claim that the territory is part of their own.

However, a number of international organizations including the United Nations and the African Union see Western Sahara as a colony. Therefore, the independence of Western Sahara, will see the disappearance of the last relic of colonialism on the continent. □

THE PRIVATE SECTOR regional value chains

th Africa under the theme “Partnering with the Private
of *Southern Africa Today* presents some of the key issues



Deputy sworn in for

programmes in its bid to boost integration and development.

“As we aspire to achieve higher ground through you, we pledge continued dedication and professionalism so that the community for which we serve and owe our duty, contributes to the prosperity of our region, improvement of the living standards of our people and increased socio-economic growth and development through a robust and meaningful regional integration and development community,” Dr Tax said.

Based in Gaborone, Botswana, the SADC Secretariat is the principal executive institution of SADC, responsible for strategic planning, facilitation and coordination and management of all SADC programmes, activities and projects. □

Harnessing Public Private Partnerships

THE 37TH SADC Summit deliberated on exploring ways of harnessing the public and the private sector to work together to promote sustainable economic development in the region.

The summit commended South Africa for convening a successful SADC Industrialisation Week, and urged Member States to operationalise the outcomes of the

New SADC political governance structure

THE 37TH SADC Summit elected members of its political governance structure to steer the integration agenda of the region for the coming year.

The SADC Summit, which is made up of all the SADC Heads of State and Government of the 16 Member States, will be headed by President Jacob Zuma of South Africa.

The SADC Summit is responsible for the overall policy direction and control of functions of the Community, ultimately making it the supreme policy-making institution of SADC.

It is managed on a Troika system that comprises the current SADC Summit Chairperson, the incoming Chairperson (the Deputy at the time), and the immediate past Chairperson.

Therefore, the Summit Troika is now made up of President Zuma (Chairperson), President Hage Geingob of Namibia (incoming Chairperson), and King Mswati III of Swaziland (immediate past Chairperson).

The Troika System vests authority in this group of three leaders to take quick decisions on behalf of SADC that are ordinarily taken at

policy meetings scheduled at regular intervals, as well as providing policy direction to SADC institutions between the regular SADC Summits. Other Member States may be co-opted into the Troika as necessary.

This system has been effective since it was established by the Summit at its annual meeting in Maputo, Mozambique in August 1999.

The Troika system operates at the level of the Summit, the Organ, the Council of Ministers, and the Standing Committee of Senior Officials.

The Summit usually meets once a year in August/September, although an Extra-Ordinary Summit can be held between ordinary Summits as necessary.

The SADC Organ on Politics Defence and Security Cooperation, which also operates on a Troika basis, will be chaired Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos.

The Organ is mandated to steer and provide Member States with direction regarding matters that threaten peace, security and stability in the region. It is coordinated at the level of Summit, consisting of a Chairperson, Incoming Chairperson and Outgoing Chairperson, and reports to the SADC Summit Chairperson.

Zambian President Edgar Lungu is deputy chair of the Organ, while Tanzanian President John Magufuli is immediate past chair.

The SADC Summit and the Organ Troika are mutually exclusive, and the Chairperson of the Organ does not simultaneously hold the chair of Summit. Like the Summit chair, the Organ chair rotates on an annual basis. The Organ structure, operations and functions are regulated by the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. □



“SADC seized with the situation in Lesotho”

A DEAFENING silence filled the room when the newly elected Prime Minister of Lesotho, Thomas Thabane interrupted the opening ceremony of the 37th SADC Summit that was held on 19-20 August in Pretoria, South Africa to make “an important announcement.”

The anxiety was perhaps due to the fact that since 2012, the Kingdom of Lesotho has been experiencing some political instability, hence the concern that the “important announcement” could be some bad news.

However, what followed that deafening silence was laughter and cheers as Thabane wanted to announce that he was getting married and was therefore inviting the region to join and rejoice with him at his wedding ceremony, which eventually took place on 27 August, and attended by several people from the region.

Fast-forward to 5 September.

A more serious and genuine silence engulfed SADC once again following the assassination of the Lesotho army chief.

SADC has condemned the assassination of the Commander of the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF), Lieutenant General Khoantle Motsomotso, saying the incident could affect efforts to promote and find a lasting solution to the political situation in the country.



SADC Facilitator and South African Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa (left) meets the Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili in Lesotho

“This development (assassination of Motsomotso) is a serious blight and set back to the ongoing efforts to restore peace, security and stability to the Kingdom of Lesotho,” chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said in a statement.

“It is an unfortunate occurrence which threatens the prevailing peace and security of the SADC region as a whole.”

To avert the possibility of further deterioration of security in the country, SADC immediately deployed a Ministerial fact finding Mission to Lesotho on 7-10 September.

The Mission was made up of the SADC chairperson President Jacob Zuma of South Africa, Organ Troika Ministers as well as defence and security experts will visit Lesotho.

The Fact Finding Mission conducted an assessment of the security situation and held meetings with all key stakeholders in the Kingdom of Lesotho in order to establish the root causes of the assassination and subsequently recommend the appropriate courses of action.

One of the recommendation was the deployment of a

Contingent Force comprising military, security, intelligence and civilian experts to Kingdom, which was approved by the Double Troika Summit that met on 15 September in South Africa.

The Troika Summit maintained the terms of reference and composition of the Oversight Committee as approved by the 37th SADC Summit, and in the interim, approved an expanded mandate and composition of a total of 34 members of the Oversight Committee to include military, security, intelligence and civilian experts to be deployed to Lesotho immediately for a period of one month.

In a Communique released soon after its meeting the Double Summit noted that “there was an urgent need to assist the Kingdom in restoring law and order, and a peaceful environment conducive to among others, the implementation of SADC decisions specifically, Security Sector and Constitutional Reforms, as well as the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry.”

In this regard, SADC said it will remain seized with the political situation in Lesotho and is committed to the process

of ensuring a return to political stability in the country.”

“SADC wishes to reassure all citizens of Lesotho, Member States and the entire international community that SADC remains seized with developments in the Kingdom of Lesotho and will spare no efforts in ensuring the maintenance and restoration of lasting peace and security to the Kingdom of Lesotho.”

Lesotho has experienced recurring political instability since 2012, including an alleged coup in 2014, 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.

The assassination of Motsomotso on 5 September follows a similar incident in June 2015 when former army chief, General Maaparankoe Mahao was alleged assassinated, plunging the country into a crisis.

Motsomotso was shot at his home by a group of soldiers who had recently been fired.

Thabane’s former wife was also shot and killed a few days before his inauguration. Thabane and his wife had separated and were no longer living together.

These raging power struggles within the army have threatened peace and security in the country.

As captured by every speaker at the inauguration of Thabane as the new Prime Minister of Lesotho on 16 June, there is need for Lesotho to channel its resources towards finding a lasting solution to its political instability and ensure that the country could focus more on socio-economic development. sardc.net □





RENEWABLE ENERGY

BIOFUELS

Opportunities and Challenges for the Southern African Development Community

The use of biofuel as an alternative source of energy is increasingly being embraced globally as the world is seeking to reduce carbon emissions from fossil fuels that cause global warming. Some countries such as Brazil have already implemented successful biofuel initiatives. However, in southern Africa and elsewhere on the continent, biofuel development remains stagnant despite the potential for biofuel production in the region. This Policy Brief highlights some of the opportunities and challenges to boost biofuel development in the region to enable the provision of clean and adequate energy supplies to advance the integration and development agenda.

What are Biofuels?

The term biofuels refers to a wide range of fuels such as biodiesel and ethanol which are derived from plant and other organic matter. For example, biodiesel is obtained from organic oils, mostly vegetable or animal fats and recycled greases. Ethanol is produced from sugar-based crops such as sugar cane, sweet sorghum, and starch-based crops such as maize, cassava, or any type of grain or tuber. A distinction is made between primary and secondary biofuels. In the case of primary biofuels, organic materials are used in an unprocessed form, mostly for heating, cooking or electricity production. Secondary biofuels result from the processing of biomass and include liquid biofuels such as ethanol and biodiesel that can be used in vehicles and industrial processes.

Why Biofuels Matter for SADC

Southern Africa is experiencing unprecedented and sustained growth with a population now reaching 305 million according to the latest SADC Statistical Yearbook. However, only five percent of rural areas in the region have access to electricity; and the region falls behind other Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa regarding access to electricity, with just 24 percent of citizens having

access, while in Eastern Africa and West Africa the figures stand at 36 percent and 44 percent respectively. Therefore, the region needs to invest more resources in establishing a vibrant and thriving energy sector that is able to sustain socio-economic development including the industrialisation agenda.

One way of boosting energy production is to harness alternative sources of energy such as biofuels, which provide a Renewable Energy (RE) source. RE is regarded as a cleaner source of energy compared to traditional sources such as coal which are fast running out and causing environmental damage through extraction and use. The production of biofuels is a favourable option for the region for various reasons, as biofuels are produced from sustainable energy crops, which has a good agriculture potential. There is a strong incentive to expand the use and production of biofuels at a time when petroleum price increases persist and put pressure on foreign exchange resources, hampering socio-economic development in SADC.

Benefits of Harnessing Biofuels

The potential benefits of biofuels are immense. In addition to being produced from sustainable energy crops, biofuels can play a pivotal role in strengthening the region's energy security. The production of biofuels can create employment and stimulate agriculture. Some potential benefits for increased biofuels production and use in SADC include:

- Foreign currency saving through reduction in the volume of fossil fuel imports;
- Improved energy security;
- Reduced emissions of greenhouse gases that cause climate change;
- Increased use and production of clean energy;
- Improved soils as most oil-bearing crops are nitrogen-fixing plants that allow the nitrogen, phosphorus and mineral elements to return back to the ground;
- Most biofuel programmes have the potential to halt deforestation and desertification, as they can include the use of oilseed-bearing, drought-resistant trees such as jatropha and pongamia; and;

- In the event of a famine, energy crops initially identified for biofuel production can be reallocated for human consumption.

Opportunities for SADC to Harness Biofuel

SADC has great potential for biofuel feedstock production, processing and utilization. The region is hugely endowed with arable land and vast water resources including some of Africa's largest rivers such as the Congo and Zambezi. The SADC region has the necessary ingredients to farm energy crops such as maize, sugar cane and cassava which are needed to produce biofuels. In addition, the ecology of the region can accommodate energy crops, and production of such crops will not disturb food production.

With an abundance of arable land and water resources, the potential for biofuel production is vast, particularly if farmers in the region are encouraged to embrace the energy crops and grow them to produce the fuel necessary for vehicles and machines in the region, as well as kerosene for cooking and lighting. Such a development has the potential to uplift most smallholder farmers in SADC.

The drive towards biofuel production can impact on improved farming practices and avoid environmental degradation associated with modern farming if guided by a set of sustainability criteria that are sensitive to production methods and operational scale. Biofuel feedstock production can provide an additional cash crop for farmers, thus supporting a diversified cropping system. Biofuel production can increase rural incomes and if well managed can empower women through development of farming skills for biofuel feedstock. However, the ability of rural women to take advantage of these opportunities depends on an enabling legislative environment and investment in extension services and skills training.

Research has shown that the production and use of biofuels can reduce poverty and promote socio-economic development. For example, if farmers produce biofuels which are used for transport, then distribution costs will go down and there will be a guaranteed market for the products. At macro-economic level, the production of biofuel could employ millions of rural labourers, thereby boosting economic growth. Most SADC Member States can save on import costs and earn foreign exchange through

the use of biofuels, and, as the benefits are immediately re-injected into the economy, biofuels have the potential to generate a sustainable growth. The SADC energy sector will be less dependent on external vagaries and exchange rates, and will produce clean energy, contributing to a clean environment.

Challenges to Harnessing Biofuels

One of the challenges to large-scale production of biofuels is that this can threaten food security in the region, especially in cases where agricultural production may be diverted from food crops to energy crops. In that situation, food prices could rise, thus impacting on low-income earners in urban and rural areas. Growing of food crops may compete directly with energy crops in multiple ways, including competition for land, investment and water. The diversion of land from food crops to bio-fuel manufacture may have serious consequences including the environmental impact that could encourage deforestation as land is cleared to make way for production, hence the importance of ensuring sustainable production.

Another challenge is that most biofuels programmes, particularly those focusing on jatropha were based on very limited information on soil quality, weather conditions and nutrient requirements, and suffered from a lack of fuel distribution and refining capacity. As a result, several international investors in Mozambique and Zambia have since withdrawn from the market, leaving a massive gap in biodiesel production. The challenges with insect infestation, low yields and larger-than-expected water requirements have affected the jatropha industry, and efforts are now underway regionally and internationally to undertake selective breeding to produce jatropha varieties that are better suited to conditions in southern Africa.

Current Biofuel Status in SADC

SADC countries are slowly embracing the use and production of biofuels as a partial substitute for fossil fuels in the transport sector. For example, ethanol from sugar cane is produced and blended with petrol in several SADC member states that produce sugar. Biodiesel is also produced in the SADC region and is made from vegetable oils. However, the production of biofuels in the SADC region is not yet widespread, and only Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe are currently producing biodiesel and ethanol.



Malawi and Zimbabwe are in the process of increasing mandatory ethanol blend ratios and are exploring the possibility of operating fleet vehicles on pure ethanol going forward. In Malawi, ethanol processing facilities have been operating for more than 25 years, and Zimbabwe produced ethanol for blending in the 1980s for a period, and has now resumed.

Other countries with small sugar industries such as Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia are monitoring developments and considering a conversion to low blends of ethanol to offset the cost of imported fuel. In 2014, Angola launched the 32 million litre/year BioCom plant to produce ethanol exclusively for vehicle transport. The SADC region possesses great potential for ethanol production from sugar cane and other crops such as cashew nuts, manioc, maize, citrus trees and related crops.

South Africa has been involved in biofuels development and published a Biofuels Industrial Strategy in 2006, which was revised following public consultation and finalised in 2007. The purpose of the strategy was to stimulate the development of an industry for the production, refining and distribution of biofuels, aimed at achieving a two percent displacement of fossil fuels within five years. After failing to meet this target through fiscal incentives such as rebates on the fuel levy, some governments decided to make blending mandatory, commencing in late 2015. The target will be B5 for biodiesel and between E2 and E10 for ethanol in petrol.

Zambia has plans to go into biofuel production. In 2014 the Copperbelt Energy Corporation announced that it had built a biodiesel facility in Kitwe with a capacity of 1 million litres per day, which would be used entirely to supply the company's own equipment. A 2014 review of the status of the biofuels industry in southern Africa indicated that sustainable jatropha biodiesel projects can be found in Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique.

Policy Considerations to Boost Biofuel Production

SADC Member States should consider the following policy options for production and use of biofuels in the region:

- Study the extensive global experience in all aspects of biofuels including policies, feedstock, technologies and business models;

Biofuel Lessons from Brazil

Brazil was the first country to start a major biofuel programme in the 1970s. The basis was ethanol, produced from the country's massive cane-sugar programme. Brazil has built its biofuels policy primarily on a well-established sugarcane-ethanol industry and on an emerging biodiesel sector. The government has put in place regulatory and economic incentives to stimulate those sectors, such as tax breaks, cheap credit through public banks and blending mandates to secure captive markets.

A highly concentrated ownership pattern and an imbalanced allocation of burdens and benefits mean that the sugarcane agribusiness captures all value addition while the rural poor participate only as seasonal migrants. In addition, the expansion over smallholder farms and indigenous lands has affected the social profile of the sector. To address this, Brazil has attempted to compensate for these issues through a socially oriented biodiesel programme that promotes feedstock cultivation among smallholders and the establishment of contract farming schemes with biodiesel industries.

To promote diversity and encourage parties to honour contracts, the government has mobilized rural social movements, including revising the biodiesel policy which led to the creation of a subsidiary Petrobrás Biofuels to engage with small stakeholders, distribute higher quality seeds, and give power to smallholder farmers to leverage on contracts, thereby contributing to food security. As a result, the programme has met with increasing success in terms of income generation and the number of affiliated smallholders.

- Increase awareness of the potential for the production of biofuels in the SADC region to allow countries to have all the necessary information to plan any investments in biofuel development;
- Showcase pilot projects at the earliest opportunity to demonstrate technology and the workability of the biofuel programme;
- Formulate practical and simple standards as a priority;
- Assure farmers of procurement of biofuels feedstock at a minimum support price, in case of temporary surpluses;

- Develop a regional vision and mission on biofuels, that can be harmonized to create a regional programme;
- Formulate and adopt holistic and friendly policies on biofuels, and a workable and practical strategy for implementation;
- Set up an institutional framework to promote biofuels by establishing a Biofuels Development Board or a similar autonomous organization to coordinate all aspects of biofuel programmes in the region;

Way Forward and Conclusion

Addressing the current energy situation in the SADC region will require stakeholders to support the increased use and production of

renewable energy sources such as biofuels. As indicated, the potential for biofuels production is significant in southern Africa. Therefore, there is need to strengthen policy formulation to promote biofuel production, particularly now when the global community is running short of the traditional sources of energy, as well as the persistent petroleum price increases that have stretched financial resources and hampered socio-economic development. The development and use of biofuels holds enormous potential for the SADC region and national economies. However, the potential negative economic and environmental effect should be thoroughly investigated before fully embracing biofuels.

References

- Bastos, L. 2012. An Institutional Analysis of Biofuel Policies and their Social Implications: Lessons from Brazil, India and Indonesia, Occasional Paper Nine, *Social Dimensions of Green Economy and Sustainable Development*
- ECA 2006. *Sustainable Energy: A Framework for New and Renewable Energy in Southern Africa*. Economic Commission for Africa, Southern Africa Office
- IEA 2011. *Technology Roadmap: Biofuels for Transport*, International Energy Agency, Paris, France
- IEA 2004. *Bio-fuels for Transport: an International Perspective*. International Energy Agency, May 2004
- IRENA 2015. *Africa 2030: Roadmap for a Renewable Energy Future*. IRENA, Abu Dhabi.
- IPCC 2011. *Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation*, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- REN21 2015. *SADC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report*. REN21 Secretariat, Paris.
- SADC 2015. *SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan – Revised*. Gaborone, Botswana
- SADC 2015. *SADC Statistical Yearbook 2015*. Gaborone, Botswana
- SADC 2012. *Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan*. SADC Secretariat, Gaborone.
- SADC 2010. *SADC Regional Energy Access Strategy and Action Plan*. SADC Secretariat, Gaborone
- SADC 2009. *Statement by SADC Energy Ministers*, Maputo, Mozambique, April 2009
- SADC 2005. *Feasibility Study for the Production and Use of Biofuel in the SADC region*, Gaborone, Botswana.
- SADC 2004. *Joint Statement by SADC Senior Officials of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources and Infrastructure and Services*, Gaborone, Botswana
- SADC 1996. *Protocol on Energy in the Southern African Development Community Region*. SADC Secretariat, Gaborone
- SADC, SARDC 2016. *SADC Energy Monitor 2016: Baseline Study of the SADC Energy Sector*. Gaborone, Harare
- SADC, SARDC 2014. *Renewable Energy: Future of SADC Energy Sector*. *Southern Africa Today/SADC Today*, Vol 17 No.2, SADC, SARDC, Gaborone, Harare
- SARDC 2005. *SADC countries embark on biomass energy conservation*. Southern African News Features 05 No.66, August 2005, SARDC, Harare
- Sekoai, Patrick 2016. *Biofuel Development Initiatives in Sub-Saharan Africa: Opportunities and Challenges*
- Utrecht University 2013. *Impacts of Biofuel Production Case Studies: Mozambique, Argentina and Ukraine*. Annexes to the Final Report, Utrecht, Netherlands, November 2013
- UN Energy. *Sustainable Bioenergy: A Framework for Decision Makers*, The UNIDO Biofuel Strategy

THIS POLICY BRIEF is produced by SARDC through the project on Communicating Energy in Southern Africa supported by the Austrian Development Agency. Responsibility for the content of this brief lies entirely with the authors. The information and analysis do not reflect the official opinion of the Austrian Development Agency.



Julius K. Nyerere House
15 Downie Avenue, Belgravia, Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel +263 4 791141 Email sardc@sardc.net
Website www.sardc.net Knowledge for Development

Austrian
Development Cooperation



Mixed rainfall pattern for SADC

SOUTHERN AFRICA is expected to record varying rainfall patterns for the upcoming agricultural season.

According to a statement by the 21st Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-21), the region will receive less rainfall in the period October to December, while high rainfall will be experienced from January to March 2018. See Table showing the rainfall patterns.

SARCOF-21 made the forecast at their recent annual meeting held on 23-25 August in Gaborone, Botswana.

The forecast predicts that most of the region will receive less rainfall, characterised as "normal to below-normal" in the period October to December and significantly high rainfall, "normal to above-normal" in the period January to March 2018.

Areas with a likelihood of receiving high rainfall both in the first and second half of the season are the northernmost Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), northern Tanzania, the islands states, eastern half of Botswana, south-western half of Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, eastern-most Madagascar, most of northern South Africa and Swaziland.

Other areas with a likelihood of receiving high rainfall in the period October to December include the extreme south-western Zambia, Zambezi Region of Namibia, south-eastern Angola and eastern Lesotho.

The rest of southern Africa except areas mentioned above have increased chances of receiving below-normal rainfall in the period October to December 2017.

From January to March 2018, almost the whole of southern Africa is expected to receive high rainfall with an exception of few areas.

Areas with chances of below-normal rainfall in the second part of the season are the south-west-

ern tip of Angola, western fringes of Namibia and south-western South Africa.

Based on this rainfall outlook, farmers may be advised to consider growing short season varieties as well as staggering their planting dates.

The outlook is however only relevant to seasonal timescales and relatively large areas and may not fully account for all local and intra-seasonal factors that influence climate variability.

It is therefore critical for farmers and other users to contact their national meteorological and hydrological offices for better interpretation and regular updates.

The 37th SADC Summit held on 19-20 August in Pretoria, South Africa urged Member States to urgently take actions to improve food security considering the possibilities of below-normal rainfall during October-December 2017.

Summit also urged countries not to oversell food in case the 2017/18 season does not perform well and also to put in place contingency plans such as water harvesting for irrigation and climate smart agriculture among others.

The 2017/18 rainfall forecast was formulated by climate scientists from the National Meteorological and/or Hydrological Services of Member States in the region and the SADC Climate Services Centre, with additional inputs from other global climate prediction centres.

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

In developing this outlook, climate scientists took into account oceanic and atmospheric

factors that influence climate over the SADC region and in particular, the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) which is currently in its neutral phase, thus unlikely to cause drought conditions.

Many regions of the global tropics and sub-tropics exhibit climate anomalies that correlate with the El Niño Southern Oscillation, a naturally occurring phenomenon that involves fluctuating ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific.

To better prepare for any future hazards, southern Africa has implemented a number of strategies to strengthen its mitigation and early warning systems.

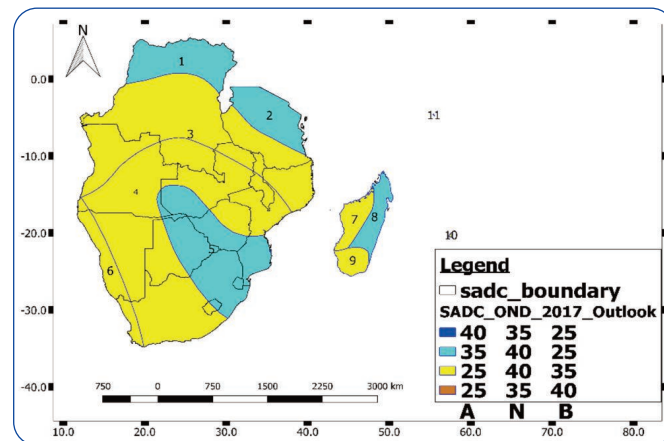
These strategies include the establishment of a Climate Data

Processing Centre to provide timely early warning information such as prediction of flood and drought potential, and onset of the rainy season, as well as climate advisories and information.

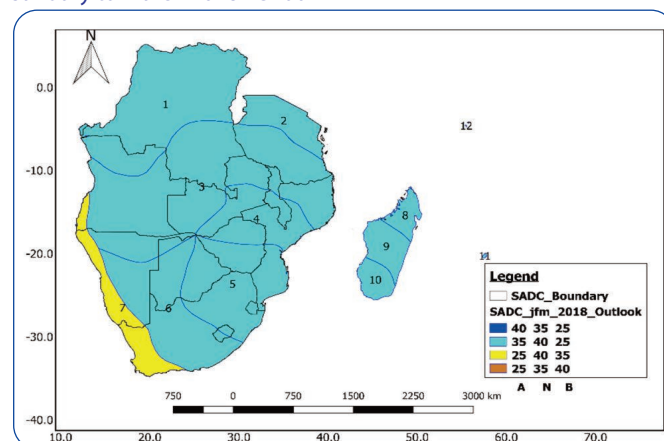
Other measures are the approval of SADC Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy 2016-2030 to strengthen preparedness, response mechanisms, and recovery from disasters, as well as plans to set up a disaster fund.

SARCOF-21 was held under the theme, "Minimising negative impacts of hydro-meteorological hazards on socio-economic development through climate early warning information in southern Africa." sardc.net □

October to December 2017 Period



January to March 2018 Period



Source: SARCOF-21



Women drive SADC integration agenda

by Nyarai Kampilipili and Kizito Sikuka

THE EVENT had nothing to do with the annual Women's Month that is celebrated in South Africa every August to remember the sacrifices and contribution of women to the struggle for social equality.

Rather, the sight of Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax addressing the media ahead of the 37th SADC Summit in South Africa was a clear affirmation that women continue to make a positive contribution towards deepening regional integration and sustainable development in southern Africa.

Nkoana-Mashabane is the incoming chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers, while Dr. Tax is the SADC Executive Secretary.

In fact, Dr Tax is the first woman to assume the top post at the SADC Secretariat, and since her appointment at summit in August 2013 in Lilongwe, Malawi has shown that "performance is key and not gender" in holding key decision-making positions.

Based in Gaborone, Botswana, the SADC Secretariat is the principal executive institution of SADC, responsible for strategic planning, facilitation and coordination and manage-

ment of all SADC programmes, activities and projects.

The SADC Council of Ministers oversees the functioning and development of SADC by ensuring that regional policies are properly implemented.

In this regard, both Nkoana-Mashabane, who is the South African International Relations and Cooperation Minister, and Dr Tax carry the responsibility of making sure the benefits of belonging to a shared community in southern Africa continue to be enjoyed and impact on the lives of SADC citizens.

During her one-year tenure as Council of Ministers chair, Nkoana-Mashabane is expected to provide guidance to the SADC Secretariat on the implementation of regional programmes while Dr Tax will ensure that the decisions of the 37th SADC Summit are implemented over the next 12 months.

This will include making sure that the momentum built since 2014 in terms of the implementation of the industrialisation agenda is maintained as part of regional efforts to transform from a resource-based economy to a knowledge-based one that is able to add



Maite Nkoana-Mashabane (left) and Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax addressing the media ahead of the 37th SADC Summit in South Africa

value to its own natural resources and compete strongly on global markets.

SADC has over the years made significant progress towards promoting gender equality and equity in the region.

In fact, gender equality is firmly rooted in the Declaration and Treaty that established the shared community of SADC, and Member States fully realise that equality and empowerment of both women and men is crucial for the attainment of sustainable development.

This is clearly reflected in the constitutions of most SADC countries that provide for the creation of legal frameworks that prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender and other differences.

Some countries have also legislated affirmative action and quota systems that guarantee the participation and representation of women in

political and other decision-making positions.

According to the *SADC Gender and Development Monitor 2016*, four Member States are among the top 20 countries in the world with the highest number of women in Parliament and other key decision-making positions.

These are Seychelles, South Africa, Namibia and Mozambique, followed closely by Angola, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

In the education sector, gender gaps in literacy levels continue to close, with Botswana, Lesotho, Seychelles and Swaziland having higher literacy rates for women compared to men.

The Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, which was approved at the 36th SADC Summit held in the Kingdom of Swaziland in August 2016, aims to align the protocol with provisions of other instruments such as those relating to the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2063, and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap.

The revised protocol provides for the empowerment of women, elimination of discrimination, and attainment of gender equality and equity through enactment of gender-responsive legislation and implementation of policies, programmes and projects. sardc.net □

SADC Member States urged to reach gender parity

SADC LEADERS meeting at the 37th Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Pretoria, South Africa, "commended Member States who have reached the 50:50 gender parity in political and decision making positions in the public service and private sector." According to their final communiqué issued after the Summit

on 19-20 August, they "urged Member States that have not reached the target to strive towards reaching the target at all levels."

One of the issues discussed by the SADC Council of Ministers prior to the Summit was a request from gender ministers to rescind its decision to place the Gender Unit under

the Directorate for Social and Human Development, amid concerns that this could hamper the gains made toward gender equality in the region. SADC Ministers responsible for Gender and Women Affairs, who met in Swaziland in June, expressed concern about the proposed move. □



“Citizens should enjoy benefits of belonging to SADC”

by Kizito Sikuka

THE REGION should redouble its efforts and ensure that the benefits of belonging to a shared community of southern Africa are enjoyed and reach the lives of all citizens.

This was said by the new chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane at the 37th SADC Summit held in Pretoria.

Nkoana-Mashabane, who is the South African International Relations and Cooperation Minister, said SADC belongs to its citizens, hence it is critical for regional integration to benefit the people.

“As regional leaders, we carry a burden of responsibility to substantially improve the quality of life for the people of our region and to realise sustainable economic development,” she said.

“To this end, we cannot be found to be wanting or to have failed. As such, we must commit appropriate resources and make a concerted effort to co-operatively work together towards the SADC We Want.”

She said Member States must continue to “support the SADC Secretariat to deliver on its annual work programme as well as strengthen the Secretariat’s institutional capacity and effectiveness.”

Based in Gaborone, Botswana, the Secretariat is the principal executive institution of SADC, responsible for strategic planning, facilitation and coordination and management of all SADC

programmes, activities and projects.

In this regard, a well-resourced Secretariat would ensure that various regional programmes such as the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap, and the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) are fully implemented for the benefit of the region.

Nkoana-Mashabane said during its tenure as chair of SADC, South Africa will push forward the integration agenda, and will always “remain collectively seized with the responsibility of improving lives of our people.”

“Guided by our identified priorities as well as the leadership demonstrated by previous chairs, South Africa’s theme for the chairperson of SADC and the 37th SADC Summit is “Partnering with the Private Sector in Developing Industry and Regional Value Chains,” she said.

UNECA hails SADC integration agenda

THE UNITED Nations Economic Commission for Africa has commended SADC for its efforts to boost regional integration and ensure that its citizens enjoy the benefits of belonging to a shared community in southern Africa.

UNECA Executive Secretary, Dr Vera Songwe said the region should redouble its commitment to achieve regional integration and use its collective strength to deal with any challenges that may

“The theme picks up on the already identified importance of industrialisation for the prosperity of the region and seeks to strengthen the region’s capacity to realise industrialisation and economic transformation through partnership with the private sector.”

She said during the chair of South Africa focus will be on agro-processing, mineral beneficiation and pharmaceutical value chains.

Outgoing chairperson of the SADC Council of Ministers, Prince Hlangusemphi Dlamini of the Kingdom of Swaziland said regional integration should aim to make a positive change on the lives of SADC citizens.

“It is clear that we should all remain resolute to the eradication of poverty to improve the welfare of the people of the region,” said Dlamini, who is Economic Planning and Development Minister of Swaziland.

He called on Member States to continue working together in implementing regional programmes.

Major highlights of achievements during the past year include the adoption of the Costed Action Plan of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap, the profiling of the mineral and pharmaceutical sectors, as well as the approval of the Regional Agricultural Investment Plan 2017-2022.

The SADC Council of Ministers oversees the functioning and development of the SADC, and ensures that policies are properly implemented.

It comprises ministers from each Member State, usually those responsible for Foreign Affairs, Economic Planning, or Finance, and meets twice a year in January/February and immediately prior to the Summit in August/September to set the agenda for regional leaders. sardc.net □

hinder sustainable development.

“SADC is home to some of the most liberal African economies, some of which have already achieved up to 100 percent in the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) negotiations,” she said.

The TFTA aims to establish the largest integrated market in Africa, involving 26 countries from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

(COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and SADC.

Dr Songwe said the SADC Free Trade Area is a critical building bloc of both the TFTA and the proposed Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA).

She called for strong political buy-in and leadership to unlock bottlenecks in CFTA negotiations and to drive domestic reforms that will empower the private sector to buy into and take advantage of the CFTA process. □

João Lourenço becomes Angola's third President

by Danai Majaha

"MISSION Accomplished. We will produce a better future for the country and the people."

The Angolan President-elect João Lourenço said this soon after the National Electoral Commission (CNE) announced that the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) had won the general elections held on 23 August.

According to final results released by the CNE, the MPLA secured 61.1 percent of the total votes compared to 26.7 percent won by the main opposition party, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

A coalition of four parties, the Convergence Angola Salvation Wide-Electoral Coalition (CASA-EC), garnered 9.45 percent of the votes.

Other political parties that took part in the elections were the Party for Social Renovation (PRS), National Liberation Front of Angola (FNLA) and National Patriotic Alliance (APN), which received 1.35 percent, 0.93 percent and 0.51 percent of the total votes respectively.

The MPLA won 150 seats in Parliament, while UNITA got 51, and the CASA-EC coalition secured the remaining 16 seats.

In the last elections held in 2012, the MPLA won 175 seats, followed by UNITA with 32 and the CASA-CE coalition with eight. The remaining seats went to PRS and FNLA with three seats and two seats respectively.

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

Angola uses a single constituency electoral system of first-past-the-post for election of Members of Parliament.

The candidate of the party that wins the most votes becomes the President.

Before the Constitution was

changed in 2010, the President was directly elected.

Most election observers, including the SADC Election Observer Mission (SEOM) and African Union Election Observation Mission, said the elections in Angola were in conformity with national, regional and continental standards and principles.

The 70-member SEOM led by Dr Augustine Mahiga, Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, said the general environment before, during and after the elections was "fair, free and transparent."

"The political and security environment on the polling day, remained generally calm, peaceful and conducive to the holding of democratic elections," Dr Mahiga said in a statement.

The expectations of the SEOM, which was launched on 12 August are guided and measured against provisions and requirements of the Angolan Constitution, as well as the SADC Treaty, the SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and the revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.

Lourenço, who has served in various senior positions including as leader of the MPLA in Parliament, and deputy president of Parliament, succeeds President José Eduardo dos Santos who has served the country since 1979 following the death of the founding President, Dr Agostinho Neto.

The elections were the third since the country ended a protracted civil war in 2002. The other elections were held in 2008 and 2012.

According to the CNE, more than 75 percent of the 9,317,294 registered voters cast their ballot on Election Day. sardc.net □



New Angolan leader to prioritise poverty reduction

NEWLY ELECTED Angolan President, João Lourenço has pledged to prioritise poverty eradication.

Addressing more than 30,000 people gathered for his swearing-in ceremony at Republic Square in the capital Luanda on 26 September, Lourenço pledged to combat poverty as a priority, by focusing on the creation of stable jobs and the equitable distribution of resources.

"Employment, poverty alleviation, promotion of opportunities and business policies will be implemented."

The new Angolan leader, who most recently served as the country's defence minister, said his government would guarantee the inclusion of economic and social policies that protect workers.

He promised that his government would over the next five years seek to set the inflation rate within acceptable and controllable limits.

Among other measures, Lourenço said he would adopt measures that impose strict rules of exchange and tax policy as well as the strengthening of financial and banking systems.

The new president highlighted the need to diversify the Angolan economy as well as a drastic reduction of imports and betting on exports.

He promised to promote investment in industry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, transportation, real estate and other important sectors.

Vice President Bornito de Sousa was sworn-in during the same ceremony, which was witnessed by several foreign heads of state and government.

Under the Angolan constitution, the president is head of state, the executive power and commander-in-chief of the Angolan armed forces.

Among the dignitaries at the ceremony were the leaders of Cote d'Ivoire, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Namibia, Portugal, Rwanda, South Africa and Zambia. □

October – December 2017



SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY
SADC TODAY Vol 19 No 6 OCTOBER 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.

Southern African Development Community
SADC Secretariat, SADC House, Private Bag 0095,
Gaborone, Botswana
Tel +267 395 1863 Fax +267 397 2848/318 1070
E-mail registry@sadc.int Website www.sadc.int

SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY is published six times a year by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) for the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana, as a reliable knowledge source on regional development. Articles may be reproduced freely in the media and elsewhere, with attribution.

EDITOR
Munetsi Madakufamba

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE
Joseph Ngwawi, Kizito Sikuka, Eglene Tauya, Admire Ndhlovu,
Phyllis Johnson, Danai Majaha, Anesu Ngadya, Tariro Sasa,
Upenyu Makoni-Matenga, Nyarai Kamphilipi, Tanaka Chitsa,
Monica Mutero, Raymond Ndhlovu

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.

© SADC, SARDC, 2017

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.sardc.net Knowledge for Development, linked to www.sadc.int

DESIGN & LAYOUT
Tonely Ngwenya, Anisha Madanhi

PHOTOS AND ILLUSTRATIONS
P1 dailymail.co, sadc.int, pinimg.com, DIRCO; P2 abc.net, wikimedia.com;
P4 sadc.int, cozen.org; P5 beyondborders.com; P6 imgix.com;
P8 sadc.int; P9 sadc.int unomaha.com, jubilantstewards.com, 2.bp.com;
P11 thisisafrica.com, sadc.int; P12 cntraveller.com;
P13 nature.com, usaia.org, letsgo.co.zw, sadc.int;
P14 lightingchina.com, i0.wp.com, crf.org; P16 sadc.int, thepatriot.com

Subscribe today
SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY is available through an annual subscription fee for six issues a year: US\$55 outside Africa, including postage; US\$40 within Africa; and US\$30 in southern Africa. Your subscription will enable you to receive the newsletter by airmail or email. For more details, please contact the Editor.

Comments and contributions should be sent to
sadctoday@sardc.net

Southern African Research and Documentation Centre
Julius K. Nyerere House, 15 Downie Avenue, Belgravia, Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel +263 4 791 141 Fax +263 4 791 271
www.sardc.net
Knowledge for Development

 [sardc.net](https://www.facebook.com/sardc.net)  [@sardc.net](https://twitter.com/@sardc.net)



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.





October
12, Botswana

SADC ETG and Water/Energy Nexus Meeting

The Energy Thematic Group is a coordination meeting of SADC and its subsidiary organizations with cooperating partners and experts to review the energy situation in the region. The ETG will meet jointly with the Water Strategy Reference Group to discuss water-energy nexus issues.

12, Namibia

International Climate Change Conference

The conference in Windhoek is hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Namibia and the Southern Times newspaper, attracting delegates from the region and the corporate sector, and will include a high-level ministerial discussion, plenary session and exhibitions.

18-19, Malawi

SAPP Executive Committee

This meeting of the Southern African Power Pool will discuss the energy situation in the region and how to improve power coordination. The executive committee is composed of chief executives of companies in Member States that are involved in the generation, wholesale and retail of power to end-user customers. The committee acts as the board of the SAPP.

25-26, Botswana

14th Annual SAPP Traders and Controllers Forum

The forum is an opportunity for energy traders and system controllers to share experiences and opportunities for power trading and discuss various issues of energy interchange and trading and system control in southern Africa.

November
6, TBA

SADC Malaria Day

Commemoration SADC Malaria Day is held on 6 November every year aims to create awareness about malaria and mobilise the community to participate in the malaria control programmes.

6-18, Germany

UNFCCC COP 23

The 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will bring together global leaders to continue negotiations towards a global consensus on addressing the impact of climate change.

20-22,
Madagascar

8th SADC Multi-stakeholder Water Dialogue

This is a biennial event which provides a platform for regional stakeholders to discuss and share experiences on different aspects of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) as well as establish how IWRM approaches can address key aspects of socioeconomic development and poverty reduction in southern Africa.

20-24, Ethiopia

African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and ICT

The meeting will gather ministers responsible for Information Communication Technology (ICT) and postal services as well as ministers in charge of communication and information from AU member states and AU specialized institutions. They will discuss and adopt strategies and action plans for projects and programmes to be implemented at the continental and regional levels.

December
4-6, Ethiopia

12th African Economic Conference

Held under the theme "Governance for Structural Transformation", the conference offers a unique opportunity for researchers, policymakers and development practitioners from Africa and around the world to reflect on the progress made by African countries in structurally transforming their economies. It is jointly organized by the African Development Bank, UN Economic Commission for Africa, UNDP, and the African Economic Conference.

10-14, Namibia

2017 PIDA Week

The Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) is a blueprint for African infrastructure transformation for the period 2012-2040 that was adopted by African leaders in January 2012. PIDA Week 2017 will be held under the theme "Enhancing Trade and Economic Transformation through Regional Infrastructure Development."

THE MAPUTO DECLARATION OF 12 OCTOBER 1986

“We, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of the People's Republic of Angola; Samora Moises Machel, President of the People's Republic of Mozambique; Ali Hassan Mwinyi, President of the United Republic of Tanzania; Kenneth David Kaunda, President of the Republic of Zambia; and Robert Gabriel Mugabe, Prime Minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe; meeting on October 12, 1986 in Maputo, capital of the People's Republic of Mozambique, seriously concerned at the South African threat to provoke a generalised war in southern Africa, earnestly appeal to the peoples and governments of the world to take all necessary measures against South Africa to safeguard peace in the region. ...

The racist government of South Africa has already embarked on the road of Fascism and of war against the peoples of southern Africa.

Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe have been attacked and Angolan territory is being occupied by South Africa.

The Lusaka Understanding and the Nkomati Accord have been grossly and systematically violated by the Pretoria authorities.

South Africa is occupying Angolan territory. Terrorists recruited, trained, organized, directed, financed, supplied and transported by South Africa attack Front Line States and in particular the People's Republic of Mozambique and the People's Republic of Angola.

They massacre the people of these countries, they loot, pillage, burn down villages, homes, food stores, hospitals, schools, churches, mosques, plantations, factories, buses, trains and trucks. They even kidnap and murder peaceful foreigners.

In activities, and in express violation of the undertakings it has given, the South African regime is using the territory of Malawi to attack the People's Republic of Mozambique. It thus drags Malawi into a conflict that is damaging to the interests of its own people, to the peoples of southern Africa, and to peace in the region.

This situation worsened at the end of September. Then the Malawian government, at the same time as it proposed negotiations with the People's Republic of Mozambique, organised, facilitated and set up conditions for bandit gangs to occupy frontier zones in the provinces of Tete, Sofala and Zambezia, of Mozambique.

Over the last few days Pretoria has unleashed an incessant campaign of accusations and threats against the People's Republic of Mozambique. South African forces are concentrated along the borders with the People's Republic of Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and commando units have been infiltrated to carry out acts of terrorism in Mozambique.

South Africa blames Mozambique and the other Front Line States for the growing opposition of the South African people to the policy of apartheid.

South Africa takes revenge for the unanimous international condemnation it suffers, by intensifying sanctions against the neighbouring states and expanding the war to them.

Contrary to an existing convention, South Africa arbitrarily threatens to expel Mozambican workers from its territory in preparation for further aggression against Mozambique.

We, the heads of state and government of the Front Line States, consider, along with all states of the world, that apartheid is a crime against humanity, condemned by all civilised men and women regardless of their political and ideological beliefs, reaffirm our determined and multifaceted support to the People's Republic of Mozambique and the People's Republic of Angola.

We declare that our solidarity with the oppressed people of Namibia and South Africa is unwavering, and demand the immediate implementation of UNSCR 435 (1978).

We strongly condemn the support and collaboration that armed bandits of southern Africa enjoy from certain western governments and attempts to promote them as political entities.

We denounce the complicity of the Malawian government with the Pretoria authorities in the terrorist campaign against the People's Republic of Mozambique.

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Front Line States, address ourselves to the heads of state and government of those countries that are members of the United Nations Security Council, and particularly to the permanent members, to the members of the European Economic Community, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organisation of African Unity, and call on them to use all means at their disposal to block African's race towards generalized war.

We call upon the international community, and particularly the industrialised countries, to support the People's Republic of Mozambique and the other Front Line States in the strengthening of their defence capacity so that they may confront Pretoria's aggressions.

We also appeal for their support for the reconstruction of economies devastated by economic reprisals and military aggression.

We demand that the South African regime put an end to its war against its own people and the people in Namibia. This is then major condition for the restoration of a lasting peace in southern Africa.

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Front Line States, solemnly reaffirm that we desire to build a southern Africa where the peoples and states of the region, in peace and in all their diversity, coexist, cooperate, and jointly construct a common prosperity. This will be a southern Africa free of apartheid, racism and colonialism, a southern Africa dedicated to cooperation with all states and regions of the world, and will thus contribute towards international peace and security.

Aluta Continua!”

ONE WEEK LATER, Mozambique's President Samora Machel was dead in a plane crash in South African territory, at Mbuzini. But... less than four years later, Namibia was independent, and within eight years, South Africa held democratic elections.



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

O.R. TAMBO 1917 - 2017

IN HIS FOOTSTEPS ...

PASSION. PATRIOTISM. INTEGRITY. HUMILITY



OLIVER REGINALD (OR) TAMBO was a teacher and lawyer, President and National Chairperson of the African National Congress, and leader in the mobilization against apartheid, working closely with the Front Line States. He met Nelson Mandela at the then Fort Hare College, and they opened a law firm together in 1951, after establishing with Walter Sisulu and others the ANC Youth League that was formalized at the ANC Congress in 1943. Tambo was elected Secretary-General of ANC in 1953, and became acting President in 1960. He was President of ANC from 1969 until 1991 when his health began to deteriorate and he proudly handed over to Mandela. He died in 1993 in Johannesburg after 30 years in exile.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN SADC

Public holidays Oct-Dec 2017

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